

ITTF Annual General Meeting

Guangzhou, China, 27th February 2008, at 09:00 hours

MINUTES

1. Welcome and opening address

The Proceedings began with a welcome speech from the Mayor of Guangzhou, Mr. Zhang Guangning, who welcomed all delegates to the Evergrande 49th World Team Table Tennis Championships and wished the participants a successful meeting. Gifts were exchanged between the President and the Mayor and the President thanked the Mayor and the Organising Committee for hosting a great championship. Gifts were also presented by the ITTF to the Chinese Table Tennis Association, Mr. Li Furong, the sponsors and the Continental Vice-Presidents. The Jordanian Table Tennis Federation presented gifts on behalf of the AGM membership to the Mayor of Guangzhou and to the President of the ITTF. The ITTF also presented a gift to the Qatar Table Tennis Association. Mr. Adham Sharara in turn welcomed all to Guangzhou and said that the ITTF would do its best, together with the cooperation of its member associations, to improve media publicity for table tennis.

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:

- 127 associations were present with delegates
- Plus 9 proxies for a total of 136 votes.

4. Appointment of scrutineers

A list of scrutineers, 2 per continent, was received and approved.

5. Minutes of previous General Meeting (Zagreb, 23rd May 2007)

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

6. Presentations

6.1. Merit Awards

Mr. Sun Qilin (CHN) and Mr. Zhang Xielin (CHN) were awarded the ITTF Merit Award.

6.2. Other presentations

Mr. Oivind Eriksen and Mr. Nico Verspeelt made a comprehensive presentation on the integration process of the IPTTC to the ITTF.

6.3. 2008 Olympic Games

Mr. Yang Shuan gave an update report regarding the preparations of the Olympic Games and said that all competition venues and facilities had been completed and that 35 test events had been held with success.

6.4. 2011 WTTC Presentations

A delegation from the Netherlands made a comprehensive bid presentation for the 2011 WTTC. In answer to a question regarding visas for the Netherlands, it was said that all necessary measures would be taken in order to ensure that all participants received entry visas.

7. Report of Nomination Committee (document A20)

Yuri Posevin reported on the behalf of the Nomination Committee and encouraged all Associations to nominate persons with the right technical skills to the Committees and Commissions at the elections in 2009. He also encouraged all to nominate more women candidates.

7.1 Late membership application

The Executive Director explained that a late membership application had been received from Belize (Latin America). The AGM approved the application from Belize as new member of the ITTF, bringing the total of ITTF member associations to 205.

8. Executive Committee Reports

8.1. President - A. Sharara (document A1)

Further to his report, the President explained that the ITTF professional staff structure was being reviewed and that two new positions would be advertised in the coming days. The report was accepted as presented.

8.2. Deputy President – G. Segun (document A2)

The report was accepted as presented.

8.3. Executive Vice President (Finance) – N. Harwood (document A3)

The report was accepted as presented.

8.4. Executive Vice President - Yang Shuan (document A4)

The report was accepted as presented.

8.5. Executive Vice-President – C. Bergeret (document A5)

The report was accepted as presented.

8.6. Executive Vice President – K. Kimura (document A6)

The report was accepted as presented.

8.7. Executive Vice President - J. Faragó (document A7)

The report was accepted as presented.

9. Continental Vice Presidents' Reports

9.1. Africa (document A8)

The report was accepted as presented.

9.2. Asia (document A9)

The report was accepted as presented.

9.3. Europe (document A10)

The report was accepted as presented.

9.4. North America (document A11)

The report was accepted as presented.

9.5. Latin America (document A12)

The report was accepted as presented.

9.6. Oceania (document A13)

Mr. Patrick Gillman said that some minor corrections had been made to the printed document and the updated version of his report was available on the ITTF website. The report was accepted as presented.

10. Executive Director's Report (document A14)

The report was accepted as presented.

11. Reports from Committees and Commissions

11.1. Equipment (document A15)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.2. Media (document A16)

Ms Judit Faragó explained that the ITTF was interested in knowing the opinion of its members concerning the Table Tennis Illustrated and requested all to respond to the survey prepared by the Media Committee. The report was accepted as presented.

11.3. Ranking (document A17)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.4. Rules (document A18)

The report was accepted as presented. Mr. Rudi Sporrer invited all to a workshop concerning the "Service Rule" organised by the Rules Committee and the URC to be held the next day at the Guangzhou Gymnasium.

11.5. Sports science (document A19)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.6. Technical (document A21)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.7. Umpires & Referees (document A22)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.8. Veterans' (document A23)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.9. Athletes' Commission (document A24)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.10. Junior Commission (document A25)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.11. Olympic Commission (document A26)

The report was accepted as presented. It was explained that the final world qualification playing system would be modified (see document attached). The Final World Qualification Tournament will be held in Budapest, Hungary, from 8 – 11 May 2008. The AGM was also informed that the Olympic Commission had replaced an umpire from Qatar by another umpire from Qatar.

12. Financial Statements

12.1. Financial statements approval at 2009 AGM

The AGM accepted that the audited financial statements for 2007 and 2008 should be presented for approval together at the AGM in 2009 due to the early date of the 2008 AGM (February).

12.2. Appoint Auditors for 2008

The AGM appointed Ernst & Young to be the auditors for 2008.

13. Selection of 2011 World Championships

The bid from the Netherlands was accepted as the host of the 2011 WTTC.

14. Propositions and Resolutions (document A29)

14.1 Constitution Review Working Group

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the Constitution Review Working Group needed more time to review and modernize the Constitution. Therefore, only propositions concerning elections next year would be considered at the present AGM. All other proposals would be made to the AGM in 2009.

14.2 Propositions & Resolutions

2/3 majority required

1	<p>Proposed by the Executive Committee</p> <p><i>(Prepared by the Constitution Review Working Group)</i></p> <p><i>To modify paragraph 1.5.2.1, to insert a new paragraph 1.5.2.2 and to renumber subsequent paragraphs.</i></p> <p>1.5.2.1 The Board shall consist of the President, Deputy President, Executive Vice-Presidents, Continental Vice-Presidents Presidents of Continental Federations or their appointees and 32 Continental representatives. Chairmen of Committees and Commissions shall be co-opted as members of the Board at the first meeting of the Board following the AGM.</p> <p>1.5.2.2 Chairmen of Committees and Commissions shall be invited to attend the AGM and the Board of Directors meetings as expert advisors without voting privileges.</p> <p><i>By this Committee and Commission Chairmen would not be co-opted as members of the Board of Directors but should act there as expert advisers.</i></p>	ACCEPTED
2	<p>Proposed by the South African Table Tennis Board</p> <p><i>To modify paragraph 1.5.2.3, to insert a new paragraph 1.12.1.4 and to renumber subsequent paragraphs.</i></p> <p>1.5.2.3 The Board shall determine the terms of reference for Equipment, Media, Nominations, Ranking, Rules, Sports Science, Technical, Umpires & Referees Committees, as well as for the Athletes Commission, Junior Commission and Veterans Commission. The Board may determine the terms of reference for any other Committee, Commission, working group or panel that it may from time to time establish.</p> <p>1.12.1.4 A Veteran Commission to advise the Board on Veteran matters and to co-ordinate international veteran programmes including the World Veteran Championships. The Veteran Commission shall meet annually at the World Veteran Championships. The members of the Veteran Commission shall be appointed to ensure continental representation.</p> <p><i>This would change the Existing Veterans Committee into a Veterans Commission to be described and explained at 1.12 "Other Appointments".</i></p>	DEFEATED

3	<p>Proposed by the Executive Committee <i>That all text of the ITTF Handbook referring to the Olympic Commission be modified to include the Paralympics. That the word "organising committee" replaces the word "country" and "Continental Federations Presidents or their appointee" replaces "Continental Vice Presidents".</i></p>	ACCEPTED
4	<p>Proposed by the Executive Committee (Prepared by the Constitution Review Working Group) <i>To modify paragraph 1.5.3.1</i></p> <p>1.5.3.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President and 8 6 Executive Vice-Presidents of which one shall be nominated by the President as Deputy President and another one shall be responsible for finance.</p> <p><i>This would expand the Executive Committee to 9 members (President and 8 Executive Vice-Presidents).</i></p>	ACCEPTED
5	<p>Proposed by the Executive Committee (Prepared by the Constitution Review Working Group) <i>To delete paragraphs 1.5.4 and 1.6.3 and to modify paragraph 1.9.1</i></p> <p>1.5.4 — An Executive Council shall initiate and review proposals for the development of table tennis, review membership applications and appoint special working groups assigned responsibilities for the development of table tennis.</p> <p>1.5.4.1 — The Executive Council shall consist of the members of the Executive Committee and the Continental Vice Presidents.</p> <p>1.5.4.2 — The Executive Council shall meet at intervals of about 6 months when convened by the President.</p> <p>1.6.3 — The AGM shall elect for each Continent a Continental Vice-President and Continental representatives nominated by that Continent. The number of Continental representatives, excluding the Continental President, shall be proportional to the number of its member Associations not in arrears (1.15.3.3) in that Continent and shall not exceed 32.</p> <p>1.9.1 The Olympics Commission shall consist of the members of the Executive Committee, the Continental Vice Presidents Continental Federations Presidents or their designees and a representative of the country organising Organising Committee of the next Olympic Games.</p> <p><i>This would dissolve the Executive Council and consequently the positions of Continental Vice-Presidents and Continental Federations should be represented at the Olympics Commission by their Presidents instead of ITTF Continental Vice-Presidents.</i></p>	ACCEPTED
6	<p>Proposed by the Executive Committee (Prepared by the Constitution Working Group)</p> <p>To insert a new paragraph 1.10 «DEVELOPMENT & CONTINENTAL COUNCIL» and to renumber subsequent paragraphs.</p> <p>1.10 DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINENTAL COUNCIL</p>	ACCEPTED

	<p>1.10.1 The Development and Continental Council shall be composed of the President, the Executive Vice-President in charge of Development and the Presidents of Continental Federations or their designees.</p> <p>1.10.2 The Development and Continental Council shall propose development programme initiatives and future development orientations of the ITTF in cooperation with Continental Federations. The Development and Continental Council will also discuss all other matters of common interest to the Continental Federations and the ITTF.</p> <p>1.10.3 The Development and Continental Council shall meet at the same occasion as the Olympics Commission.</p>	
6A	<p>Proposed by the Executive Committee <i>To modify paragraph 1.10.11</i></p> <p>1.10.11 The Nominations Committee shall check the qualification and validity of nominations for office, shall supervise the allocation of nominees to Committees and shall recommend to the AGM the composition of Committees and Commissions; provided that sufficient number of female nominations is made for a committee, at least 25% of the <u>number of full members</u> number of that Committee or Commission should be selected out of female nominees.</p> <p><i>By this the requirement that a Committee or Commission should have at least 25% female members would be changed into 25% female full members.</i></p>	ACCEPTED

3/4 majority required

7	<p>Proposed by the Equipment Committee <i>To modify paragraph 2.4.3.1:</i></p> <p>2.4.3.1 Ordinary pimped rubber is a single layer of non-cellular rubber, natural or synthetic, with pimples evenly distributed over its surface at a density of not less than 10 per sq. cm and not more than 30 per sq. cm.</p> <p>The racket covering should be used as it has been authorised without any physical, chemical or other treatment (except normal wear) - changing or modifying playing properties, friction, outlook, colour, structure, surface, etc.</p>	ACCEPTED
8	<p>Proposed by the Finnish Table Tennis Association <i>To delete paragraph 2.15 "The Expedite System" from the Laws of Table Tennis</i></p> <p>2.15 — THE EXPEDITE SYSTEM</p> <p>2.15.1 Except where both players or pairs have scored at least 9 points, the expedite system shall come into operation if a game is unfinished after 10 minutes' play or at any earlier time at the request of both players or pairs.</p> <p>2.15.1.1 If the ball is in play when the time limit is reached, play shall be interrupted by the umpire and shall resume with service</p>	WITHDRAWN

	<p style="text-align: center;">by the player who served in the rally that was interrupted.</p> <p>2.15.1.2 If the ball is not in play when the time limit is reached, play shall resume with service by the player who received in the immediately preceding rally.</p> <p>2.15.2 Thereafter, each player shall serve for 1 point in turn until the end of the game and if the receiving player or pair makes 13 returns the receiver shall score a point.</p> <p>2.15.3 Once introduced, the expedite system shall remain in operation until the end of the match.</p> <p>Justification: The modern play has advanced to a stage where this Law is not needed anymore. Very few players of today even know what is meant by stroke counting. Over 5.000 games were played in the Worlds in Zagreb in May 2007. The time was taken in each and every game, in vain. As far as it has been possible to establish, not one single game reached the time limit before the set score. The counter argument could be that there are still a few defensive players and when they meet the rule may be needed. That is true, but we surely can give these players the time they require as it happens extremely seldom and, before all, let's free the umpires from the rather laborious and totally unnecessary timing of games.</p> <p><i>By this the time limit of 10 minutes per game after which the expedite system has to be applied (under certain conditions) would be eliminated.</i></p>	
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It was decided that the electronic voting system would be used at all future AGMs.

15. Future World Championships

15.1. Update 2009 Yokohama

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that the contract between the ITTF and the JTTA had been signed in December 2007 and that a coordination visit would be made in early June 2008. The delegate from Japan made a comprehensive progress report, expressing in particular the wish of the JTTA and the Organising Committee to create an eco-friendly championship.

15.2. Update 2010 Moscow

A short progress report was made about the 2010 WTTC. It was noted that the Russian Table Tennis Federation would do its utmost to ensure that all nations obtain entry visas to Russia including the delegation from the Kosovo Table Tennis Federation.

15.3. Bids for 2012 and 2013

It was said that the bid process was now open for the 2012 and 2013 World Championships. Deadline for bids for 2012 - 30th of September 2008 and for 2013 - 30th September 2009.

16. Next AGM – Yokohama, May 2009

The next Annual General Meeting of the ITTF will take place in Yokohama, Japan, in May 2009. Exact dates to be communicated in due course.

17. Any other business

- Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the ITTF had made an analysis of the languages used at the ITTF with comparison to the languages at the UN. Based on the analysis it was reported that all ITTF meetings would be

conducted in English and all documents for meetings provided in English. The AGM will be conducted in English but simultaneous translation will be provided in English, French, Spanish and Arabic at ITTF cost. Any other language would be at the cost and responsibility of the requesting group or association. Furthermore, the only OFFICIAL Minutes will be the English version as well as for all legal documents or official announcements. The delegate from Saudi Arabia thanked the ITTF for including Arabic as an official language of the ITTF, which he said, would improve the diffusion of information in the Arab world.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 13h00.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara

Associations present at AGM 2008 (127)

Albania	Algeria	Angola
Argentina	Armenia	Australia
Austria	Azerbaijan	Bahrain
Bangladesh	Barbados	Belarus
Belgium	Benin	Bosnia-Herzegovina
Brazil	Brunei	Bulgaria
Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cambodia
Canada	Chile	China
Chinese Taipei	Colombia	Congo Brazzaville
Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire	Croatia
Cyprus	Czech R.	Denmark
Djibouti	Ecuador	Egypt
El Salvador	England	Estonia
Fiji	Finland	France
Germany	Ghana	Greece
Guam	Guatemala	Guernsey
Hong Kong	Hungary	Iceland
India	Indonesia	Iran
Iraq	Ireland	Isle of Man
Israel	Italy	Jamaica
Japan	Jersey	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kenya	Korea DPR
Korea R.	Kosovo	Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Latvia
Lebanon	Lesotho	Liberia
Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg
Macao	Malaysia	Maldives
Malta	Mexico	Moldova
Monaco	Mongolia	Montenegro
Morocco	Nepal	Netherlands
New Caledonia	New Zealand	Nicaragua
Nigeria	Norway	Pakistan
Panama	Poland	Portugal
Puerto Rico	Qatar	Romania
Russia	Saudi Arabia	Serbia
Singapore	Slovak Republic	Slovenia
Somalia	South Africa	Spain
Sri Lanka	Sudan	Sweden
Switzerland	Tahiti	Tanzania
Thailand	Tunisia	Turkey
Turkmenistan	United Arab Emirates	USA
Uzbekistan	Venezuela	Vietnam
Yemen		

Proxies (9)

Cameroon	Cook Islands	Cuba
Gabon	Honduras	Namibia
Netherlands Antilles	San Marino	Seychelles