

International Table Tennis Federation
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Gallery Hotel, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

MINUTES

Part 1: 26 February 2006, 19:00 p.m.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed EC members and staff to Barcelona and thanked all members of the Glue Working Group present for attending the Glue Working Group meeting at short notice, held earlier in the afternoon, and for the work accomplished. He explained that the decision to advance the start of the EC meeting had been taken so that the Glue Working Group could present a report immediately to the EC (many members were leaving early the next day). Mr. Yang would be arriving later and would be briefed on this early part of the meeting.

2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Ivo-Goran Munivrana	Executive Vice-President

In attendance

The following members and experts of the Glue Working Group were in attendance for item 5.1.

George Segun	Chairman Glue Working Group
Odd Gustavsen	Chairman Equipment Committee
Rufford Harrison	Glue Working Group member
Federico Lineros	Glue Working Group member
Konrad Tiefenbacher	Manufacturer of glue testing device
Josep Escoda	Director CAR Research Centre

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director

Apologies for absence (arriving later)

Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
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3. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved with the addition of item 7.4 Women's Working Group update.

4. World Table Tennis Championships

4.1 2009 WTTC Bids

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that she had made inspection visits to Linz, Austria together with the Executive Director, Mr. Jordi Serra and to Yokohama, Japan, together with Mr. Yao Zhenxu, Chairman of Technical Committee. She explained that both cities presented very good bids and advised the EC to recommend both bids to the AGM (see summary of

report attached). It was decided that the bidding cities would be allocated 10 minutes each to make a presentation at the AGM in Bremen, Germany, followed by questions and answers from the delegates

5. Committees and Working Groups

5.1 Glue Working Group Final report and presentation of "e-nez"

Mr. George Segun gave a comprehensive report to the EC concerning the work undertaken and accomplished by the Glue Working Group since it first received its mandate in Doha, Qatar in 2004, following the resolution taken by the BOD to prohibit the use of glues containing volatile organic solvents (VOS) in the playing venue and the prohibition to set up a gluing room in the playing venue as of 1st September 2006 as well as the complete prohibition of glues containing volatile organic compounds as of 1st September 2007. He explained that as requested, the Glue Working Group had studied the implications of the BOD decision and was now ready with the prototype of an easy to use, reliable and inexpensive control device (e-nez), which could be used from 1st September 2007 to control all rackets in use at international events. Mr. Konrad Tiefenbacher, the manufacturer, explained the method of fabrication and demonstrated the functional use of the prototype. Mr. Josep Escoda, Director of the CAR Research Centre in Barcelona, explained the research undertaken to confirm the risk to the health of the athletes that used speed glues for gluing rubbers on blades in competitive table tennis. Mr. George Segun thanked the EC for confiding this mandate to the group and handed over the report to the President, saying that the final model would be presented to the BOD in Bremen, Germany. Mr. Adham Sharara in turn thanked the Chairman and the members of the Glue Working Group for successfully accomplishing the task at hand.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 20h10.

Part 2: 27 February 2006, 08:00 a.m.

1. President's welcome

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed Mr. Yang Shuan and gave a brief summary of the discussions held the previous evening.

2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Ivo-Goran Munivrana	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President

In attendance:

Odd Gustavsen	Chairman, Equipment Committee (items 1 to 7 only)
Abdullah Al-Mulla	Translator
Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director

3 Minutes

3.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Linz, 16 December 2005)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2005, in Linz, Austria were corrected (typing error 13.1, 4.) and signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

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

No other business than that covered by the agenda.

4 Marketing Update (TMS International)

Mr. Anders Thunström gave an update report on TMS staff and business and said that several new persons were helping TMS and the ITTF in marketing and sponsorship activities. He mentioned Steve Dainton who was working on a 50-50% basis for TMS and the ITTF in China, Karl Jindrak who had been just hired for Europe as well as two others who were working on a commission basis, EGYSPORT (Khaled El-Salhy) for Africa and the Middle East and BEAKER S.A. (Miguel Delgado) for Latin America.

He said that two new TV deals had been signed in China with regional televisions and that the Chinese web site should bring in further revenue. He reported that the WTTC in Bremen would be covered extensively, including regional TVs in China, a sports channel in Dubai and a channel in India and Eurosport in Europe. He said that the combination of advertising on our web-site and on Table Tennis Illustrated would bring an income of about USD 175,000 in 2006.

Concerning sponsorship, Mr. Anders Thunström said that there would be a meeting with Liebherr in March or April in order to extend the Liebherr sponsorship deal. He said contacts had already been made regarding the renewal of partnership with Volkswagen when the current contract comes to an end in 2008.

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the contracts with Mr. Miguel Delgado and Khaled El-Salhy were not exclusive and encouraged the EC members to let TMS know of any television companies that would be interested in buying TV rights. He said that he requested from TMS to prepare a new TV strategy for the future.

5 Representations reports (verbal)

No representations since December 2005, except inspection visits of bid cities by Ms. Claude Bergeret.

6 World Table Tennis Championships

6.1 2006 WTTC Bremen

Ms. Claude Bergeret reported that she had visited Bremen together with Messrs. Nils Bergstrom, Jordi Serra, Svend Frandsen, Didier Leroy, Mohamed El-Shentenawy and Chuck Hoey. She said that all hotels chosen for the WTTC were of very good standard. The space for the museum exhibit had been inspected as well as the press area and solutions had been found for all pending issues. The draw for the WTTC will take place on 15th March 2006 at 11 a.m. in the presence of the Competition Manager and the Chairman of the Technical Committee. There would be 34 VIP boxes and 100 VIP seats had been reserved for the ITTF. The directives had been reviewed and the time-schedule approved. Mr. Anders Thunström said that the TV function had been organised. Public transportation would be free on presentation of accreditation. Referees and Umpires for Bremen had been nominated and invitations sent out. Ms. Claude Bergeret concluded that the Bremen championship would be a definite success.

Mr. Adham Sharara said that there would not be an ITTF sales booth in Bremen but a product pamphlet would be distributed so that people could purchase goods via the mail. It was decided that the space reserved for

the ITTF booth would be used by the Zagreb organising committee to promote the 2007 WTTC and that ITTF goods would be put on display at the same time.

6.2 2007 WTTC Zagreb

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the directives had been prepared and sent to the Organising Committee. However, the contract had not been signed yet pending the final meeting with Liebherr. Ms. Claude Bergeret said that she would make an inspection visit to Zagreb as soon as the contract was signed. Mr. Jordi Serra was asked to decide on the date for the AGM in Zagreb and inform Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana.

6.3 2008 WTTC Guangzhou update and coordination visit

Mr. Yang Shuan reported that the government of Guangzhou and the Guangzhou TTA were working closely together and in general there were no big issues to be resolved except for the date and that the CTTA was now awaiting a final answer. Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had visited Beijing and the BOCOG headquarters in particular. From Beijing he went to Guangzhou where he met the mayor who was an enthusiastic table tennis player. Two dates had been discussed for the WTTC: the week of March 2-9 2008 or the week before. The confirmation of the final dates is expected in the next few days. He said that the facilities for the event were very special and the championships would be successful. Ms. Claude Bergeret was requested to ask a European elite player to accompany her on the next visit to inspect the venue especially to test the lights in the practice hall.

6.4 Accreditation system for future WTTC

Mr. Jordi Serra explained the document distributed concerning a systematic accreditation method for all World Championships. It was decided that the ITTF (and not IOC) abbreviations would be used in the document. Mr. Jordi Serra said that the document had already been presented to the Bremen organisers.

Ms. Claude Bergeret's request, that certain benefits for the FIT should be included in the directives for WTTC organisers, was adopted by the EC, to be implemented in 2007, as follows:

- 1) Each FIT member company would receive 2 accreditation passes (except those who already got some as sponsors of the event or have a contract with the organising committee).
- 2) The President of the FIT will receive 6 VIP accreditation passes (with access to VIP seats and VIP lounge) to be distributed to the companies at his discretion.
- 3) The organising committee would provide one meeting room (if possible free of charge) inside the venue or not too far from it, for 60-80 persons.
- 4) The organisers would offer assistance to FIT members when looking for accommodation.

7. Committees and Working Groups

7.1 U&R Committee update

Mr. Neil Harwood said that he was very happy with the way the URC was functioning and that the activity level was back to normal. The procedure for the selection of umpires for Bremen had been successfully completed. Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the URC had asked for extra days in Bremen for a course-conductors course and that was a problem for the Organising Committee. However, a new proposal from the URC will hopefully be

accepted. Mr. Sharara asked those concerned to contact the organizing committee to finalize this matter.

7.2 Integration of IPTTC in ITTF (Timelines)

Mr. Neil Harwood reported that Raul Calín had attended an IPTTC meeting in January and that they were working together with the IPC to move the matter forward and were committed to becoming part of the ITTF family. He said a final decision would be taken in September 2006, during the World Disabled TT Championships to be held in Montreux, Switzerland and fully implemented by 1st January 2007. He said he had been invited together with Mr. Yao Zhenxu, Mr. Adham Sharara and Mr. Jordi Serra to attend the Montreux event.

7.3 Athletes' Commission update

Ms. Claude Bergeret reported that she was in close contact with Ms. Sachiko Yokota, Chairwoman of the Athletes' Commission, and that the Commission was proposing to the BOD in Bremen, a slight change in the application of the glue rule. The players would like the implementation date of the glue rule to be after the Olympic Games. She said, however, that if there was good news about new glues before the BOD, the proposal could be withdrawn. It was also said that, if the implementation date was postponed, the rule about the gluing room should be re-discussed, as there will be a period when the glues would be legal but not the gluing area. Mr. Koji Kimura said that the Japanese Sports Science Committee was carrying out tests with 4 types of glues and the results of these tests would be available soon.

7.4 Women's Working Group update

Ms. Claude Bergeret reported on the Women's Working Group ad-hoc Panel that had met the evening before to discuss equal prize money and marketing issues concerning women's table tennis. A concrete proposal would be presented to the EC in Bremen. It was also said that a presentation would be made to the FIT to encourage them to produce more attractive playing clothes for women and men players. She also reported that the Chairwoman of the Women's Working Group, Ms Dorte Kronsell, would represent the ITTF at the next IWG Women and Sport Conference to be held in Kumamoto, Japan, 11-14th May 2006.

8. Brazil TTA appeal and Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

Staff members, with the exception of Mr. Jordi Serra, were not present for this item.

Mr. Sharara gave a brief summary and update and referred to the detailed court document (distributed the day before) outlining the basis of the final Arbitral Award by the CAS. One of the appeals by Brazil (relating to the VP Finance position) was dismissed. However, the second appeal regarding annulling the 2005 election for the positions of Deputy President and Vice-Presidents was upheld.

The detailed 25-page document was discussed and after asking everyone's opinion it was decided that the document would be made available to all national association upon request.

The reasons for the annulment of the elections in question are numerous and clearly specified by the CAS in its judgement. Specifically, for the position of Deputy President bribery was identified, and in general illegal votes were cast mainly due to inadmissible proxies. In general there were several technical irregularities during the election with the gravest being the violation of the voter's right to a secret ballot.

Mr. Sharara explained that the CAS decision is binding. It was agreed that a re-election would take place in Bremen and that the election modalities, according

to CAS recommendations, would be prepared by the ITTF's Rules Committee Chairman together with the Executive Director.

Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi and Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana expressed their disappointment with the ruling and requested to make a statement. They would subsequently provide their statement in writing to be circulated with the Minutes. Both Statements are expressions of personal opinions and appear as Annex-1 and Annex-2 attached to these minutes.

Mr. Al-Mohannadi's written statements (Annex-1) reflects fairly the verbal opinion expressed during the "in-camera" session of this meeting.

Mr. Munivrana's written statement is attached as an expression of an opinion and the following clarifications and corrections are necessary due to some inaccuracies:

- The CAS is a civil court governed by Swiss Law and does not base any decision on hearsay
- Any evidence presented to the court was either at the request of the court or as exhibits related to the ITTF's defence
- The EC was informed of the process every step of the way in writing, a complete file is available.
- The Mediation Settlement Agreement was presented to the EC, in advance, for unanimous approval. The request by the President for unanimous approval and explanation for such a request was made prior to the vote and not after the vote was known
- Mr. Al-Mohannadi did vote, and his vote was registered at the EC meeting of 12 November 2005 as confirmed by the Minutes of that meeting. The result of the vote was 5 in favour and 2 against.

9. Preparation of AGM and BOD in Bremen.

9.1 Review of proposals and resolutions

It was reported that there were two late proposals to the AGM. The one from Brazil, which affected the Constitution and the Laws of table tennis, could not be accepted according to 1.18.3.3 of the ITTF Constitution. However, the German proposal was an amendment to a proposal already submitted before the deadline date. Therefore, it was decided that the proposal would be dealt with at the AGM, Delegates would be asked to vote on the amendment, and if accepted, they would vote on the amended proposition.

9.2 EC proposals

There would be no proposals from the EC.

9.3 Proxy system (AGM)

Mr. Adham Sharara said that after the WTTC in Bremen, the EC would make a proposal concerning the proxy system for the future. There was a need to improve, change or eliminate the system.

10. Audits 2005 and 2006

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the 2005 audits would be conducted on March 15th in Canada and March 27th in Lausanne and the consolidation would be done first week of April after which the audited financial statements would be distributed to all concerned.

11. Staff structure update

It was reported that the new Media Manager (Svend Frandsen from Denmark) and a new intern (Jeanne Zhang from China) had started work at the ITTF headquarters. Mr. Karl Jindrak had been hired for marketing activities on a 50-50 basis for the ITTF and TMS as well as Mr. Steven Dainton, since February 2006. It was also said that Ms. Etsuko Enami would come back to work at the Lausanne headquarters for an 8 month period per year. Mr. Adham Sharara said that staffing needs were changing all the time and the staff structure had to be reviewed constantly.

12. Next Meeting (Bremen, 23 April 2006)

The next EC meeting will take place on 23rd April 2006 in Bremen, Germany (the day before the start of the WTTC).

13. Any other business

13.1 Directives for match officials

Mr. Neil Harwood said that the updated document would be presented to the EC in Bremen for approval.

13.2 Ranking Penalty Policy Proposal

Ms. Claude Bergeret said that she had been asked to request the Ranking Policy Group to review the ranking penalty policy for "no shows" at Pro Tours events. The new proposal presented by Ms. Claude Bergeret was accepted by the EC and she was requested to work together with Mr. André Damman to modify the document, to inform Mr. Mikael Andersson regarding Juniors and to inform Mr. Mohamed El-Shentenawy for changes on the web site.

13.3 Personal Honorary membership proposal

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that a proposal for Personal Honorary membership for Mr. Helios Farrel of Mexico had been received at the ITTF, but not from the National Association. It was decided that provided the proposal would be confirmed by the national association of Mexico, it would be discussed at the next EC meeting.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12h04.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara

Annex – 1

Statement of Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi

"The decision to forward my nomination for the ITTF Deputy President position was my personal decision; however this decision has enjoyed the support of QTTA and QNOC.

It is very disappointing for me to state that from very initial days of my nomination for the Deputy President position, the President has made me realize that he wholly supported Mr. George Segun's nomination. From my understanding the ITTF President should be neutral and not showing any favouritism to any of the candidates.

With the due support from QTTA and QNOC I run a fair election campaign for Deputy President position. Upon arrival in Shanghai I faced tremendous pressure from the President clearly asking me to withdraw my nomination. However I was determined to run a fair election campaign in the best interest of the ITTF. Fortunately I won the election by a great margin of 14 votes.

I am sincerely grateful to all my fellow colleagues, brothers and friends that have voted for me and desired that I be given this respected position with ITTF. The State of Qatar has left no stone unturned to promote table tennis not only regional but also in Asia and the World. After receiving such a warm response during the elections, it was really astonishing for me to feel from day one unwanted in the Executive Committee. I was really motivated and filled with enthusiasm to accomplish things very much in favour of ITTF, however my enthusiasm died after it was made clear to me that my role in the EC will not be important.

In the past 9 months EC have been busy with writing and replying to e-mails about the BTTC Appeal and CAS. The President informed the EC about BTTC appeal. At that time it didn't seem so important to be escalated to this level and necessary to seek external body's intervention on the issue, which could have been resolved internally.

I will not let anyone harm the reputation of my country, QTTA and QNOC. I will not let anyone harm my ethics and dignity. We will not compromise our dignity and morals for anyone. QTTA and I have not made any mistake and are not guilty of anything. It was the mistake of the people concerned with the organization of election. All the people identified as guilty in this aspect should be penalized.

BTTC Appeal still remains unresolved; I wish to make it clear that I will spare no efforts to fight back decision that has affected the QTTA, QNOC and my reputation. I will approach CAS and Swiss Civil Court if necessary. ITTF President will have to represent again the ITTF. I have no objection to accept BTTC as the third party.

I want to be fair and give chance to all parties involved to have their say and defend themselves. I have not received that chance from BTTC and the ITTF".

Annex – 2

Statement of Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana:

"In my opinion, after receiving the documents of the arbitration award, the evening before this EC meeting (Response to appeal of Brazil TTA by the President of the ITTF and Copy of Arbitral Award from CAS), I was deeply disappointed in the way the Arbitral Award was presented and how the interests of the ITTF had been defended. The Arbitral Award (in my opinion) was mainly based on hearsay. Therefore, I wish to have my official standpoint separately stated in writing in the Minutes of the present meeting.

- 1) From the moment I was officially informed about the Brazilian complaint (unfortunately it was quite late) my advice was that we should reject the BTTA complaint, and not to get involved with the CAS and to advice BTTA to go to the court and prove their allegations.
Unfortunately, the President took another approach and chose on his own to extend the agreement between the ITTF and the CAS (which was only for doping cases) also to this issue. Then the President presented information and documents to CAS by himself without the approval of the EC and this (in my opinion) was not in the best interest of democracy and transparency.
In my opinion, the EC was not officially involved in the case until the meeting in Magdeburg (14th November 2005).
- 2) In Magdeburg, the EC voted with 5 votes for and 1 against to support the mediation settlement (Mr. Al-Mohannadi was absent and technically he had not voted, although he expressed his opinion against the settlement earlier, unofficially to the EC). So, this settlement was accepted by the great majority, but in my opinion, the President decided again on his own, not to sign the settlement but to go to the arbitration process.
- 3) If the elections were judged illegal according to the Arbitral Award, which was the case, somebody has to be responsible for that. And in my opinion, we all, and specially the President could not be excluded from blame.

In my opinion, it is non ethical and not moral if only a part of the EC members should take the consequences of the Arbitral Award and also in my opinion, elections should be repeated completely and we all, including the President, should resign immediately.

In my opinion, the Arbitral Award is the biggest shame ever for the ITTF. It happened during our mandate and we all, everyone in his/her capacity is responsible for doing wrong, or doing nothing to prevent wrong decisions after the elections. Therefore, I would like to have the "confidential" Arbitral Award and "President's response" sent to all Associations and BOD members".

Appendix

A statement from Mr. Neil Harwood is attached as an Appendix but is not part of the Executive Committee minutes.

Statement by Mr. Neil Harwood, ITTF Executive Vice-President (Finance)

To: All concerned

Date: 23 March 2006

Re: Court of Arbitration decision

I have received Ivo-Goran's statement and have a different view of proceedings. From the first time I was aware of any possible action from Brazil it was important to me that everything was dealt with in an open manner and, therefore, someone completely independent, such as CAS, looking at it was a good option.

I do not have any first hand knowledge of what was available to, and considered by, CAS during their decision-making, but I would be very surprised if it acted on unsubstantiated hearsay.

I consider that the President was the appropriate to handle the matter after the appeal was lodged by Brazil. I do not believe that CAS only handles doping issues but is competent to hear any issues relating to sport. As far as I am concerned this action was directed to openness and transparency and should prove to all that we are prepared to take responsibility for our actions. To reach the best possible decision the Court should have had access to all information available.

I, along with members of the EC, was informed of the steps being taken and support the approach of the President in Magdaberg to return to arbitration after the EC was not unanimous towards a mediation settlement process.

I agree that we must take responsibility for our actions and processes but, at the same time, the work of the ITTF must proceed. It will be seen as quite proper that we accept and follow the CAS decision.

I also agree that the whole matter is one that shows the ITTF in a poor light but I also believe that our action in following the CAS ruling and implementing strong processes at future AGM's will lead to a much more effective and transparent process.