

# Council (first session)

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## Minutes

of the Council Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2001, at the Osaka Convention Centre, Osaka, Japan, at 8 a.m.

### 1. Welcome and President's Opening Address

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed Council members to Osaka and briefly explained that due to incorporation laws the Council would be undergoing several minor transformations, which would be integrated in the revised Constitution. He thanked Council members who would be retiring after this meeting for their good work and support over the years.

### 2. Roll call

#### Present

Adham Sharara  
Pierre Albertini  
George Segun  
Nils Bergström  
Yang Shuan  
Han Sang Kook

President  
Deputy President  
Executive Vice-President  
Executive Vice-President  
Executive Vice-President  
Executive Vice-President (*Finance*)

Chérif Hajem  
M. C. Chowhan  
Stefano Bosi  
Miguel Delgado  
Bruce Burton  
Neil Harwood

Continental Vice-President (*Africa*)  
Continental Vice-President (*Asia*)  
Continental Vice-President (*Europe*)  
Continental Vice-President (*Latin America*)  
Continental Vice-President (*North America*)  
Continental Vice-President (*Oceania*)

#### Continental Representatives

##### Africa

Berthe Bakhary  
Khaled El-Salhy  
Olabanji Oladapo  
Jane Pinto

##### Asia

Khalil Al-Mohannadi  
Rabee Al Turk  
Choo Wee Khiang  
Koji Kimura  
Park Do Cheon  
S. H. Shah  
Tony Yue  
Sharokh Shanazi

##### Europe

Jean Devys  
Judit Faragó  
Camille Gonderinger  
Radivoj Hudetz  
Yuri Posevin  
Alan Ransome  
Walter Rönmark  
Eberhard Schöler  
Rudolf Sporrer

##### Latin America

Alaor G. P. Azevedo  
Melecio Rivera

##### North America

Tim Boggan

##### Oceania

Patrick Gillmann  
Graeme Ireland  
David Jackson

#### Committee Chairmen

Claude Bergeret (*Athletes' Commission*)  
Arne Madsen (*Media*)  
Colin Clemett (*Rules*)  
Yao Zhenxu (*Technical*)

Rufford Harrison (*Equipment*)  
André Damman (*Ranking*)  
Jean-François Kahn (*Sports Science*)

#### President's Advisory Council

Hans Giesecke  
Jimmy McClure  
Ranga Ramanujan

**In attendance**

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Administrative and Project Co-ordinator
Etsuko Enami	President's Assistant
Liu Yi	Interpreter

**Apologies for absence**

Philippe Hao Thyn Voon (*Africa*)  
Franklin Mathilda (*Latin America*)

**Absent**

Kossi Mawuli Agokla (*Africa*)  
Joe Carrim (*Africa*)  
Roberto Miglietti (*Latin America*)

**3. Minutes of Previous Meetings (21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2000, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)**

There being no corrections or modifications, the Minutes of the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2000, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, were signed by the President as a true record of the meetings.

**4. Membership Applications**

It was reported that only Samoa which had been admitted as Provisional Member at the AGM in Kuala Lumpur would be proposed for full membership to the Osaka AGM.

**5. Reports****5.1 \*Calendar Panel (document A20)**

Mr. Adham Sharara stated that the new four-year calendar, which had been implemented by the Calendar Panel was a very positive feature. The report from the Calendar Panel was accepted as presented.

**5.2 Games of 11 points experiments**

Ms. Claude Bergeret gave a brief explanation on the many experiments that had been done regarding the 11-point games and said she would present a detailed account to the AGM. Item referred to the AGM.

**5.3 Merit Awards**

Mr. Jimmy McClure reported that six Merit Awards would be presented at the AGM. Item referred to the AGM.

**5.4 Service Rule Commission**

Mr. Colin Clemett briefly reported that the Service Rule Commission had come up with a wording to reflect the general principle that the ball should be always visible to the receiver when it is first struck. He said a more comprehensive presentation would be made to the AGM.

**5.5 Research and Development**

Council accepted Mr. George Segun's proposal to combine into one Board the Research Advisory Board and the Development Advisory Board (Research & Development Advisory Board).

**5.6 Umpires and Referees Task Force**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that until the duties of the new Umpires and Referees Committee were defined in the revised Constitution, the members of the Committee would be using as a basic work document the final recommendations made by the Umpires and Referees Task Force. The recommendations however contained two controversial points: an age limit for the Elite group umpires and a restriction on their activities at major tournaments. It was decided that the corresponding members from each Continent would not be subject to any restrictions and that the age limit restriction would be studied further in due course.

6. **Revised Constitution**  
Mr. Adham Sharara explained that due to the very heavy workload in the past few months it had not been possible to present a draft of the revised Constitution to this Council. However, the general opinion of all consulted had been to slow down the process and take more time to study and better prepare the draft. The Executive Committee would propose timelines to the AGM which would define the work to be accomplished and give the National Associations more time to put forward their ideas and comments.
7. **Future World Championships**  
Mr. Adham Sharara informed Council that the countries bidding for the 2003 and 2004 World Championships would make a presentation on 25 April in order to fully inform all National Associations of their plans and progress. The final vote and decision would be taken by the AGM. The bid presentations would be followed by a cocktail party to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ITTF where Mr. Zdenko Uzorinac's book "Table Tennis Legends" would be presented. All ITTF officers and National Associations would receive a copy of the book free, after which it would be on sale.
8. **Board of Directors**  
Mr. Adham Sharara explained that in accordance with incorporation laws the ITTF must have a Board of Directors, and that Council would become the new Board of Directors (BOD). The BOD would have more legal responsibilities transferred from the AGM. He also said that in order to distinguish clearly between the Executive Board and the BOD, it would be necessary to find a suitable title for the Executive Board.
9. **World Title Events**  
Mr. Adham Sharara informed the Council that the ITTF was trying to revive the World Team Cup event in the near future. It had been held for the last time in 1995 in Atlanta without a sponsor and that negotiations were currently in progress with a potential sponsor. He also said that India was proposing to introduce a World Junior Championship, which if accepted by the AGM would have to be incorporated into the calendar.
10. **ITTF Pro Tour**  
Mr. Adham Sharara said he was happy to announce that after running for two years at a loss (1996 and 1997), the Pro Tour had paid off in the long run and brought in close to half a million dollars in profits (total 1998-2000 inclusive).  
The list of Pro Tour events for 2001 had been distributed but unfortunately the French Open had been withdrawn. It may be replaced by the Netherlands, which would like to be part of the Pro Tour and had made a bid for the event. The location for the Pro Tour Finals had not been finalised yet, it would be either in Germany or Sweden.
11. **Olympic Games**  
Mr. Adham Sharara thanked Mr. Neil Harwood, the Sydney Competition Manager, for having presented the best ever table tennis championship and said that Sydney should be the model for all future ITTF events.  
Mr. Jordi Serra gave a brief report of his visit to Athens in January where he had seen the plans for the future competition venue. He said he would be meeting and further discussing with the Competition Manager and the Sports Director from Athens who were present in Osaka. He also said that negotiations were in progress with the IOC to include the Mixed Doubles at the Athens Games and that the decision of the IOC was due in May.
12. **Next Meeting**  
The next Council meeting (Board of Directors) would take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May at 9:00 a.m. at the Osaka Convention Centre.
13. **Any Other Business**
  - 13.1 **1937 World Women Champions Title (recommendation by Tim Boggan)**  
Mr. Tim Boggan briefly explained that in 1937 the World Women's Singles title had been declared vacant due to the time-limit rule in existence at the time. He said the rule was obscure and even more unjust because it had not been enforced uniformly throughout the championships. Therefore in order to correct this historical oddity and to show the integrity of the ITTF at the time of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, he requested

Council to propose to the AGM that Gertrude Pritzi of Austria and Ruth Aarons of the USA be posthumously awarded the 1937 World Champion title.

**13.2 Presentation Order of World Championships Bids**

It was decided by draw that France would present its bid first and Brazil second for the 2003 championships and Qatar first and Brazil second for the 2004 event.

**13.3 Scrutineers**

Mr. Adham Sharara requested the Continental Vice-Presidents to provide the names of two scrutineers from their respective Continents.

Mr. Adham Sharara informed Council that as there would not be a World Championship next year, the Croatian Table Tennis Association had invited the ITTF to hold its 2002 AGM in Croatia during the European Championships. Mr. Tony Yue suggested that as an exceptional measure and to make sure that all Continents would be equitably represented at the AGM in 2002, the present AGM should be requested to increase the number of proxies that could be held per Association and per Council member. The item was referred to the AGM.

Mr. Miguel Delgado asked if it would be possible to send 2 representatives per Continent for the Women's World Cup this year given that it had not taken place last year. Mr. Adham Sharara said that the Marketing Division would study the matter. He also said that Singapore was interested in hosting it next year.

Mr. George Segun said that in the ITTF's attempts to improve the image of table tennis, Council should also decide to control the undercarriage of tables.

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that due to some internal misunderstanding Asia had been allowed to appoint 8 Council members at the last AGM whereas it was only entitled to 7. Latin America, which was entitled to 5 had only appointed 4 at the last AGM and was proposing 5 candidates to this AGM. Therefore the error would have to be corrected so that a total of 32 Council members would be attained and each Continent would have the right number of places in proportion to the number of member Associations. This item was referred to the AGM.

Mr. Eberhard Schöler congratulated the ITTF staff for the improved presentation of AGM documents.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

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Adham Sharara, Meeting Chairman