

Executive Committee

Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Monday the 18th of September 2000 at the State Sport Centre, ITTF Conference Room, Sydney, Australia, at 09:00, and on Wednesday the 20th of September 2000 at 10:00.

1. Roll call

Present

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

In attendance

Anders Thunström	Marketing Director
Jordi Serra	Technical Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Administrative and Project Co-ordinator
Christian Véronèse	ITTF Marketing Manager for Europe

Excused

Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Eve Williams	Administration Director

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented with the addition of item:
17.1 - 888 Rubber from DHS.

3. President's remarks

Mr. Adham Sharara asked Mr. Nils Bergström for an update of the situation at the Games. Mr. Nils Bergström said that most logistical problems encountered in the first two days had been solved. It was noted that the main draw of the Singles events started on the 21st, and that the top players would not be playing during the first few days. Mr. Adham Sharara said that this was not optimal for spectators and that this issue would have to be looked into for future Games.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approve Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26th May 2000 in Seville, Spain, were signed by the President as a true record of the Meeting.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday, the 11th December 1999, in Prague, Czech Republic were amended as follows:

Item 5.5: 2nd paragraph, line 4 to be read: *85% of the amount to be split proportionally according to the number of National Olympic Committees in each Continent.*

4.2 Business arising from minutes (not covered by Agenda)

No other business than that covered by the Agenda.

5. Sydney 2000

5.1 Update Report

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had been complimented by Taraflex and visitors from other sports on the table tennis venue. The hall was reported to be one of the best installed. Joola had already been asked to sell the skirt around the table and Mr. Mikael Bachtler was studying a way of commercialising and selling it.

5.2 Issues

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that there were still a few problems with the results, which were not being delivered fast enough. Mr. Jordi Serra said that the system for obtaining day passes was still complicated and a simpler system had to be found. Mr. Han Sang Kook said he felt that the 3rd session began much too late as it ended at 23:00 and the final matches should be scheduled earlier at the next Olympics.

5.3 Medal presentations

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the ITTF had been asked for the names of persons making presentations to the winners. An IOC member would always present the medals. It was decided that Mr. Adham Sharara (MS), Mr. Xu Yinsheng (WS), Mr. Pierre Albertini (MD) and Mr. George Segun (WD) would present the flowers.

6. Olympics

6.1 Meeting with Athens

It was reported that a meeting with the Athens Organising Committee would take place on the 19th of September at 16:00 and would be attended by Mr. Nils Bergström and Mr. Jordi Serra.

6.2 Technical Delegates

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the Technical Delegates had an important supervisory role at the Games. In Yokohama, the EC would select the Technical Delegates for Athens.

7. Pro Tour

7.1 2000 Pro Tour & Final Update

Mr. Anders Thunström said that there had been no other cancellations and the Pro Tour 2000 was well under way. The Czech Open had been replaced by the Danish Open. A title sponsor had been found for the Grand Final. There would also be 10 hours of live coverage in Asia and also some coverage in Europe of the Grand Final.

7.2 2001 Update

Mr. Anders Thunström said that the 2001 calendar was almost established. The US Open was still seeking financial help but there were 11 potential organisers. The Grand Final had not been allocated yet. Mr. Adham Sharara proposed that a letter should be sent to all Associations concerned seeking an organiser. Mr. Anders Thunström said that the ITTF was a

little behind schedule where contracts were concerned but there was a new event, the Korea Open. The Danish Open also wished to continue which was good news.

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the ITTF was striving to put together a package deal in order to find a title sponsor who would take over the entire 2001 tour.

7.3 Pro Tour recommendations and report of MG Meeting

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that a very successful meeting of the Pro Tour Management Group had been held in Budapest, Hungary. All the problems of the Pro Tour had been addressed (the main ones being contractual problems) and the future discussed. He said that a Youth tournament would be proposed as an option in 2001, which would be a fixture in 2002. It was decided that an annual meeting of the Management Group would be held, preferably during the Pro Tour Final.

7.4 Next meetings (Management Group & Pro Tour Directors)

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that a meeting of the Pro Tour Directors would take place in December 2000, hosted by the Danish Association, during the Danish Open. The next meeting of the Pro Tour Management Group would be held in Yokohama in January 2001 during the Pro Tour Final.

8. World Championships

8.1 Osaka update (contracts, directives, equipment, TV and sponsors)

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that contracts and directives had been presented but some amendments still had to be made. The next inspection of the Osaka facilities would be made by Mr. Nils Bergström and Mr. Chan Foong Keong from Malaysia on the 16th and 17th of October. Mr. Zlatko Cordas and Mr. Peter Jensen would also be present. Mr. Adham Sharara requested Mr. Nils Bergström to look for a location for the Guernsey collection. Mr. Anders Thunström reported that the host broadcaster would be NHK Japan and that there were 4 television rights agreements in place and that he was hoping to sign a few more after Sydney. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he was very happy with the deal made for equipment and that the World Championship in Osaka should offer excellent playing conditions.

8.2 2003 and 2004 applications and selections

Mr. Adham Sharara said that no applications had been received so far for 2003 or 2004. However, Paris and Brazil were planning to bid. The deadline for application was the 30th of September for 2003 (extended to 15 October) and the end of the year for 2004. A recommendation would be made to the EC which in turn would have to decide exactly what and how many to recommend to the AGM.

8.3 Inspection visits

Once the applications are received, if necessary, inspection visits will be planned.

9. Finances

9.1 Clear all subscriptions before 1 Dec. 2000 (Continental Federations)

Mr. Adham Sharara said that all subscriptions should be cleared before the Olympic allocations were made. He recommended the Continental Federations to pay all outstanding dues for National Associations in order to be able to collect the contribution from the Olympic Games.

9.2 Credit cards policy

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the UBS Bank in Lausanne would issue all new credit cards and a policy about its use will be established. Mr. Han, Mr. Sharara and the Executive Director would meet to establish the draft policies

9.3 Travel expenses policy and expenses reimbursement policies

Mr. Adham Sharara said that a comprehensive travel and reimbursement policy would have to be developed soon and will be produced in October by Mr. Han and the Executive Director.

9.4 Financial policies

Mr. Adham Sharara said that it was also necessary to develop overall financial policies. The Auditors will provide their recommendations and then Mr. Han and the executive Director will produce clear and comprehensive policies.

9.5 Audits

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the 1998 and 1999 audits for the Swiss office would be done in October. The Hastings and Ottawa Audits will take place in November 2000.

10. Head Office

10.1 Transfer of headquarters

Mr. Adham Sharara gave a brief update of his last visit to Hastings with Mr. Nils Bergström and Mr. Jordi Serra. He thanked Mr. Nils Bergström for the good work done with the archives. He said that the staff in Hastings had been very co-operative. Mr. Nils Bergström has requested to go there one more time before the actual move.

10.2 Missing archives (J. M. Sylvain)

Mr. Nils Bergström briefly reported about the missing archives taken by Mr. J. M. Sylvain. Mr. Pierre Albertini assured the EC that the documents would be returned shortly.

10.3 Compensation package to Hastings staff

This item was referred to the next EC meeting. The President would propose the package to the staff by 15 October 2000.

10.4 Sale of Building (Hastings)

Mr. Adham Sharara said that there was good news regarding the building in Hastings. Ms. Eve Williams had found a buyer who was offering

£55,000, which was a good compromise between the two estimates received which were £50,000 and £60,000. The buyer would like to take possession of the building by the 1st of January 2001.

At this time the Meeting was adjourned at 13:30. The Meeting resumed on Wednesday the 20th of September 2000 at 10:00.

Present

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

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Eve Williams	Administration Director
Anders Thunström	Marketing Director
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Christian Véronèse	ITTF Marketing Manager for Europe
Peter Jensen	Media and Communications Manager

Excused

Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
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11. Professional staff

11.1 Update on Lausanne office

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that Mr. Peter Jensen, the Media and Communications Manager had started work at the ITTF on the 1st of June and an Administrative Assistant, Ms. Roumiana de Siebenthal, had also just started, which brought the count to 5 staff members at the Lausanne office.

11.2 Update on Ottawa Office

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that Ms Etsuko Enami was a tremendous help where the Osaka World Championship was concerned and would be in Ottawa for at least one year.

11.3 Data-base Manager

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the hiring of the database Manager was now even more urgent, with the arrival of Mr. Peter Jensen and Mr. Christian Véronèse. Mr. Peter Jensen had met with Mr. Jean-Jacques Hubermann and inspected the material available, which gave a better insight as to what to expect from the database Manager. The person who is in charge of the Rankings now, Mr. Tim Gautreau, has accepted to be the Database Manager and hopefully by the end of next month he should be confirmed in office. Mr. Anders Thunström proposed that the ITTF ranking system should be proposed to all National Associations for a ranking fee, with specific adjustments to fit the National Associations.

11.4 J. J. Hubermann

Mr Adham Sharara said that, for historical purposes, it would be good to include all the information collected by Mr. Jean-Jacques Hubermann in the new Database. He had requested Mr. Peter Jensen to make a list of

priorities of the information to be entered on the database. This database would then be accessible on the web site with limited access.

11.5 Next steps

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the next step was the hiring a Technical Co-ordinator and possibly also a sales person to be in charge of long-term sponsorship sales. He reported that the ITTF had signed two Internet contracts. Sportal, which started 5 days ago with the ITTF in Sydney was doing a good job and would also be taking care of the ATTU web site with revenues to the ATTU.

12. Publications

12.1 Table Tennis Illustrated improvements

Mr. Peter Jensen reported that he had had a very positive meeting with Mr. Ian Marshall about the Table Tennis Illustrated and how to improve and modernise the magazine. The number of subscribers had to be improved with an aggressive sales policy. He said that he was studying the possibility of having it produced at less cost.

12.2 ITTF Bulletin

Mr. Peter Jensen said that he would like the Bulletin to be issued every 2nd month alternately with the magazine. Much of the information in the Table Tennis Illustrated was also in the Bulletin and this had to be corrected.

13. World Champion vs. Olympic Champion challenge match

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the ITTF had reserved dates in the calendar for special promotional showcase events and that there had been several proposals. He requested the Marketing Division to present a proposal after carefully studying the advantages and disadvantages of holding such events. Mr. Han Sang Kook said it was important to protect the integrity of individual titles and not create too many events that would decrease the image of our traditional events. It was also necessary to have agreements with players in order to protect the ITTF from private sponsors who may make direct deals with the players.

14. Representations (post Olympics)

It was decided that in October, Mr. Pierre Albertini would represent the ITTF at the World University Championships in Shanghai, China. Mr. George Segun would represent the ITTF at the Men World Cup in Yangzhou, China. Mr. Nils Bergström would lead the WTTC inspection team to Osaka.

15. New Agenda items (for next meetings)

To be communicated within the next few days.

16. Next meetings

Date to be communicated within the next few days.

17. Any other business

17.1 888 rubber

Mr. Adham Sharara briefly explained that Dr. Rufford Harrison and Mr. Odd Gustavsen had written to DHS informing them that rubber 888 had to be improved if it wished to remain an ITTF approved rubber. It was decided that DHS would have time till the 1st of January 2001 to make the necessary improvements. Mr. George Segun said that the ITTF needed to have more specifications on rubbers. It was decided that the Executive Committee would provide a directive to the Equipment Committee to start analysing the rubbers and to give more detailed specifications of the rubbers.

17.2 It was reported that the budget for the long-reach table tennis project in South Africa had been submitted. The experiments would start in November 2000.

17.3 Mr. Nils Bergström reported that the preparations for the 75th anniversary book were well under way. However, there was a problem with Continental Federations, which still had to submit material. He said it was necessary to create a special 75th anniversary logo.

17.4 Mr. Adham Sharara made the following presentation of the 2001 team system to be approved by the EC and proposed to Mr. Yao Zhenxu who would then make a final proposal:

Team ranking 2001

- Seeding according to final positions in 2000
- New teams seeded by Ranking Committee

Playing System 2001

- 3 Championships Divisions: A, B and C
- 24 teams per division (more in C if necessary)
- Phase 1: **8 groups of 3 teams** = 24 teams
- Phase 2: progressive knockout
- Top 48 teams have a chance to be Champion

18. Adjournment

There being no further business the Meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

Meeting Chairman - Adham Sharara