

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## MINUTES

Of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the Westin Hotel, Palo Alto, USA, at 09h00.

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

The President's opening welcome words, including apologies for absence of Mr. Yang Shuan, who is very busy due to the upcoming Olympics, were followed by welcome speeches from Ms Anne Cribbs (Organising Committee), Mr. Dragomir Cioroslan (Director, International Strategies & Development USOC), and Ms Sheri Pittman (President USATT). Mr. Mike Cavanaugh (Interim Executive Director of the USATT) was present. Mr. Adham Sharara in turn thanked the organisers and the USOC for hosting the meetings and the World Junior Championships.

Mr. Tony Yue (Chairman of the Junior Commission) was invited to give an update on the progress of the WJC as well as the Global Junior Programme. He said that the programme had now come of age and could be compared to the regular Pro Tour. He said that more staff assistance would be needed in the future given the rapid growth of the programme and the Youth Olympic Games that would be part of it in the near future. He gave a brief report on the meeting of the Junior Commission held the previous day and shared matters of interest discussed such as the qualification system (through the World Cadet Challenge) for the Youth Olympic Games, the next WJC to be held in New Zealand, the bids for the 2009 World Cadet Challenge (new bid from Japan) and the need for more staff assistance.

### 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

#### Invited to attend

Tony Yue	Chairman of the Junior Commission
Takeo Obayashi	President of the Japan TTA (for item 5.2)

#### In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Development Director
Christian Veronèse	TMS, Event Marketing Manager

#### Apologies for absence

Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
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### 3. Approval of Agenda

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

- 11.1 Wada Conference in Madrid
- 11.2 Triples experiment
- 11.3 2003 Open-Air experiment in Paris

#### 4. Minutes

##### 4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meetings (Moscow, 8 September 2007)

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the correction of the following items:

7.3, last sentence to read "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 **female athlete**".

7.5 to read, "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. **Rubbers may also be subjected to heat treatment.....**"

8.4, last sentence to read, "List 28, the present one, will be **invalid** from the day List 28-B is published.

##### 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. Update

Further to her written report, Ms Claude Bergeret made a comprehensive update on her visit to Guangzhou on 27<sup>th</sup> September with a coordination team from the ITTF. Despite difficulties at the time, she reported that the organisation was now proceeding with better efficiency and that Mr. Steve Dainton would be visiting Guangzhou on a monthly basis to follow-up on pending issues and will spend the entire month of February 2008 working together with the OC. She reported that since the visit, China Unicom had signed up as a major sponsor and that a title sponsor would soon be confirmed.

##### 5.2 2009 WTTC Yokohama. Update

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that a coordination visit would take place after the Guangzhou WTTC where the directives would be finalised. Mr. Koji Kimura said that the President of the JTTA was in Palo Alto and that the contract between JTTA and the ITTF would be signed later on during the meeting. He said that the Management of the championships and the search for sponsors will begin once the contract is signed. He said that the city of Yokohama would provide human resources but not financial support but a large marketing company would be assisting the JTTA in the search for sponsors.

*The contract for the Yokohama 2009 WTTC was officially signed between Mr. Takeo Obayashi, the President of the Japan Table Tennis Association and Adham Sharara, the ITTF President, at 10h30 a.m. during the present meeting.*

##### 5.3 2010 WTTC Moscow. Update

Ms Claude Bergeret said that from an organisational point of view there would be no problems in Moscow, however, there may be issues with visas for certain associations such as Kosovo. The case of Kosovo and a recent visa problem with a Brazilian player (Russian Open) were discussed at length. It was decided to see what happens during the next European Championships in Russia in 2008 and to take the appropriate measures accordingly. It was decided that a letter of concern would be sent to the Russian TTA from the ITTF to inform them that uniform treatment must be given to all ITTF member associations and to ensure that they understand the position of the ITTF in case visas are not issued to any member associations.

#### **5.4 2011 candidates: Netherlands (Rotterdam), Qatar (Doha) and Serbia (Belgrade)**

It was reported that 3 bids from the Netherlands (for Rotterdam), Qatar (for Doha) and Serbia (for Belgrade) had been received before the due date. Ms Claude Bergeret reported that she had visited Rotterdam together with the Executive Director and that they were highly motivated candidates as they were planning to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dutch TTA in 2011. She said that they had excellent sports infrastructure, financial and human resource support from the city and the government and were sure of large spectator counts. The proposed dates were 8 – 15 May 2011.

Mr. Adham Sharara had already visited Qatar (2010 bid) and the bid from Qatar for 2011 was fully acceptable. The facilities, hotels and transportation were all of top quality, however, the main concern was with regards to the spectator turnout. The Qatar TTA promised to do their utmost to have full-house turnout during the championships.

The Serbian bid was discussed at length in particular the visa problems faced by the Kosovo delegation during the European Championships in March of this year. The EC decided not to forward the Serbian bid to the AGM, as there was no guarantee that visas would be provided to the Kosovo Table tennis Association. Therefore, only the bids from the Netherlands and Qatar would be forwarded by the EC to the AGM.

### **6. Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting in Guangzhou**

#### **6.1 Revision of the Constitution**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained the work in progress with the Constitution Working Group and said that although he requested not to receive Propositions to the 2008 AGM, due to an administrative error from the ITTF Head Office a request for propositions was sent out. Therefore several new proposals had been received. The work of the Constitution WG would continue beyond the Guangzhou AGM. Therefore, it was decided that the work of the CWG would be extended until the AGM of 2009 and a second call for input would be made at the AGM in 2008. Furthermore, Mr. Tony Yue of the Hong Kong TTA would be added as a member to the group to have a more balanced representation from Asia.

It was decided that the following revisions to the Constitution would be proposed by the Executive Committee to the AGM in Guangzhou on behalf of the Constitution Working Group:

1. To expand the Executive Committee to 9 members (President and 8 VPs)
2. To dissolve the Executive Council
3. To create a new body called the DEVELOPMENT & CONTINENTAL COUNCIL (DCC) composed of the President of the ITTF, the EC member in charge of Development plus the 6 Presidents of Continental Federations (or their designate), to meet at the same occasion as the Olympic Commission (Note: Continental Presidents, or their appointee, would serve on the Olympic Commission and on the DCC).
4. That the Board of Directors be composed of the Executive Committee, 6 Continental Presidents (or their appointee), and 32 members according to the current continental quota.
5. That Committee Chairmen be invited to attend the AGM and the Board of Directors meetings as expert advisors without voting privileges.

#### **6.2 Proposals and resolutions for BOD and AGM**

The proposals and resolutions to the BOD and AGM were reviewed at length, contents and intent confirmed and referred to the Rules Committee Chairman for final wording. In particular, the following items were noted:

- 1) It was decided to ask the Rules Committee Chairman to correct item 1.10.11 so that the word "number" is changed to "member". To be presented by the Rules committee as a proposition to the AGM.
- 2) In answer to the proposal from the Hong Kong TTA asking for the establishment of an "Audit Committee" it was decided that a group composed of Mr. Hans Giesecke, Mr. Han Sang Kook and Mr. Neil Harwood, previous and current ITTF Executive Vice-presidents in charge of Finances, be requested to advise the EC in Guangzhou on this matter.
- 3) Eligibility rule (see below).

### **6.3 ITTF Merit Award. Proposals received.**

The two proposals received from China (for Mr. Zhang Xielin and Mr. Sun Qilin) were accepted and referred to the AGM.

### **6.4 Eligibility Rule proposals**

The President made a proposal to the EC regarding the Eligibility rule, which was discussed at length and referred to the AGM as follows with a mandate to Mr. George Segun and Ms Judit Faragó to study the proposal further and make any necessary adjustments:

"For ITTF World Title events, a player who was not born in the association he/she wishes to represent, must register with the ITTF, through his/her new national association. The player must be a national of the new association and may represent the new association as follows:

- If on date of registration the player is under the age of 15, then the waiting period is 3 years from the date of registration
- If on date of registration the player is under the age of 18, then the waiting period is 5 years from the date of registration
- If on date of registration the player is under the age of 21, then the waiting period is 7 years from the date of registration
- If on date of registration the player is 21 years or older, then the player cannot represent the new association.

### **6.5 Electronic Voting**

In order to comply with the order from CAS, Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to confirm the company that would do the electronic voting for the 2009 ITTF elections and to set up a trial system at the AGM in Guangzhou.

## **7. TMS International. Update**

Mr. Christian Veronèse gave a detailed update on marketing activities and reported that two major sponsors (LIEBHERR and China Unicom) and the equipment sponsors (San-Ei, Butterfly and Gerflor) had been secured for the Yokohama WTTC. Discussions for renewal of the Volkswagen sponsorship were ongoing and 2 significant television contracts with CCTV (2009-2012) and Hong Kong Cable (2010-2012) were ready for signing.

## **8. Reports**

### **8.1 World Cups**

- **Women's (Chengdu, CHN)**

Ms Claude Bergeret reported on the Women's World Cup held in Chengdu, China, where she also attended a meeting of the Women's Working Group, a meeting with the players and a Fashion Contest organised jointly by the ITTF and Volkswagen. The World Cup was successfully staged with an extraordinary final match between Wang Nan (the winner) and Zhang Yining.

- **Team World Cup (Magdeburg, GER)**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had attended the Team World Cup held in Magdeburg, Germany. The event, on its renewed debut, had been successfully staged despite the disappointment for spectators created by the absence of the German no. 1 player. The event was superbly organized by the German TTA.

- **Men's (Barcelona, ESP)**

Mr. George Segun reported on his attendance at the Men's World Cup in Barcelona, Spain, which was a highly successful event, with a good spectator turnout and very high standard of play. The presence of the former President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, was noted and the Spanish and Catalan Federations congratulated for the work done. It was agreed that Mr. Jordi Serra should send a list of additional requirements for the World Cups to TMS, to add to future agreements such as free hospitality for the Competition Manager, compulsory racket controls and doping tests as well as iTV technical requirements.

## **8.2 Global Junior Programme**

- World Junior Circuit Finals & World Cadet Challenge (Cape Town, RSA)  
Item referred to the EC+ meeting.

- **Junior Commission**

Ms Judit Faragó said that the main concern of the Junior Commission at the moment was the Youth Olympic Games and said that the ITTF should be well prepared with the playing system for the event. The Junior Commission also strongly proposed the creation of an Under 15 World ranking and was concerned about racket controls to be implemented at Junior events, beginning early January 2008.

- **World Junior Championships**

Ms Judit Faragó said that she was happy that the WJC were being held in North America, in the nice environment of Stanford University, with the participation of all the qualified teams and that all anticipated problems, in particular with visas, had been solved. Several smaller problems with transport had also been corrected but there were financial shortages and a lack of volunteers. In answer to her concerns about the organisation of the next WJC to be held in New Zealand, Mr. Neil Harwood said that he had spoken to the local government and that they were very supportive of the event and that there should be no problems with the staging of a successful event.

## **8.3 Youth Olympic Games**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the ITTF was awaiting a confirmation from the IOC concerning the proposal made for the Youth Olympic Games such as one age category (Under 16), a team event with one boy's singles, one girl's singles and a mixed doubles, one entry per NOC, a total of 32 boys and 32 girls (a request for an increase had been rejected by the IOC). The Junior Commission also proposed the 2009 Cadet Challenge as part of the qualification system for the Youth Olympic Games. It was said that Bangkok, Singapore, Moscow, Torino and Athens were in competition for hosting the first Games. Ms Claude Bergeret said that the issue had been discussed at the last Women's Working Group and that the group agreed on the proposal, however, they would like to see, if possible, a totally new playing system (for example a relay system like in fencing).

## **8.4 Racket control**

Mr. George Segun reminded all that the ban of speed glues would take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 at the Junior events and that the obligatory racket controls at the first events should be handled with efficiency. He said that the new e-nez equipment will be used and the RAE equipment would also be there as back up. He said he was surprised that some e-nez equipment had not functioned well in Japan but the manufacturers were still working to improve the quality of the equipment. It was said that Mr. Odd Gustavsen and Mr. Konrad Tiefenbacher (representing Wassing the maker of e-nez) would be requested to attend the first three events where racket control will be done with the new device. Mr. Segun would attend the German Junior Open and Ms. Farrago would of course be at the Hungarian Junior Open.

#### **8.5 Future cooperation between ITTF and TMS**

The current contractual agreement between the ITTF and TMS expires at the end of 2008. A new contract will be developed in due time to extend the agreement between the two parties.

#### **8.6 Women's Working Group**

Further to her written report Ms Claude Bergeret reported on the Women's Working Group meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September in Chengdu, China. The representatives of North America and Oceania were missing, however, thanks to the financial help from the Chinese Table Tennis Association, the representatives from Africa and Latin America were able to attend. She transmitted several proposals from the WWG to the EC, in particular:

- A day care centre at the Yokohama WTTC: it was decided that a survey of the national federations should be made before a decision is taken.
- The quarter-finals and semi-finals of men's and women's matches to be played, on a trial basis, at some ITTF events, at the same time, starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009: idea accepted and TMS requested to implement this innovation.
- As the budgeted amount of 8000 US (20 courses x 400 US) as a bonus for 40% female participation in coaching courses was under utilised this year, it was accepted that the number of courses would be reduced to 10 (4000 USD) and the balance USD 4000 to be shared between the WWG representatives as airfare assistance to attend the annual WWG meeting. The next WWG meeting will also be held at the Women's World Cup.
- It was said that STAG was interested in sponsoring the Women's Development Programme and Ms Lilamani de Soysa was mandated to follow-up with Mr. Vivek Kohli.

#### **8.7 Professional structure update**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that due to the growing staff needs it was necessary to update the current professional structure and that the establishment of a system with several departments as recommended by the Executive Director (Operations, Competition, Development and Training & Education) was in progress. He said that a matrix would be proposed between now and the next WTTC and implemented after further fine-tuning after Guangzhou WTTC.

#### **8.8 Umpires & Referees Committee update**

Mr. Neil Harwood said that the Referee education project was progressing, albeit slowly, but a referee education/accreditation programme will be available soon. Mr. Albert Rooijmans and Mr. Richard Scruton had met in Holland and finalised the prototype course to be held in Moscow early next year. Several other referee courses were planned. The umpiring system is

continuing but the blue badge system was being reviewed at the moment. One area still of concern was the rebuilding of the database.

#### **8.9 Transfer of governance from International Paralympic Committee to ITTF**

Mr. Neil Harwood said that the IPTTC would now be gradually and fully integrated into the ITTF and that issues concerning integration with national associations should be addressed and staff needs assessed.

### **9. Decisions**

#### **9.1 Ranking penalty appeals**

Several appeals were presented to the EC. After discussion of each case, it was decided by a vote of 5-1 to uphold the decision of the Ranking Penalty Commission for the players concerned.

#### **9.2 Ranking penalty policy for no-shows**

Mr. André Damman was requested to correct some wording in the document concerning the policy for no-shows.

#### **9.3 New technical leaflet for racket control**

The new document submitted concerning racket control was studied and referred to the EC+ meeting. It was, however, decided to adopt the glue testing procedure in the document for the junior events and the rest of the document to be further studied before adoption.

#### **9.4 Registration fee for Pro-Tour events**

Ms Judit Faragó explained that the Junior Commission had discussed the issue of Prize Money for U-21 and that the prize money would be introduced as 2008 at all U-21 events.

Regarding entry fees at pro Tour events, it was decided that an entry fee of USD 20 would be charged at all Pro Tour events, starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. The fee would be collected by the organizing association and then sent to the ITTF.

*Meeting adjourned at 14h15 in order to attend the Opening Ceremony.*

#### **9.5 Anti-doping issues: New TUE Panel/Whereabouts**

- The proposal from Dr. Jean-François Kahn to nominate Dr. Martinez from Spain as the Chairman of the TUE panel was accepted. New members of the Panel will be decided in due time.
- It was reported that the ITTF had received a serious warning by WADA as table tennis players were not submitting their whereabouts information in a timely manner. The EC recommended that all National Associations should take their responsibilities with a request to Ms Etsuko Enami to make a small document with all necessary information to be distributed to all.

#### **9.6 Equipment fees 2009-2012**

A complaint from the FIT regarding the 0.25 friction limit on racket covers was discussed and the Equipment Committee requested to clarify the situation.

The new price list proposed by the Chairman of the Equipment Committee was approved by the EC. Mr. Adham Sharara confirmed that the price list had been accepted also by the President of FIT.

#### **9.7 Exemption cases**

9.7.1 The proposal from Monaco was rejected as it would require a rule change.

9.7.2 Based on a request from the Netherlands regarding players playing in mixed teams, the Rules Committee Chairman was requested to create a wording to cover the case of players playing in mixed teams (two associations forming the same team at a team event in some competitions). For the time being, until a new rule is proposed, the case of Mrs. Yana Timina was rejected.

**9.8 ITTF publications**

It was decided that the decision made to reduce the TTI publication to two issues may have been premature and Ms Judit Faragó was mandated to do a survey of the national federations in order to establish the importance of the publication for them. It was also said that the distribution of the TTI should be improved. In the meantime, for 2008, Table tennis Illustrated would be published on 4 occasions.

It was said that Mr. Jean-Jacques Huberman would be mandated to prepare a record book (to replace the Review-Preview) that would be updated every quadrennial.

**10. Next Meeting** (Guangzhou, China, 23 February 2008)

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Guangzhou, China on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008.

**11. Any other business**

**11.1 WADA conference Madrid**

Mr. George Segun reported that he had attended the WADA conference in Madrid.

**11.2 Triples Experiment**

Mr. George Segun said that as the team event is now part of the Olympic Games, the ITTF should give more thought to how the team event could be played and suggested the organisation of a forum to discuss the subject.

**11.3 2003 Open Air experiment in Paris**

Mr. George Segun said that the ITTF should continue to think of the image of the sport and find ways to evolve the way the sport is traditionally played. The EC requested him to develop the idea of beach table tennis based on the open-air experiment done in Paris in 2003.

**12. Adjournment**

In order that the EC members could attend the Opening Ceremony of the WJC, the meeting was adjourned at 14h15 on Saturday and continued from 8h15 on Sunday morning. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 09h32.