

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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**19 February 2005** from 09h30 to 12h30 at the ITTF Headquarters, Renens/Lausanne, Switzerland, and from 15h00 to 20h00 at the Alpha Palmiers Hotel, Lausanne

### Minutes

#### 1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The Executive Committee visited the ITTF Headquarters before starting the meeting as well as a special exhibit prepared by the ITTF Museum Curator, Mr. Chuck Hoey. The President welcomed all to Renens, for their first meeting at the new Headquarters building and said that after the Shanghai WTTC the museum would be in place and open to the public. He said that Liebherr would sponsor the travelling exhibit until 2007. He also introduced Miss Shiho Ogaki from Japan, the new apprentice at the ITTF.

#### 2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Pierre Albertini	Deputy President
Nils Bergström	Executive Vice-President
Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
George Segun	Executive Vice-President
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President

#### Invited to attend

Rudolf Sporrer	Chairman (Rules Committee)
André Damman	Chairman (Ranking Committee)
Jean-François Kahn	Chairman (Sports Science Committee)
Pâquerette Girard-Zapelli	Special Representative IOC Ethics Commission (for item 12.2)

#### In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Christian Veronèse	Event Marketing Manager (TMS)

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of items:

- 19.1 Appeal by Mr. Richard Viborny. Ranking Penalty
- 19.2 International Paralympic Committee
- 19.3 Women's Forum
- 19.4 Directives for match officials
- 19.5 ITTF Merit Award and Hall of Fame
- 19.6 Pierre Albertini (personal)
- 19.7 Egypt TTA elections

#### 4. Minutes

##### 4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Beijing, 10 December 2004)

The Minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2004 in Beijing, China 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. Marketing Update (TMS)**

Christian Veronèse, TMS Event Marketing Manager, gave an update report of TMS activities. He said that the traffic on the ITTF web was steadily increasing. The ITTF web seemed to be becoming more attractive for advertising for table tennis manufacturers and as a consequence TMS was discussing with a Chinese portal to expose the ITTF logo linked to their website in order to generate more traffic. He said that TMS was looking for new sponsors for the ITTF such as an official airline, an official drink, an official scorer and an official mobile phone for the ITTF. He said that TMS was also doing its best to implement the rights of sponsors at all events in close cooperation with all the organisers. A VIP box concept around the courts for Pro Tour events would also be implemented soon.

Mr. Christian Veronèse gave an account also of the work in progress for upcoming world title events. He said that an agreement had been signed with the ETTU for 2005 to 2007 for TV and commercial rights regarding the European Championships, the Top 12 and the Champions League and the discussions were in progress with the Asian TTU to represent them for the TV rights for the Asian Championships. He also said that a TV agreement had been signed with CCTV for 2005-2008 for exclusive rights in mainland China for the WTTC, the Grand Finals, the World Cups, the China vs. World Challenge match and other Pro Tour events and as a consequence TMS would now be able to also discuss with regional Chinese TV stations.

He also said that an agreement had been signed with Eurosport for 2005-2009 for exclusive satellite and cable rights in Europe for the European Championships the WTTC and the World Cup as well as with WCSN in the USA where 60 hours yearly of table tennis will be broadcast in the United States on cable form 2005 to 2009.

Mr. Rudi Sporrer suggested that the shape of the courts, now being varied to be rectangular at some events, should be included in the rules.

#### **6. World Table Tennis Championships**

##### **6.1 Shanghai 2005**

It was reported that the preparations were going well, the time schedule was now available and the draft of Bulletin no. 2 had been prepared. 106 preliminary entries had been received from associations before the deadline date. Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to ensure that the Media documents should be sent out separately and not together with Bulletin no. 2. Mr. Yang Shuan reported that the structure of the WTTC Organising Committee had been changed and the Mayor of Shanghai was now the Chairman of the SOC. The Shanghai Organising Committee (SOC) had set up 11 functional departments that were now working full-time for the WTTC. It was said that the Opening Ceremony would take place on the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, in an open square of the city. Ms Lilamani de Soysa made a request from the Chairman of the Media Committee who would like the Organising Committee to arrange a visit of a table tennis school for the foreign media that would be present in Shanghai. Mr. Yang Shuan said that a visit to a table tennis manufacturer would also be organised for the foreign media. It was reported that 1500 sqm had been reserved within the stadium to host the ITTF travelling museum exhibit.

##### **6.1.1 List of Media Scholarships**

Ms Lilamani de Soysa reported that out of 31 applications, 21 men and 10 women from all Continents, the Media Committee in close collaboration with the national associations concerned had chosen

the three recipients of the ITTF scholarships, who had all confirmed their participation in Shanghai:

- Barbara Kneidiger of Austria, 22 years, neu Kronen Zeitung, Linz
- Lidia Andino Meyia, 24 years, El Heraldo, Honduras
- Karen Glinicke, 31 years old, ARD (German TV)

#### **6.1.2 Next co-ordination visit**

It was reported that another co-ordination visit led by Mr. Jordi Serra together with Mr. Anders Thunström (TMS), Mr. Christian Heyerdahl, Mr. Didier Leroy and Mr. Michel Etter (Museum Consultant) would visit Shanghai on 23 and 24 February.

#### **6.2 Bremen 2006**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had met with the Bremen Organising Committee together with Mr. Jordi Serra on 23<sup>rd</sup> January in Frankfurt and that all the main issues had been resolved. The ITTF had found a solution with the agreement of the German Organising Committee on the issue of income tax and VAT that would have to be paid in Germany. Instead of paying a percentage of the income generated the ITTF would pay a fixed sum towards the general expenses. He said a solution had also been found for international and domestic TV rights. It was also reported that the venue had been newly renovated and was now bigger and better.

#### **6.3 Zagreb 2007**

It was reported that the draft contracts had already been sent to the Organisers and would be signed in due course.

#### **6.4 2008 bids**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that only one application had been received before the deadline, from Guangzhou, China. Late applications had been presented by Denmark, which would now prefer to postpone for a later date. Since Guangzhou, several other Chinese cities had also showed interest. Mr. Sharara said that the interested cities would be visited including Guangzhou in due time. Mr. Yang Shuan said that if Guangzhou was accepted the dates of the event should be fixed as soon as possible. Mr. Yang Shuan also indicated that the Chinese TTA would provide support to any other association wishing to host the WTTC.

#### **6.5 Team WTTC playing system. Final proposal**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the working group had now collected all the proposals and Mr. André Damman had made a summary where 3 distinct proposals were visible. The proposals had been compared and submitted to the athletes by the Athletes' Commission. There was still some disagreement amongst the working group about the number of teams per division. However, the WG Chairman will send out the final proposal within the next week based on the compromise agreed by the majority of the Working Group, which is 20 teams by Division. However, the Board of Directors in Shanghai would make the final decision.

#### **6.6 World Junior Championships**

Mr. Rudi Sporrer reported that preparations were in progress for the World Junior Championships in Linz and the Organisers were awaiting an inspection visit from ITTF officials soon. The sponsorship contracts were all in place. Mr. Veronese said that Gerflor might also extend their support to the World Junior Championships. Ms Judit Faragó said that there was a significant change where individual entries had now increased from 80 to 96 players.

## **6.7 Developing Associations participating at the WTTC**

It was reported that in answer to Mr. Ranga Ramanujan who had proposed ideas for helping developing associations to participate at the WTTC, the Development Manager had made a further suggestion. The Executive Committee decided to accept this suggestion: to invite a delegate at ITTF cost (hospitality) to attend the WTTC and AGM from Associations that were presenting their application to the ITTF for the first time. Therefore, the new members will be offered hospitality as of 2005. It was decided that this matter should not end here but the ITTF should continue to try to find ways to help the developing associations to participate at the WTTC. The Executive Director was requested to inform Mr. Ranga Ramanujan of this decision and to let him know that his recommendations will be further studied for the future. Mr. Adham Sharara also said that as Afghanistan would be the 200<sup>th</sup> Association entering the ITTF, they would be offered a special commemorative award.

## **7. Professional Staff update**

### **7.1 Media position advertisement**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that ITTF would soon be advertising for the position of Media intern at the ITTF and the Media Consultant would be hired after the WTTC.

### **7.2 Asia Manager**

It was reported that Steve Dainton had been hired as of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 for the Asia Office in Shanghai.

### **7.3 Asia Executive Assistant**

A Chinese assistant by the name of Xi Xi Zheng had also been hired for the Asia Office.

### **7.4 Media Co-ordinator for Shanghai 2005**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that a Media Co-ordinator, Mr. Christian Heyerdahl, had been hired for the Shanghai WTTC until the 15<sup>th</sup> of May

### **7.5 Technical Co-ordinator positions**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that as many technical aspects now have to be taken care of the Technical Co-ordinator position should also be filled soon and the ideal candidate should come from within the ITTF.

### **7.6 Receptionist (Renens/Lausanne)**

It was said that a receptionist would be needed for the ITTF as soon as the Museum was operational.

## **8. Committee Structure Review update**

Mr. George Segun gave an update report of the ongoing work and said that several decisions had been made that would be proposed to the BOD for approval. Some such decisions were as follows:

- Research & Advisory Board to be renamed New Technologies and Research Committee;
- ITTF staff members to be appointed by the Executive Director to serve as Secretary/Coordinator of each Special Committee;
- Quarterly activities of each Special Committee to be submitted to the Executive Committee
- Each Special Committee should take an interest in Continental and Regional Association activities in their various fields and should advise the Associations through the ITTF Executive Committee;

- The number of people serving on each Special Committee shall be determined by the BOD one year before each election year of the Committees.

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had spoken with Mr. George Segun about the need to restructure the URC and the idea of creating an educational component, which could be called the Education and Training Commission. He said that the BOD would be asked to give the mandate to the ITTF Executive Committee to develop a new structure, which could be approved in Bremen 2006, that would best use the existing human resources and that may introduce the new Educational/Training component.

#### **9. Review of Proxy System. Update**

Mr. Pierre Albertini reported that a modified questionnaire had been distributed in December 2004 and around 44 answers had been received by the due date. He said that the general trend of thinking was similar to the conclusion of the Working Group and that the idea of abolishing the proxy system altogether was also popular among many respondents, which meant that it could be envisaged in the near future. However, in order to consult a maximum number of associations, the EC requested the Working Group to send a reminder once more and ask more Associations and officials to give their opinion before a final report was submitted to the AGM. BOD.

#### **10. Glue Working Group. Update**

Mr. George Segun reported on the Glue Working Group meeting held in Lausanne the previous day. The FIT had been represented by its Chairman Mr. Michael Bachtler to present the explanation of FIT's own research. Dr. Niklas of Elastomar company also presented research conducted by his company as well as existing research available in Germany.

Mr. Segun reported that a prototype of a testing device, easy to use and at reasonable cost, was now being developed which meant that the major hurdle of not having a testing device was now resolved. The Executive Committee agreed to mandate the company making the device to manufacture it for ITTF purposes. He said that the health hazards of the present glues had now been clearly explained and that the Working Group was also aware of the research from a German Institute that stipulates that, the glues currently on the market should not be used by children under 15 years of age.

#### **11. Anti-Doping and Wada**

##### **11.1 Therapeutic use Exemption (TUE) panel**

Mr. Jean-François Kahn explained that in order to comply with the new Anti-Doping and Wada rules it was necessary for the ITTF to create a panel of experts from the different pathologies who could judge if the players using drugs have the right to use them for medical purposes. The following panel was approved by the ITTF:

Chairman of the TUE Commission – Dr. Michel Cauderay and Coordinator, Dr. Martial Saugy.

The Laboratory used by the Commission is based in the Institute of Legal Medicine of the University of Lausanne. Dr. Cauderay will centralise the TUEs that the ITTF would submit to them for examination and depending on the case, would contact the best specialists in order to obtain the most reliable expertise.

##### **11.2 ITTF Anti-Doping Hearing Panel**

For Anti-doping and Wada purposes it was also necessary to appoint a Doping Hearing Panel that should be comprised of individuals totally independent from the ITTF. The Chairman should be a lawyer. The following panel was approved to serve a period of 4 years:

**Chairman:**

Mr. Jean-Pierre Morand; Legrand, Morand & Partners, Geneva

**Members:**

Mr. John Faylor; Mayer Brown Row & Maw, Germany

Mr. Jean-Philippe Rochat ; Carrard et Associés, Lausanne

Prof. Ryszard Grucza, Director of the National Sports Institute, Poland

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Haas, lawyer and Professor at the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany

**12. AGM and BOD propositions and resolutions**

**12.1 Bad Behaviour Policy**

Mr. Rudi Sporrer explained that the Bad Behaviour Policy would be submitted to the AGM for approval as item 3.5.3 in Handbook entitled "Good Presentation".

**12.2 ITTF Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures**

Ms Lilamani de Soysa explained that on request of the President she had prepared an Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures for the ITTF. The ITTF had requested the collaboration of the IOC Ethics Commission, which had accepted the task of investigating and proposing sanctions or resolutions to the ITTF in case of a litigation. Ms Pâquerette Girard-Zapelli, Special Representative of the IOC Ethics Commission, explained the role of the Ethics Commission within the IOC and how the collaboration could be established with the ITTF on these particular issues.

Ms de Soysa said that the Policy would be proposed for approval to the BOD in the form of a new permanent Policy of the ITTF. The AGM would also be asked to approve a text to be included in the Constitution guaranteeing a harassment free sport environment at the ITTF.

**12.3 Other Proposals**

All proposals and resolutions received by the due date for the AGM and the BOD were discussed in detail, and final wording decided.

**13. Nominations to Committees and Commissions**

The deadline for nominations to Committees and Commissions was reiterated: 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2005. A special memo to the Continental Vice presidents would be sent to ask them to make nominations for the Junior Commission and the Women Working Group. This would streamline the timelines of nominations for all Committees, Commissions and Working groups. Mr. Adham Sharara explained that due to the lack of time the idea of requesting nominations specifically for Committee Chairmen would not be feasible this year. Instead the regular procedure of recommending Committee Chairmen from the list of committee member nominees will be maintained for 2005.

**14. Special ITTF Solidarity Fund**

Mr. Jordi Serra said that nearly USD 50'000 had been collected for the countries affected by the Tsunami. It was said that a proposal had been submitted to the ITTF to extend the solidarity fund at the ITTF for special purposes. Mr. George Segun suggested that the word solidarity should be changed in order to avoid confusion with Olympic Solidarity. It was decided that a group of 3-4 persons would be formed. The Executive Committee appointed Mr. Pierre Albertini, as Chairman and Ms. Lilamani de Soysa as coordinator. The ITTF president would appoint two more members as soon as possible. The work of the group is to define the exact mandate, purpose and scope of such a fund. The group would make its recommendation to the Executive Committee in Shanghai.

## **15. Suspension of players**

Ms Judit Faragó conveyed a question from the President of the European Table Tennis Union, if it was possible for the ITTF to consider the possibility of applying a Continental suspension of a player at ITTF level as well. The Executive Committee requested the Chairman of the Rules Committee to study the question and to report back to the EC.

## **16. Finances**

### **16.1 ITTF Real Estate investments update and decisions**

Mr. Adham Sharara informed that due to an increase in the rent of the offices now being used by the ITTF, it was time for the ITTF offices to move to the building that is owned by the ITTF. Mr. Sharara's request to move the ITTF offices was accepted by the EC. The move will take place in March 2005 to 2211 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

### **16.2 2004 Audits**

It was reported that the audit of the Ottawa office would start on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and Lausanne on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

## **17. Adjusted bonus ranking points for major events**

Mr. André Damman explained the reasons and technicalities why it would be advisable to adjust the actual bonus point allocation system by upgrading the bonus points for the WTTC, Olympic Games as well as the Pro Tour Finals, Continental Championships and the World Cups. The Executive Committee approved the suggestions made by Mr. Damman and the new system will be in effect immediately. The first competition affected by the new system is the European Championships in Denmark. A detailed explanation will be on the ITTF website and in the Table Tennis News as soon as possible.

## **18. Next Meetings (April/May in Shanghai)**

The next Executive Committee meetings will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005 in Shanghai, China.

## **19. Any other business**

### **19.1 Appeal of Richard Viborny. Ranking penalty**

Mr. André Damman explained that the Ranking Point Penalty Commission penalised Richard Viborny because he did not inform the Organising Committee before the draw that he would not be taking part in the Slovenian Open. The Executive Committee discussed the appeal submitted by the player and after a vote (3 in favour of the decision, 2 abstentions and 1 against) decided to maintain the decision of the Ranking Point Penalty Commission. The Executive Director will inform Mr. Viborny accordingly.

### **19.2 International Paralympics committee (IPC)**

Mr. Jordi Serra informed the meeting that a letter had been received from the IPC requesting support towards the collaborative development of a set of terms and conditions, processes and timelines by which a transfer of governance of table tennis for athletes with a disability from the IPC to the ITTF might be achieved. In principle the EC supports this move but the item was referred to the next meeting regarding the procedures to follow.

### **19.3 Women's forum**

Ms. Lilamani de Soysa presented, for information purposes, a draft programme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Women's Forum to be held in Shanghai.

### **19.4 Directives for match officials**

The new draft of the Directives for Match Officials at World Title Event was reviewed by the Executive Committee and accepted in principle with the following modification:

- Regarding the number of International Umpires to be hosted by Organisers to be maintained at 1/3 of the total number of umpires (reject proposal of 50%)

For all matters affecting chapters 3 and 4 of the Handbook, the Rules Committee Chairman would advise the Executive Committee.

The final document will be fully adopted at the next EC meeting in Shanghai.

#### **19.5 ITTF Merit Award and Hall of Fame**

It was decided that Mr. Hans Giesecke would take over the tasks concerning the ITTF Merit Award and Hall of Fame previously handled by Mr. Jimmy McClure.

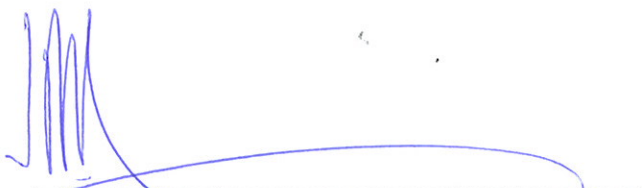
It was reported that one Merit Award nomination had been received for the AGM in Shanghai, that of Mr. Yuri Posevin from the Russian TTA. In the absence of Mr. McClure and due to time restrictions, the Executive Committee approved the nomination.

#### **19.6 Pierre Albertini (Personal remarks)**

Mr. Pierre Albertini said that this EC meeting was a symbolic moment for him as it was taking place in Lausanne at the Headquarters and that it was in Lausanne that he would take leave of the Executive Committee, as he was now informed that his National Association would not be nominated for another mandate. He thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their support and said he would maintain his situation in sport and that the EC could count on him if they ever needed him. He said he would like to share some personal advice with all present – that the EC should find a way to protect the unity and stability of the ITTF and its elected members, to clarify the role of the Deputy President and to be more transparent where financial matters and TMS were concerned. Mr. Adham Sharara in turn thanked Mr. Pierre Albertini and said his advice would be given due consideration. He said Mr. Albertini would always be welcome at the ITTF Headquarters and asked him to visit as often as possible. It was decided to designate Mr. Pierre Albertini as the ITTF representative to the European Championships to be held in Aarhus, Denmark.

#### **20. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 19h55.



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Adham Sharara, Meeting Chairman