

# Olympic Commission

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## Minutes

of the Olympic Commission Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2002 at the Crystal Palace Hotel, Tianjin, China, at 09:30.

### 1. Roll call

#### Present

Adham Sharara	President
Pierre Albertini	Deputy President
George Segun	Executive Vice-President
Nils Bergström	Executive Vice-President
Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President

Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice-President (Africa)
M. C. Chowhan	Continental Vice-President (Asia)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice-President (Europe)
Sheri Pittman	Continental Vice-President (North America)
Miguel Delgado	Continental Vice-President (Latin America)
Neil Harwood	Continental Vice-President (Oceania)

Emmanuel Kolibadis	Athens 2004 Representative
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#### In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Programme Co-ordinator

### 2. Mixed Doubles update report

#### 2.1 Presentation to Programme Commission

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the Mixed Doubles proposal had been rejected by the IOC.

#### 2.2 Meetings with IOC

Mr. Sharara went on to explain that since this decision several meetings had been held between the ITTF and the IOC and a new proposal for team events instead of the Mixed Doubles had been made. He said that the IOC's President advice had been to propose this system for Beijing 2008. He said that China had been consulted and they agreed.

#### 2.3 Final decision

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the ITTF had to present its system of play for 2004 to the IOC within the next few days and that a decision had to be taken regarding the number of entries for the doubles. He explained that it was an important issue and that the final decision would be made by

the AGM in Zagreb, Croatia. Therefore, the IOC would be clearly informed that the proposal was subject to change.

### 3. IOC concerns

Mr. Adham Sharara explained at length that it was necessary to keep in mind current IOC concerns when making any decisions regarding the playing system or requesting the team events instead of the doubles. He explained that the first main concern of the IOC was universality, in other words an increased participation of as many NOCs as possible. The IOC was also requesting the use of wild cards and Mr. Sharara recommended that if the team events were a reality in 2008 the ITTF should accept to give a wild card for one men's singles and one women's singles. However, as the request came late this would not be possible for 2004 since the table tennis programme would remain the same.

The second main concern was to decrease the domination of certain nations in certain sports and to ensure a wider medal distribution. He said that there had not been a written request yet but that there was a lot of advice whenever discussions took place. He explained that asking for the team events would answer positively to this issue.

### 4. 2004 Programme

Mr. Adham Sharara distributed a document (*modified document attached*) containing the proposal that would be made to the IOC regarding the qualification and playing system for Athens 2004. A lengthy discussion ensued based on the document where many issues and concerns were raised such as the reduction the doubles pairs to one per NOC and the disadvantages of requesting 5/9 games instead of 4/7.

The matter of the number of Doubles entries per NOC was again discussed at length and the President, following a detailed explanation of the options, put the matter to a vote in order to decide the recommendation to be made to the AGM. The result of the vote was:

- 1 in favour of the status quo (2 entries per NOC as in Sydney)
- 5 in favour of one (1) entry per NOC
- 6 in favour of two (2) entries per NOC drawn in the same half of the draw.

It was, therefore, decided to modify the document by specifying that 2 doubles pairs per NOC would be requested with the provision that both entries would be drawn in the same half. It was also decided to request 4/7 games instead of 5/9. The proposal would have to be further approved by the AGM in Zagreb and the IOC informed accordingly.

Mr. Miguel Delgado proposed a change in the quota allocated to each Continent. He proposed an increase of 2 players (2 men and 2 women) for Africa and Latin America, and an increase of one player (one man and one woman) for Oceania and North America. He also proposed to reduce the number of direct entries by Ranking from 20 places to 14 places to accommodate the Continental increase.

Mr. Sharara explained that this was not the right time to make this proposal for 2004 and that he would accept proposals for the next meeting for 2008. However, Mr. Delgado indicated that he wished this matter dealt with at this

meeting. Therefore, the proposal was put to a vote and was defeated. However, Mr. Sharara promised that this matter would be discussed again in due time for the 2008 games.

**5. 2008 Programme**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the ITTF would do its best to have the team events admitted at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, as well as make sure that all players entered would be able to take part in the singles event. The final proposal would be made by the ITTF Olympic Commission to the 2003 AGM in Paris.

**6. Equipment Agreement**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the ITTF had just signed the agreement with Joola for nets, tables and other equipment excepting balls, which would be provided by Double Happiness.

**7. Athens 2004 Update report (preparations)**

Mr. Emmanuel Kolibadis, General Secretary of the Hellenic Table Tennis Association, gave a brief update on the ongoing preparations for Athens 2004. He said that the Association had a very good relationship with ATHOC and the many initial problems had been solved and construction of the venue had begun on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2001 according to the original plan. However, they were still awaiting a final decision from the law courts regarding a case between environmental activists who were against the construction of the venue. He reported that the training halls were being prepared as planned and that training facilities would be available early before the Games. A test-event would be planned in March 2004 as part of the ITTF Pro Tour.

It was confirmed that the Technical Delegates for the Athens Games would be Mr. Yao Zhenxu, Chairman of the Technical Committee and Mr. Neil Harwood, Continental Vice-President for Oceania and Competition Manager at the Sydney Games.

**8. Any other business**

Mr. Neil Harwood said that it was time to start nominating the officials and referees for the Athens Games and recommended that in the absence of a Greek Referee, a European Referee should be nominated and to qualify a Greek Referee as his/her Assistant. Mr. Emmanuel Kolibadis expressed the wish that the ITTF should hold a seminar to qualify a Greek Referee. Mr. Adham Sharara reminded the Commission that the existing policy stipulated that the Referee should come from the host country, one Assistant Referee from the same Continent (Europe), one Assistant Referee from the next hosting country, and one Assistant Referee from anywhere.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:45.