

# ITTF Board of Directors Meeting

Bremen, Germany, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006, at 09:00hrs

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and President's opening remarks

A plaque of appreciation was presented to the title sponsor LIEBHERR. Mr. Henning Rapp of Liebherr thanked the ITTF for its kind reception and the Organising Committee for hosting such a successful championship.

Mr. Massimo Costantini, former table tennis champion and Italian athlete who has represented his country the most number of times, donated a photograph of himself taken by Mario Giacomelli, to Chuck Hoey, Curator of the ITTF Museum. Mr. Hoey thanked Mr. Costantini and invited all to preserve the heritage of table tennis in every country and to visit the ITTF museum exhibit in Bremen.

Mr. Adham Sharara apologised for the strict procedures set up at the AGM, imposed by the Court of Arbitration.

### 2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
George Segun	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice President
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice President
Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice President (Africa)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice President (Europe)
Melecio Rivera	Continental Vice President (Latin America)
Bruce Burton	Continental Vice President (North America)
Patrick Gillmann	Continental Vice President (Oceania)

#### Africa

Ganief Fataar  
Berthe Bakhary  
Henri Djombo  
Khaled El Salhy  
Olabanji Oladapo  
Jane Pinto  
Philippe Hao Thyn Voon

#### Asia

M. C. Chowhan  
Cai Zhenhua  
Thana Chaiprasit  
Chan Foong Keong  
Park Do Cheon  
Michel de Chadarevian  
Sharokh Shahnazi

#### Europe

Gérard Velten  
Zdenko Kriz  
Alexander Murdoch  
Radivoj Hudetz  
Reto Bazzi  
Goran Vukobratovic  
Walter Rönmark  
Eberhard Schöler  
Polona Cehovin Susin

#### Latin America

Alaor Azevedo  
Keith Neblett  
Jairo O. Paez Huertas  
Carlos Marin  
Juan Carlos Garcia

#### North America

Sheri Pittman

#### Oceania

Graeme Ireland  
David Jackson

#### Committee Chairmen/women

Sachiko Yokota (Athletes')  
Odd Gustavsen (Equipment)

Tony Yue	(Junior)
Arne Madsen	(Media)
Yuri Posevin	(Nomination)
André Damman	(Ranking)
Rudolph Sporrer	(Rules)
Jean-François Kahn	(Sports Science)
Yao Zhenxu	(Technical)
Cindy Leung	(Umpires & Referees)
Dorte Kronsell	(Women's Working Group)

### **President's Advisory Council**

Ranga Ramanujan  
Hans Giesecke  
Rufford Harrison  
Han Sang Kook  
Nils Bergström  
Colin Clemett

### **Invited to attend**

Josep Escoda IT Manager CAR Barcelona (for item 4.2)

### **In attendance**

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Etsuko Enami	Operations Manager
Steve Dainton	Asia Office Manager
Mikael Andersson	Global Junior Programme Manager
Liu Yi	Interpreter

### **Apologies for absence**

Xu Yinsheng	Chairman PAC
Choo Wee Khiong	Continental Vice President (Asia)
Anthony Ho	BOD Member (Oceania)
Glenn Tepper	Development Manager

### **3. Minutes of previous meetings (Shanghai, 20 April and 3 May 2005)**

Business arising from the Minutes: Mr. Ranga Ramanujan reiterated the request he had made previously, for the ITTF to make it possible for all member associations to attend the WTTC and said he hoped his proposal would be implemented soon.

### **4. Update Reports**

#### **4.1 Calendar Working Group (document A25)**

The report was accepted as presented.

#### **4.2 Glue Working Group**

Mr. George Segun made an extensive report on the work of the Glue Working Group since its inception in 2004, when the BOD in Doha accepted the proposal from Japan, prohibiting solvent glues and gluing areas in the venue from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007. Mr Josep Escoda presented a comprehensive health report including a definition of VOCs (volatile organic compounds), explained the health risks from exposure to organic volatile compounds, which are present in table tennis glues and made several recommendations to the ITTF. The Glue Working Group urged the ITTF to implement the use of non-toxic glues as planned. Mr. Odd Gustavsen demonstrated the use of the new glue-testing device that had

been manufactured for the purpose of detecting VOCs on table tennis rackets. Mr. Koji Kimura urged the ITTF to follow the recommendations of the Glue Working Group in order to respect the IOC Charter and ensure that table tennis remained a clean sport. Mr. Eberhard Schöler expressed his satisfaction with the work accomplished by the group and asked the BOD to give the matter its most serious consideration.

**4.3 International Paralympic Table Tennis Committee**

Mr. Neil Harwood reported that he would attend the World Table Tennis Championships for the Disabled to be held in Montreux, Switzerland from September 22 to October 2, 2006, where the IPTTC was expected to make decisions regarding the integration of the IPTTC as a committee of the ITTF. He said the goal would be to have the IPTTC integrated after the Beijing Games.

**4.4 ITTF/Continental Development Plans**

It was reported that a Development Workshop would take place in two days time in Bremen. All Continental Agreements had been signed with the exception of Latin America, which would be signed in Bremen before the end of the WTTC.

**4.5 Merit Awards**

No applications had been received in 2005.

**4.6 Veterans Working Group**

Mr. Chan Foong Keong reported that a meeting of the veterans working group would be held after the Veterans World Championships, 15-20 May 2006 in Bremen where timelines for integration would be established.

Mr. Eberhard Schöler reported that 3700 entries had been received, the largest entry being for men over 40 and that a total of 154 tables would be used for the event.

**4.7 Women's Working Group (document A26)**

Ms Dorte Kronsell reported that a meeting of the women's working group had taken place in Bremen where issues of equal prize money and clothing for players had been discussed. A meeting had also been held with the women delegates attending the AGM where the Committee Chairpersons had explained their jobs and what they expected from their committee members. On a recommendation from Mr. Tony Yue, Mr. Arne Madsen was requested to work together with the media and launch a competition to determine the best dressed player or teams at the next world championships.

The report was accepted as presented.

**5. Propositions and Resolutions (Document A27)**

**PROPOSITIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Simple majority required**

<b>8</b>	<i>Proposed by the Equipment Committee</i>		<b>PASSED</b>
	<b>3.2.4 GLUING</b>		
	3.2.4.1	Coverings may be attached to racket blades only by means of pressure-sensitive adhesive sheets or adhesives that do not contain a prohibited solvent; a list of prohibited solvents is available from the	

	Secretariat.	
	<b>Proposed by the Japanese Table Tennis Association</b>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>3.2.4 GLUING</b></p> <p>3.2.4.1.1 Adhesives containing volatile organic solvents shall not be used from 1st September <b>2008</b> on.</p> <p>3.2.4.3 A properly ventilated area shall be provided for the attachment of racket coverings to rackets and liquid adhesives shall not be used anywhere else <b>at the playing venue.</b></p> <p>"Playing venue" means the whole establishment in the playing building and the ground where the playing building stands, which contains the doorway, the parking lot and related facilities.</p>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Athletes' Commission</b></p> <p><b>3.2.4 GLUING</b></p> <p>3.2.4.1.1 Adhesives containing volatile organic solvents shall not be used at the playing venue from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 on and shall not be used at all from 1<sup>st</sup> September <b>2008</b> on.</p>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Japanese Table Tennis Association</b></p> <p><b>3.2.4 GLUING</b></p> <p>3.2.4.2 Tests for prohibited solvents will be carried out at World and Olympic title competitions and major Pro-Tour tournaments and a player whose racket is found to contain such a solvent <b>and a player when forbidden act in the "playing venue" of the preceding clause is discovered by the competition staff from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006</b>, is liable to be disqualified from the competition and reported to his association.</p>	<b>DEFEATED</b>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation</b></p> <p><b>3.2 EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS</b></p> <p>3.2.5.10 Advertisements on playing clothing shall be limited to</p> <p>3.2.5.10.1 the maker's normal trademark, symbol or name contained within a total area of 24cm<sup>2</sup> <b>50 cm<sup>2</sup></b>;</p>	<b>DEFEATED</b>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation</b></p> <p><b>3.2 EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS</b></p> <p>3.2.5.10 Advertisements on playing clothing shall be limited to</p> <p>3.2.5.10.4 not more than 2 advertisements, contained within a combined total area of 80cm<sup>2</sup> <b>120 cm<sup>2</sup>, only on the front and the sides</b> of shorts or skirt.</p>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Umpires and Referees Committee</b></p> <p><b>3.4.4 INTERVALS</b></p> <p>3.4.4.2.3 The request for a time-out, which can be made only <b>between rallies in a game</b> shall be indicated by making a "T" sign with the hands.</p>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b>15</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the USA Table Tennis Association</b></p> <p><b>3.4.4 INTERVALS</b></p> <p>3.4.4.2.4 On receiving a valid request for a time-out the umpire shall suspend play and <b>he, while seated, shall hold up a white card with the hand on the side of the player/pair who requested it till the end of the time-out.</b></p>	<b>PASSED</b>

16	<p><i>Proposed by the USA Table Tennis Association</i></p> <p><b>3.5.2 MISBEHAVIOUR</b></p> <p>3.5.2.1 Players and coaches shall refrain from behaviour that may unfairly affect an opponent, offend spectators or bring the sport into disrepute, such as abusive language, deliberately breaking the ball or hitting it out of the playing area, kicking the table or surrounds, <b>wiping the hands on the surface of the table</b> and disrespect of match officials.</p>	<b>DEFEATED</b>
17	<p><i>Proposed by the Junior Commission</i></p> <p><b>3.8 INTERNATIONAL ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <p>3.8.4 A player is eligible to represent a Continental Federation (1.17.1) in <b>senior and/or junior events</b> of continental teams only if he is eligible to represent a member Association of this Continental Federation according to 3.8.3. <b>For cadet events in which Continental Federations enter continental teams, Continental Federations may enter players who are eligible to represent a member Association of this Continental Federation according to 3.8.3 and/or players who, on the first day of a competition, have been permanent residents for at least three years in a country over which a member Association of this Continental Federation has jurisdiction.</b></p>	<b>DEFEATED</b>
18	<p><i>Proposed by the European Table Tennis Union (to omit 4.1.9.2 completely)</i></p> <p><b>4.1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS</b></p> <p>4.1.9 Events</p> <p>4.1.9.2 <del>In doubles events, both players shall be from the same Association.</del></p>	<b>DEFEATED</b>
19	<p><i>Proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation</i></p> <p><b>4.3 OLYMPICS COMPETITION</b></p> <p>4.3.2 Events</p> <p>4.3.2.1 The Olympics competition shall include at least men's singles, women's singles, <b>men's team events and women's team events.</b></p>	<b>PASSED</b>
20	<p><i>Proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation (to insert a new paragraph 4.3.2.2)</i></p> <p><b>4.3 OLYMPICS COMPETITION</b></p> <p>4.3.2 Events</p> <p>4.3.2.2 The Team Match System in team events and the system of play in both team and individual events including any qualifying competitions shall be decided by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Olympic Commission, and shall be notified to all Associations in <b>accordance with the IOC schedule.</b></p>	<b>PASSED</b>

<b>21</b>	<b>Proposed by the European Table Tennis Union</b> <b>(to omit 4.4.9.1.1 completely)</b>		<b>DEFEATED</b>
	<b>4.4</b>	<b>WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	
	4.4.9	Events	
	4.4.9.1.1	With the exception of mixed doubles events, both players of a doubles shall be from the same Association.	

## RESOLUTIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Simple majority required

<b>A</b>	<b>Put forward by the Equipment Committee</b>		<b>PASSED</b>
	<b>Technical Leaflet T4A</b>	A requirement that for the racket coverings the rubber surface should be uniform and without coating shall be included in the Technical Leaflet.	

## 6. World Junior Championships

### 6.1 Austria 2005 report

Mr. Mikael Andersson thanked the Austrian Table Tennis Association for the wonderful efforts made to host a very good World Junior Championships in Austria, giving the event the dignity it deserved. Mr. Rudolf Sporrer in turn thanked the ITTF, Mr. Tony Yue, Mr. Mikael Andersson and Mr. Raul Calin for their valuable contribution.

### 6.2 Egypt 2006 update

Mr. Khaled El-Salhy thanked the ITTF for offering Egypt the possibility to host the World Junior Championships and assured the BOD that the organisation was proceeding according to schedule and the event will take place in Cairo in December 2006.

### 6.3 2007 and 2008 updates

Mr. Mikael Andersson reported that Palo Alto, California (USA) where proceeding with preparations and visa issues were being discussed with the authorities at the moment. A coordination visit to Auckland, New Zealand would take place this summer.

### 6.4 2009 Selection

There were bid presentations from Colombia (for Cartagena) and Slovakia (for Bratislava).

It was decided by secret ballot vote that **Colombia would be the organisers of the 2009 Junior World Championships, in Cartagena.**

Ms Judit Faragó recommended that inspection visits should be made to the bid cities before the selection.

Mr. Adham Sharara urged Slovakia to present a bid for 2010.

## 7. Global Junior Programme (Junior Circuit, JC Finals and Cadet Challenge)

Mr. Tony Yue thanked the EC and the BOD for the support extended to the Junior Global Programme, which he said was an integral part of the ITTF movement. He

thanked all the countries that hosted junior events for promoting junior table tennis seriously. He said the annual budget for the programme was approximately USD 400.000, of which the major part came from sources outside of the ITTF. The programme was expanding rapidly and the Commission would do its best to maintain the quality and the promotion of the events. It was reported that the 2007 Junior Circuit Final would be held in South Africa and that a coaching conference would be held bi-annually. The Junior Commission was also seeking partnerships with the Swaythling Club for a matching stars programme.

**8. WTTC Team System – update**

Mr. Adham Sharara urged all BOD member to refer suggestions, doubts etc., concerning the team system to Mr. Yao Zhenxu, for future decisions.

**9. Olympic Solidarity support**

Mr. Jordi Serra thanked Olympic Solidarity for the great support extended to all ITTF programmes.

**10. Olympic Games**

**10.1 Beijing 2008 update**

Mr. Yao Zhenxu made a detailed visual presentation of ongoing preparations for the Beijing Games and reported that the competition management team had already begun work and that national technical officials were being trained. It was reported that the test event for the Games would be the Pro Tour Grand Finals, 14-16 December 2007, to be held in the Olympic venue at the Peking University. Table Tennis ORIS meeting will be held 11-14 October 2006, in Montreux, Switzerland.

**10.2 Testing Team event system**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the Olympic Commission had devised a new system for the Olympic team event that would be tried at some events in 2006 and 2007. The system had already been tested at the US Open Team Matches in March 2006 and feedback from coaches, players and umpires had been collected.

**11. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the BOD will take place in Zagreb, Croatia; the exact date will be communicated in due course.

**12. Any other business**

- On a request from USATT, it was decided that Mr. Aly Salam would be removed from the URC and a replacement would be made in Zagreb. Ms Sheri Pittman said she would prepare a code of conduct proposal for Committee Chairpersons.
- Mr. Henri Djombo wished it to be recorded in the Minutes that the African Table Tennis Federation had met the previous day and had prepared a declaration of solidarity with those associations that has some delegation members that could not attend the WTTC due to visa problems. It recommended to the ITTF to obtain a formal guarantee from world championship organisers that entry visas and transit visas would be delivered to all participants. He also urged all African members to respect deadlines and to ensure that visas are requested in time. He also asked the Organising Committee not to penalise those associations that could not attend due to visa problems. He thanked the ITTF and the Bremen Organising Committee for the hospitality received in Bremen.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 14h36.

---

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara