

# Executive Committee (first meeting)

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## Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2001 at the Rihga Royal Hotel, Osaka, Japan, at 14:00.

### 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

Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
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#### In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Anders Thunström	Marketing Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Administrative and Project Co-ordinator
Etsuko Enami	President's Assistant

### 2. Welcome and President's message

The President welcomed all present to Osaka and said he was happy to inform that so far the preparations were going very well and that the Organising Committee was doing its best to solve all minor problems.

### 3. Minutes of previous Executive Committee Meeting (Yokohama, Japan)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2001 in Zagreb, Croatia, were signed by the President as a true record of the Meeting.

### 4. Osaka World Championships

#### 4.1 General Update and information

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that some teams had experienced visa problems but most of these problems had been solved.

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that from a sponsorship point of view the situation was in place for a successful championship. The field of play looked good and there was more live television coverage than usual. He reported that television transmission would already begin on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Etsuko Enami reported that the ITTF office area was well installed. She also said that the ITTF booth would be open everyday from 14:00 – 17:00 p.m.

#### 4.2 Transportation and meals

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that transportation and meal arrangements were very good.

#### 4.3 Issues to resolve

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the team from Madagascar was posing a problem. He had received a fax from the National Association of Madagascar informing him that the team that had been entered did not have official national authorisation to participate in the World Championships. The Executive Committee decided to inform the Jury that the team would be allowed to participate only on condition that they obtain some type of written approval from their National Association.

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that there was no gluing room within the stadium as stipulated in the contract. An emergency meeting between the ITTF and the OOC was planned to solve this problem.

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that access to the competition floor had been limited to avoid the presence of too many people on the floor, which was not very good for television purposes. However, he had received several requests from Committee Chairmen and other Committee members, in particular the Technical Committee, Equipment Committee and the Rules Committee. It was decided to provide the Chairmen of the Technical, Equipment and Rules Committees two passes each, which they could distribute as they saw fit.

**4.4 Daily meetings with the OOC**

Mr. Nils Bergström said that a daily meeting would take place at breakfast with the OOC. Mr. Nils Bergström, Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Zlatko Cordas would attend the meeting. When necessary Mr. Adham Sharara would also be invited to attend.

**4.5 Opening Ceremony arrangements**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained the seating arrangements for ITTF officials, staff and guests at the Opening Ceremony.

**4.6 Medal presentations**

The seven gold medals would be presented by the six members of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the PAC, Mr. Xu Yinsheng. Bronze medals and flowers may be presented by the ITTF Continental Vice-Presidents.

**4.7 List of meetings**

Ms. Etsuko Enami distributed the latest list of meetings. Mr. Anders Thunström said that in order to avoid confusion all staff members should be clearly informed if and when they were requested to attend any meetings.

**4.8 Other matters**

No other matters.

**5. Audited Financial Statements**

Mr. Adham Sharara distributed a detailed report, which addressed the audited financial statements. He reported on his meeting with the auditors and explained the financial position of the ITTF as reflected in the Statements. He said that the finances would be dealt with at the AGM together with Mr. Han Sang Kook's report under item 13 (Receive Audited Financial Statements and appointment of Auditors).

**6. Council Meetings**

**6.1 1937 Women World Championship title**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that on a recommendation from Mr. Tim Boggan the ITTF would like to award posthumously the title of World Champion to Trude Pritzi (AUT) and Ruth Aarons (USA) whose historic final match in 1937, due to a controversial time-limit rule, had been stopped and the title declared vacant. This item was referred to Council.

**6.2 Terms of reference for "Umpires & Referees Committee" and "Rules Committee"**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that on an interim basis the new committee would follow the recommendations of the Task Force as a basis for the term of reference of the U & R Committee.

It was announced that Dr. Rufford Harrison would be retiring from the Equipment Committee and had recommended Mr. Odd Gustavsen as the new Chairman of the Equipment Committee. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had asked Dr. Rufford Harrison to join the President's Advisory Council and that Dr. Harrison had accepted.

**6.3 2005 and 2006 World Championships**

There had been several unofficial requests for the organisation of the 2005 and 2006 World Championships. First Council would have to decide that the World Championships would be held annually. This item was referred to Council.

- 6.4 Change to Board of Directors**  
Mr. Adham Sharara said that according to the new incorporation laws the ITTF would have to have a Board of Directors. Therefore it would be necessary to change the appellation of "Council" to "Board of Directors". In the revised Constitution it would also be necessary to find a suitable name for the Executive Board which should not be confused with the Board of Directors.
- 7. Executive Board Meetings**  
There would be two Executive Board Meetings during these World Championships, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2001.
- 8. Olympic Commission Meeting**  
An Olympic Commission Meeting would take place in combination with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Board Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.
- 8.1 Mixed doubles request update**  
Mr. Adham Sharara explained that on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2001 the IOC Programme Commission would be making a recommendation to the Executive Board of the IOC, on the events to be included in the next Olympics. This item was referred to the Olympic Commission.
- 8.2 Replacement from Greece**  
It was reported that Mr. George Seliniotakis would be attending the Olympic Commission Meeting in place of the official representative from ATHOC who was unable to come to Osaka due to professional obligations.
- 9. World Championships Selection (25 April, 09:00)**  
Mr. Adham Sharara said that a meeting would take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April in order to allow the bid cities to make their presentations. It was decided that the first to begin presentations would be decided by draw and that time would be allocated to each after the presentations for further questions and answers. The final decision would be made at the AGM by secret ballot. Mr. Adham Sharara specified that the Championships would be awarded only provisionally until the agreement was duly signed.
- 10. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- 10.1 Gifts**  
Mr. Adham Sharara stated that the ITTF would be handing out several gifts at the AGM such as a gold plated lapel pin as well as medallions with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo for all those participating in the AGM.
- 10.2 Book**  
The bid presentations would be followed by a cocktail party where the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication, *Table Tennis Legends* by Mr. Zdenko Uzorinac, would be distributed to all the Associations and ITTF officials.
- 10.3 Cocktail party (25<sup>th</sup> April)**  
The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cocktail party will take place at the Osaka International Convention Centre at noon on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2001 immediately after the bid presentations.
- 11. AGM**
- 11.1 Arrangements**  
The staff will meet with Mr. Adham Sharara in order to finalise arrangements for the AGM. Mr. Sharara said that gifts would also be given to Messrs. Colin Clemett, André Damman and Rufford Harrison for their long service and dedication to the ITTF.
- 11.2 Propositions and Resolutions**  
Mr. Adham Sharara referred to two propositions in particular, the service rule and the 11 point game and reviewed the details of both propositions.

**12. Any other business**

**12.1 Development Officers Workshop**

Mr. Jordi Serra informed the EC that a workshop for the Development Officers would be held from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, co-ordinated by Mr. Glenn Tepper and himself.

**12.2 Research and Development**

Mr. George Segun said he would propose to the Executive Board to amalgamate the Research Centre Advisory Board and Development Advisory Board into one "Research and Development Advisory Board".

**13. Next Meeting**

The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 16:40.

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Adham Sharara, Meeting Chairman