

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## MINUTES

Of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Docklands Hotel, London, England at 09h00.

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

The President apologised on behalf of Mr. Yang Shuan who was unable to attend due to his busy schedule in Beijing. The President thanked the Chairman of the English Table tennis Association for the great hospitality and all the efforts to make the EC feel as comfortable as possible.

The President welcomed all to London, where he said that an EC meeting had not been held for a very long time. He reported that he had visited the previous day the house of former President Ivor Montagu where the first meeting of the ITTF was held in 1926.

### 2. **Roll call**

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Adham Sharara   | President                          |
| George Segun    | Deputy President                   |
| Claude Bergeret | Executive Vice-President           |
| Judit Faragó    | Executive Vice-President           |
| Neil Harwood    | Executive Vice-President (Finance) |
| Koji Kimura     | Executive Vice-President           |

#### **In attendance**

|                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Jordi Serra        | Executive Director                 |
| Lilamani de Soysa  | Project Manager                    |
| Glenn Tepper       | Director of Development Programmes |
| Christian Veronèse | TMS Event Marketing Manager        |

#### **Apologies for absence**

|            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Yang Shuan | Executive Vice-President |
|------------|--------------------------|

### 3. **Approval of Agenda**

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

- 9.1 Women's Working Group Update
- 9.2 Training at Olympic Games
- 9.3 Persons on the bench at Olympic Games
- 9.4 Neil Harwood - visit to Beijing

### 4. **Minutes**

#### **4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meetings (Guangzhou, 23 February and 1 March 2008)**

The Minutes of the previous meetings were signed by the President with the following amendments:

Item 8.1, line 12 to read "...an **OC** meeting in Olympic years...."

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

There was no other business than that covered by the Agenda.

### 5. **World Table Tennis Championships**

#### **5.1 2008 WTTC Guangzhou. Final report**

Ms Claude Bergeret said that a final report would be sent out in due course compiling feed-back from all persons responsible for the different departments. She said that the Evergrande 2008 World Championship had

been a very successful event from several points of view: TV production (4 tables broadcast at the same time), sponsorship, presentation in the main hall, coverage on the ITTF website, excellent meeting facilities etc. There were several negative aspects related to regional TV rights, information to spectators, inconsistencies between ITTF and OC databases etc, to be addressed in the final report for the information of future world championship organisers.

### **5.2 2009 (Yokohama) and 2010 (Moscow). Update (CB)**

It was reported that Ms Claude Bergeret would be making an inspection visit to Yokohama in June, in order to study the commercial agreements, update the directives and finalise the competition schedule as well as to meet with the TV broadcasters. Mr. Koji Kimura reported that the main issue at the moment was to find a title sponsor. He said that a LED screen manufacturing company was interested in sponsoring the WTTC and that LED screens had been used at the Asian Cup, on a trial basis, with success. Ms Claude Bergeret was requested to check the screens and study the proposal during the inspection visit before a decision was made regarding the suitability of using such screens. It was said that the AGM in Yokohama would be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and the BOD on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Mr. Koji Kimura requested that the fees for the Yokohama championships should be announced in Japanese Yen on the entry forms. This was accepted.

### **5.3 2011 (Rotterdam)**

Ms Claude Bergeret said she did not have any recent news, however the organisers had started discussions about sponsorship with TMS.

## **6. TMS International. Update**

### **6.1 Russian Open payment**

It was reported that the outstanding prize money from the Russian Open had been recouped.

### **6.2 General marketing update**

M. Christian Veronèse reported on behalf of TMS on several subjects: Ongoing discussions regarding sponsorship with Volkswagen with a new designed package for 2009-2011 including the title sponsorship of:

- Women's World Cup
- Tournament of Champions
- China vs World All Stars
- Volkswagen Cup (new event to be created)
- World Junior Championships

A sponsorship package with VW logo visibility on the Chinese National Table Tennis Team uniform.

Volkswagen designated as the "Official Car of the ITTF"

It was said that TMS was currently discussing with American, Chinese and European companies either directly or through local marketing agencies to present ITTF properties and all other available sponsorship packages.

#### **• TV rights agreements**

It was reported that the agreement with CCTV China for the period 2009-2012 for all world events as well as Hong-Kong Cable for the same had been renewed. Discussions were ongoing with Hunan TV for a renewal of the contract regarding the Tournament of Champions. Efforts would be made to get this event out of China if VW agrees to be the title sponsor.

- **itTV strategy**

It was reported that the ITTF will soon set up the itTV strategy according to the following principles that are being worked on:

Basic principles :

- ITTF providing a new and free service to all the members on a delayed transmission basis of all the ITTF events with no investment to be recouped
- agreements with several companies to provide different services as production, live streaming and recorded matches
- Expected revenues coming from different sources as the rights fee collected for the events sold, the pay per view sharing for the live coverage and the advertisements sold within the itTV section.

**Website and Publications advertising revenues (net, excluding value contracts) over the last 4 year period.**

2004 : US\$ 89,560

2008 : US\$ 152,673

**Statistics TV audience on CCTV in China 2003-2008**

**1) WTTC (average figures for 6 events)**

| <b>Total broadcasting time</b> |          |           |            |                               |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| hh:mm:ss                       | Total nb | Live in % | Nb of days | Cumulated audience in million |
| 98:55:02                       | 626      | 47%       | 13         | 447                           |

**2) ITTF Pro Tour (average figures for 21 events analysed in 5 years out of 74 events)**

| <b>Total broadcasting time</b> |          |           |            |                               |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| hh:mm:ss                       | Total nb | Live in % | Nb of days | Cumulated audience in million |
| 23:51:00                       | 158      | 42%       | 16         | 36                            |

**3) ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals (average figures for 5 events)**

| <b>Total broadcasting time</b> |          |           |            |                               |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| hh:mm:ss                       | Total nb | Live in % | Nb of days | Cumulated audience in million |
| 22:05:19                       | 201      | 51%       | 7          | 140                           |

**4) World Cups (average figures for 4 events)**

| <b>Total broadcasting time</b> |          |           |            |                               |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| hh:mm:ss                       | Total nb | Live in % | Nb of days | Cumulated audience in million |
| 8:01:28                        | 41       | 32%       | 6          | 60                            |

**TMS website**

The new design of the website is still in progress but all information related to TMS properties, sponsorship packages description, TV data and much more are to be found on the website.

**ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals (new date)**

11-14 December 2008, Macau (China)

**TMS financial contribution to the ITTF in 2007**

It was reported that TMS had transferred **US\$ 4,5 million** to the ITTF in 2007 compared to 3,8 million in 2006.

## **7. Reports and Decisions**

### **7.1 Global Junior Programme**

#### **- World Junior Championships 2008**

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that due to internal issues at the TT New Zealand and a large shortfall in their budget, the TTNZ had officially withdrawn from organising the Junior World Championships. Ms. Judit Faragó was requested to approach the Singapore TTA (future organisers of the Youth Olympic Games) to find out if they were interested to take over the event. If not, then the ITTF would ask other potential interested hosts to step in and host the event.

#### **- Junior Circuit and Cadet Challenge update**

Ms Judit Faragó gave a brief report on the events held so far (18 events in total for 2008 due to 3 cancellations). She reported that a precarious situation had been faced in Tunisia where there was no Competition Manager, however, she thanked all the persons who had stepped in and made the event possible and finally a success.

The Cadet Challenge would take place in Sweden together with the Junior Circuit Final – 24<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November – including a training camp for all the participating players.

#### **- Racket testing experience**

Ms Judit Faragó gave a report about the racket testing that had been conducted so far at ITTF Junior Circuit events and at the Final Olympic Qualification tournament. The major problem seemed to be the thickness of the sponge and not so much the toxic glues. The testing procedures have also become more demanding and players need to be prepared more seriously for the testing. Furthermore, the racket cover manufacturers have to be warned as some racket covers are 4mm or more thick when they come out of the packaging. Mr. George Segun said that he had observed that the e-nez device functioned well but it could be tampered with and thus could give incorrect results. It was decided that the CAR in Barcelona would be mandated to do a series of comparative tests on several hundreds of racket covers, using the e-nez and RAE devices at the same time. It was decided that players and manufacturers would be educated and informed more seriously after the Olympic Games. The manufacturers would be requested to stop the manufacture of boosters and tuners (Boosters) and the Equipment Committee would inform them that these are illegal according to the proposition passed by the AGM.

#### **- Cadet World Ranking**

After discussion, it was decided that a manual list would be accepted from the Ranking Committee by the 10<sup>th</sup> of August and a computerised system put in place subsequently taking into consideration all results of cadet events in the same way as the regular ITTF Computer Ranking.

### **7.2 Olympic Games**

#### **- Youth Olympic Games**

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that a document containing system of play, qualification, competition format, etc., was being prepared for the IOC by Mr. Mikael Andersson. The ITTF had the intention of proposing 32 boys and 32 girls, mixed teams, 32 entries 1 per NOC, age bracket 14-16 years of age including all players 14 years of age by the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2010. The qualification process would begin in October 2009 with the ITTF Cadet Challenge. All this remains to be confirmed by the IOC.

#### **- Olympic Games. Alternate players**

It was reported that the IOC seems to be ready to accept the proposal from the ITTF regarding the replacement of players on team events after the start of the competition as follows:

1. In case of injury or sickness of one player competing in the table tennis Olympic team events, this player may be replaced if the NOC has planned a "P" accreditation for an alternate player.
2. In case of replacement, the player replaced will lose his/her accreditation, he/she is not allowed to continue in the Olympic Village and he/she will not be able to compete in the singles events if entered.
3. The new player entered replacing a sick or injured player can only compete in the Team events.

#### **- Confirm Olympic Games final lists**

The updated list including reserve teams was presented and validated. It was said that all concerned NOCs would be informed and they should confirm their players by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

#### **- Accreditations**

It was reported that all accreditation forms according to the initial accreditation list had been completed by Ms Etsuko Enami and submitted to BOCOG before the deadline date. However, a few accreditations were still to be confirmed.

### **7.3 Racket control**

#### **- Racket tests at Senior events (after 1 September 2008)**

It was said that from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September the racket control procedure would be uniform for all. For the Olympics, it was decided that, under the control of the referee, the magnifying glass method would be used to verify thickness and the Athletes' Commission would be asked to inform all the players of the procedure and their own responsibilities. The same information would be sent out to all the concerned national associations. It was decided that the first 4 events following the Olympic Games would be used for strict racket control tests including VOCs and thickness of sponge/rubber. The possibility of producing an easy to use racket testing kit was discussed. Mr. George Segun was assigned to all the events, except the Women's World Cup which would be attended by Ms. Claude Bergeret.

### **7.4 Professional structure update**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the 26 applications had been received by the deadline date for the position of Director of Competitions and 6 candidates had been short-listed. The interviews would be made within the next couple of weeks with a starting target date of for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008.

Four (4) applications had been received so far for the position of Education & Training Director, deadline for applications 30th May 2008. It was also reported that David Jackson had been offered a 7 months contract to work with the IT Manager.

### **7.5 Court of Arbitration**

It was reported that Mr Jean-Michel Saive had qualified for the Olympics. A meeting with the CAS had been tabled for the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. The EC agreed that the President and the Executive Director should appear at this

meeting together with Mr. Tim Gautrau as a witness. Mr. Saive has the right to cancel the appeal if he so wishes.

*The meeting was adjourned at 13h00 for lunch, followed by a presentation from representatives of the London Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games – LOCOG - about the state of preparations for the London 2012 Games. Mr. Alex Murdoch, Chairman of the English TTA said a few words of welcome. The EC then visited the EXCEL Centre where the table tennis event would be held in 2012.*

*The meeting resumed the next day at 09h00.  
Christian Veronèse (TMS), excused.*

#### **7.6 Implementation of the new eligibility rule**

Ms Judit Faragó made a proposal on how to implement the new eligibility rule for world title events, starting 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 – registration opens 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008, to be handled by the Operations Department, waiting period to begin from the date of registration, player to be registered a second time on change of nationality, the list to be published and updated regularly on the website. The database would be prepared to hold the necessary information.

#### **7.7 Athletes Commission structure**

Ms Claude Bergeret informed on behalf of the Chairman of the Athletes' Commission their intention to change the nomination procedure for the Athletes' Commission. The EC agreed that the Athletes' Commission should prepare a draft proposal, to be studied by the EC, before presentation to the AGM.

#### **7.8 Equipment fees 2008-2012**

The updated document for approval fees from 2008-2012, was approved.

#### **7.9 Audit dates**

It was reported that the dates for the audits would be decided by the Executive Director according to the availability of the Auditors, Ernest & Young.

### **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the EC will be held in Paris, 11-12 October 2008.

### **9. Any other business**

#### **9.1 Women's Working Group Update**

Ms Claude Bergeret made a brief update report and said that the official meeting of the Women's Working Group would be held during the Women's World Cup in Malaysia (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September) together with a meeting with the players and coaches. The Oceania and Latin American women's forums were being organised and would be held in Tahiti and Argentina respectively. It was decided that the preliminary entry forms for the next WTTC would invite players to use the day-care centre which would be put in place if there were enough requests. It was said that a contract for the sponsorship of the Women's Development Programme with Stag had been drafted and sent to Stag for final approval, to be signed in the next couple of weeks. It was decided that a letter would be sent to all NOCs from the President encouraging them to send women from national federations to the AGMs of their respective International Federations.

#### **9.2 Training at Olympic Games**

In addition to the regular training possibilities offered in the explanatory booklet, special training sessions at the table tennis venue (FOP) for players not playing in

the team events would be arranged. Training on the Field of Play (FOP) at the table tennis venue will be arranged for all players on 9, 10, 11 and 12 August. Special training sessions will be possible for players not entering the team competition, with special attention to the seeded players who will play later in the singles competition, on the following dates, always from 7h30 to 8h30 a.m. - 13, 14, 19 and 20 August. Transport will be available from the Olympic Village to the table tennis venue also on the above dates.

### **9.3 Persons on the bench**

It was confirmed that at the Beijing Games, during the singles events 1 chair would be available for the coach, and 4 chairs available for 3 players and a coach during the team events. No other persons will be admitted on the floor.

### **9.4 Neil Harwood - visit to Beijing**

Mr. Neil Harwood reported that he would visit Beijing on his way back home one last time before the Games and he would be joined by some top European players who would check the playing venue (lighting etc).

- Mr. Jordi Serra proposed some additional activities that could be held in Beijing during the Games, such as inviting former Olympic champions, creating an interactive table tennis zone at the Peking University. The EC accepted that some of the costs incurred could be taken from the next Olympic allocation.
- It was decided that a special presentation would be made to the 3 players (Zoran Primorac, Jörgen Persson and Jean-Michel Saive) who have participated in all 6 Olympics.
- It was reported that the Advanced Coaching Manual in French and Spanish are now under publication.
- Ms Claude Bergeret informed that Dr. Jean-François Kahn would like to organise anti-doping controls at Pro Tour events. Item referred to the next EC.
- It was reported that the possibility to produce uniforms for umpires was being investigated with a Hungarian company and a proposal would be made in due course.

## **10. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10h45.

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Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara