

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Jade Palace Hotel, Beijing, China, 10 December 2004, at 14h00

MINUTES

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President thanked the Chinese TTA for all the arrangements and hospitality and for making the Pro Tour Finals such a high quality event. He mentioned that over 100 journalists had attended the draw and press conference that followed.

2. Roll call

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 (Finance)
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice-President

In attendance

Rudolf Sporrer	Committee Chairman (Rules) for item 11
Anders Thunström	Marketing Director
Lilamani De Soysa	Project Manager

Apologies for absence

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
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3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Funchal, 30 October 2004)
The Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held in Funchal, Madeira (Portugal) on 30 October 2004 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. International Olympic Committee

5.1 Post-Games report

It was reported that the report to the IOC about the Athens Olympic Games was completed and submitted to the IOC and distributed to all Executive Committee and Executive Council members. Mr. Anders Thunström said that in the Post Games report it had been suggested that CCTV should be the television producer of the 2008 Games.

Mr. Adham Sharara thanked all involved for their input and especially Mr. Jordi Serra for his input and for coordinating the effort.

5.2 Sports Evaluation Questionnaire (IOC survey of IFs)

It was reported that the IOC had requested all International Federations to answer an evaluation questionnaire, which should help the IOC to determine which sports should be kept or withdrawn from the future programme of the Games. The questionnaire had been filled in with the help of all persons concerned and sent in before the due date. Mr. Adham Sharara said that even though table tennis was not in immediate danger of being withdrawn it was always necessary to be vigilant and ensure that table tennis is a core sport of the Games.

Again, Mr. Adham Sharara thanked all involved in completing the questionnaire and Mr. Jordi Serra for coordinating the task on time.

5.3 Team event request to IOC

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that an official letter had been sent to the IOC requesting the inclusion of the team events at the 2008 Beijing Games. He said that the IOC President was in favour of this move but that it was the IOC Sports Commission that would make the final recommendation to the IOC Executive Board some time in 2005. He said that as soon as the acceptance is made known the ITTF would have to submit the adequate playing format. This item would be further discussed at meetings in Shanghai in May next year.

6. Marketing Update (TMS)

Mr. Anders Thunström of TMS International reported that since Athens, when contracts with Liebherr, Volkswagen and CCTV had been finalised, no other significant sponsorship deals had been signed. He said that TMS was now striving to make sure that all deals were implemented successfully. He said that TMS was also doing its best to sell TV rights to other Chinese regional television stations and following leads with potential Korean companies (thanks to Mr. Han) and Korean television. He said that TMS was also working on creating a VIP centre-court concept for ITTF main events. Ms Judit Farago requested that TMS should not give up on the idea of looking for sponsors outside of table tennis for the Global Junior Programme and to find a title sponsor for the programme. Mr. Sharara confirmed that it was one of the priorities and had asked TMS to prepare the presentation materials to approach potential sponsors.

It was reported that the Junior World Championships had received extensive television coverage in Japan.

7. World Table Tennis Championships

7.1 Shanghai 2005

7.1.1 Report on coordination Visit, Shanghai, December 8-9

It was reported that Mr. Nils Bergström together with Mr. Jordi Serra, Ms Judit Farago, Ms Lilamani de Soysa and Mr. Christian Veronese had attended meetings in Shanghai with the Shanghai Organising Committee. Mr. Nils Bergström reported that only 20 practice tables would be available on the first two days and that may create problems. He said that the ITTF had requested a letter from Shanghai government authorities guaranteeing that visas would be issued to all participants. It was reported that the Directives had been finalised together with the Organising Committee and would be sent out by the Executive Director within the next few days. The Organising Committee was requested to produce the first bulletin immediately and to send out the second one in February. Ms Judit Farago reported that the facilities for the AGM and other meetings were of very high quality and that as the

Shanghai government seemed to consider table tennis world championships the number one prime event to be held in Shanghai next year, the WTTC could only be a total success. The next inspection visit will take place in February/March 2005.

7.1.2 Prospectus and bulletin number 1

Ms Lilamani de Soysa reported that the Prospectus and the entry forms for the Shanghai WTTC had been sent out from the Lausanne office on 1 December 2004 and were available on the ITTF's web site. Bulletin number 1 was ready and would be sent directly from Shanghai by the organising committee to all associations. It would also be posted on the ITTF's web-site (www.ittf.com)

7.1.3 Official in charge of Racket Control. Nomination

The EC approved the nomination of Mr. Paul Schiltz as the person to be in charge of racket control at the Shanghai WTTC.

7.2 Bremen 2006

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that all agreements were in place and the final contract and directives were now in the hands of the German TTA (DTTB) for signature.

7.3 Zagreb 2007

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the ITTF has offered a similar contract as the one for Bremen to the Croatian TTA for Zagreb, which in principle the ITTF will offer a fixed guaranteed amount instead of sharing the income on a percentage basis. The draft contract and the draft directives have been sent to the Croatian TTA.

7.4 2008 WTTC bids

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that one bid from China had been received for the 2008 WTTC by the deadline date. Since then the City of Copenhagen had shown interest in the same event but as they had applied after the deadline date they had been advised to apply for a later event. Mr. Arne Madsen agreed that for the Danish TTA it would be better to have a bid for a later edition, perhaps 2010 or beyond.

Mr. Yang Shuan explained that China did not wish to monopolise the world championships but that if there were no cities bidding China would always step in and help with the organisation. Mr. Adham Sharara said that Japan was planning to bid for 2009. More information should be available at the next EC meeting in February.

7.5 Team WTTC playing system update

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had received input by the 30th of November from most members of the working group. Mr. Sharara will analyze the input and prepare a summary proposal in January. He explained that one, or a maximum of two proposals, would eventually be sent out to all national associations and Board of Directors members in February so that they are duly informed before they vote in Shanghai.

7.6 World Junior Championships

Ms Judit Farago reported that the Kobe Junior World Championships had been a very successful event and that the level of play had been excellent. The television coverage of the event was a definite improvement. She thanked the JTTC and all the staff and the dedicated volunteers who did a very good job.

8. Professional Staff update

8.1 Media position advertisement

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the advertisement for the Media Manager position was ready and would be announced shortly and the final decision taken in February 2005. However, for the Shanghai WTTC, the ITTF was in negotiation with Mr. Christian Heyerdahl of Sweden, to act as Media Consultant for the event.

9. Committee Structure Review update

9.1 Umpires and Referees selection of the Chairman

It was reported that the dual nature of the chairmanship of the URC was not functioning as well as expected and that the committee should have only one chairman. However, the national associations would be asked to indicate on the nomination forms the names of those who wish to be chairmen of committees, so that the Executive Committee could choose between several candidates to recommend to the Board of Directors for appointment. It was suggested, that like the staff, the candidates running for chairmanship could be interviewed beforehand by the EC. This suggestion will also be taken into consideration for the new committee structure. It was decided that nominations would also be asked on a separate form for Junior Commission and Women's Working group.

9.2 Umpires and Referees coordinator position

It was decided that a Technical Co-ordinator would be needed as of 2005 who could also assume some of the URC tasks. This position will be included in the new ITTF professional structure.

10. Anti-Doping and WADA

10.1 Sanctions review. Confirmation of doping case reduced penalty

It was reported in Madeira at the last EC meeting that the advice of a lawyer would be sought in order to find out if it was possible to reduce the 2-year suspension given to the Egyptian player Mr. Ahmed Aly Saleh to an 18 months suspension based on the new Wada anti-doping code and the newly adopted ITTF anti-doping rules (March 2004 in Doha). The answer from the lawyer being positive the Egyptian player's suspension was reduced to 18 months and hence will end on 31st December 2004.

10.2 Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Panel

As decided by the EC in Athens, the ITTF is now using the services of a Swiss laboratory for this purpose and the Director of the laboratory Mr. Martial Saugy, has submitted the name of Dr Michel Caudray, to be the chairman of this panel. Mr. Martial Saugy would be the other member and together they would nominate other specialists from time to time as needed on a case-by-case basis. The contract will be finalised in February 2005 at the EC meeting in Lausanne.

10.3 ITTF Doping Hearing Panel

It was decided that the doping hearing panel should be made up of independent members and the ITTF proposed Mr. Jean-Pierre Morand, a lawyer from Geneva to be the Chairman of this panel. Mr. Morand is already working for other IFs in Lausanne in the same capacity. Mr. Morand has submitted two other names and the Executive Director is looking for 2 more members. The names of the final group will be submitted to the EC for approval in February 2005.

11. Bad behaviour policy

Mr. Rudi Sporrer explained that the Rules Committee had been requested to produce a policy that would improve the image of table tennis and ensure that players do their best every time they played. After reviewing the modified wording with the EC members, Mr. Sporrer was asked to prepare the necessary resolution (moving sections of the chapter 3 of the Handbook to appropriate areas) and propositions (new behaviour section) would be submitted to the BOD in Shanghai with the support of the EC.

12. ITTF Harassment Policy

Ms. Lilamani de Soysa explained that on request of the President, she had prepared a draft harassment policy with some professional help as well as help from members of the women's working group. The policy suggested the nomination of harassment officers within the ITTF and the help of the IOC Ethics Commission in case of matters that requested independent investigation. The IOC Ethics Commission had been contacted and would present a proposal in February to the EC. The EC accepted the draft in principle and the final draft would be approved by the EC in February 2005 and presented as a resolution from the EC to the BOD in Shanghai for approval.

13. Next Meetings (February in Renens/Lausanne, April/May in Shanghai)

It was decided that the next EC meeting would be held in Lausanne (Renens), on the 19th of February 2005.

14. Any other business

14.1 2004 Audits schedule

It was suggested that the 2004 audits would be done at the end of February 2004 and that Mr. Han Sang Kook would attend the session at the Renens Headquarters. Mr. Jordi Serra will contact the Auditors for confirmation of the dates.

14.2 Glue working group

Mr. George Segun said that since the report made to the EC in Madeira, a further interesting contribution had been received from EPN-Elastomar, which contradicted the report made by the FIT (Manufacturers association) suggesting that the glues currently on the market contained very little harmful substances. The Glue Working Group was planning another meeting in the new year together with the President of the FIT.

14.3 Planning

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that a detailed update presentation of the P4 plan and the achievements would be made in Shanghai highlighting the achievements since the P4 plan was presented in 2000 and implemented as of 2001. Mr. Sharara showed a power-point presentation updating the P4 plan and explaining the next steps.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 16h15.