

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the ITTF Executive Council Meeting held in Doha, Qatar, 2nd March 2004, at 09:00 hours

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed all to Doha and made apologies for Mr. Han Sang Kook, Mr. Khalil Al Mohannadi and Mr. Stefano Bosi. It was noted by Judit Farago that the ETTU General Meeting was taking place at the same time.

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
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice President

Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice President (Africa)
Miguel Angel Delgado	Continental Vice President (Latin America)
Aly Salam	Continental Vice President (North America)
Neil Harwood	Continental Vice President (Oceania)

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager

Apologies for absence

Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice President (Finance)
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Continental Vice President (Asia)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice President (Europe)

3. Approval of Agenda

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

- 8.2 Proxies
- 10.1 Directives for Match Officials

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Santiago, 20 December 2003)

The Minutes of the meeting held in Santiago, Chile, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

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

No other business other than that covered by the Agenda.

5. Olympic Games

5.1 Update Qualification for 2004

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that the Olympic qualification process was still in progress. 44 NOCs had already qualified table tennis players for the Games. A final document would be sent out in due course.

5.2 Test event

It was reported that the test event had been a success. The venue was still under construction but would be completed in time for the Games. The ITTF hotel and the hotel for technical officials had been visited and the ITTF hotel was according to standard. However, the hotel for technical officials still has to be refurbished. Mr. Didier Leroy will be present as ATHOC's Competition Manager at the Games. It was decided that in the future, all staff attending the Games would also attend the test event. Mr. Aly Salam requested that one more technical official to act as an assessor for umpires should be invited to Athens. It was suggested that Mr. Colin Clemett would be asked to perform this task as he would already be invited and he is also involved in ORIS (Olympics result system) so he could act as assessor for umpires as well. Mr. Aly Salam would confirm this possibility in due time. Mr. Neil Harwood said that television production should be very good in Athens and that the ORIS system had also been improved since Sydney.

5.3 Accreditation

The accreditation process will be starting soon. It was reported that the ITTF still had rooms available and a priority list of distribution had been established.

5.4 World Final Olympic Qualification Tournament, Innsbruck (AUT), 13-16 May 2004.

The Final World Olympic Qualification tournament will take place in Innsbruck, Austria on 13-16 of May 2004. It was reported that according to a special agreement between the IOC, ITTF and ANOC (Tripartite Commission) NOCs with less than 6 athletes participating at the previous Olympic Games were invited to nominate players in order to qualify for one (1) further place in each of the men's and women's singles. A special additional qualification event during the Final World Qualification in Innsbruck will be held for that purpose..

6. World Table Tennis Team Championships

6.1 2004 World Team Championships

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that he had meetings every morning with the Organising Committee. He said that there were no real problems now that the tournament was under way. It was decided that the Egypt Cup would be handed out at the AGM instead of the opening ceremony.

6.2 2005 World Championships

Mr. Yang Shuan reported that organisation was going according to plan. Renovations to the venue had begun and that representatives from the Shanghai Organising Committee would make an update report at the AGM. Mr. Nils Bergström said he was hoping to visit Shanghai, probably 2nd week of August. Mr. Adham Sharara said that the title and major sponsors had been already secured for Shanghai by TMS International and the Organizing Committee.

6.3 2007 bids

It was reported that USA had withdrawn its bid and that Ms Sheri Pittman would make a statement at the AGM. Officially, Croatia, Korea Republic and Sweden were still bidding for 2007. More information will be known about the Korean bid later in the day.

6.4 World Junior Championships

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the First World Junior Championships held in Santiago, Chile, had been very successful. The next event will be held in Kobe, Japan, from 28th November to 5th December 2004. Mr. Mikael Andersson will be visiting Kobe soon. It was said that Canada and New Zealand were interested in bidding for 2007.

7. Development Plans

7.1 Agreements of understanding 2004-2005

It was reported that all the agreements of understanding had been signed for 2004-2005. However, some complaints had been received about the effectiveness of the system in some areas, and some funding was requested directly by some Associations, which were unhappy about going through their Continental Federation. It was decided that a team headed by Mr. Glenn Tepper would review the system for the future following directives to be provided by the President.

7.2 Olympic Solidarity/IOC (Youth scholarships, Afghanistan)

Mr. Jordi Serra said that through a project shared with the IOC some equipment had been sent to Afghanistan and that Steve Dainton would be going there soon for a training camp and development courses.

He also said that the Youth Scholarship projects run by Mr. Mikael Andersson through Olympic Solidarity were also going well. It was decided that Mr. Tony Yue and Ms Judit Faragó should approve the list of chosen athletes before it is submitted to Olympic Solidarity.

8. AGM and BOD

8.1 Olympic eligibility proposal

The Olympic eligibility proposal prepared by the Chairman of the Rules Committee had been omitted from the Propositions by mistake. It was decided that the BOD would be asked to accept it as a late proposition. If accepted and passed, it would be registered in the Handbook, if not, it would be referred to the BOD in Shanghai.

8.2 Proxies

It was reported that **26 proxies** had been received by the due date. Mr. Nils Bergström complained that the proxy system had certain loopholes that were not respecting the spirit of the system and suggested that the ITTF should modify the system or abolish it altogether. It was decided that a group composed of Mr. Pierre Albertini (Chair), Mr. Nils Bergström, Mr. Han Sang Kook and Mr. Rudi Sporrer would study the current system and make a report at the next Executive Committee meeting. It was also made clear that ITTF staff should never lobby for any specific Association bidding for an event.

9. Next Meeting (Athens, August 2004)

The date of the next Executive Council meeting, to be held in Athens, Greece, will be announced in due course.

10. Any other business

10.1 Match officials

Mr. Adham Sharara asked the URC to get all the missing input here in Qatar (Manual for Match Officials). Mr. Aly Salam said that an official position should be allocated to the trainers that come to the big events. He also asked the ITTF to think of increasing the pocket money for umpires from USD 15 to USD 25.

- The Olympic Commission meeting to be held immediately after this meeting was cancelled. It was decided that the final list of officials for the Athens Games would be approved at the next EC meeting on 6 March 2004.
- It was also reported that 16 referees and umpires had been invited to attend an English course to be held in Malta in March 2004.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12h20.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara