

Executive Committee

Minutes

Of the Executive Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on 27th April 2009 at the Shin-Yokohama Prince Hotel, Yokohama, Japan at 14h00.

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

The President welcomed all to Yokohama and thanked the Japan TTA for the clearly well prepared world championships about to begin.

2. **Roll call**

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

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Judit Faragó	Competition Director
Mikael Andersson	Education and Training Director
Anders Thunström	TMS - Managing Director

3. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. **Minutes**

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meetings (Doha, 20 and 21 February 2009)
The Minutes of previous meetings in Doha were signed by the President as a true record of the meetings with the correction of item 10.1 – “French Table Tennis Federation” to be replaced by the “European Table Tennis Union” in the text relating to proposals to the Constitution Working Group.

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

No other business than that covered by the Agenda.

5. **World Championships update**

5.1 Yokohama 2009

It was reported that a total of 580 players were present from 111 countries which was a considerable number. The spectator ticket sales were very good and 95% of all tickets sold on most days.

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that she did not anticipate any major problems to report and that there was a very good collaboration between the ITTF and the YOC.

Ms Judit Faragó said that the press area was excellent and the Chief of press a highly competent woman.

Mr. Jordi Serra said that the accreditation process had gone smoothly with the full-time presence of our ITTF staff members. There had been many problems regarding visa issues, but the YOC staff had done their best to solve all problems. It was also said that eligibility of players had been checked very carefully and records kept for the future. It was also said that the YOC had proactively taken precaution measures against the Swine flu epidemic and were monitoring the health of participants.

5.2 Moscow 2010

It was explained that the Moscow organisers had been requested to submit an official letter from the highest government authority guaranteeing visas for all participants to the Moscow WTTC in 2010 (a prerequisite for Russia to host the championships) and that it would be delivered by the Deputy President of the Russian Table Tennis Federation on arrival, before the AGM.

Ms Judit Faragó said that the organisers were keen to host the championships and that they had the backing of the city of Moscow.

The President noted that communication between the organisers and the ITTF should be improved. It was said that TMS would prepare a final draft of the commercial contract and submit to the Russian TTA for signature. The next inspection visit would take place in October 2009, at the same time as the Men's World Cup in Moscow.

5.3 Rotterdam 2011

It was reported that Ms Claude Bergeret had met with the organisers of Rotterdam and that they would make a presentation at the AGM.

Mr. Anders Thunström said that an equipment agreement had been signed with Tibhar (ball sponsor) and DHS (table sponsor).

5.4 2012 candidates

It was reported that Serbia having withdrawn its bid due to financial reasons, Dortmund, Germany, was the sole applicant for the WTTC 2012.

6. Meetings in Yokohama

6.1. Olympics Commission (28th April 2009)

The next Olympics Commission meeting was scheduled to be held on the 28th at the Shin-Yokohama Prince Hotel.

6.1.1 Olympics Working Group update

Mr. Neil Harwood explained that the Olympics Working Group had met and were proposing a few changes, subject to ratification by the Olympics Commission – for example to play the singles events first followed by the team event at the Olympic Games in London 2012. It was also proposing that the best 28 players from the ranking list, after the 2011 World Championships, would be directly qualified (increased from 20 in Beijing), with a maximum of 2 players from each Association. The other qualifiers would come from the Continental qualifications and the Final World Qualification. Mr. Neil Harwood insisted that whatever playing systems and rules that were decided should be clearly defined and explained to the players in good time.

6.2 AGM (30th April 2009)

The Annual General Meeting was scheduled to take place on 30th April at the Shin-Yokohama Prince Hotel.

6.2.1. Elections procedures

Election procedures for President, Executive Vice-Presidents and Board of Directors was discussed and finalised.

6.2.2. Board of Directors election

Two particular cases of late nominations from Asia and Europe were discussed and the EC decided, according to the rules, not to accept any late nominations.

6.2.3. Financial statements presentation

The audited financial reports for 2007 and 2008 were presented together with a 4-year budget provision as well as a letter of recommendation from the auditors to accept the financial statements. Item referred to the AGM.

6.3 Board of Directors

The proceedings for the Board of Directors Meeting to be held on 3rd May 2009 were discussed.

6.4. Women's Forum

It was reported that the forum for Athletes' organised by the Women's Working Group shall take place on 4th May 2009 at the Yokohama Arena.

6.5. Executive Committee 2

The second session of the Executive Committee was scheduled to take place on 5th May 2009.

7. Eligibility issues

7.1. Norway

A particular case of eligibility concerning a former Chinese player in Norway was discussed at length and rejected.

7.2. Luxembourg

The case presented by Luxembourg was discussed and rejected.

7.3. Monaco

The request from Monaco was studied and rejected. However, it was said that if any of the players had ever taken part in a world championship, they would be allowed to play, if not they would have to withdraw. However, the JTTA would arrange some possibilities of practice and play for the players from Monaco and in compensation the ITTF would invite them to participate in a Pro Tour event (to be decided).

8. Athletes' Commission update

It was decided that Ms Claude Bergeret would be recommended to the BoD to be appointed, on a temporary basis, the Chairman of the Athletes' Commission and would be requested to put in place a system for electing the Athletes' Commission members and its Chairperson. Ms. Bergeret was requested to present a final proposal to the EC within 6 months to be presented by the EC to the AGM in Moscow.

9. TT-Master Court case

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the court case between the ITTF and TT-Master had not been finalised yet and a third hearing was scheduled for the 9th of June in Lausanne. Mr. Adham Sharara said that the BoD would be requested to hand over power to the EC to deal with the situation and new information would be given to all after the next hearing.

10. Any other business

- All present were invited to attend the reception offered by Butterfly.
- M. George Segun explained that he would not be seeking re-election at the next AGM and thanked all his colleagues in the EC for their support and collaboration over the past years. M. Adham Sharara said that M. Segun would be asked to remain as a Senior Policy Consultant to the President and the EC.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17h38.

Meeting Chairman. Adham Sharara