

Executive Committee

Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Friday 6th September 2002 at the Lotte Hotel, Seoul, Korea, and on Saturday 7th September 2002 at the Sun Cruise Hotel in Gengneung, Korea.

1. 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
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director

2. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President thanked Mr. Han Sang Kook and the Korean Table Tennis Association for hosting the Executive Committee. He said that the meeting with the Minister of Sports and Tourism of Korea earlier that morning had been very positive. Mr. Sharara said that he was happy that the Pro Tour was taking place in spite of the typhoon, which had hit the region and caused the cancellation of all other sports events. He specially welcomed back Mr. Pierre Albertini who had been suffering from ill health lately.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of items:

- 15.5 Pro Tour 2003 Singapore
- 15.6 World Junior Championships Team events
- 15.7 Letter from Mr. Ramanujan
- 15.8 World Club Table Tennis Championships
- 15.9 Eligibility

As well as sub title "Fees for umpires at ITTF tournaments" under item 9 of the Agenda.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Zagreb, 4 April 2002)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th April 2002 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 investments

5.1 Lausanne (Renens)

Mr. Adham Sharara gave a brief overview of the actual situation explaining that the purchase of the Château de Renens-sur-Roche had gone through as planned and that the building now belonged to the ITTF. Half the cost was paid by the ITTF directly and the other half from a mortgage loan from an Insurance Company as planned. Renovations would take one year to complete and the plans developed by the architect had been approved as presented by all the authorities concerned. All permits had been approved and all agreements with the architect had been concluded. The total budget would be around 5 million Swiss francs including purchase price. He said that the ITTF would have its museum there as well as

meeting rooms and living quarters. There was also a long-term project to build a sports hall. Building of the sports hall, which would be beneficial for the entire region, would be the only way to get financial aid from the government. Mr. Sharara said that money would be generated to build the sports hall with the help of a local fund-raising expert from Lausanne who had already done similar work for the Cycling Federation. If sufficient funds could not be generated the project would be kept on hold.

6. World Table Tennis Championships

6.1 Paris 2003

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that he had received a progress report from Ms. Claude Bergeret and that all preparations including internet access, computer software, hotel reservations, meals and hiring of volunteers were going well and that 11,300 tickets had already been sold as well as 87% of the tickets for the semi-finals. He also said that competition would take place in 3 halls. He reported that contracts had been signed with marketing companies and with sponsors and that negotiations were underway with TV Bercy. All ITTF meeting rooms had been booked at the Sofitel Hotel. A bulletin would be sent out containing all the information needed to all concerned in the near future. Mr. Nils Bergström said that he would be meeting with the organisers on 2nd and 3rd October in Paris, together with Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Peter Jensen.

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that negotiations were underway with Eurosport and the German company Liebherr, which was interested in being the title sponsor for the Paris World Championships.

6.2 Qatar 2004

It was reported that the Qatar Table Tennis Association had invited the ITTF to hold an Executive Committee meeting in Doha, Qatar in March 2003. There would also be a meeting between Mr. Adham Sharara, Mr. Nils Bergström and the Qatar Table Tennis Association before the end of this year and Mr. Nils Bergström would also prepare the inspection visit schedule after December 2002.

6.3 Shanghai 2005

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had visited the Shanghai venue together with Mr. George Segun and that the venue was very good. Mr. Yang Shuan reported that the CTTA had already started working together with the Shanghai Sports Bureau and were preparing a master plan.

6.4 Applications WTTC 2006

It was reported that the deadline for applications for the 2006 World Championships was now over and that two applications had been received - Germany (Bremen) and Yugoslavia (Belgrade).

Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to respond to the two Associations informing them that their applications had been duly received and the final decision would be taken in Paris, France. No new applications would be accepted. Mr. Nils Bergström would inspect the venues if necessary.

7. Representations

7.1 Congress Women and Sport (Sheri Pittman and Lilamani de Soysa)

Ms. Lilamani de Soysa reported that the Conference in Montreal, Canada, had been a great success and hoped that the Executive Committee had read the report that had been submitted. She said that it was important for the ITTF to continue its involvement in the Women and Sport movement and that it should think of ways to actively participate in the next IWG (International Working Group for Women and Sport) Conference to be held in Kumamoto, Japan in 2006.

7.2 Visit to FISU (Pierre Albertini and Jordi Serra)

Mr. Pierre Albertini said that there had been several meetings with the President of the FISU as well as other officials. He said the table tennis had a very strong position within student movements and that the FISU had been very impressed by the table tennis event at the University Games in China. However, the size of the event was very large and they were still hesitating about entering more core sports to the University Games. The FISU is nevertheless still open to discussion.

- 7.3 **World Cadet Challenge (Han Sang Kook and Tony Yue)**
Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had attended the cadet event in Hungary and had been very impressed by what he had seen where over 800 athletes had taken part. Mr. Han Sang Kook added that it had been a very good start for the ITTF Junior Programme and that he was happy to see that all the Continents were paying a lot of attention to it. It was said that the young Chinese players had been impressive and one could see that they had already assimilated the new service rule.
- 7.4 **ORIS and ATHOC meetings (Colin Clemett, Neil Harwood, Jordi Serra)**
Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the ORIS meeting was concerned with the final draft of all the documents to be presented in Athens. He said the ATHOC meeting had also been productive and that it was good to see that construction work was progressing well so that the deadline for completing the playing hall could be met in August 2003. He also said that several issues had been finalised including the schedule, the number of doping tests to be conducted, accommodation for umpires, and television broadcasting. It was said that CCTV would be the official broadcaster for table tennis. A test event, the Greek Open Pro Tour, would be held in January 2004.
- 7.5 **Visit to Cuba (Dr. Kahn and George Segun)**
Mr. George Segun reported that his trip to Cuba together with Dr. Jean-François Kahn had been informative and that the Cubans were capable of doing good quality research work. The facilities were very good and the expertise excellent. He said the Cubans were eager to give their players a better chance to attend more championships and the money earned from research would be used for this purpose. It was reported that the International Corporate Games would be held in Cuba from the 21st - 25th of October 2002.
- 7.6 **African Championships (Adham Sharara and George Segun)**
Mr. Adham Sharara said that the participation level had been very good and that the level of play was steadily improving. Nigeria and Egypt were still the best followed by Tunisia. He said it was unfortunate that Tunisia had not sent a team to the Arab Championships where it could have won medals.
- 7.7 **Commonwealth Games (Adham Sharara)**
Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had attended a few days of the Commonwealth Games. He said the Games had been very well organised, TV coverage had been excellent and spectator attendance very good. It was the first time that table tennis had been featured at the Commonwealth Games and that table tennis would be on the programme for the next Games in Melbourne, Australia, in 2006.
- 7.8 **ASOIF meeting**
Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the purpose of the ASOIF meeting held a week before in Lausanne was to decide how the Athens Olympic money was to be divided amongst the International Federations. The ASOIF Council had proposed that the distribution should be made exactly as it was done after the Sydney Games and that any increase over Sydney would be distributed equally among the 28 federations. This had wide support except from 5 big sports Federations. It was reported that table tennis could hope to receive around 5 million US dollars for the quadrennial after the Athens Games.
Mr. Sharara said that it was a good opportunity for the International Federations to express what they want to have changed at the Games. He said that he had insisted that NOCs must be made to respect IOC rules and allow players who qualify to participate in the Games. He said he had explained what had happened to the player from South Africa at the last Olympic Games and that this should not happen again. He said that the President of the IOC had advised him to consult ANOC and the IOC Athletes Commission on this matter. The item was referred to the Executive Board. It was reported that there would be an additional meeting of ASOIF at the end of the year in Colorado Springs, USA, during the GAISF meeting.
- 7.9 **Women's World Cup (Han Sang Kook and Jane Pinto)**
Mr. Han Sang Kook reported that the Women's World Cup in Singapore had been very well organised and tickets sold out. The Opening Ceremony had been attended by the Minister of Education and the Closing Ceremony by an IOC member from Singapore. He said that Singapore was eager to continue to organise this event as well as a Pro Tour event in Singapore in the years to come.

- 7.10 **14th Busan Asian Games (Busan, Korea, 29 September – 14 October)**
Mr. Han Sang Kook was nominated to be the official representative of the ITTF at the Busan Asian Games. Mr. Yang Shuan would also be present with the Chinese delegation.
- 7.11 **Men's World Cup (Nils Bergström)**
Mr. Nils Bergström was nominated to represent the ITTF at the Men's World Cup to be held in Jinan, Shandong Province from 31 October to 3 November.
- 7.12 **GAISF meeting (Colorado Springs, 21-24 November)**
The General Assembly of International Sports Federations will be held in the USA for the first time. Mr. Adham Sharara and Mr. Jordi Serra would be attending. Ms. Sheri Pittman would be invited to attend as an observer.
- 7.13 **Other**
It was decided to ask Mr. Glenn Tepper to attend the 9th World Sport for All Congress to be held in the Netherlands, from 27-30 October 2002.

8. **Approval Fees – Final Proposal Equipment Committee**

The Executive Committee accepted the final proposal from the Equipment Committee to the FIT. Mr. George Segun said it was time to think of hiring a research assistant and to find ways to give more administrative support to the volunteers who do a lot of valuable work. It was also said that Mr. Odd Gustavsen would be contacted in order to find out the latest developments concerning the Dunlop matter before any legal action was taken.

9. **Umpires & Referees Committee Fees for courses**

A document containing a proposal from the Umpires & Referees Committee was discussed and it was decided that a fee of 40 US\$ would be charged per candidate for International Umpire exams, Advanced Umpire Seminars and International Referee exams. However, in some Continental Development Plans there would be a sum allocated for this purpose and those Continental Federation could pay for candidates in need of financial support. It was also accepted that an indemnity of 75 US\$ would be paid to course conductors holding seminars and exams and a minimum of 225 US\$ for an out of town trip.

Fees for umpires at ITTF tournaments

Mr. Yang Shuan said that there should be a comprehensive ITTF policy about fees for umpires at ITTF Open International Competitions. It was decided that the Umpires & Referees Committee would be requested to make a proposal for the Executive Committee Meeting in March 2003.

10. **Olympafrica**

A document explaining the Olympafrica Foundation was discussed by the Executive Committee and it was reported that Mr. George Segun and Mr. Chérif Hajem would be visiting one of the Olympafrica Centres in Dakkar the following week. Mr. Segun was given the authority to sign the Olympafrica Agreement, which would establish a co-operation platform between the ITTF and the Olympafrica International Foundation.

Meeting was adjourned at 18:05.

Meeting resumed at 17:30 on 7th September at the Sun Cruise Hotel, on the Titanic Terrace, in Gengneung.

11. **Women's Development Programme**

The Executive Committee adopted the recommendations made in the report presented by Ms. Sheri Pittman and Ms. Lilamani de Soysa. The Executive Committee further encouraged all Associations to sign the Brighton Declaration.

12. **English TTA Eligibility Case**

The Executive Committee once again discussed the eligibility issue regarding a young Hong Kong national playing in England. It was noticed that with the new Youth Programme the ITTF would need an eligibility rule for Youth participating in the new ITTF Youth events. A group comprising of Mr. Jordi Serra, Mr. Rudi Sporrer and Mr. Tony Yue was formed in order to prepare a regulation for this purpose which would be proposed to the next AGM. Mr. Jordi Serra was instructed to answer the English Table Tennis Association informing them that under the current rules Hung Kei Li was still not eligible and that the ITTF would be presenting a new eligibility rule for Juniors at the next AGM. Mr. Jordi Serra was asked to encourage the English Table Tennis Association to make the proposal to the AGM.

13. Staff Changes

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that Ms. Etsuko Enami had moved back to Japan but that she would continue to keep some of the responsibilities she had at the ITTF. Her position at the ITTF had been taken over by Miss Habiba Besic.

It was also reported that Mr. Christian Veronese was now working in the Canada Office.

Mr. Sharara said that the ITTF was hoping to hire a Technical Co-ordinator who would work at the Lausanne office.

It was reported that Mr. Peter Jensen and Mr. Anders Thunström had signed contracts for two more years.

It was also reported that Mr. Zlatko Cordas had accepted a 2 to 4-year contract with the Qatar Table Tennis Association in order to help them to prepare for the 2004 WTTC and 2006 Asian Games. Mr. Cordas would, however, continue to work for the ITTF for a total of 60 working days per year where he would cover some of the major events such as the WTTC, World Cup or Pro Tour Finals. Mr. Sharara said that he had asked Mr. Cordas to select and train about 6 persons who would then be able to act as Competition managers at ITTF as well as Continental or National events. Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Anders Thunström were requested to prepare a list of the events that Mr. Cordas should continue to cover for the ITTF.

14. Next Meeting (Stockholm, December 2002)

The next Executive Committee and Board meetings will be taking place in Stockholm, Sweden, from 12th -15th December during the Pro Tour Finals. Mr. Nils Bergström said that the Executive Committee had a lunch invitation from the Globe Arena as well as an invitation to visit the Arena, which will be the proposed venue for the Swedish bid for the World Championships in 2007.

15. Any other business

15.1 Special Korean Event

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the ITTF was still hoping to organise a joint North-South Korean event. He said it would have to be organised under the aegis of the IOC and that he would be meeting the IOC to make a proposal for an eventual Peace Cup or similar event. He said that as soon as he knew how to proceed an official invitation would be sent both to North and South Korea. Mr. Yang Shuan said that China supported the idea and would be ready to host the event.

15.2 Olympics 2004 Jury – scope of responsibilities and lines of authority

The Executive Committee accepted the document concerning the scope of responsibilities and lines of authority of the Jury for the 2004 Olympics.

15.3 Research Projects Update

Mr. George Segun gave an update on the research currently being carried out at the ITTF. Since his nomination as Chairman of the Research Advisory Board, he said that many ideas had been developed and much research work done, mainly on the longer reach table tennis project also referred to as the hard hitters game. Experiments had been carried out in South Africa, Spain and Japan and the report from South Africa had been published in the Sports Science Journal. He said that this research was important for the sport and it would be a legacy for future generations, which may wish to re-think the game at a future date. He insisted that the research was not meant to replace conventional table tennis but it was a way of exploring other ways to play the game. He also said that research was being done on table tennis racket coverings as well as on equipment for outdoor table tennis. He said that the ITTF could be more involved in the manufacturing process of equipment if it had the right knowledge.

15.4 Proposed Exhibition / Matches for 2003 Paris WTTC

Mr. George Segun said that exhibition matches could be played in Paris, in public areas, around the World Championships, to demonstrate the longer reach project as well as to demonstrate some equipment that had been developed for outdoor table tennis.

15.5 Pro Tour 2003 Singapore

Mr. Adham Sharara referred to the recent letter received by Mr. Han Sang Kook from the Singapore Table Tennis Association. The request from the Singapore Association to be part of the Pro Tour in 2003 was given due consideration even though it would now be difficult to find suitable dates. Mr. Anders Thunström was instructed to contact the Singapore Table Tennis Association immediately and propose the

available dates as well as to contact the Malaysian Table Tennis Association to see if they would also be interested in organising a Pro Tour around the same time.

15.6 World Junior Championships Team events

Mr. Mikael Andersson asked the Executive Committee to take a decision regarding the quotas as well as the ITTF wild card for the World Junior Championships where 16 teams would be invited to attend. He made the following proposal:

Europe -	4 teams
Asia -	4 teams
Africa -	2 teams
Latin America -	2 teams
North America -	1 team
Oceania -	1 team
Host Association -	Chile
ITTF wild card -	1 team (other than the host Continent)

The Executive Committee accepted the **proposal without the restriction "other than the host Continent"**. The ITTF Wild Card to be decided by the EC on recommendation from the Junior Commission.

15.7 Letter from Mr. Ranga Ramanujan

Mr. Nils Bergström enquired if an answer had been sent to Mr. Ranga Ramanujan's letter and it was said that a response would be prepared by the Executive Director and finalised by the President and Mr. Han Sang Kook and distributed to the BOD in the near future.

15.8 World Club Table Tennis Championships

Mr. Yang Shuan requested the Executive Committee to reconsider the World Club Championships and said that China was keen to hold this event once more. Mr. Adham Sharara asked Mr. Yang Shuan to ask the Chinese Table Tennis Association to make a clear proposal to the ITTF.

15.9 Eligibility

It was brought to the attention of the ITTF EC that the players Lin Ling and Tie Yana from Hong Kong should not have taken part in the Women's World Cup in Singapore as both players had represented China within the past three years. It was decided that it was an error on the part of the ITTF to invite them and that all invitations from now on would be sent to Mr. André Damman for a final check before they were sent out. It was also decided that the results of the Women's World Cup would not be changed but these two players were not eligible to represent Hong Kong World Championships, World Cup, Continental Championships and team events according to ITTF rule 3.8 for a period of 3 years. Regarding the Asian Games in Busan, the players would have to abide by the Asian Games Rules.

- It was decided, in answer to Mr. George Segun's request, to ask the FIT to provide two representatives to be part of the Research Advisory Board.
- Mr. Pierre Albertini thanked the Executive Committee for their support and kind gestures during his period of ill health.
- Mr. Han Sang Kook thanked the Executive Committee for holding its meeting in Korea and apologised for the inconveniences caused by the typhoon, which had clearly diminished the spectator count. Mr. Adham Sharara in turn thanked him for the hospitality and said that the fact that the event was taking place was already an achievement and that the quality of the event was nevertheless of the highest standards.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 20:02