

# Executive Committee

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## Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2000 at the Gran Hotel Renacimiento, Seville, Spain, at 9 a.m.

### 1 Roll Call

#### Present

Adham Sharara	President and CEO
Pierre Albertini	Deputy President
George Segun	Executive Vice-President
Nils Bergström	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice-President (Finance)

#### In attendance

Eve Williams	Administration Director
Jordi Serra	Technical Director
Anders Thurnström	Marketing Director
Christian Véronèse	ITTF Marketing Manager for Europe
Lilamani de Soysa	Administrative and Project Co-ordinator
Li Tiefeng	Interpreter

#### Excused

Peter Jensen	ITTF Media and Communications Manager
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### 2 President's opening remarks

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed the Executive Committee members to Seville.

### 3 Minutes of previous meeting

#### 3.1 Approval of minutes (Kuala Lumpur)

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2000 were signed by the President as a true record of the Meeting.

#### 3.2 Business arising (not covered by Agenda)

Mr. Adham Sharara informed the Committee that the advance from the IOC had been received and that the full amount allocated to table tennis was now known.

### 4 Professional structure

#### 4.1 Transfer of responsibilities from Hastings

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the time had come to transfer responsibilities from Hastings to Lausanne. The physical transfer would take place some time between October and December 2000, which would give Mr. Nils Bergström enough time to complete his work with the archives. Mr. Sharara said that the equipment, for example the computers, which were not all brand new, could be donated locally to schools or table tennis clubs as that would be a cheaper solution than shipping to Africa or Latin America. The same would be done with the furniture once Mr. Nils Bergström had sorted the archives. It was decided that Mr. Nils Bergström, Mr. Adham Sharara and Mr. Jordi Serra would meet in Hastings in August to finalise arrangements.

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that a friend of Mr. Jean Devys had visited Hastings and taken some documents from the Montagu files back with him to France without the permission of the ITTF. Mr. Adham Sharara undertook to write him a letter of reproach ordering him to send the documents back.

#### **4.2 Severance package to Hastings staff**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the agreement concerning the severance package to the Hastings staff would be finalised at the next meeting in Sydney.

#### **4.3 New appointments**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the newly hired Media and Communication Manager of the ITTF, Mr. Peter Jensen, would start work on 1 June 2000. It was reported that Mr. Peter Jensen was 49 years old, of Danish origin. He had vast experience in media and TV and some marketing experience, which would be very useful to the ITTF. He also spoke several languages.

Mr. Adham Sharara said that more staff would be needed in Lausanne, namely a secretary with financial background. He said that Mr. Christian Véronèse would also be based in Lausanne. The hiring of a Data Base Manager has been delayed for the time being.

Mr. Adham Sharara then reported that Ms Etsuko Enami had been hired by the ITTF, for a 6-month trial period, to assist him and Mr. Anders Thunström in the President's Office in Ottawa.

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the calendar and ranking issues could be dealt with in Ottawa. However, the Bulletin would remain in Hastings and that Ms Eve Williams would continue to be in charge of it for the time being. As for the accounts and finances, the Ottawa and Lausanne offices would soon merge and the new secretary would be trained to manage the routine finances.

### **5. Representation**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported on the various representations that had taken place since Kuala Lumpur. He represented the ITTF with Mr. Hans Giesecke in Vancouver at the Veterans World Championship. He had hosted an ITTF dinner for the Swaythling Club, where the Swiss delegation, organisers of the 2002 event, had been present together with the Swiss Ambassador. He promised the President of the Swaythling Club to give them technical support with Senior and Veteran computer world rankings, which may encourage former star players to start playing again. They could also use the ITTF database and the services of Mr. Hubermann. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had seen the over 80's play and had been amazed by their enthusiasm and standard of play.

Mr. Yang reported that the Women's World Club Championships had taken place in China and that Mr. George Segun and Mr. Han Sang Kook had represented the ITTF. Eight teams had participated, comprising of 2 Chinese teams, 2 Korean teams, 1 African team, 2 European teams and 1 team from Singapore. Mr. George Segun reported that the standard of competition had been very high. The championships had taken place in a relatively small hall by Chinese standards and the centre court "boxing ring" atmosphere had been very exciting. He said he felt that after such an event it would be easier to attract sponsors for this event in the future. It was reported that many European clubs had declined because the original date had to be changed and therefore it was necessary to set the dates well in advance making sure that there were not any other international sports events taking place at the same time.

Mr. Han Sang Kook said that the Chinese Association should be congratulated for their organisation and for attracting so many spectators. Mr. Adham Sharara thanked the CTTA for these very successful championships.

Mr. George Segun reported that he had also attended the China Open in the lovely city of Changchung. He said that they had been taken to visit several halls as the city of Changchung is hoping to bid for a future World Championship.

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he and Mr. Pierre Albertini had taken it in turn to visit the Asian Championships in Qatar. He said that press coverage was the best he had ever seen anywhere. The VIP treatment was as usual of very high standard.

Mr. Yang Shuan said that the Prince of Qatar was ready to build a stadium in order to host the World Championships. He said it was necessary to support the Arab nations to improve technically as there was too much imbalance between Asian nations. It was reported that Qatar would be bidding for the 2006 Asian Games and would also like to bid for the World Table Tennis Championships.

Mr. Adham Sharara said that, in memory of Mr. Ogimura who had championed the idea, the ITTF would very much like to encourage a joint team from North and South Korea for 2001. He said he had also had very interesting meetings with Iraq, which needed as much support as it could get from the ITTF.

Mr. Adham Sharara gave a brief report on the ASOIF meeting that he had attended with Mr. Jordi Serra. He said that the new President of ASOIF, Mr. Denis Oswald, seemed to want the IF Presidents more involved and the new ASOIF constitution had been changed in keeping with a more democratic outlook. He also reported that he had had very constructive discussions with SOCOG and WADA on this occasion.

Mr. Adham Sharara reported on his visit to the European Championships in Bremen. He said the organisation of the event by the German Association was excellent. The venue was very good, so were the hotels. The event had attracted large crowds. However, Mr. Sharara said that he was very disappointed with the mistrustful attitude of the ETTU vis-à-vis the ITTF. He said that from now on all dealings with the ETTU would be done in writing in order to avoid the misunderstandings, which seem to be engendered by verbal communication. He asked Mr. Pierre Albertini to act as "liaison officer" between the ETTU and the ITTF in order to facilitate relations.

Mr. George Segun reported on his representative visit to the African Club Championships in Cairo. These championships had been suspended for 17 years and Mr. Segun said he was happy to see the large number of participants. He said he had discussed with Dr. Samir Beltagy about how to use the Cairo Training Centre to better advantage.

It was reported that Mr. Adham Sharara would attend the Hungarian Youth Festival, 18-21 August 2000. It was also noted that Mr. Nils Bergström would go to China (Men World Club Championships) and then to Japan for Osaka preparations. Mr. Anders Thunström will be in Japan at the same time to meet with NHK.

Mr. Pierre Albertini would attend the Francophone Championships to be held in Switzerland in July.

## **6 Future meetings**

It was decided that the next EB meeting would be held in Sydney during the Olympic Games. The following meeting would be in Yokohama at the Pro Tour finals.

## **7 Any Other Business**

### **7.1 Standing Order Committee vacancy**

On recommendation from Mr. Yuri Posevin, it was decided to accept Dr. Kon Max Wong from Canada to fill the vacancy (Mr. Chowhan becoming the ITTF Continental VP for Asia) in the Standing Orders Committee. Dr. Wong had been a long time member of the Committee till 1999.

### **7.2 ITTF Delegate 2000 World University Championships, Shanghai**

It was decided that Mr. Henrik Petersen would be the ITTF Technical Delegate at the 2000 World University Championships, Shanghai, from 25-29 October 2000.

### **7.3 ITTF Delegate 2001 Universiade, Beijing**

This item was referred to the EB which would ask the Technical Committee to nominate a suitable representative in due time.

### **7.4 Omission of Melecio Rivera's name from Council minutes (Eindhoven)**

The necessary correction will be made and Mr. Melecio's name added at the next Council meeting.

### **7.5 Reimbursement of percentage of airfares to Council members**

Ms. Eve Williams reported that Mr. David Jackson had been upset that he did not know that airfares for Council members to attend Council meetings were partially reimbursed. It was decided that this information would be included in letters to all new Council members.

Mr. Nils Bergström informed the EC of a request from Sweden to provide Peter Karlsson, as European Champion, with a wild card entry to participate in the Olympic Games. The current ITTF rules do not admit of this practice but it could be considered by the Continental Federations in the future.

Mr. George Segun referred to the property in Hastings saying that it should not be sold at a loss but could be leased and the money used to find a place for a museum near Heathrow airport. Mr. Adham Sharara said that a museum would be an appropriate legacy to leave behind in England and that Mr. Alan Ransome was already looking for a place. He said he had been in contact with Mr. Gurney who may leave his collection to the ITTF.

**8 Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:50.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara