

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## MINUTES

Of the Executive Committee meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on **8<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the Renaissance Hotel, Moscow, Russia**, at 09h00.

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

The President of the Russian Table Tennis Association, Mr. Igor Levitin, accompanied by a representative from the Ministry of Sports welcomed all to Moscow. Mr. Levitin said it was an honour to host the EC meeting in Moscow and said that Russia would do its best to make table tennis a mass sport and more popular than it used to be in the past. He thanked the ITTF for its confidence in allocating the world championships to Moscow in 2010.

Mr. Adham Sharara in turn thanked the Russian TTA and its President for the invitation to host the EC meeting in Moscow and for the personal invitation to visit Kazan. He said that he was happy to see that sport and table tennis were high priorities on the Russian government's agenda. He assured the Russian TTA of the full support of the ITTF to make the 2010 WTTC a success.

### 2. **Roll call**

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

#### **In attendance**

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Anders Thunström	TMS, Managing Director

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

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

7.11 Global Junior Programme information

11.1 Visa Issues

11.2 Representations

11.3 Triples Games

### 4. **Minutes**

#### **4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meetings (Zagreb, 20 & 26 May 2007)**

The Minutes of the previous meetings held in Zagreb were signed by the President as a true record of the meetings.

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

No other business except that covered by the agenda.

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

#### **5.1 2007 WTTC Zagreb. Final report**

Ms Claude Bergeret summarised the comprehensive final report submitted following the Zagreb WTTC. She said the event had been a success despite

the problems faced prior to the start of the event and thanked the experienced organising team that had made it a success. She commented on some of the issues faced in Zagreb and made some recommendations for future organiser to be included in the directives such as a safe for the ITTF office, proper air conditioning, security at the ITTF offices, adequate promotion of the Museum exhibit, etc. The report was a team effort involving the organizing committee, the ITTF VP responsible and the ITTF staff, compiled by the Executive Director.

#### **5.2 2008 WTTC Guangzhou. Update**

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that a last inspection visit led by her would be made on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September to Guangzhou together with Ms. Lilamani de Soysa (on behalf of Jordi Serra), Karl Jindrak (on behalf of Didier Leroy), Steve Dainton (for TMS) and Hubert Gueriau (Media).

The ITTF Head Office was requested to inform all officials concerned that their AGM reports were due by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, due to the early dates of the next WTTC and hence the early date of the AGM.

#### **5.3 2009 WTTC Yokohama. Update**

It was reported by TMS that the Japanese companies San-Ei and Tamasu-Butterfly had made successful bids for equipment sponsorship for the 2009 Yokohama WTTC, accepted by the ITTF and the JTTA.

Mr. Koji Kimura said that preparations were underway as planned and that the JTTA was discussing the Directives in detail that were presented by the ITTF. It was said that the commercial contract together with the equipment sponsorships would be sent to the JTTA soon and a coordination visit would be made in due course. The signing of the contract is planned for late November 2007.

### **6. Revision of the Constitution – update**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that a working group had been formed and input from about 20 associations had been received, a summary of which would be sent to the working group for their own input, following which a questionnaire would be sent to all the National Associations for their final input.

### **7. Reports**

#### **7.1 Small States Games of Europe**

Ms Claude Bergeret made a short summary of her written report on her visit to the Games of Small States of Europe, held in Monaco, in June, which she said were very well organised, with good opening and closing ceremonies. She commented on the constant presence of Prince Albert at all the sports events, which was much appreciated and thanked the volunteers from the Monaco Table Tennis Association for their good work. The next Games will be held in 2009 in Cyprus.

#### **7.2. All African Games and Pan-American Games**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had represented the ITTF at both the All African Games (Algiers, Algeria) and the Pan-American Games (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and that both events had been very successfully staged. He said he was happy to see new winners from new countries emerging. However, many of the winners in Africa and Latin America were of Chinese origin. A long discussion ensued regarding the sustainability of "buying players" and facilitating the naturalisation of Chinese players in Africa and Latin America (as is already the case in other parts of the World) and that the ITTF should review its eligibility rules in order to tighten the

procedure. Mr. Sharara said that he would look into other sports rules and recommend some new regulations for the ITTF in the near future.

### **7.3 Women's Working Group**

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that she would be attending the Asian Women's Forum to be held in Yang Zhou, China on 22<sup>nd</sup> September as well as the Women's Working Group meeting to be held during the Women's World Cup in Chengdu, China on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. She said that a meeting would also be held there with the players as well as a fashion show for manufacturers. She thanked Mr. Yang Shuan and the CTTA for financially helping the African and Latin American representatives to attend the meeting. The EC agreed to Ms Claude Bergeret's request to add two additional members to the WWG, a representative from disabled table tennis and one from the Athletes Commission as consultants.

### **7.4 Training in the use of RAE equipment**

Mr. George Segun reported that in order to ensure that there is adequate back-up at the next WTTC, a training session had taken place in Barcelona at the C.A.R regarding the use of RAE equipment. He also said that a system for transporting the gas for the equipment had been found. It was said that the company Wassing would be requested to be prepared for immediate testing in case any health incident was confirmed according to the BoD decision.

It was also decided that the "new" testing and training using the e-nez system would be implemented immediately after the 1 January 2008 date at the first three junior events in 2008.

### **7.5 Beyond the Glue Ban**

Mr. George Segun said that the ITTF should be prepared to prevent the use of glues after the glue ban and that it was necessary to start testing the blades which may be subjected to heat treatment. He would discuss this issue with the Chairman of the Equipment Committee.

### **7.6 Marketing update**

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that Cornilleau (France) had signed up as sponsor for the World Team Cup for the next 3 editions together with Tibhar and Stag. He said that he had visited the LIEBHERR headquarters in July this year to discuss their current contract and that they were satisfied with their returns on investment (ROI). Liebherr would continue to be a major sponsor at the 2008 and 2009 WTTC. He said he would be leaving for China to seek more sponsors, possibly with the help of an outside agency. He said that China Unicom might be a title sponsor for the WTTC in 2008.

The renewal of the Volkswagen agreement, to expire at the end of 2008, was a priority for the ITTF and that Mr. Adham Sharara would be meeting with VW on his way back from the present meeting.

Mr. Thunström said that the ITTF would need some assistance from the Guangzhou Organising Committee and the Japan TTA to find title sponsors for 2008 and 2009. He also mentioned that TMS was seeking to revive the China Vs. the World event and a new contract should be signed shortly with Beijing Sports International (BJI-Sports).

### **7.7 Youth Olympic Games (YOG)**

It was reported that the IOC had not accepted a proposal made by the ITTF to increase the number of players and events at the YOG. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he was hoping to have a special meeting on the subject

with the IOC before the final decision would be taken. It was reported that 11 cities had bid to host the first Games in 2010 including Moscow.

#### **7.8 Professional staff update**

It was reported that Mr. Marius Widmer had started work as the ITTF Media Coordinator and was based at the Lausanne office. Mr. Mohammed El-Shentenawy had been to Lausanne to train the staff on the use of the database and CMS for the web site as well as help in updating the media section of the website to which some improvements had been implemented. It was also reported that Mr. Leandro Olvech was in Lausanne to train for his job as Development Coordinator, together with Mr. Glenn Tepper, also in Lausanne for a 4 months period. Mr. Adham Sharara said that Mr. Karl Jindrak would be working full-time for the ITTF as Competition Manager from 2008 due to the increase in number of events. Mr. Sharara said that it was the right time to review the structure of the Competition Management Unit with part-time Competition Managers or Continental Competition Managers added to assist the full-time CMs who are currently overloaded.

#### **7.9. Umpires & Referees Committee update**

Mr. Neil Harwood reported that the referee's education project would be finished and ready for presentation around the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December 2007. The URC would then identify and train the trainers in preparation for delivery. Two update courses were scheduled to be held for existing referees in Asia (February 2008) and Europe (March/April 2008). It was also said that course for new referees will be conducted progressively, working in conjunction with the development programme and considering the needs of the organisers of future major competitions.

Mr. Neil Harwood also reported that the URC was looking at the system currently used for appointing referees for major events. He said that the tradition of appointing a referee from the host country for the Olympic Games was a good one but similar recommendations should be made for other major events. The item was referred to the next EC in Guangzhou where the recommendations from the URC would be studied.

#### **7.10 Transfer of governance from IPC to ITTF**

It was reported that the IPC had granted provisional membership to the ITTF and that the transfer of governance was in progress with some administration already being done at the Lausanne office. The item was referred to the next EC+ meeting for discussion with the Continental Vice-Presidents concerning the full implications of the transfer and the impact on the Continents. Mr. Jordi Serra is arranging for the signing of the final agreement between the ITTF President and Sir Philip Craven (President IPC) in China, in October 2007.

#### **7.11 Global Junior Programme**

Ms Judit Faragó made a comprehensive report on the Global Junior Programme where she gave an update report on all the important events coming up such as the World Cadet Challenge to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, together with the finals of the World Junior Circuit and the World Junior Championships in Palo Alto, USA. She said she had faith in the organisers to get the job well done. It was also reported that a training camp would be held before the World Cadet Challenge in South Africa.

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that Butterfly had raised some funds through an auction and that the money would be used to have a special training camp in a poor area in South Africa and the two best players would be invited to attend the training camp at the World Junior Circuit in Cape

Town. It was also reported that Mr. Glenn Tepper and Mr. Mikael Andersson would make a presentation about the ITTF Global Junior Programme at the International Federation Sport Forum in Lausanne, in November 2007.

## 8. Decisions

### 8.1 Athletes' Commission Advisor

Ms Claude Bergeret submitted a request from the Chairman of the Athletes' Commission to include Mr. Trinko Keen as a special advisor to the Athletes' Commission. This item was deferred to the next BOD for consideration.

### 8.2 ITTF language policy

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that several requests had been received from national associations for the translation of ITTF documents into different languages and in order to have clear rules the **attached** ITTF Operational Policy was adopted. This policy is based on research conducted by Mrs. Etsuko Enami and Mr. Adham Sharara regarding the use of languages in the world and within the ITTF's member associations. It was determined that the 4 leading languages in the ITTF are English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

### 8.3 Olympic Qualification Eligibility. Clarification

Mr. Jordi Serra made a clarification to the Olympic Qualification eligibility as follows:

**"Players selected by ranking and players entering any Olympic qualification event must be Olympic eligible (according to the Olympic Charter) at the time of the selection by Ranking and at the time of any Olympic qualification event".**

This clarification, which is the policy, used at all previous Olympic events, will be made in all related documents.

### 8.4 Approval of racket coverings. Special timing due to glue ban

On a recommendation from Mr. Odd Gustavsen, the following was agreed:

#### 1. List of Authorised Racket Coverings

In order to smoothen the overlapping period from the glue ban and to give alternative solutions for both players and manufacturers the validity period for the List will be as follows:

- List 28-B, to be printed 1<sup>st</sup> week of October 2007 will be valid from the day of publication.
- List 29, to be printed 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 will also be valid from the day of publication
- List 28, the present one, will be valid from the day List 28-B is published.

#### 2. Technical Leaflet T4

The newest issue of Technical Leaflet T4 which contains the new regulations for the text area in rubbers to be available on the ITTF website. All suppliers requested to read the document.

#### 3. How to achieve an authorisation for racket coverings?

Updated version of the document, giving a new simplified and faster method for obtaining racket cover authorisation, in case of delays, to be available on the ITTF website.

#### **4. Frictionless racket coverings**

All frictionless racket coverings shall be withdrawn from the ITTF list on 1 July 2008. The list of coverings involved will be published as soon as some technical matters have been solved.

#### **8.5 Ranking penalty appeals**

The four ranking penalty appeals presented by the Executive Director were examined and the EC decided to maintain the decision made by the Ranking Penalty Commission and rejected all four appeals. The Executive Director will inform in writing the Associations concerned.

#### **8.6 Ranking penalty policy for no-shows. Change on the Ranking Penalty Commission composition**

It was decided that Ms Lyne Desjardins would replace Mr. Zoran Primorac on the Ranking Penalty Commission since Mr. Primorac was still an active player and was involved in some of the Ranking Penalty cases.

It was decided, by majority vote (6 in favour, 1 against) that players who do not play a match, for whatever reason, after the draw has been made, shall be subject to the Ranking Penalty. The updated Ranking Penalty Policy will be in effect as of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2007 (**see ratified document attached**).

#### **8.7 Team Event (Olympic System) at 4 Pro Tour events**

It was decided that the Pro Tour events in 2008 in Japan, China, Germany and France, would be played according to the Olympic events (MS, WS, MT, WT). The under 21 events will not be held in the 4 Pro Tour events listed above but will be compulsory at 8 Pro Tour events. The under 21 event would also be an option for all other Pro Tour events. A complete list will be published before the end of September.

#### **9. Internal financial policy update**

The internal financial policy was reviewed and adopted. Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Jordi Serra were requested to create a similar policy for Committee Chairpersons, BOD members, etc.

#### **10. Next Meeting (Palo Alto, USA, 9 December 2007)**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will take place in Palo Alto, USA. Mr. Jordi Serra reported that he had started discussions with LOCOG for hosting the EC meeting in May 2008, in London.

#### **11. Any other business**

##### **11.1 Visa problems**

Mr. George Segun explained the problems he had faced obtaining his visa to Russia and those for the visa to the USA and asked the ITTF to take measures in order to facilitate visa procedures.

##### **11.2 Representations**

Several EC representations were decided as follows:

- VW Women's World Cup, 28-30 September 2007, Chengdu (CHN) - Ms Claude Bergeret
- World Team Cup, 5-7 October 2007, Magdeburg (GER) – Mr. Adham Sharara
- Liebherr Men's World Cup, 12-14 October 2007, Barcelona (ESP) – Mr. George Segun

- World Cadet Challenge & World Junior Circuit Finals, 23-28 October 2007, Cape Town (RSA) – Ms Judit Faragó & Mr. George Segun
- World Junior Championships, 8-15 December 2007, Palo Alto (USA) - all EC members
- VW ITTF Pro Tour Finals, 13-16 December 2007, Beijing (CHN) – Mr. Yang Shuan & Mr. Neil Harwood
- Good Luck Beijing Invitational Tournament, 18-19 December 2007, Beijing (CHN) – Yang Shuan & Neil Harwood
- Tournament of Champions, 21-22 December 2007, Changcha (CHN) – Mr. Neil Harwood

### **11.3 Triples Game**

Mr. George Segun said that after the “longer reach” experiment, another experiment would be done in Guangzhou during the WTTC concerning the Triples Game. It was reported that 100 books had been received in Lausanne by the author and would be sent to the national associations for information.

### **12. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17h30.

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Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara