

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Mitras meeting room, Sheraton Grand Doha Hotel, Doha
09h00, Friday 9 December 2016

MINUTES

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

- The President welcomed all of the Executive Committee members and staff and special notes of thanks were addressed to Khalil Al-Mohannadi (Deputy President) for hosting the Seamaster Qatar 2016 World Tour Grand Finals, ITTF Star Awards and the Executive Committee meeting in Doha.
- The Deputy President also welcomed everyone and hoped all participants enjoyed the Star Awards Gala. It was further noted that he is looking forward to host more events in Qatar.

2. Presentation on the 2016 World Veteran Championships

- Jordi Serra (2016 World Veteran TT Championships CEO) thanked ITTF for the help and support during the championships and made a verbal and visual presentation on the successful event.
- The President thanked Jordi Serra for the presentation and explained that the ITTF is in discussion to integrate the World Veteran Championships in the ITTF competition programme.

3. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
Patrick Gillmann	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sorling	Executive Vice-President

Vladimir Samsonov Athletes Commission Chair

In attendance

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President
Vicky Eleftheriade	Recording Secretary

Jordi Serra JSC Consulting CEO (Agenda item 2)
Zoltan Bencsik Results & Ranking Manager (Agenda item 7.7)

4. Approval of the agenda

The Executive Committee approved the agenda with the addition of three new items:

- 8.6. Confidentiality of contracts

- 13.5. Joola tables at the 2016 WJTTC
- 14.2. Eligibility

5. Minutes

5.1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings

- The minutes of the meeting on 5 August 2016 were ratified and signed by the President.
- The minutes of the previous meeting (1 October 2016) were approved and signed by the President.

5.2. Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda

- There was no further business, not covered by the agenda.

5.3. Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings

- As previously decided, an "Action List" will replace the Task List, distributed two weeks after each meeting.
- From the five remaining points on the task list, creation of the Working Group on service rules was in progress; two items regarding equipment will be discussed under Equipment agenda; two points were pending for a long time (constitution review and online platform for URC).

6. Operations Program

6.1. 2017 AGM and BoD

6.1.1. Timelines and key dates

- First version of timelines related to the 2017 WTTTC was distributed, listing key dates for competition management and operation.
- The dates for both meetings (2017 AGM and BoD) are fixed and the notices were already sent out.
- The CEO informed that it was initially proposed to release the WTTTC Prospectus on 30 November 2016, but this will be delayed by few days, as not all details are available.

6.1.2. Propositions and resolutions from the EC

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) has already sent out the call for propositions, to which a form is attached, in order to receive proposals in a uniform and proper format, for easier integration in the regulation clauses.
- For propositions from the EC an earlier deadline will be fixed to allow time for better internal coordination.

6.1.3. Merit Awards applications

- The first deadline of 30 November 2016 was extended by one week to receive more applications. At the end 7 applications were verified and evaluated by the Executive Vice President in charge and by the Nominations Committee Chair with the conclusion that four persons met the criteria:
- There was a discussion if all four should be awarded, or - insisting on the EC decision earlier for the Merit Award directives – to select 3 of them and one would receive the next year.
- Finally it was agreed to give the award exceptionally to all who qualified, while maintaining the approved directives.

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The Executive Committee resolved to award the Merit Awards at the 2017 AGM to Mr Chan Foong Keong, Mr Philippe Hao Thyn Voon, Mr Olabanji Oladapo and Mr Shahrokh Shahnazi.

6.2. Governance and integrity

6.2.1. Code of Ethics and Prevention of Manipulation

- Since the last meeting, the Director (Operations & Olympic Games) submitted the document to the IOC for feedback, which was received. Few EC members and staff also sent suggestions for changes, most of them only cosmetic. The Executive Vice President in charge asked Sara Sutcliffe for final comments, and soon the document will be ready to be sent to the Rules Committee Chair for reviewing the parts affecting the ITTF constitution. A clear timeline has to be followed in order to be on time for submitted the necessary propositions.

6.2.2. Terms of Reference for Committees

- The Executive Vice President in charge noted that most of the changes are editorial, except the ToR for the Para TT Committee (present Para TT Division).
- The CEO gave a summary of the main changes:
 - **All ToRs:** to change all ToRs to clarify that the chairperson is one of the elected members and not additional member, in line with the 2014 BoD decision.
 - **All ToRs:** a question was raised if the Executive Vice President assigned for each Committee should have a voting right in the Committee. Majority of the EC members agreed that the Staff Member, the Executive Vice President in charge and the President and the CEO should not have voting rights. The relevant points in the ToR have to be updated accordingly, adding note of having no voting right.
 - **Equipment Committee:** the proposal from the committee, suggesting that the chairperson appoints the deputy chairperson, was not accepted, as it would be inconsistent to the appointment of deputy chairpersons for other committees. However it was stated that the deputy is always appointed after consulting with the potential chair.
 - **Veterans Committee:** it was noted that for there will be no increase in number of full members, but the President of the Swaythling Club International will be one of the 6 full members.
 - **Para Table Tennis Committee:** the Para TT Division will be transformed into a Committee, and the ToR is modified to be in line with all other Committees.
 - **Athletes Commission:** it was proposed not to make any other major modification now, instead to make a full review after the 2017 WTTC, but before the election of the new AC in 2018. The only changes made are adding the deputy chairperson position and clarifying that an IOC Athletes' Commission member becomes automatically an additional member of the AC.
 - **Junior Commissioner:** The Junior Commissioner is invited to attend the annual Development, Junior and Continental Council (DJCC) meeting, involving the Continental Presidents or their appointee. The Continental Junior Commissioners will have similar status as continental technical correspondent of the Technical Commissioner.

2-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the updated Terms of Reference for the ITTF committees with the proposed changes, and requested the Director of Operations to publish them in connection with the nominations for the ITTF Committees for 2017-2019.

6.2.3. Consent form for players

- It was requested by the President to create consent form for players to comply with all the ITTF rules, including the anti-doping; to be bound to image and data protection rights, to regulate insurance and arbitration.
- All players have to sign it online through their National Association one time (players in database), or when entered first time for an ITTF sanctioned event (new players). The online system should be in place from January 2017.
- As a next step, all participants (coaches, team leaders, officials) will need to sign the form.
- Each person has to sign once, except minors who need to sign again when they become adults.

6.2.4. ASOIF questionnaire

- The summary of the ASOIF Governance Task Force Report from April 2016 was shared with the EC members.
- ASOIF has sent to each member IF a self-assessment questionnaire to conduct a survey.
- The questionnaire has to be returned by end of January 2017.

6.3. Handbook 2017

- The Rules Committee finalized the handbook changes in April 2016. Since then, on-line updates were made twice, and the 2017 Handbook has been sent to printer in November. Hard copies will be posted to all National Associations in December.

6.4. Membership application – Bahamas

- The President, the Deputy CEO and the Director (Development) met with Bahamas NOC President in Rio, during the Olympic Games. They have now formed their National Association, with their first course pending and equipment on the way. All documentation for ITTF memberships was provided to the EC and unanimously approved to be submitted to the 2017 AGM for final approval.
- It was further noted that Bahamas requested to be member of North America due to their geography.
- Excluding Bahamas only three countries are remaining to have every country on Earth as an ITTF member:
- **Eritrea:** was already approved at the previous EC meeting to be submitted to the 2017 AGM.
- **Cape Verde:** there was a meeting with them as well in Rio. The Director (Development) will lead the first course in January. Equipment is on the way. An ITTF membership application is expected to be submitted for the 2017 AGM.
- **Guinea Bissau:** there was a meeting with them as well in Rio, ongoing communication.
- It was noted that we should perhaps consider changing the 6-month membership notice, as it's rarely implemented and has no real reason nowadays.

3-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee endorsed the application of Bahamas for ITTF membership to be presented to the 2017 AGM for approval to be the 224th member of the ITTF.

6.5. Membership recognition issues

The following membership recognition issues were reported:

- **Nepal:** in May an election was scheduled and there were two disputed reports about it. The NOC and Sport Ministry decided to call a second election on 14 November 2016, which the second party declined to attend. The current President was finally re-elected and the NOC and Sport Ministry have informed the ITTF officially about the results, which are considered as official. The second party informed that they would take this case to the Supreme Court.
- **Uganda:** the current President had a 4-year mandate up to October 4, 2016. On 1 October 2016 a meeting was held and it was voted to extend the mandate until January 2017, when the new election is scheduled, which the opposition group objected. A further update will be given in January 2017.
- **Comoros:** the President stepped down and a new election was held. The NOC did not yet confirm, informing that the election was held without their notification, and was arranged by Government Ministry. There will be further follow up and an update when available.
- **Kuwait:** a query was made about hosting a self-funded ITTF-PTT L1 Coach Education course in Kuwait. It was agreed that the course could go ahead being self-funded.

6.6. Update on ITTF Head Office

- It was announced the ITTF Head Office will move to a 216 m² office space in the new building of the "Maison du Sport International (MSI)", with the construction to be ready for 1 April 2018. Among other benefits, it will be important to have more interaction with other IFs.
- The ITTF will rent out the current office space and keep only some storage space. It was noted that the financial conditions were checked and approved by the President and Executive Vice President in charge of finance. A first estimation is that it will be more profitable for ITTF to rent out the current office space and to move to MSI.
- All services are included in the annual rent of CHF 103,500 and some incentives were given (i.e. 3 months free rent) in return of signing a 5-year rental contract.

4-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to approve moving the ITTF Head Office to the Maison du Sport International as of April 2018 and same time renting out the current office space at the ITTF building.

7. Competition Program

7.1. Future Events Working Group update

- The Executive Vice President in charge submitted the draft report from Deloitte (external consultant company hired for the project) with a brief summary. It was reported that Deloitte's extensive study was delivered just before the EC meeting, and that it is important to know the financial implications of the future event structure for better evaluations.
- The EVP in charge asked the EC to extend his and the Working Group mandate to continue the work and suggested to make an economic feasibility study before making the final recommendation. Deloitte gave a quote of USD 42'500 to complete this task.
- Most of the EC members was in favour of completing the project, as it is in the middle of the process. Even if Deloitte's final recommendation will not be fully followed by the ITTF, the study can serve as a useful tool to find the optimal event model for the ITTF.
- One of the Executive Vice Presidents noted that our federation is big and the sport is universal, and reading the report, he disagreed to see the tendency to reduce the number

of participants at WTTC. In his opinion the African members will not support this option and strongly suggested to let the AGM to decide on this topic.

- The President explained – and considered very important to communicate clearly – that there was no final decision made on the competition structure, and that the Working Group has to give proposal to the EC, who will then make a proposition to the BoD. The BoD will make the final decision on any competition structure change beyond 2020 only.
- The only decision made was the one of the BoD in 2016 to have 72 men and 72 women teams at the 2018 World Championships, and the Working Group was in agreement with it.
- The only decision pending for the 2018 WTTC is how to allocate the 72 spots, to be decided by the 2017 BoD.
- On a discussion about letting any decision about the WTTC numbers to the AGM, it was noted that the AGM only ratifies the work of the BoD and EC confirming if the BoD and the EC have made decisions according to the rules (and not overruling decisions).
- It was repeated that the issue was addressed because the WTTC becoming more and more difficult to organize, and from commercial point of view it needs a change to make it competitive. Very important to keep this work going on, and to prove to Continental Federations the financial potentials. The aim is to increase the marketing income also on continental level. Currently 120-130 NAs participate at the WTTC and 90% of these teams are invisible around the world, not getting TV and media coverage at all.
- Majority of the EC members was in favour to approve the additional budget and to complete the project. The Working Group has to submit their final report to the 2017 BoD, as the WG received the mandate from the BoD.

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The Executive Committee resolved (with one abstention) to approve the additional budget of USD 42'500 for an economic feasibility study, necessary for completion of the Future ITTF Events Structure project.

6-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee resolved (with one abstention) to extend the mandate of the Future Event Working Group with the request to submit the final report with recommendations to the 2017 Board of Directors.

7.2. New World Ranking system

A detailed presentation was done by Zoltan Bencsik (Results & Ranking Manager), explaining the main principles:

- The new WR system is based on a concept of encouraging players to compete as there are no loss of points when losing matches.
- Only bonus points are awarded for the final position reached at the tournament and according to a point table.
- The new WR system will consider the top 8 results of the last 12-month results, except the ones for Olympic Games and World Championships.
- There will be separate ranking lists for each age category.

Discussion took place on:

- The late cancellation policy hopefully will help to avoid last minute withdrawals.
- In regards to the special seeding in case of injury, the considered period might change after the tests.

- Pregnancy will be treated the same way as injury policy with the wording to be adjusted. The special seeding in case of injury will be immediately withdrawn in case the player takes place in any other events.
- It should be discussed further if a doctor certificate is requested in case of injury, and how the injuries can be justified and controlled (ITTF doctor?).
- The Athletes Commission Chair requested that ITTF should be 100% sure that the system is working before implemented.
- It was suggested that the new WR system is implemented on 1 January 2018, with potential adjustments, based on the feedback received in the next 6 months.

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The Executive Committee resolved to approve the basic principles of the new World Ranking system proposed by the World Ranking Working Group, with due date to become effective 1 January 2018. The Executive Committee reserves the right for adjustments, based on comments received in the next 6 months. The new ranking will be run and published in 2017 parallel with the official ranking as a test.

7.3. 2016 World Cadet Challenge and World Junior Championships

Report was submitted on both events by the Executive Vice President in charge, evaluating them as successful tournaments.

The Executive Vice President in charge, reported about the Junior Commissioner meeting few days before the EC meeting, and presented a list of recommendations to the EC for discussion and approval. There was an agreement that it was difficult to give consideration to the points submitted during the meeting, without studying them before, and that not all these proposals have to be referred to the EC, for instance those related to sport specific technical details.

Proposals for the World Cadet Challenge:

- Change the hotel requirements from 4 stars to acceptable level: the EC agreed with the removal of the 4 stars hotel requirement and instead adding to the Directives: "the official hotel has to be approved by the Competition Manager".
- Number of umpires Tables x 2 + 4: the EC agreed that the specific event Directives can regulate it differently from the Directives for Match Officials.
- Increasing the Mixed Doubles pairs from 16 to 32: the EC approved.
- Two inspection visits before the WCC should include a 1st visit 8-12 months in advance of the WCC and a 2nd visit 2-4 months in advance and CM arriving 3 days before the Training Camp: no need for EC decision, it has to be coordinated internally with the programme staff in charge, though the EC supported the idea.
- Streaming service to replace the TV Production: the EC agreed with the replacement, and requested the Singapore office to explore the ITTF taking over the streaming service from the organisers to make it at same level at all junior events.
- Fixed ITTF contribution payment of USD 75 000: has to be specified and agreed once all organisational conditions are clarified after the proposed changes.
- WCC bids decision by the EC instead of the BoD: the reason is that bids are sometimes late, and no time to wait for BoD meeting, sometimes organisers are targeted instead of bidding process. The EC approved to send this proposition to the 2017 BoD.

Proposals for the World Junior Championships:

- Change the hotel requirements from 4 stars to acceptable level: the EC agreed with the removal of the 4 stars hotel requirement and instead adding to the Directives: "the official hotel has to be approved by the Competition Manager".
- Junior Commission meeting and 3 nights free hospitality for Continental Junior Commissioners are removed, and responsibility given to DCC with the Continental Presidents or their representatives at DJCC: the EC approved with the right to have the Continental Junior Commissioners attending the second half of the DJCC meeting at their cost.
- Review of system of qualification:
 - a) Reducing to 16 teams (instead of 20) as follows: Asia 3, Europe 3, Africa 2, Pan-America 3 (2+1), Oceania 1, Host 1, WR 3, but with max. 5 teams per continent (excluding the host team) and all qualifiers must participate in the continental qualifications.
 - b) If 16 teams, WJTTC Singles: 80 (instead of 96) with 64 from teams + 16 WR
The EC confirmed that there has to be a formal proposal from the Junior Commissioner to the BoD, to be jointly proposed with the EC, if agreed when the EC review the propositions at its next meeting.
- Streaming service to replace TV Production: the EC agreed with the replacement, and requested the Singapore office to explore the ITTF taking over the streaming service from the organisers to make it at same level at all junior events.
- (Only if 20 teams remains) Number of umpires Tables x 2 + 4: the EC agreed that the specific event Directives can regulate it differently from the Directives for Match Officials.
- 2 Inspection visits before the WJTTC should include a 1st visit 8-12 months in advance of the WC and a 2nd visit 2-4 months in advance and CM arriving 3 days before the event: no need for EC decision, it has to be coordinated internally with the programme staff in charge, though the EC supported the idea.

Proposal for the Global Junior Program:

- Full-time GJC Program Manager to be requested: the EC agrees in principle that there should be one dedicated staff and a solution will be sought internally.
- The EVP in charge suggested to review the scholarship system for the SCI-ITTF Fair Play Award at the World Junior Championships.

8-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to approve and referred the Junior Commissioner's recommendations as listed above.

7.4. LIEBHERR 2017 World Championships update

7.4.1. Coordination visit report

- A coordination visit was held on 4 and 5 October 2016 in Dusseldorf by an 8-member delegation led by the Deputy President. Organizers were represented by DTTB, TMG and the Event Venue Management, the cooperation during the visit was excellent.
- The venue is brand new with excellent facilities. There will be two halls for competitions and one for practice, plus lot of meeting rooms, all under one roof.
- A concern was expressed regarding visa application: because of the stricter rules inside Schengen area, there will be no deadline for visa applications. Instead, the organizers encourage all participants to apply for the visa as soon as possible, and the online entry system will therefore open earlier than usual.

- The hotels are of good standards, and the ITTF hotel is in the city centre.
- It was noted that the organizers promised to take into consideration the Ramadan which is during the WTTC.

7.5. 2017 ITTF World Tour and ITTF Challenge

7.5.1. Main changes

- Discussion on the new concept of the ITTF World Tour started in September 2015, when the EC entrusted few officials and staff in charge of World Tour to deal with it.
- The main changes document - included in the EC support documents - was already sent out to the organizers during the bidding process.
- The Athletes Commission Chair requested if possible to reverse the decision of 4 days Main Draw to 3 days Main Draw for several reasons. The Marketing Director noted that the work was done as a group, involving AC representative, and that was the final conclusion of the group to provide better sport presentation by adding one day to the Main Draw in World Tour.
- The Athletes Commission Chair requested to increase the minimum prize money requirements, at least for the WT. The Marketing Director noted that hopefully ITTF will find new overall title sponsor and also in the new WT structure more sponsorship rights are released to the organizers, so on long term it should result in increasing the prize money.
- It was noted that in the overall ITTF budget the marketing income is spent on the competition programme, therefore if marketing income increases, then there could be an increase in prize money.
- In reply to the Athletes Commission Chair's inquiry about the players' services, it was noted that it is added as new Annex to the 2017 WT Directives.

7.5.2. Final calendar

- The 2017 World Tour and Challenge calendar and official documents were published in November.
- In 2017 there will be 12 World Tour events (6 WT Platinum, 6 WT) and 11 Challenge events as a separate Series and not connected to the World Tour, overall offering USD 2.66 million prize money.

9-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to ratify the 2017 World Tour and Challenge calendar, prize money and main changes document.

7.5.3. Multi balls (use of multiple balls for competitions)

- Since Rio 2016 Olympic Games ITTF receives proposals to play matches with multiple balls, instead of spending "dead" time by picking up balls. It was suggested to try at the World Tour events by equipment manufacturers and also by Competition programme staff.
- It was confirmed that several National Leagues already has this rule without issues, the implementation only depends on the quality and quantity of balls.
- The Director of Competition was requested to coordinate the implementation of the experiment on the 2017 World Tour and Challenge.

7.6. World Cup

7.6.1. Substitution policy

- “4.6 Substitutions after the entry closing date shall be decided by the ITTF” needs a clarification on the World Cup qualification and playing system document that for such cases there is no requirement to participate in the Continental Cup. The Director of Competition was requested to update the document accordingly.

7.6.2. 2018 Men’s and Women’s World Cup

- Three bids were received for the 2018 Men’s World Cup: Brazil (Rio de Janeiro), France (Paris) and Germany (no city specified).
- An inspection visit took place in Disneyland with positive evaluation report, the venue transformation costs raised as the only concern. Otherwise the French TTF’s bid was very attractive, popular destination with comfortable transport and hospitality conditions. There will be a basketball match in the venue in February 2017, and could be checked in operation.
- The Director of Operations & Olympic Games was requested to check with IOC if Paris – as 2024 Olympic Games candidate city – is entitled to be nominated as host city of a world title event in the bidding period.
- Germany hosted the event twice in the last 3 years.
- One of the major sponsors has a preference for European or Asian location.
- It was noted that Competition and Marketing staff considers Disneyland (Paris) as a good potential.

10-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to allocate the organization of the LIEBHERR 2018 Men’s World Cup to the French TTF in Disneyland/Paris, pending a confirmation if IOC approval is needed for Paris as a 2024 Olympic Games Candidate City.

8. Marketing and Promotion Program

8.1. Marketing update

- Two sponsorship agreements were recently concluded:
 - DHS as the ball supplier for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games
 - Go Daddy (internet company) signed contract on 7 December 2016 to be a major sponsor for the Seamaster Qatar 2016 World Tour Grand Finals.

8.2. ITTF-TMS – transfer implementation

- It was noted that transfer of rights has been done with each partner, all sponsors are aware about the changes and have no objection to it. Three companies requested to receive original transfer of rights agreement, so execution takes more time.
- The TMS Managing Director confirmed that TMS has followed the contractual agreement and informed all companies in time. He also noted that he discussed in Budapest the transition with the ITTF CEO and ITTF Marketing Director to be ready to start from 2017.

8.3. Star-Awards Gala 2016, 90th ITTF anniversary

- The Marketing Director noted that the Seamaster Qatar 2016 Star Awards were probably the best so far, with really good cooperation with QTTA. The Star Awards is a nice event and has grown beyond the imagination since this initiative first started.
- It was noted that EC members received comments from some sponsors, stating that reaching this level in only four years is quite a good achievement.

8.4. New web-site

- The Marketing Director noted that the new website is almost fully running and in the next period few problems are expected to occur and improvements will be done, but overall we are slowly getting a decent website.

8.5. TTX – urban table tennis

- TTX was launched in Rio, during the Olympic Games. It was a soft launch to announce that this is coming and in the meantime there has been work on equipment, mainly the racket and ball.
- The process of equipment is that some specifications were defined about racket and balls and feedback was requested by manufacturers, through an online survey.
- TTX is the chance to take the ITTF to the mass of people.

8.6. Confidentiality of contracts

- The TMS Managing Director explained that most of the commercial contracts, transferred from TMS to ITTF, have a clause about confidentiality and it is vitally important that ITTF establishes policy and practice to respect it.
- TMS Managing Director received a complaint from one of the main sponsors, that confidential figures were published in an article, that is why it had to be brought up on EC level.
- The President and the CEO will follow up the specific case with the sponsor.

9. Development, Education & Training Program

9.1. World Cadet Challenge films

- A Hopes and Education films were planned for WCC. Unfortunately Joachim Davy was unavailable. A chance connection was made with an Italian company, and so the opportunity was taken to create two WCC videos (3 minutes and 5 minutes), as in 14 years there has not been a film produced about the WCC, as well as the originally planned Hopes Video and Education videos

9.2. DETPO and CASO staff positions

- DETPO (Development and Education & Training Projects Officer): Three halftime positions were advertised-Development Projects Officer (DPO), Education & Training Projects Officer (ETPO) and Coach Accreditation Scheme Officer. Finally two part time positions were combined to one full time position, DETPO. Daniela Gomes was hired halftime from 1 October 2016, and will be full time from 1 January 2017.
- CASO: The appointment of this position is delayed with negotiations ongoing with several online education companies.

9.3. International Training Center Network

- It was noted that the International Training Centre call will be advertised before the end of the year to offer the opportunity for new centers to join the network, while existing ITC's will be verified by their annual reporting.

9.4. Olympic Solidarity – 2017-2020

- The DET Department has made a lot of effort in educating National Associations how to benefit from the Olympic Solidarity funds. Over 1.6 million dollars has been successfully applied for through various programs such as Technical Courses, Developing a National Sports Structure, Scholarships for Coaches, Scholarships for Athletes and innovative "With the Future in Mind" scholarship program.
- Refugee Athlete Support is a new project that goes well with our new initiative for Refugees.

- Athlete Career Transition is another new project very much in line with ITTF plans as well, as Vladimir Samsonov and Zoran Primorac were recently trained by IOC to lead such courses. There are plans to have the first Athlete Career Program during the 2017 Qatar Open.

9.5. Peace and Sport Award

- Peace and Sport Award World Table Tennis Day awarded as “Best Peace Initiative”: This is the second time ITTF won the Peace and Sport Award.
- International Sports Movies and TV Awards (FICTS): ITTF documentary about launching of “Table Tennis for NepALL” awarded with the “Mention d’Honneur” award. This was third time ITTF have been recognized at these awards.
- The President noted that Peace and Sport was a big recognition with the presence of royalty, heads of state, sponsors, marketing people etc. Many of other nominees’ videos included activities with table tennis.
- The Marketing Director noted that such awards are important and there is a project going on with Jonny Cowan, on how to benefit from such achievements to attract more sponsors.

10. Professional Staff update

- Habiba Besic became mother on 11 November 2016 and will therefore be on maternity leave for 5 months. Finally, instead of finding solution in-house, a new staff was hired half-time to take over some of her duties, Silvia Bernhard, graduated AISTS student, located in Lausanne. Swiss citizen (speaks English, French and Chinese beside the native German).
- The contract with the Equipment and Assigned Competition Manager, Vicky Eleftheriade was extended for 2 more years.
- The contract with the Anti-Doping Manager, Francoise Dagouret was also extended for 1 more year.
- In regards to taking over the TMS Staff to ITTF, final negotiations with the Marketing Director (partly TMS staff) and Business Development Manager (TMS Staff) will take place in December.

11. Athletes’ Commission report

- A report was submitted by the Athletes Commission Chair, as included in the agenda documents.
- In regards to the DHS balls, the AC Chair initiated to have another meeting with DHS on what can be done to produce better balls, because most of the events are played with these balls. The President noted that ITTF has discussed with all ball manufacturers several times, but will talk with DHS once more during the Seamaster Qatar 2016 WTGF.
- In regards to the complaints about the WWC:
 - Draw: The AC Chair confirmed that the Marketing Director has already explained the situation and everything is clear. It was further noted that the draw was not done late, on the contrary it took place few minutes after the last group match. It was just a special situation that the playing schedule did not allow any other option than splitting the Round of 16 matches into two days.
 - Transport: Transport indeed did not work very well, especially on the first days, but it was also the first time that Uber was used as a transport system.
 - Double rooms: The Competition Manager informed that there were no complaints received on site and that some NAs requested double rooms for players and/or players/coaches, so perhaps the players were not informed by their NA.
- The AC Chair was requested to follow up complaints from events with the CM involved, before reporting for avoidance of misunderstandings. The AC Chair confirmed that he will do that in the future.

12. Anti-doping

12.1.1. Testing plan for 2017

- The Testing plan for 2017 was submitted to the EC with more focus on out-of-competition control (60% of the total tests).

11-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the ITTF Anti-doping Testing Plan as proposed by the Anti-Doping Manager.

12.1.2. Doping Hearing Panel

- Five persons we contacted with the request to confirm their acceptance to be members of the ITTF Doping Hearing Panel (DHP), after their agreement the composition of the DHP was approved (3 medical experts, 2 legal experts):
Dr Alaa Meshref from Egypt
Dr Miguel Angel Gallo from Spain
Prof Damir Sekulic from Croatia
Mr Pierre Ketterer from Switzerland
Ms Sara Sutcliffe from England

12-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the composition of the ITTF Doping Hearing Panel of 5 persons:
Dr Alaa Meshref, Dr Miguel Angel Gallo, Prof. Damir Sekulic, Mr Pierre Ketterer, Ms Sara Sutcliffe.

12.1.3. International Level Athletes in Para TT

The proposition to modify the International Level Athletes definition in Para Table Tennis in Chapter 5 was necessary to be in line with the practice, as according to the present wording sometimes more players should have been considered as IL Athletes than the total number of ranked athletes.

13-EC-12-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to agree modifying the International Level Athletes definition in Para Table Tennis in Chapter 5, and operating the anti-doping activity accordingly, with official ratification of the modified definition expected by the 2017 BoD.

13. Equipment

13.1. Plastic ball update

- The President reported that he had two meetings with FIT, one in Budapest and one in Frankfurt. FIT wanted to stop the use of celluloid balls immediately at every level.

13.2. Approval and testing fees

- The approval and testing fees were approved until 2016 and the Equipment Manager informed that the recommendation is to maintain the fees for 2017 as well, when a new revision can be made, following the intention of adding some more tests but also perhaps changing the approval concept.

13.3. Research on CoF (coefficient of friction)

- The EC was concerned about the budget request from the Equipment Committee.
- The first equipment project is directly linked to a passed proposition, for which already initial studies were made for the costs of EUR 10.000, and it would make sense finalizing this project.
- For the second project (on ball properties) it was requested to be checked with the Equipment Committee whether the project will cost more if done later and separately to the first project, as at the moment the budgets are restricted.

14-EC-12-2016

The EC resolved to approve the budget for the project on the CoF of tables (EUR 17.500) and delayed the project about balls (EUR 25.000) to a later date if it can be realized with the same budget and separately from the first project.

13.4. Net height project

- It was noted that the quotations received were of relatively high costs and the ITTF CEO is in contact with the Swiss TTA, who offered his help find a university environment if needed. In the meantime Equipment Committee and Sports Science & Medical Committee will be requested to look into a possible research methods.

13.5. Joola tables at the 2016 WJTTC

- The ITTF President explained that the tables used at the WJTTC were not ITTF approved, and had some safety problems and just informed the EC that the Equipment Committee member in charge of tables is in contact with the company. A new update will be given later if a solution is not found.

14. Any other business

14.1. Next EC meeting and meeting planning

- It was noted that the next EC Meeting is planned to take place on 11 March 2016, in Dubai by invitation from Falcon & Associates.

14.2. Eligibility

- It was noted that this item should have been included in the agenda, but somehow missed.
- It was agreed that Bruce Burton (as EVP in charge of eligibility) and Khalil Al-Mohannadi (as proposer), together with the Rules Committee Chair, the CEO and the Results & Ranking Manager, will work on a proposal to have more simple and uniform eligibility rules.
- The Director (Operations and Olympic Games) has presented the models other sports follow and was requested to share this table with the group.

14.3. 2018 World Cadet Challenge

- Masahiro Maehara informed the EC that Japan TTA wishes to host the 2018 World Cadet Challenge. It was noted that the applications will go out soon.

15. Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 17h16.

Thomas Weikert
President

Date