

ITTF Annual General Meeting

Bremen, Germany, 27th April 2006, at 09:00 hrs

MINUTES

1. Welcome and opening address

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed all delegates and officials to the AGM and thanked the German Table Tennis Association for the organisation of this large event. He said he was proud to announce that there were more than 150 associations represented in Bremen, with over 110 men's teams and 85 women's teams.

Mr. Sharara added that it was time again to review the ITTF Constitution in order to be more in tune with the new needs of a rapidly growing ITTF, with more programmes and more member associations.

Several presentations and awards were made, in particular to Werner Schlager (AUT) and Karl Jindrak (AUT) for being the only athletes to qualify for every Pro Tour finals in singles or doubles and to Ferenc Karsai, national coach of Austria.

Mr. Thomas Weikert, President of the German Table Tennis Association, thanked the ITTF for giving the DTTB the opportunity to organise the WTTC. He also thanked the sponsors, television and media, TMS and ITTF member associations for their support and assistance throughout the planning and staging of the event.

2. Appointment of Chairman of Meeting

Mr. Adham Sharara was appointed Chairman of the meeting.

3. Roll call and verification of proxies

Roll call was taken and proxies verified:

135 Associations were present with delegates plus 22 proxies for a total number of 157 votes.

4. Appointment of scrutineers

A list of 12 scrutineers, 2 per Continent, was established and approved.

5. Minutes of previous General Meeting (Shanghai, 1st May 2005)

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held in Shanghai, China, were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

6. Report of Nomination Committee (document A19)

Two proxy nominations, signed by the General Secretaries of the two Associations (and not by the Presidents) were accepted by the AGM for a total of 22 proxies. Mr. Yuri Posevin made a verbal report of the activities of the Committees to the AGM saying that 40% of committee members worked actively, against 55% that worked averagely and 5% that worked little or not at all. He said that due to the close monitoring of the EC members, there was progress in the way the committees were functioning. He thanked all concerned for their cooperation with the Nomination Committee in the past year.

7. Court of Arbitration in Sport (CAS)

7.1 Appeal

Mr. Adham Sharara referred to the comprehensive document sent out to all Associations regarding the Appeal made by the Brazilian TTA concerning irregular modalities and procedures at the Shanghai AGM.

7.2 Decision

Mr. Adham Sharara explained the decision of the arbitral award, which ordered the ITTF to hold re-elections for the posts of Deputy President and 4 of the Executive Vice Presidents.

7.3 Validation of EC work and decisions

The AGM validated and approved the work carried out by the EC elected in Shanghai, until and after the CAS decision, which had made the positions of Deputy President and four of the EC members null and void.

8. Elections

8.1 Deputy President position

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that an electronic voting system would be used from 2007.

Mr. Abdulla Al-Mulla addressed the assembly on behalf of Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi who had to return to Qatar due to personal reasons (illness to close family member). Mr. Al-Mulla stated that Mr. Al-Mohannadi wished to withdraw his intention to compete for the position of Deputy President and explained the reasons for this decision. He thanked all those who had made the victory possible the year before.

Being the only candidate, **Mr. George Segun (NGR)** was elected Deputy President by acclamation.

8.2 Executive Vice-Presidents (4 positions)

The Vice-Presidents who had withdrawn were given the opportunity to explain the reasons for their decision. Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana addressed the AGM and explained his reasons for withdrawing from the election. Mr. Alaor Azevedo also addressed the AGM and explained his reasons for not standing for election and hoped to be a candidate in the future.

There being 4 candidates for 4 positions, the following Executive Vice-Presidents were elected by acclamation:

- **Ms Claude Bergeret (FRA)**
- **Ms Judit Faragó (HUN)**
- **Mr. Koji Kimura (JPN)**
- **Mr. Yang Shuan (CHN)**

9. Presentations

9.1 Life Membership

Mr. Nils Bergström (SWE) was appointed Personal Honorary Member of the ITTF, by acclamation.

9.2 Other presentations

- Mr. Adham Sharara thanked the title sponsor LIEBHERR and said an award would be presented at the BOD meeting for their support to table tennis and the ITTF. He also acknowledged the participation of other major sponsors ARAG and China UNICOM, to whom plaques would be presented the following day. Plaques of appreciation were also presented to Mr. Peter Becker of DONIC, Mr. Roland Berg of TIBHAR and Ms Britta Gerlach from TMG. Mr. Xu Yinsheng received a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the Chinese Table Tennis Association from Mr. Adham Sharara for organising Pro Tour events continuously since the beginning of the programme as well as several Pro Tour Finals. Mr. Han Sang Kook and Mr. Nils Bergström were awarded a plaque welcoming them to the President's Advisory Council.

Mr. Hans Giesecke was thanked for his role as ITTF coordinator during the preparations of the WTTC.

- Delegations from Japan (for Yokohama) and Austria (for Linz), made presentations concerning their intention to host the 2009 WTTC. Both Associations assured the AGM that visas would be delivered to all participants.

10. Membership applications

Marshall Islands (a suspended Association) were re-admitted to the ITTF. The AGM approved the application for membership from Myanmar, bringing the total of ITTF member associations to 202.

11. Executive Committee Reports

11.1 President – A. Sharara (document A1)

Mr. Adham Sharara said that even though the situation created by the appeal of the Brazilian Table Tennis Association had been an uncomfortable one, it had been a positive learning experience. He explained that the IOC report issued after the Athens Olympic Games had been carefully analysed and areas of weakness and strength of the ITTF had been studied. A set of 20 recommendations were now ready for inclusion in the P4 Plan, which would be readjusted and implemented as soon as possible in order to ensure that table tennis is ranked among the three top Olympic sports after the Beijing Games. He also mentioned that the ITTF had ranked second, after Athletics, in the number of Olympic Solidarity courses that were organised for the quadrennial 2001-2004. The President's report was accepted as presented.

11.2 Deputy President – K. Al-Mohannadi

The Deputy President did not submit a report.

11.3 Executive Vice-President (Finance) – N. Harwood (document A2)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.4 Executive Vice President – Yang Shuan (document A3)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.5 Executive Vice President – Claude Bergeret (document A4)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.6 Executive Vice President – K. Kimura (document A5)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.7 Executive Vice-President – I.-G. Munivrana (document A6)

The report was accepted as presented.

12. Continental Vice Presidents' Reports

12.1 Africa (document A7)

The report was accepted as presented.

12.2 Asia (document A8)

The report was accepted as presented.

12.3 Europe (document A9)

The report was accepted as presented.

12.4 North America (document A10)

The report was accepted as presented.

12.5 Latin America (document A11)

It was reported that as Mr. Miguel Delgado, Continental Vice President for Latin America, had accepted a position within TMS, the Marketing Company that represents the ITTF, the election of Mr. Melecio Rivera for the position of Continental Vice President would be confirmed by the AGM later on.

12.6 Oceania (document A12)

The report was accepted with correction to page 25, line 13 as follows:
"Tahiti and Niue" to read "Tahiti Nui"

13. Executive Director's Report (document A13)

The report was accepted as presented.

14. Reports from Committees and Commissions

14.1 Equipment (document A14)

The report was accepted as presented.

14.2 Media Committee (document A15)

It was reported that the ITTF had hired a new Media Manager, Mr. Svend Frandsen (DEN).
The report was accepted as presented.

14.3 Ranking Committee (document A16)

The report was accepted as presented.

14.4 Rules Committee (document A17)

The report was accepted as presented.

14.5 Sport Science Committee (document A18)

The report was accepted as presented.

14.6 Technical Committee (document A20)

It was reported that Mr. Yao Zhenxu had been appointed Competition Manager for the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.
The report was accepted as presented.

14.7 Umpires & Referees Committee (document A21)

The report was accepted as presented.

14.8 Athletes' Commission (document A22)

The report was accepted as presented.

14.9 Junior Commission (document A23)

The report was accepted as presented.

14.10 Olympic Commission (document A24)

The report was accepted as presented.

15. Financial Statements

15.1 Audited Financial Statements (2005)

Mr. Jordi Serra presented the 2005 financial statements and explained how field and system audits were conducted in Ottawa and Lausanne by

PriceWaterhouseCoopers in March and April 2006. Mr. Jordi Serra said that there was increased income from marketing, Olympic Solidarity, Equipment approvals and through the sale of the building in Ottawa. Increased expenses were due to meeting and travel, competitions and the funds used for development and promotion of table tennis, including the Global Youth Programme and the Women's Development Programme. Salaries and administration costs remained relatively stable. It was stated that the ITTF was striving to recover the US\$ 200'000 advanced to the former Yugoslav Table Tennis Association and a proposal on how to do so would be presented in due course to the Executive Committee.

15.2 Appoint Auditors for 2006

It was recommended to the AGM to open bids for the 2006 audit and the decision was referred to the Executive Committee.

15.3 Date of 2006 Audited Statements

The audited statements for 2006 would be presented on the due date at the next AGM. However, for the 2007 audit, due to the early date of the Guangzhou WTTC, the audited financial statements may have to be approved the following year.

15.4 Budget

A new adjusted budget for 2007 and 2008 would be presented to the AGM in Zagreb, in 2007.

16. Propositions and Resolutions (document A27)

PROPOSITIONS to the AGM

2/3 majority required

1	<p><i>Proposed by the French Table Tennis Federation</i></p> <p>1.5.3.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President and 6 Executive Vice-Presidents of which one shall be appointed by the President as Deputy President and another one shall be appointed by the Executive Committee responsible for finance.</p>	DEFEATED
2	<p><i>Proposed by the French Table Tennis Federation</i></p> <p>1.18.6 Elections</p> <p>Voting procedure of the Executive Committee: One round vote, elected by the relative majority: The candidates are elected in a decreasing order of the number of votes gathered by each of them not exceeding the number of available positions.</p>	WITHDRAWN

3/4 majority required

3	<p><i>Proposed by the Finnish Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>2.6 THE SERVICE</p> <p>2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry.</p>	PASSED
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4	<p><i>Proposed by the Finnish Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>2.13 THE ORDER OF SERVICE, RECEIVING AND ENDS</p> <p>2.13.7 The player or pair starting at one end in a game shall start at the other end in the next game of the match and in the last possible game of a match the players or pairs shall change ends, if either player or pair wants to, when first one player or pair scores 5 points.</p>	DEFEATED
5	<p><i>Proposed by the USA Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>2.6 THE SERVICE</p> <p>2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the flat open palm of the server's stationary free hand.</p>	WITHDRAWN
6	<p><i>Proposed by the USA Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p>2.6 THE SERVICE</p> <p>2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver, the umpire or the assistant umpire by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner.</p> <p>2.6.5 As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm shall be removed from the space between the ball and the net.</p>	WITHDRAWN
7	<p><i>Proposed by the Rules Committee</i></p> <p>2.9 A LET</p> <p>2.9.1 The rally shall be a let</p> <p>2.9.1.5 if the receiver is in wheelchair due to a physical disability and in service the ball, provided the service is otherwise correct</p> <p>2.9.1.5.1 leaves the receiver's half after touching it in the direction of the net; ...</p>	PASSED

17. Future World Championships

17.1 Update 2007 Zagreb

A short progress report and video presentation of Zagreb was made by the Zagreb Organising Committee.

17.2 Update 2008 Guangzhou

A large delegation from Guangzhou made a progress report and video presentation. It was reported that the Guangzhou WTTC would be held during the last week of February 2008. Mr. Yang Shuan thanked the ITTF for giving China another opportunity to host the WTTC and pledged to do very best to make it a success.

17.3 Bids for 2010 and 2011

It was stated that the bids for 2010 should be received by the ITTF before 30th September 2006 and the final decision would be made in Zagreb next year. Deadline date for receiving bids for 2011: 30th September 2007.

18. Selection of 2009 World Championships

Following a vote by secret ballot, the Japan Table Tennis Association was selected by the AGM to host the 2009 World Championships in Yokohama.

19. Election of Continental Vice President - Latin America

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that Mr. Miguel Delgado had resigned from his position as President of the Latin American Table Tennis Union, and the new President, Mr. Melecio Rivera (ESA), automatically became the nominee for the position of Continental Vice President of the ITTF. Mr. Miguel Delgado thanked the AGM, past presidents of the ITTF and Mr. Adham Sharara for their guidance and support throughout his 13 years in function as President of the LATTU and ITTF Continental Vice President. He introduced Mr. Melecio Rivera who was a respected figure in Latin America and former President of the El Salvador NOC. Mr. Rivera was elected by acclamation. Mr. Alaor Azevedo thanked Mr. Miguel Delgado for his contribution to table tennis in Latin America and wished him luck in his new profession.

20. Next AGM – Zagreb 2007

The next AGM will take place in Zagreb, Croatia, on 23rd May 2007.

21. Any other business

- Ms Claude Bergeret said she was pleased that many women's teams were present in Bremen and mentioned that the Iranian Women's team was present after a 27-year absence.
- Mr. Shahrokh Shahnazi thanked the ITTF for its support and thanked Ms Claude Bergeret and Ms Lilamani de Soysa for their leadership and promotion of women's table tennis.
- Mr. Adham Sharara thanked the ITTF and TMS staff for the good work accomplished in the past year.

22. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 15h40.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara

ASSOCIATIONS PRESENT AT AGM 2006 (135)

Albania	Algeria	Angola
Armenia	Australia	Austria
Azerbaijan	Bahrain	Barbados
Belarus	Belgium	Benin
Bolivia	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Brazil
Bulgaria	Burkina Faso	Burundi
Canada	Chile	China
Chinese Taipei	Colombia	Congo R
Costa Rica	Cote d'Ivoire	Croatia
Cyprus	Czech	Denmark
Djibouti	Dominican Rep.	Ecuador
Egypt	El Salvador	England
Estonia	Finland	France
Gabon	Germany	Ghana
Greece	Guatemala	Guernsey
Haiti	Honduras	Hong Kong
Hungary	India	Indonesia
Iran IR	Iraq	Ireland
Isle of Man	Italy	Jamaica
Japan	Jersey	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kenya	Korea DPR
Korea R	Kosovo	Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan	Latvia	Lebanon
Liberia	Liechtenstein	Lithuania
Luxembourg	Macao	Macedonia
Madagascar	Malaysia	Malta
Mauritius	Mexico	Moldova
Monaco	Montenegro	Morocco
Namibia	Nepal	Netherlands
New Caledonia	New Zealand	Nicaragua
Niger	Nigeria	Norway
Pakistan	Paraguay	Poland
Portugal	Puerto Rico	Qatar
Romania	Russia	San Marino
Saudi Arabia	Scotland	Senegal
Serbia	Seychelles	Singapore
Slovak	Slovenia	Somalia
South Africa	Spain	Sudan
Sweden	Switzerland	Tahiti
Tajikistan	Tanzania	Thailand
Togo	Trinidad & Tobago	Tunisia
Turkey	Turkmenistan	Uganda
Ukraine	United Arab Emirates	Uruguay
USA	Uzbekistan	Venezuela
Vietnam	Wales	Yemen

PROXIES (22)

Botswana	Brunei	Cook Islands
Fiji	Gambia	Guam
Guinea	Guyana	Laos
Liberia	Libya	Malawi
Marshall Islands	Netherlands Antilles	North Mariana Islands
Panama	Philippines	Samoa
Sri Lanka	Vanuatu	Zambia
Zimbabwe		