

Executive Committee

Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Wednesday 7th November 2001, at 09:30, at the IOC Headquarters and later at the Hôtel de la Paix, Lausanne, Switzerland.

1. Roll call

Present

Adham Sharara	President
Pierre Albertini	Deputy President
George Segun	Executive Vice-President
Nils Bergström	Executive Vice-President
Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice-President

Absent with apologies

Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
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In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Programme Co-ordinator
Etsuko Enami	Executive Assistant

2. President's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The President welcomed the EC to Lausanne and announced that the President of the IOC, Mr. Jacques Rogge, would be honouring the EC with his presence at 10:30 a.m. and that the EC members would have the opportunity to ask him questions about the future of table tennis, in particular the question of including the Mixed Doubles at the Olympic Games which had recently been turned down by the IOC.

Mr. Adham Sharara also announced the news that Mr. George Segun was running for the Presidency of the Nigerian NOC and that Mr. Adam Giersz, President of the Polish Table Tennis Association had been appointed Deputy-Minister of Sports in Poland. It was also reported that Mr. Han Sang Kook had received an Award from the Korean Government as "the most valuable person in education in the city of Seoul".

Dr. Jacques Rogge joined the meeting at 10:45 and was introduced to all by Mr. Adham Sharara. Mr. Sharara explained to Dr. Rogge that the ITTF was seeking to invest in real estate in Lausanne for its Head office, which would include buying premises to house an important collection of table tennis memorabilia. He also explained that the ITTF was still keen to have the Mixed Doubles as part of the Olympic Games and that it had the intention of presenting a new modified proposal to the IOC. Dr. Rogge said he entirely approved of the idea of investing in real estate in Lausanne but that he was personally not in favour of adding any new events to the Olympic Games which were already logistically out of hand. A discussion also took place

regarding the possibility in the future for Team Events to replace the Doubles Events. He said that any new proposal was not likely to be accepted for Athens 2004 but it would be given due consideration for the Games in 2008.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of the two following items:

- 11.1 Age limits
- 23.1 Research

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings (Osaka, Japan)

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 22nd April, 28th April and 3rd May 2001 in Osaka, Japan, were signed by the President as a true record of the Meetings.

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

There was no further business arising from the Minutes.

5. ITTF Museum and information Centre

The Director of the Olympic Museum, Ms. Françoise Zweifel and the Financial Director of the Olympic Museum Mr. Fernando Riba were invited to attend the meeting for the discussion of this item. Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the ITTF had the possibility of acquiring two table tennis collections, those of Mr. Guerney of England and Mr. Charles Hoey of the USA, and that it was keen to find adequate premises to house the collection. Ms. Françoise Zweifel explained the obvious advantages of being part of or being located very close to the Olympic Museum. She said that the Olympic Museum would give all logistical and technical support needed to set up a table tennis museum.

Mr. Adham Sharara projected on the screen part of the Hoey Collection from the ITTF web site.

6. ITTF Archives

Mr. Nils Bergström explained the work he had done on the ITTF archives and said that now the ITTF should have professional help in further organising the archives. It was decided that he would terminate the work still to be done and then the ITTF would ask the IOC for expertise on how to stock the archives and make an inventory for future reference.

7. ITTF Bank Accounts – Signing Authority

The EC authorised Mr. Jordi Serra and Ms. Etsuko Enami to handle the finances from the Lausanne Office. It was decided that the signatures of the President, Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Han Sang Kook would be needed for important financial transactions. It was also decided that Mr. Jordi Serra would have the authority to sign up to a maximum of US\$ 50'000 for day to day operations. However, he was requested to inform Mr. Adham Sharara whenever he needed to sign for large sums of money. Mr. Serra was asked to inform the UBS Bank of this decision and to take the necessary steps to legitimise the signatures.

8. **Investments**

The EC authorised Mr. Adham Sharara to conclude the purchase of premises that had been found in Ottawa for the Office of the Marketing Division at 2211 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. Mr. Sharara explained the short and long-term investment strategies in acquiring adjacent land and striking a deal with the City of Hull (across the river from Ottawa).

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the purchase of real estate in Lausanne would take a little longer as prices were high. He gave descriptions of buildings that had been visited and the different possibilities available in the Lausanne region. Mr. Sharara was hopeful that a transaction could take place before the end of the year. The EC authorised Mr. Sharara and Mr. Serra to conclude the real estate investment in Lausanne.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:15 and resumed at the Hôtel de la Paix, Lausanne at 14:15.

9. **Olympic Programme**

In the light of what the President of the IOC had said, it was decided that Mr. Adham Sharara would meet one more time with the Director of Sports of the IOC, Mr. Gilbert Felli. Based on his opinion, the National Associations would be requested to express if they wish to have the doubles or the team events at the Olympic Games and if they would like to have the change at the Games in 2004 or 2008. Based on the majority consensus a new proposal would be made to the IOC.

10. **EC Members' Responsibilities**

The general focus of responsibilities of the EC was accepted as follows:

President	Adham Sharara	General responsibilities
Deputy President	Pierre Albertini	Deputise for President Special assignments General responsibilities
Executive Vice-Presidents	George Segun	Research & Development Continental Development Plans General responsibilities
	Nils Bergström	World Championships Archives & Historical General responsibilities
	Yang Shuan	World Cup events Multi-Sport Games General responsibilities
	Han Sang Kook	Finances World Junior Championships General responsibilities

It was also decided that as Sweden was bidding for the 2005 World Championships, Mr. George Segun would replace Mr. Nils Bergström in his functions concerning the selection of the 2005 World Championships.

11. Constitution Revision

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that a draft would be sent out to the National Association by early December for their input. The draft would contain all the options available to the ITTF in order to change and revise the present Constitution.

Many different issues were discussed by the Executive Committee such as a new name for the Executive Board, the responsibilities of the BOD, the size of the BOD, the election process of the BOD etc. were discussed. A final draft would be presented to the EC in Tianjin, China.

Mr. George Segun expressed the wish to add a new item to the Constitution regarding the age limit of Officers in agreement with the IOC Charter. The EC was in favour of this idea and it will be included in the draft as an option for the National Associations to decide.

Mr. Nils Bergström said that item 1.7.14 (*The ITTF shall pay a proportion of the travel costs of Board of Directors members attending Board of Directors meetings, the proportion being decided from time to time by the Executive Board*), due to the split World championships, should be clarified in the Revised Constitution. Mr. Han Sang Kook was requested to give it necessary thought.

Mr. Han Sang Kook proposed that the Junior Championships Working Group should be made a full Committee in the future.

12. ITTF Handbook Updates

Revision of Items:

- 4.1.1 Authority for Organisation
- 4.1.2 Responsibility of Organisers
- 4.1.3 Entry fees and Levy

Mr. Nils Bergström pointed out several inconsistencies that existed in the Handbook due to the split world championships and requested that these should be clarified. Mr. Adham Sharara said he would ask Mr. Colin Clemett to further clarify the items in question. Mr. Nils Bergström was asked to write a proposal to the AGM concerning hospitality for officials who would now be attending meetings every year instead of every two years.

13. Player Behaviour

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that a problematic situation had arisen where televised matches had not been up to standard due to the very uncaring and nonchalant attitude of some players. The broadcasting companies had refused to accept the tapes. It was decided that a policy would be established which specified rights and obligations for players as well as serious sanctions that would prevent this situation from happening again. The policy would be presented to the EB in Tianjin, China, and included in the Pro Tour directives. It was also decided that the players in question would be reprimanded in a

strong letter with copy to their Association and informed of the new policy that would be put in place to resolve this kind of behaviour. Mr. Sharara said that it would also be necessary to organise educational encounters with the players.

14. World Championships

14.1 WTTC 2003 Update

Mr. Adham Sharara reported briefly that he had met with the Organising Committee in Paris in order to define responsibilities and select the equipment as well as to discuss such issues as the title sponsor and television broadcasting. All other pending issues would be discussed by Mr. Nils Bergström, Mr. Zlatko Cordas, Mr. Anders Thunström and Mr. Peter Jensen on their next inspection visit to Paris. He said he felt very positive about the organising team in place who had the experience needed to make it a profitable and successful event. He also said that Ms. Claude Bergeret had been appointed correspondent to the ITTF. Mr. Pierre Albertini said that in order to avoid a conflict of interest he had been appointed honorary member of the Organising Committee. He also reported that the event had received very strong financial support from the region and the Ministry of Sport. Mr. George Segun expressed the wish to participate in the next inspection visit in order to prepare for his visits in 2005. This was accepted.

14.2 WTTC 2004 Update

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the Qatar Table Tennis Association had asked for a change of the dates for the 2004 WTTC to February. The Continental Vice-President's had been informed and asked for their accord. The Executive Committee was in favour of this change but the final decision would be made at the EB meeting in Tianjin, China.

14.3 WTTC 2005 bids

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that several Associations had requested the application forms of which three applications were received. **Switzerland** had presented a complete application, which was approved by the Executive Committee. **China** had presented a partial application, which would have to be completed and sent in to the Lausanne Office by the 15th of December 2001. The Swedish Association had sent a letter of intent, which the Executive Committee decided to accept by vote (Mr. Nils Bergström abstained from voting). However, the complete **Swedish** application would also have to be received in the Lausanne office by the 15th of December 2001, final deadline. Due to the Swedish application, Mr. George Segun would replace Mr. Nils Bergström in his functions for the 2005 bid, and was requested to find the best procedure and times for visiting the bidding cities.

15. World Club Championships

Mr. Nils Bergström reported on his visit to Macao and the Women's World Club championships. He said that the first two championships organised in China were very good but that the level of teams participating in Macao was

not up to standard although the organisation was excellent. He said he felt the level of the tournament was going down for both men and women. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he wished to skip the 2002 edition and take the time to seriously analyse the first three years in order to decide the feasibility of this event. He said he would discuss the matter further with Mr. Yang Shuan on his visit to China in two weeks time. The EC accepted the President's proposal and it was decided that a questionnaire would be sent to all participating clubs for their input. Mr. Nils Bergström was requested to write a report on how to improve this event.

16. Junior WTTC Committee Budget and update

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he was extremely satisfied with the quality and volume of work that had been done by this Committee so far and who seemed to be working very well together. He referred to the document distributed and requested the EC to study it and give its input to Mr. Tony Yue and Mr. Michael Andersson. A final decision concerning the document and its contents would be taken at the EB meeting in Tianjin, China. Mr. Han Sang Kook was requested to study the budget proposed in the document and to propose to the committee a reduction in the budget.

17. Umpires & Referees Commission Update & Budget

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that this new Commission was a very dynamic group and had already produced quite a large amount of work. The two secretaries, Aksel Beckmann (Referees) and Aly Salam (Umpires) had met in Lausanne together with the interim Chairman, Mr. Neil Harwood, Mr. Adham Sharara and the staff to discuss strategy, objectives, goals, schedules, budgets, as well as internal and external resources. The two secretaries had further attended a referees' seminar held in Germany and had met with Mr. Colin Clemett and Mr. Hans Giesecke concerning the transfer of knowledge and documents from the Rules Committee. A final report and plan would be presented to the EC in Tianjin, China.

Mr. Adham Sharara gave a brief update about a particular problem concerning three Continental Referees from Africa who were experiencing difficulties having their continental experience validated in order to become International Referees. The EC accepted that the Commission should make a recommendation to the EB in Tianjin, China, for a final decision.

18. Universiade 2001, 2003, 2005

Mr. Adham Sharara announced that table tennis was not going to be part of the 2003 Universiade in Korea. Mr. Pierre Albertini had met with the President of the FISU (International University Sports Federation) together with Mr. Yang Shuan; Mr. Henrik Pedersen and Mr. Norbert Wolfe at the 2001 Universiade in China. It was reported that FISU would be deciding within the next six months if table tennis would become a core sport from 2005 onwards. The President of FISU had assured them of his support. Mr. Pierre Albertini thanked Mr. Henrik Pedersen and Mr. Norbert Wolfe for their dedication and good work.

19. Multi-Sports Games Strategy

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the ITTF was going to do its best to be part of as many multi-sports events as possible, which would give table tennis more

exposure. Therefore, the ITTF had applied to be part of the International World Master Games Association and the application had been accepted and table tennis was now a core sport at this event. Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to establish a list of all the other events in which table tennis should figure as a core sport in the future.

20. Equipment Approval and Testing Fees

The Chairman of the Equipment Committee, Mr. Odd Gustavsen submitted a draft proposal of the new proposed approval fee structure, which would be presented in Zagreb to the BOD. Ms. Lilamani de Soysa explained that the proposed fees might be adjusted after further meetings with FIT members. However, the proposal for increasing fees from 2003 was approved in principle by the EC subject to further adjustments to be recommended by the Chairman.

21. Web-site Update

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that Mr. Tim Gautreau who had been responsible for the world ranking and the ITTF data bases would from now on be responsible only for the world ranking as well as Pro Tour and other ranking matters that Sportal Asia had been dealing with. However, the contract with Sportal Asia would be terminated at the end of the month and an Information Technology Manager, Mr. Mohamed El-Shentenawy, will work from the Ottawa office to create the needed databases as well as maintain the ITTF web site.

22. AGM Reports

All EC members were requested to send in their reports for the AGM by the 10th of January 2001. A letter indicating the same would be sent out in the next few days from the Lausanne Office to EB members and Committee Chairmen.

23. Any Other Business

- The 2001 Pro Tour Final is scheduled to be held in Tianjin, China from the 10th to the 13th of January, 2002.
- The EC agreed that the 2002 Pro Tour Final be attributed to Sweden and would take place from the 12-15th of December 2002 in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Mr. George Segun reported that an interim report had been received from the CAR (Barcelona) on the longer reach research project. He said that he was awaiting news from the JTIA, which had been contacted in order to do similar research in Asia.
- Mr. Nils Bergström presented Mr. Adham Sharara with a gift from the Chairman of the Macao Sports Department, which had been instrumental in the organisation of the Women's Club Championships, in Macao. He said that the event had been very well organised and that the Opening and Closing Ceremonies had been well attended.
- Mr. Han Sang Kook reported that he had attended the Women's World Cup in Wuhu, China and that WADA had carried out anti-doping tests on all the players applying very strict rules and procedure. He was happy to announce that nobody had tested positive.
- Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had attended the Francophone Games, which had been held in Ottawa. He said that the event had been a

success from a financial point of view. The table tennis event had been well organised but spectator attendance had been poor. Mr. Pierre Albertini who had also attended the event as leader of the French delegation thanked Mr. Adham Sharara for all the help and support given to him during his stay in Canada.

- Mr. George Segun said that the EC should urge the Veterans' Committee to begin their activities as soon as possible.

24. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17:55.