

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the Executive Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Thursday, 12th December 2002 at the Nordic Sea Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden at 13:00.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed the Executive Committee members to Stockholm. He said he was happy to be part of the 7th ITTF Pro Tour final and all Finals since the first one held in Tianjin, China in 1996. He reported that the ITTF was doing its best to hold the Final in the same calendar year and not in January as it had been the case in the past.

2. Roll call

Present

Adham Sharara	President
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

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Programme Co-ordinator
Peter Jensen	Media & Communication Manager

Anders Thunström	Managing Director, TMS
Christian Veronese	Event Marketing Manager, TMS

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of the following items under item 13:

- 13.1 Insurance
- 13.2 IOC Women's Trophy
- 13.3 Research Update
- 13.4 Audits of Continental funding
- 13.5 Eligibility of Lin Ling and Tie Yana

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Korea, 6-7 September 2002)

The Minutes of the Executive Committee held in Seoul and Gangneung, Korea on 6-7 September 2002 were signed by the President as a true record of the Meeting.

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

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that he had prepared a draft letter in answer to Mr. Ranga Ramanujan that would be studied by Mr. Adham Sharara and Mr. Han Sang Kook before it would be sent to all concerned.

5. Representations

5.1 14th Asian Games (Han Sang Kook & Yang Shuan)

Mr. Han Sang Kook and Mr. Yang Shuan reported that the Asian Games had been a very successful event and it was heartening to see an equal distribution of medals with DPR Korea winning gold in the women's team event. The event had used the new service rule and it was said that the players had tried their best to adhere to the rule but that the umpiring was not strict enough. TV coverage had been good. One disadvantage was that the stadium had been too far away from the athletes' village. It was reported that several ITTF officials had attended the event, including Mr. Li Furong (President ATTU), Mr. S. H. Shah (BOD), Mr. M. C. Chowhan (EB), Mr. Henry Yue (PAC) and Mr. Tony Yue (Chairman of the Junior Commission).

5.2 Olympafrica (George Segun & Chérif Hajem)

It was reported that Mr. George Segun and Mr. Chérif Hajem had visited one of the Olympafrica centres in Senegal. Mr. George Segun said that he signed the agreement with the centre, as the concept was useful for the sport and community development, but that playing conditions were poor. It was decided that whatever aid would be given would be monitored by the National Association so that they could also benefit from the equipment or financial aid.

5.3 Men's World Cup (Nils Bergström)

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that the level of play had been very high and that the organisation had been perfect. He was pleased to see that the score to 11 had now been fully assimilated. He had been impressed by Segun Toriola's performance. He said, however, that the spectator count had been low and disappointing. Mr. Yang Shuan said that the organisers had not consulted the CTTA and the promotion of the event had not been done very well. He said that the very high cost of tickets had also been a reason for the low spectator count.

5.4 Polish Open (Pierre Albertini)

Mr. Pierre Albertini reported that the organisation had been a success and that the facilities had been excellent. The arena was very good for table tennis. He said that special computer software had been created to manage the Pro Tour event. TV coverage had been good with an additional hour during prime time and there had been more spectators than last year. He reported that Mr. Adam Gierz, the former President of the Polish Table Tennis Association was now the Polish Minister of Sports.

5.5 GAISF and ASOIF meetings (Adham Sharara & Jordi Serra)

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had been unable to attend the meetings in Colorado Springs as planned but the ITTF was represented by Mr. Jordi Serra. Ms. Sheri Pittman was invited as an observer to the GAISF meeting. The ASOIF meeting had mainly dealt with the issue of the distribution of Olympic

funds and the new distribution proposal had been accepted by all. Mr. Jordi Serra said that he had the opportunity to have meetings with many representatives from other International Federations as well as with ATHOC, Commonwealth Games, International Master Games and WADA. He had also discussed the final contract with WADA for out-of-competition tests for 2003. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he was satisfied with the Olympic distribution of funds but he felt that ASOIF had not been forceful enough in the defence of the sports that were considered for elimination from the Olympic Games.

6. 2003 AGM and Meetings update

A draft list of the meetings to be held in Paris was distributed. It was repeated that due to the short duration of the WTTC, meetings should be limited as much as possible to a maximum of two per Committee. It was decided that the bids for the 2006 WTTC would be presented during the AGM. Mr. Adham Sharara said that a commemorative issue of the Constitution would be distributed at the AGM. It was decided that Mr. George Segun would accompany Mr. Nils Bergström to Paris on his next inspection visit in order to finalise the organisation of the longer-reach exhibition matches and other experiments.

7. World Table Tennis Championships

7.1 Sponsorship

Mr. Anders Thunström confirmed the good news that the contract with Liebherr as title sponsor for the WTTC in Paris had been signed and sealed. He also said that the contract with Eurosport had been signed but there were still several television contracts under discussion. He confirmed that the equipment suppliers had also been secured. Mr. Pierre Albertini added that the French authorities were impressed by the way the ITTF shared their sponsorship earnings with the organisers of the World Championships.

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that for the 2004 WTTC the Qatar Association had been offered two options regarding the sharing of television and sponsorship income and that the ITTF was waiting for a reply. He said he was convinced that Qatar would organise a good event. It was decided that Mr. Nils Bergström would have his first inspection visit after the Executive Meeting in March.

7.2 Selection procedure 2006 WTTC

It was reported that the selection procedures would be drawn up and the Associations concerned informed in good time. The selection would take place at the AGM in Paris.

7.3 2004 and 2005 Junior WTTC

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that Japan wished to hold the 2004 Junior WTTC in Kobe in conjunction with other celebrations and that Austria had agreed to bid instead for 2005. India was also interested in 2004. However, with the agreement of India, the ATTU and the Chairman of the ITTF Junior Commission reached an agreement to propose Kobe as the candidate for 2004. The item was referred to the Executive Board.

7.4 Selection Procedure 2006 Junior WTTC

The Board of Directors in Paris would select the venue based on the applications received.

7.5 Eligibility rules for Juniors

Mr. Jordi Serra said that according to instructions received from the Executive Committee he was working together with Mr. Tony Yue and Mr. Rudi Sporrer on a proposal regarding eligibility rules for juniors. He said the document would be ready for study at the next Executive Committee meeting in Qatar, in March 2003.

8. World Club Championships

Mr. Adham Sharara requested Mr. Yang Shuan to ask Mr. Yao Zhenxu to make a concrete proposal to the Executive Board the next day.

9. New ITTF Headquarters progress report

Mr. Jordi Serra informed the EC that the renovation work on the Château was progressing rapidly and very well. He attended regular meetings with the architect and the workers and so far there had been no major problems. The money allocated was also being used according to plan and that so far CHF 500'000 out of the two million had been used. He said that we could move in sometime during the last quarter of 2003.

The ITTF auditors announced that all renovation costs prior to the "move in" would be considered as assets and would add to the value of the building.

10. TMS International

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the Marketing Division of the ITTF, which officially operated under the brand name "TMS International", would operate as a separate identity as of January 2003. TMS will have its own logo and will be managed by Mr. Anders Thunström together with Mr. Christian Veronese from the Ottawa office. This would give TMS International its own identity, for tax benefit purposes, and for an expansion of operations. TMS, with a separate identity from the ITTF, would be able to generate income from sports and activities other than table tennis. However, the Marketing Division's principle remains the same; the net profit of TMS from ALL sources will be transferred to the ITTF periodically and at the end of each fiscal year.

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that there was some progress where the United States were concerned and that Fox Sport was showing table tennis on that channel. There was also another new channel for racket sports that would include table tennis. Mr. Adham Sharara said that with the new TMS mandate the ITTF would change its approach to the Pro Tour and instead of having a title sponsor it would create several different categories of sponsorship such as the official car of the Pro Tour, official drink of the Pro Tour etc. Mr. Sharara also said that the ETTU had hired a new Marketing Manager and that TMS would be sharing the costs and the use of the new position. He also said that plans were under way to expand TMS into Latin America as well as Africa and the Middle East to help these areas in their Marketing activities.

Mr. Thunström said that Internet business as well as advertisements in the TTI had increased. He said that Mr. Mohamed El-Shentenawy was to be congratulated for his work on the web site as well as the results service. He indicated that Christian Veronese

was able to sell all of the advertising space available on our web site and in our magazine. He also reported that the ITTF was working with a Canadian company that was offering a service with mobile phones where the results of matches were delivered immediately in the form of a Short Message Service (SMS).

11. Staff structure

Mr. Adham Sharara said that a Technical Co-ordinator would soon be hired by the ITTF. Mr. Jordi Serra would draw up a general job description for this position. He also informed that Mr. Mo El-Shentenawy would be continuing as Information Technology Manager and that Habiba Besic, the new Administrative Assistant at the Lausanne Office would also be continuing for another year. Mr. Jordi Serra had also accepted a two-year contract renewal.

Mr. Sharara announced that Mr. Zlatko Cordas had accepted an offer of employment from the Qatar Table Tennis Association to help them organise the 2004 World Championships and the 2006 Asian Games. Mr. Cordas would be based in Qatar but the ITTF would request through an agreement with the Qatar Table Tennis Association to let Mr. Cordas cover certain world events for the ITTF. Mr. Sharara said that he would soon finalise the ITTF new agreement with Mr. Cordas. Mr. Cordas would be replaced by several Competition Managers who he himself would train in the new year. The chosen candidates would then be tried out at Open events and then a final choice would be made.

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that Mr. Roman Plece, who had already been working in development for the ITTF, would be used on a more permanent basis for Olympic Solidarity courses and coaching courses within the ITTF Continental Development Plans.

12. Special Event (Koreas) progress report

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had discussed the issue with Mr. Gilbert Felli, Sports Director of the IOC, and that the IOC was willing to support this event. He said that the South Koreans were very keen but that we were still waiting for a response from DPR Korea.

13. Any other business

13.1 Insurance

It was decided that the Insurance contracted with BJD Services in Switzerland would be renewed with added coverage such as the loss of a personal computer and other benefits.

13.2 IOC Women's Trophy

Ms Lilamani de Soysa explained that 6 nominations had been received for the IOC Women's Trophy. After consultation, the Executive Committee decided to forward to the IOC the candidature of Ms Jane Pinto of Kenya, nominated by the African Table Tennis Union. Ms de Soysa's proposal of an ITTF Women's Award was accepted and it was decided that the Award would be presented for the first time at the Women's Forum in Paris. It was also decided that all the candidates nominated for the IOC award would be taken into consideration for the ITTF Award.

13.3 Research Update

Mr. George Segun said that the longer reach experiments were being continued in South Africa and all reports would be ready by the end of January 2003. He also said that some exhibition matches of the experiments would be shown in Paris at the WTTC.

13.4 Audits of Continental funding

It was decided, based on an IOC request, to audit the funds given by the ITTF to the Continental Federations. The Continental Federations would be asked to provide financial statements regarding Olympic funding and Development Plan allocations and two Continents would be audited by the ITTF randomly every year.

13.5 Eligibility of Lin Ling and Tie Yana

It was decided that, based on the information received, Tie Yana had represented China only at the Universiade in 2001 and was therefore eligible to represent Hong Kong. However, on the other hand, Lin Ling had represented China at the last World Championships and was therefore not eligible to represent Hong Kong. Mr. Jordi Serra was instructed to inform the Hong Kong Association accordingly.

14. Next meeting (Doha, Qatar, March 2003)

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held between 3rd and 7th March 2003 during the Qatar Open in Doha.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17h55.