

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes

of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on **Wednesday, 5th and Thursday, 6th March 2003** at the Sheraton Hotel, Doha, Qatar, beginning at 14:00.

1 President's welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Adham Sharara invited Mr. Abdullah Al Mullah, of the Qatar Table Tennis Association to say a few words. Mr. Al Mullah thanked the Executive Committee for honouring and supporting the Qatar Table Tennis Association by having the EC meeting in Doha, especially during this time of unrest in the region. He wished the meeting success and said that Qatar would be doing its very best to make the 2004 World Championships and the 2006 Asian Games a success.

Mr. Adham Sharara thanked the Qatar Table Tennis Association for their hospitality and invitation to host the EC meeting during the Qatar Open. He said that the contract between the ITTF and the Qatar Table Tennis Association regarding the 2004 World Championships had now been finalised and would be signed before the end of the Qatar Open during a press conference for that purpose.

Mr. Adham Sharara thanked the EC members and staff for attending the meeting. He said that the situation in the region had affected many teams and certain had withdrawn at the last minute, which was a disappointment to the Qatar Table Tennis Association. However, the entry was still very strong and the Qatar Association would have to fully concentrate on the players who were present. Mr. Sharara said that the issue of adequate facilities and sufficient manpower for the 2004 World Championships would have to be addressed during the inspection visits. He said that the ITTF would request that a permanent contact be nominated to be in touch on a regular basis with the ITTF. Mr. Nils Bergström said that he would go through the WTTC directives point by point with the Qatar Association on his first visit.

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
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director

3 Approval of Agenda

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

- 12.1 Final Olympic qualification tournament
- 12.2 Directives for Match officials
- 12.3 Anti-doping code
- 12.4 Update on Research
- 12.5 World Club Championships
- 12.6 Compensation, Qatar Open

4 Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Stockholm, Sweden 12 December 2002)

The Minutes of the previous meeting 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 World Table Tennis Championships

5.1 Paris 2003

Mr. Nils Bergström, Mr. George Segun and Mr. Jordi Serra and probably Mr. Paul Schiltz would be making another inspection visit to Paris on the 10th of March. Mr. Nils Bergström gave a brief update and report on behalf of the Organising Committee regarding ticket sales (70,000 tickets already sold), new sponsorships (an insurance company and radio), accommodation (two new hotels), preparation of volunteers, invitation to umpires and other organisational items. Mr. Pierre Albertini added that everything was running smoothly and that two seminars to train around 200 volunteers had been held.

It was reported that all ITTF and Committee meetings held in the playing hall would be free of charge but if Committees or Unions wished to hold their meetings in the hotels, they would be charged.

Mr. George Segun said that many African countries would have problems transferring money for the entry fees due to lack of proper banking facilities. Mr. George Segun further insisted that the Embassies should be informed once more of this event so as to make sure that visas could be obtained without much difficulty.

Mr. Nils Bergström was requested to ask the Paris Organising Committee to issue at least 10 day passes for special ITTF guests. He said that the list of ITTF guests would be finalised by the end of March.

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the Paris Organising Committee had been worried about the low income from television. Mr. Anders Thunström said that television coverage was basically good and that coverage of Europe had been sold; though at prices that were lower than in Asia. However, the only Asian television right-

holders were CCTV but several other options were still being pursued in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea and Singapore. He said that the trend had changed and that television companies were not willing to pay high prices for TV rights anymore. He said, however, that from a technical point of view the coverage would be excellent.

Mr. George Segun was requested to finalise the organisation of the long-reach and outdoor exhibition matches during his visit to Paris.

5.2 Qatar 2004

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the ITTF would have to be as involved with the Qatar organisation of the World Championships as it is with Paris. He could foresee communication as one of the major issues on which to focus. Mr. Sharara said that the Paris title sponsor would be given the opportunity by TMS to sponsor the 2004 WTTC. At the moment television rights were held only by CCTV in China who had a long-term agreement with the ITTF including 2004.

5.3 Shanghai 2005

Mr. Yang Shuan reported that the Shanghai Organising Committee had been officially formed and publicly announced. He said the Shanghai City government was very involved in the organisation as they wished to use the event for the promotion of the city of Shanghai. Double Happiness, located in Shanghai, wishes to be the equipment sponsor. He said that the Organising Committee would be presenting a master plan to the ITTF soon. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he was sure the Shanghai WTTC would be very successful and that the ITTF may well use it as a model for future Championships

5.4 Applications WTTC 2006

5.4.1 Belgrade, Yugoslavia (N. Bergström report)

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that he had visited Belgrade (together with Mr. Yuri Posevin) and Bremen (on his own). He reported that the hotels and meeting facilities in Belgrade were very good. However, the hall was still in the process of being constructed. He said he had met with the Vice-Mayor of Belgrade and they had promised that the city would put in all the necessary funds to complete the stadium. The World Basketball championships had been attributed to Belgrade for 2005 and the stadium would be used for that event which meant that it would be ready for the WTTC in 2006. **He recommended that Belgrade should be permitted to make a presentation to the AGM.**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the Yugoslav Table Tennis Association still owed the ITTF funds which, had been advanced to them as advances of TV rights for the World Championships in 1999 that did not take place due to the war. The Executive Committee agreed that Mr. Adham Sharara should write to the Yugoslav Table Tennis Association proposing ways to solve this issue and reduce the amount owed by 10% as was agreed at an earlier EC meeting.

5.4.2 Bremen, Germany

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that the facilities were very good in Bremen. The Sport hall would be prepared to take 10,000 spectators. The hall, congress centre and hotel were of excellent standard, situated within the same premises. He said the DTTB had the capacity and the knowledge to organise the World Championships. **He recommended that Bremen should be permitted to make a presentation to the AGM.**

Mr. Jordi Serra was instructed to inform the two Associations about their presentations to the AGM.

5.5 2007 and 2008 WTTC bids (Selection procedure and timelines)

Mr. Jordi Serra said that the WTTC bid documents were ready and the procedure would start according to schedule.

6. 2003 AGM and Meetings update

6.1 AGM and BOD Agenda

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the Agenda for the AGM and BOD would be ready by next week and distributed accordingly as soon as the Propositions and Resolutions had been finalised.

6.2 Applications for membership

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that there were 3 membership applications (in addition to those already studied at the BOD meeting in Zagreb) from Kosovo, Montenegro and Tuvalu.

It was argued that **Kosovo**, which was now under UN control, could be accepted as a separate entity from the Yugoslav Table Tennis Association. The Executive Committee decided to present the request to the AGM for a final vote, provided that the Executive Director is able confirm the authenticity of both documents received from the Kosovo Table Tennis Association and the UN.

It was decided that the **Montenegro** application would have to be studied further as it was not clear whether Montenegro could have its own Association when the Yugoslav Association would soon be changing its name to the Serbia and Montenegro Association. The matter would be discussed further in Paris.

The application from **Tuvalu** had been received with a slight delay (5 months before the AGM instead of the stipulated 6). It was decided to present the application from Tuvalu to the AGM with the precision that it was received after the deadline date and ask the AGM to decide.

Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to contact the applicants accordingly

6.3 Propositions and Resolutions

All propositions and resolutions to the AGM and BOD were thoroughly discussed and the final document will be distributed together with the agenda for the AGM and BOD in due course.

6.4 Service rule

The new wording for the Service Rule prepared by Mr. Colin Clemett was discussed and the new wording with suggested changes by the EC would be

presented to the AGM. Mr. Sharara would ask Mr. Clemett that the wording be presented jointly by the EC and Rules Committee.

6.5 Provisional eligibility for Juniors

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that a group comprising of himself, Mr. Rudi Sporrer and Mr. Tony Yue had been working on a text regarding the eligibility for Junior players as requested by the EB. It was decided that the text would be presented to the AGM as a proposal from the Junior Commission with the suggestion that a special committee or group should be formed to treat each request case by case.

6.6 Audit

Mr. Jordi Serra said that "Price Waterhouse Coopers" would audit the Lausanne and Ottawa accounts within the next two weeks and that the consolidation of the audited accounts would take place on 7 April in Lausanne attended by Mr. Han Sang Kook. Mr. Sharara said that the AGM would have to be asked to accept this change of auditors as well as to ask the AGM to appoint the auditors on a yearly basis.

6.7 Coming into effect of adopted Constitution

Mr. Adham Sharara said that all AGM delegates would receive a copy of the Constitution in Paris for their reference, and then again within the new edition of the Handbook. The revised Constitution would come into effect at the start of the AGM.

6.8 Committees (Policies)

Mr. Adham Sharara said that after Paris, each Committee Chairman would be asked to make a list of their responsibilities and tasks and request that the Rules Committee compile a consistent document, which would not be part of the Constitution, but a policy document.

7 Women's Forum

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had met with Ms. Sue O'Neill, Chairwoman of the International Women in Sports Organisation, who would let us know if she would be available for the Women's Forum. He also said that Ms. Judy Kent, co-ordinator of the International Women's Conference held in Montreal last May, was also eager to help on a professional basis.

8 Development Plan

8.2 Continental Agreements

Mr. Jordi Serra informed that all the Continental Federations had now signed the Continental Development Plans for 2003, including North America and Latin America. He said that Europe and Africa had already submitted their financial reports and invoices for 2002. It was, therefore, decided that these two Continents would be audited first.

Mr. Adham Sharara showed the draft copy of the first manual for coaching compiled by Mr. Glenn Tepper. It was decided to ask TMS to find advertisers for the last pages of the manual. Mr. Han Sang Kook reported that Glenn Tepper had held a seminar in Bangkok about the ITTF Development Programme and aid programmes available, which had been very instructive.

8.3 Olympafrica

Mr. Jordi Serra said he had met with the Director of Olympafrica who had asked for the help of the ITTF to find an expert to conduct a course as well as for equipment. He had also been interested in finding out how to build tables that they would like to build themselves and distribute to the different Olympafrica Centres. The equipment sent through Olympafrica is duty free; therefore it would be a possibility for the ITTF to use this system to send equipment to the National Federation in Senegal as well.

8.4 Future orientation 2004 and beyond

Mr. Adham Sharara said that all the Continental agreements end in 2003 and that he would convene a meeting with Mr. Glenn Tepper and other members of staff to find ways to further improve the co-ordination between the different ITTF programmes.

Mr. Pierre Albertini said that the ITTF should also make provisions for travel for players, for example create a special travel fund. He said he had visited the National Institute of Cuba where players trained throughout the year 6 hours a day but never participated in any competitions. Mr. George Segun said that the ITTF would like to give research work to be done in Cuba and some of that payment could go towards the travel of Cuban players.

9 Representations

9.1 Justice and Injustice in Sport conference (P. Albertini)

Mr. Pierre Albertini said that he had attended the Conference on Justice and Injustice in Sport organised by the IOC in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, together with Mr. Jordi Serra. He said the meeting had been interesting and that it had been a good opportunity to meet and discuss with key IOC and other colleagues from International Federations. He also said that he had taken the opportunity to visit the renovation site of the new Headquarters of the ITTF and had been very impressed by the building and the importance of the project.

9.2 Asian Championships (A. Sharara)

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had been unable to attend the Asian Championships in Bangkok as planned but he had sent a message, which had been read at the ATTU Congress by Mr. Han Sang Kook.

Mr. Han Sang Kook reported that the event had been a success except for a problem of eligibility of two players from Hong Kong. He also reported that there had been a change in the composition of the ATTU committee where Mr. Khalil Al Mohannadi of the Qatar Table Tennis Association had been elected Continental Vice-President in place of Mr. M. C. Chowhan who was elected Deputy President of the ATTU. Mr. Han Sang Kook also said that he was very happy with the work done by Mr. Glenn Tepper and Mr. Afshin Badiie where development was concerned. He also reported that Mr. Li Furong had obtained USD 100,000 from Asian Manufacturers and other Asian sponsors, which would be used for development purposes in Asia.

9.3 European Championships

It was reported that Mr. Pierre Albertini would be represent the ITTF at the beginning of the European Championships and at the ETTU Congress and that Mr.

Sharara would attend the latter days of the Championships. Mr. Adham Sharara said that Mr. Stefano Bosi had invited all the Continental Vice-Presidents to attend the European Championships and that Mr. Nils Bergström had also been invited. Mr. Anders Thunström said that the title sponsor, Liebherr, had been secured by TMS on behalf of the Italian Table Tennis Association. TMS was also in charge of all TV rights for the Championships in an agreement with the ETTU and the Italian Table Tennis Federation, and that the event would receive the largest ever TV coverage in Europe.

10 Staff structure

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that a Competition Manager seminar was taking place in Doha in order to instruct and educate several potential candidates for the position left vacant by Mr. Zlatko Cordas. Mr. Sharara said that the ITTF would be paying for one person from each Continent participating in the seminar. He said that it was becoming more imperative to find a suitable replacement for Mr. Cordas. He said the ITTF was still hoping to use Mr. Zlatko Cordas for the World Championships in Paris. However, it was necessary to assign someone urgently for the Brazil Open, pro Tour events, Junior Circuit events and the World Junior Championships to be held in Chile. He said that the ITTF would also seek to create a Competition Management unit in order to co-ordinate all the different competitions now available within the ITTF. He said the tasks would be re-distributed within the staff and if necessary new people engaged to take over the increasing responsibilities of the High Performance Director. Mr. Sharara said that TMS had made an agreement with a representative in Egypt to liase between TMS and the Arab world. A similar structure is sought for Latin America, possibly Brazil, and in Asia. A new satellite office may be created in China for the same purpose. He said that it would also soon be necessary to start thinking of the personnel needed to run the Museum in Lausanne. He said that negotiations with Mr. Hoey, who would act as curator of the Museum, were progressing very well. Mr. Sharara said that arrangements had been made with the Paris Organising Committee to exhibit part of Mr. Hoey's collection in Paris during the WTTC.

11 Next Meeting (Paris, 18 May 2003)

Next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held 18th of May at 14:00 in Paris.

12 Any Other Business

12.1 World Final Olympic qualification tournament

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that only Europe had showed interest to host the Final Olympic qualification tournament. He was instructed to contact the ETTU and to request them to inform the ITTF of the host nation before the next EC meeting in Paris.

12.2 Directives for Match officials

Mr. Jordi Serra distributed a document prepared by the U&RC with comments from the Chairman of the Rules Committee concerning directives for Match Officials. It was recommended that the EC should study the document further. The EC assigned this responsibility to Mr. Yao Zhenxu, Mr. Rudi Sporrer and Mr. André Damman. The document would be presented for adoption at the BoD in Paris.

12.3 Anti-doping code

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the new anti-doping code had been unanimously adopted the previous day at the World Anti-Doping Conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The ITTF was represented there by Mr. Arne Madsen and Dr. Jean-François Kahn. The new code would now be sent to all the International Federations for approval. It would figure as an item on the agenda of the AGM.

12.4 Update on research

Mr. George Segun said that a final report containing all research work was being compiled and would be sent out in due time. He said that leaflets and advertising support were being created for the exhibition matches to be held in Paris. He said that a space outside the hall, at a time when players would not be engaged in much competition, would be allocated for the exhibition matches.

12.5 World Club Championships

Mr. Nils Bergström said that he was working on this subject with a group of people and that a final document would be sent out to all the Associations concerned before it was submitted for acceptance in Paris.

12.6 Compensation for Qatar Open

The Executive Committee received a copy of a request for financial compensation by the Qatar Table Tennis Association from those Associations that cancelled 7 days or less before the Qatar Open. The Executive Committee will check the provisions in the entry forms. Upon verification of the entry form it was stated that late (less than a week) cancellations would be charged a penalty of US\$50 per day per person. The Qatar Table tennis Association will be informed accordingly.

13 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 17:45 on the 5th of March and resumed on 6th morning at 9:00. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00.