

# Executive Committee

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## Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2002 at the Crystal Palace Hotel, Tianjin, China, 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
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President

#### In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Programme Co-ordinator

### 2. President's welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Adham Sharara thanked Mr. Yang Shuan and the Chinese Table Tennis Association for hosting the Executive Committee in Tianjin and thanked all present for attending the Dawei Pro Tour Grand Finals and meetings. He announced that there would be a meeting with the Vice-Mayor of Tianjin at 18:30 at the venue.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

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

- 14.1 TMS International
- 14.2 Eligibility England
- 14.3 Nomination of Technical Delegate for 2002 World University Table Tennis Championships

### 4. Minutes

#### 4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Lausanne, 7 November 2001)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2001 in Lausanne were signed by the President as a true record of the Meeting.

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

No other business than that covered by the Agenda.

## **5. ITTF Legacy Reserve Fund Investment**

### **5.1 Lausanne (Renens)**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that negotiations were well in progress for the acquisition of a building for the ITTF in Lausanne. He said that the building in question was a special place, an old castle, with ample space for offices, conference rooms, museum and even utility apartments. He said it would be a long-term investment and the cost, including renovations, would not exceed the allocated amount from the Legacy/Reserve Fund. He said that the local authorities had been consulted and they had assured the ITTF of their full co-operation and that the banks were offering equally advantageous financial conditions if needed. He said that the acquisition could not be made until the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2002, as there were still some conditions that had to be met before final signature.

### **5.2 Ottawa**

Mr. Adham Sharara confirmed that the ITTF had acquired an Office building in Ottawa on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November last year, following the decision made at the EC meeting of 7 November in Lausanne. He explained that this building was a short-term investment that would generate a profit for the ITTF as the building was occupied by tenants in the medical profession. He also said that there had been a request by another Medical Organisation to occupy the empty offices, which were initially destined for the ITTF Marketing Division. Therefore, the plans for moving the ITTF Marketing Division were now on hold. He said he was happy to announce that with the acquisition of the Ottawa building and the probable acquisition of the building in Lausanne, the ITTF Executive Committee would have fulfilled their obligations towards the AGM of investing the US\$ 2.25 million Reserve/Legacy Fund.

### **5.3 ITTF Museum (decision)**

Plans for setting up a table tennis museum were now well under way and that it would be located in Lausanne, in the new building the ITTF was hoping to acquire. The EC had met with officials from the IOC Museum and a plan for co-operation had been discussed. There were several plans concerning the curator, one of them being that Mr. Charles Hoey, who was offering to sell his collection of table tennis memorabilia to the ITTF, would live in Lausanne for one year and oversee the setting up of the Museum.

## **6. Olympic Programme Change**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that in order to comply with IOC concerns such as reducing the size of the Olympic Games, reducing the domination of certain NOCs in certain sports and distributing medals more evenly, the ITTF had the intention of proposing the team events instead of the doubles at the Olympic

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Games in 2008. Several discussions with the IOC have made it clear that it would be wise to ask for this change for the 2008 Games in Beijing. He said that most national associations that he had consulted were in favour of this change including the Chinese TTA who welcomed it for Beijing 2008. He said that the 2004 Games should then be a transition period where the doubles event should be maintained but the ITTF could propose one doubles entry per NOC. The Olympic Commission would be discussing this item at its meeting to be held two days later. Mr. Adham Sharara said that it would also be necessary to decide if the change from doubles to teams was accepted, as well as the number of players, number of days and playing system for 2008. Mr. Pierre Albertini said that it was a good time to think of ways to change the playing system entirely and to come up with a completely new formula to give the sport a new impulse in 2008.

## **7. Representation Reports**

### **7.1 African Championships**

It was reported that Mr. George Segun, Mr. Chérif Hajem and Mr. Glenn Tepper had represented the ITTF at the African Championships held in Egypt. Mr. George Segun said that the event had been well organised at a University hall. 17 countries had participated. He congratulated the new President of the Egyptian Table Tennis Association, Mr. Khaled El-Salhy, who was working very hard to find more sponsors and who had provided free hospitality to several African Associations. He said that the presentation made by Mr. Glenn Tepper regarding the ITTF's Development Plan had been well received.

### **7.2 Challenge of Champions "China-Sweden"**

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that the challenge had been a success, the match had been spectacular and of very high quality. The result was 4-1 but the Chinese victory had not been obtained easily. The arrangements had been very good and about 5000 enthusiastic spectators had attended. Mr. Adham Sharara reported that a contract had been signed with the sponsors for another two matches to be played within the next 3 years.

## **8. AGM**

### **8.1 Update on arrangements and notice forms**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that a letter had been sent out from the Lausanne office regarding final arrangements for the AGM. He also reminded EC members that their reports for the AGM were now due.

### **8.2 Propositions and Resolutions**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that Propositions and Resolutions were due by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2002. Mr. Colin Clemett would be forwarded a copy and he would be making the final draft. He said that the Associations had been requested not to make any proposals on the Constitution and on Chapter 5 (Doping Control Code) but only on Chapters 2, 3 and 4.

### **8.3 Revision of items (4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3)**

Mr. Nils Bergström pointed out that some changes would have to be made to items 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 due to the yearly World Championships and presented a document with his suggestions. Mr. Bergström was asked to forward his document to Mr. Colin Clemett who would compose the final text for presentation in Zagreb.

### **8.4 Constitution**

Mr. Adham Sharara distributed and explained a letter that would be sent out within the next few days to all Associations and officials concerned. The letter requests their input on several items concerning proposed changes to the Constitution such as a new title for the Executive Board, an age limit for officials, vote for Committee Chairmen, etc. The deadline for receiving answers was set for the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2002.

### **9. Player behaviour policy to draft**

It was decided that Mr. George Segun would be responsible for drafting this policy with the help of Ms. Claude Bergeret and Mr. Jordi Serra.

### **10. Budget for Junior Programme and U&R Commission**

Mr. Adham Sharara prepared the EC for two very progressive and dynamic presentations that would be taking place at the EB meeting, one from the Junior Youth Working Group and the other from the Umpires & Referees Commission. He said that the budgets for both programmes would be discussed and allocated accordingly after the presentations.

### **11. Audit**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the accounts at the Lausanne and Ottawa offices would be audited for the year 2001 and that the auditors would be visiting the Lausanne office at the beginning of February and then Ottawa two weeks later. Mr. Han Sang Kook was requested to meet with the Auditors at a convenient date during the audit.

### **12. Determination of length of matches (2/3, 3/5, 4/7 and 5/9)**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that at the last meeting of the Board of Directors the Executive Committee had been asked to determine the length of the matches with the new 11 point scoring system. He said that a study had already been carried out and that it was interesting to note that the shortest possible match was 3/5 games to 11 points, followed by 2/3 to 21 points, followed by 4/7 to 11 points, followed by 5/9 to 11 points. The longest match was 3/5 to 21 points. However, before a final decision was made he had mandated the Chairwoman of the Athletes' Commission to carry out a study at the Pro Tour Finals and other events amongst the players and coaches about their opinion on the subject. This item was referred to the meeting of the Board of Directors in Zagreb, Croatia.

### **13. Next Meeting**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Zagreb, Croatia on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2002.

### **14. Any other business**

#### **14.1 TMS International**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the ITTF's Marketing Division has been operating under the "brand name" TMS International for the past 4 years. Based on legal advice, and for tax benefits, TMS International will operate fully as a Marketing Agency with all profits to the benefit of the ITTF. In the process, Mr. Anders Thunström's and Mr. Christian Veronese's titles would be changed to reflect the modification. The President will send an explanatory memo to all concerned in due time.

#### **14.2 Eligibility- England**

Mr. Jordi Serra brought to the notice of the Executive Committee, the case of a young player from Hong Kong who had a British National Overseas passport and who was seeking advice on his eligibility to play for England. Several members of the Executive Committee wished to know the actual jurisdiction of a British National Overseas passport. Mr. Jordi Serra was asked to respond to the request by stating that according to ITTF rules the boy should be eligible to play for England once he had obtained permanent residency in Great Britain but further information was required before a final decision could be made.

#### **14.3 Technical delegate: 2002 World University Table tennis Championships**

It was decided that Mr. Henrik Pedersen of Denmark would be the technical delegate for the 2002 World University Championships to be held in Poland. It was also decided that a new delegate would be chosen for the following event to give a chance to other officials as well.

#### **14.4 Other**

- Mr. Jordi Serra said that a Foundation should be established to raise funds for the ITTF Museum. This matter will be discussed at future meetings.
- Mr. George Segun informed the Executive Committee that Mr. Olabanji Oladapo of Nigeria, member of the ITTF Board of Directors, had been elected Secretary General of the Nigerian Olympic Committee.
- It was decided that Mr. George Segun and Mr. Yuri Posevin would visit the 3 bidding cities for the 2005 WTTC (Lausanne, Shanghai and Stockholm) and report to the AGM.

- It was clarified that each National Association (one delegate) would be entitled to an additional proxy (for a total of two proxies) at the next AGM. Furthermore, each member of the BOD would be entitled to one proxy. If the member of the BOD is also the national delegate he then could be entitled to 3 votes (his own as a delegate, one proxy as a delegate and one proxy as a BOD member). This measure was valid as an exception only for the next AGM in Zagreb.

## 15. Adjournment