

# Executive Council

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## MINUTES

Of the Executive Council meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on **22nd May 2007, at the Westin Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia** at 09:00.

### 1. **President's welcome and opening remarks**

The President welcomed the Executive Council to Zagreb and said that a lot of effort had been made to improve the stadium and that the championship was promising to be a successful one, with an especially well appointed centre-court.

### 2. **Roll call**

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

#### **In attendance**

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Glenn Tepper	Development Manager
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager

### 3. **Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as presented.

### 4. **Minutes of previous Meetings**

#### **4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Hong Kong, 18 December 2007)**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Hong Kong were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

#### **4.2 Business arising from the Minutes (not covered by Agenda)**

No other business.

### 5. **World Table Tennis Championships**

#### **5.1 2007 WTTC Zagreb**

Ms Claude Bergeret made a brief update report and said that the stress caused by Mr. Gojko Skrbic's absence had been absorbed and the championship was proceeding as planned. The light in the hall was according to regulations. It was reported that a theft had occurred in the offices of the ITTF during the opening ceremonies and it was decided that a safety deposit box would be needed in the office, an item to be added to the Directives for future WTTC organisers.

## **5.2 2010 WTTC Selection**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that as Qatar and Linz had withdrawn their bids, Moscow (Russia) would be the hosts of the 2010 WTTC. A presentation by the Russian organisers would be made to the AGM. Ms Claude Bergeret said that an inspection visit to Russia had been made and that she was happy to see the obvious support of the government for this event.

## **6. Women's Working Group**

Ms Claude Bergeret made a brief report about the Women's Forums held in Africa and Europe. The Asian Women's Forum will be held during the Asian Championships in Yangzhou, September 2007. The forums in Oceania and Latin America to be discussed with the Continental Vice-Presidents in Zagreb.

Ms Bergeret reported on the unofficial Women's Working Group meeting held two days previously. She reported that the next Women's Working Group meeting will be held in Chengdu, China, during the Women's World Cup (28-30 September 2007) and requested the help of the Continental Vice-Presidents to ensure that the continental representative could attend the meeting. Mr. Yang Shuan offered to seek help from the organisers to fund the travel of at least two of the Continental representatives. Ms Judit Faragó mentioned that the problem was the same for the continental representatives of the Junior Commission. Mr. Adham Sharara thanked Mr. Yang for the generosity of the Chinese hosts, but indicated that we needed to reconsider the issue in a more permanent way. Perhaps, as previously proposed the official Women Working Group meeting should be held at the World Championships where more of the representatives are already present. Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Jordi Serra were requested by the President to establish an equalisation formula to enable continental representatives to travel to meetings such as the Junior Commission and the Women Working Group.

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that in order to increase the number of ITTF female course conductors, a special coaching conductors' course was held in Belgrade, Serbia, which had been very productive. All the coaches have been requested to hold a Level 1 coaching course in their countries and some of them had already been appointed to run ITTF courses. Mr. Tepper said that it was necessary to create a larger pool of course conductors from which the ITTF could draw for the ITTF courses.

## **7. Development Programme update**

Mr. Glenn Tepper made a comprehensive report concerning the Development Programme saying that over 100 courses had been conducted as well as equipment assistance offered to over 30 countries in 2006. The development magazine published last year was a useful tool and would be published every 4 years. Over 20 Olympic Solidarity courses had already been scheduled in 2007. The ITTF coach accreditation system was moving into its second phase with the level 2 and 3 coaching manuals being prepared for publication in 2008. The level 1 manual now available in 6 languages had its IPTTC unit and all ITTF courses in the future would contain a para-table-tennis component. Mr. Tepper also reported that 4 projects had been allocated assistance through the ITTF Goodwill fund. Mr. Chérif Hajem thanked Mr. Tepper for his assistance to Africa and Mr. Stefano Bosi reported on some changes that had been made to the European Development programme, in particular the abolition of the Euro Talent programme and the financing of some good players through the Grubba fund as well as providing low cost flooring to Associations. Mr. Patrick Gillman reported that a new Development Manager, Mr. Andrew Hubbard, had been hired for Oceania and thanked Mr. Glenn Tepper and Mr. Steve Dainton for their assistance to him.

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that from 1st July 2007 Mr. Glenn Tepper would have the title »Director of Development Programmes« and would be responsible for all development projects within the ITTF. A development matrix would be

created with different persons in charge of each function. Mr. Tepper would move to Lausanne for a 3-4 month period in the summer this year to anchor the overall development programme and its future direction.

**8. Glue issue. EC recommendation**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained the incident that had taken place in Japan where a player had suffered an anaphylactic shock after gluing his racket. Mr. Sharara urged the Council to seriously consider the level of responsibility of the ITTF if a similar incident were to occur once more. Ms Claude Bergeret said that she had visited a laboratory in Germany and tested new racket coverings that were being produced which had the speed glue effect. The racket covers seemed to be effective but more physical effort was needed to spin the ball when playing far from the table.

It was said that the EC would recommend to the BOD to request all players to stop using glues containing VCs with immediate effect. Furthermore, to stop the approval of glues all together and to test the composite racket as of 1st September 2007.

**9. Continental representatives in Commissions & Panels**

Lists to be confirmed before BOD.

**10. Committee Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen**

It was reported that the EC would like to recommend to the BOD to request the Committee chairpersons to nominate a deputy for each committee who would be capable of taking over the Chair responsibility when the time comes, as a sort of training for the future.

**11. Media Coordinator**

It was reported that 15 applications had been received and 3 applicants interviewed for the Media Coordinator position. One of the possible candidates had been invited to Zagreb to work with the Event Media Manager and a decision would be taken after the Zagreb WTTC based on an evaluation of his work in Zagreb.

**12. Next Meeting (11 December 2007, Palo Alto, USA)**

The next meeting of the Executive Council will take place in Palo Alto, USA, in December 2007 during the Junior World Championships.

**13. Any Other Business**

**13.1 Shirts for Africa**

It was reported that Ms Bettina Mueller of Austria, had collected t-shirts from top players, which would be distributed, to Africa through the African TTU. She would be presented with a token gift at the BOD meeting for her kind effort.

13.2 It was said that Mr. Hans Giesecke was attending the funeral of Albert Shipley on behalf of the ITTF.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12h38.