

Executive Committee

Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Monday the 25th of September 2000 at the State Sport Centre, ITTF Conference Room, Sydney, Australia, at 17:15.

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

Anders Thunström	Marketing Director
Jordi Serra	Technical Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Administrative and Project Co-ordinator
Christian Veronèse	ITTF Marketing Manager for Europe
Peter Jensen	Media & Communications Manager

1. President's remarks

Mr. Adham Sharara thanked all EC members and staff for their work and support during the last 10 days. He thanked the Deputy President for representing him whenever possible and thanked Mr. Han Sang Kook for co-ordinating the Jury. He said his first participation as President during the Olympic Games had been a very enriching experience. He was pleased with the spectator count, which he hoped could be repeated in Athens.

2. Popularity of the sport (P4)

Mr. Adham Sharara expressed his satisfaction at the attention that table tennis obtained on television and the press. He said that the Olympics was not the place where table tennis got the most attention as it had to compete with several other sports for visibility. He said it was important to choose host countries that gave priority to our sport. It was necessary, he said, to think of ways to make table tennis attractive to Greek audiences at the Games in Athens. He said that the visits of personalities such as Bill Gates and the King and Queen of Sweden were highlights of the tournament, which attracted media attention.

3. World Team Championships system of play

Mr. Adham Sharara made a detailed presentation of a modified playing system, which he had discussed in much detail with Mr. Yao Zhenxu:

Team ranking 2001

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

Playing System 2001

- 3 Championships Divisions: first, second and third
- 16 teams per section to start

- Stage 1: **4 groups of 4 teams** = 16 teams
- Stage 2: challenge match & progressive knockout
- Top 32 teams have a chance to be Champion

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the system of **8 groups of 3** which was decided at the EC meeting on 20 September would be maintained for the Osaka World Championship.

4. **Hastings staff compensation package**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that a final proposal would be sent to Ms. Eve Williams by the 15th of October, comprising of a column indicating what she is legally entitled to and what the ITTF proposes to offer her. An offer would also be made to Ms. Sharon Stephens.

5. **Next meeting**

The next EC meeting will take place in Yokohama, Japan, during the Pro Tour final, from the 11th to 14th of January 2001. A meeting of the Pro Tour Management Group will also take place at the same time.

6. **Any other business**

- It was announced that Mr. Nils Bergström would do a final inspection of the facilities in Osaka after the EB meeting in Yokohama.
- Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had requested Mr. Colin Clemett to make all the known changes and present a draft of the Constitution to the EC, six weeks from now. The Lausanne office in the meantime would send out a questionnaire to all National Associations and Council members. The results would be presented in draft form in Osaka. Mr. Adham Sharara said that a special EC meeting would be devoted to this subject alone in Yokohama.
- Mr. Adham Sharara notified the EC that an agreement would be signed shortly after the meeting between the CAR and the ITTF in the presence of the Minister of Sports of Catalonia.
- Mr. Adham Sharara referred to a discussion he had had with Mr. Glenn Tepper, the Development Officer for Oceania, and said that it would be beneficial for all the Development Officers to meet and share their ideas and experiences. A meeting would be organised during the World Championships in Osaka. This would be in line with the recommendation made by Mr. Miguel Delgado.
- Mr. Adham Sharara explained that due to logistical problems the Development Officer for Africa had not been able to achieve some of the objectives laid out in the African Development plan. It was decided that he would be paid a full-time salary until the end of this year except for July and August and as of the 1st of January 2001, only for courses that are actually completed.

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 18:40.

Meeting Chairman - Adham Sharara