

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Falcon and Associates Auditorium**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Gate Village 10, Dubai International Financial Centre, Dubai, UAE**  
**09h00, Saturday, 11 March 2017**

### MINUTES

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

- The President welcomed all the Executive Committee Members, Guests and Staff and a special note of thank was addressed to Falcon and Associates for the hospitality provided and to the UAE TT President, HE Dawoud Al Hajri, for hosting the ITTF EC in their country.
- The President introduced other guests: the Chair of the AGM, Mr Adham Sharara, the Head of Partnerships of Falcon and Associates, Mr Mohamed Al Alawi and Seamaster Chairman, Mr Frank Ji.
- Special notes of thanks were addressed to Mr Frank Ji for the now long-term partnership starting in 2017 after the fruitful cooperation at the World Tour Grand Finals 2016 in Doha, Qatar. The President mentioned that the recently signed 4-year sponsorship for the World Tour is the result of this successful cooperation, and that it will be hopefully beneficial for both parties. Last, but not least, Mr Weikert mentioned that Mr Ji is now a friend to the ITTF and also thanked him personally, not only for the sponsorship to the ITTF, but also for his engagement in table tennis all over the world.

#### 2. UAE TTA President's welcome

- The UAE TTA President, HE Dawoud Al Hajri, welcomed everyone in Dubai and thanked Falcon and Associates for hosting this EC meeting. It was mentioned that hosting such a meeting in Dubai, helps also the National Association in strengthening its relationship with the ITTF, and hopefully grow it to a long-standing relationship. Last, it was noted that Dubai could host more events in the future, helping to grow our sport expansion and continuing the association with ITTF.

#### 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 Eduardo Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Ashu Jain	Athletes Commission Representative

#### In attendance for the entire meeting

Adham Sharara	Chair of the AGM and Honorary President
Rudolf Sporrer	Rules Committee Chairman
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing & Commercial)
Vicky Eleftheriade	Recording Secretary

Note: The CEO was asked not to attend

- The Chair of the AGM and Honorary President, Mr Sharara, was given the opportunity to make a statement to the group. He said that having already been invited to the EC meeting, two days before he was asked not to attend and not to come to Dubai. He explained that he did travel because he had also been invited by the President of the UAETTA to meet about some other issues. He felt that he should attend since before the AGM there were many points on the agenda of which he should be aware.
- He reported meeting by coincidence with the President early the day before and he proposed to meet again later in the day in the presence of Petra Sorling and Bruce Burton, which happened at 16h30 that day. He proposed that he and the President meet in Frankfurt to address any points the President had and also to explain his own point of view. He explained that being de-invited was very disappointing and hurtful.
- He indicated that the President's main concern was with regards to being neutral to the elections coming up. Mr Sharara promised that he would be neutral and that any concerns they had about each other could be further discussed, probably in Frankfurt.
- The President thanked Mr Sharara and said that his words reflected what they had agreed.

#### **4. Approval of the agenda**

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

- 15.6. Omar Assar case
- 15.7. Challenge (video judgement)

#### **5. Minutes**

##### **5.1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting**

- The minutes of the previous meeting (9 December 2016) were approved and signed by the President, with a correction at point 14.1 (correct 2016 to 2017).
- Other small grammatical corrections will be sent by Bruce Burton, but with his agreement the minutes were signed, as the content of the minutes was otherwise fine.

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

There was no further business.

##### **5.3. Report and review of the action list**

No special notes from the action list, as most are anyway covered by the agenda.

#### **6. 2017 AGM and BoD (TW, AS, RC)**

##### **6.1. Reports and AGM/BoD documents**

The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) reported that:

- Every EC Member, Continental President, Committee Chair and Commissioner has already submitted his/her report.
- All documents are now in the process of proofreading, the translation is on-going and with the inclusion of propositions and resolutions, everything should be ready by the end of this month to be sent for printing and then to the National Associations.

##### **6.2. Propositions and resolutions (RS)**

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) asked the Rules Committee Chairman to go through the propositions to ensure they could be formulated as such to the AGM / BoD.
- It was noted that only the propositions by the Executive Committee will be reviewed in detail and decide on any amendments, because the other propositions must be accepted as submitted, unless otherwise amended during the AGM, by the proposing body.

- Mr Burton gave a suggestion in regard to the proposition from the Athletes Commission regarding eligibility for office, and the Athletes Commission representative, Mr Ashu Jain, appreciated it. The AC may consider an amendment to be proposed to the AGM.
- It was clarified that propositions presented by Committees and Commissioners may be supported by (and presented jointly with) the ITTF Executive Committee, but not by the Marketing Department or the Competition Program.
- The Executive Committee requested the Rules Committee Chairman to arrange meetings with all Committees / Commissioners concerned prior to the AGM and the BoD. The Rules Committee Chairman confirmed that he already contacted the Chairpersons / Commissioners concerned, for arranging a meeting.
- It was noted that the ITTF should standardize the Commissioner nominations (Technical, Junior, Women's) for the next election in 2021, as they are now inconsistent. Two have a formal nomination process and two have continental commissioners. For the new Women's Commissioner it was suggested to propose Continental Women's Commissioners, with the same rights as the Technical and Junior Continental Commissioners, to the first EC Meeting after the elections.
- It was discussed that for the 2017 appointment, the Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games), should contact directly the current Women's Commissioner to check if she would be interested to continue and for the EC to consider the incumbent and any other applicants, who showed interest for the new mandate.

### **6.3. Nominations**

The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games), reported about the deadlines for the nominations:

- 31 March 2017 for Committees and Commissioners.
- 30 April 2017 for the Board of Directors and for the Executive Committee.
- It was also noted that the call for nominations, with forms and terms of references attached, was re-distributed again by e-mail on 8 March 2017.

### **6.4. Election procedures**

The Chair of the AGM reported that:

- The Chair of the AGM, CEO, Deputy CEO and Director (Operations & Olympic Games) had a meeting on 10 March 2017, to discuss the procedures. The CEO will now prepare and send out the procedures to all concerned.
- Internal information with diagrams and procedures will also be sent to staff that will be on duty during the elections.
- The AGM procedures will be separate to the election procedures.
- A different person should run and supervise the elections and the suggestion is to appoint one of the PAC Members, who has no connection with any candidate. This will be discussed and the person will be appointed later on.
- A meeting with all key people involved in the election process including scrutineers is planned for the evening prior.

### **6.5. Proxy Notice**

Discussion took place, with the following noted:

- In regards to the notification of a proxy and the possibility to hand a proxy personally, it was noted that only the National Association giving the proxy, can hand it personally, up to three days before the AGM.
- In regards to proxies sent by e-mail there should be a proof that the notice comes from the National Association and in the case it is sent from an unofficial e-mail address (e-mail address different to the one registered in the ITTF database/directory), then the ITTF Office will verify with the National Association via the official e-mail or contacting

them by other means. The same procedure for verification will be followed in case a proxy is sent to the ITTF Office from an unofficial fax number.

- The ITTF Office is currently checking on the registered e-mails of all National Associations.
- Proxies can only be accepted in the form of an official letterhead with placement of the Proxy Form or placement of the same text, as described on the Notification of a proxy.

## **6.6. Subscription fees**

- The Executive Vice-President in charge of Finance read an e-mail sent by the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) in December 2016, in regards to the subscription fees, deducted from the continental development contribution to continents, advising that ATTU lost funding due to the non-collection of fees. The request to the ITTF is to re-consider this policy and take responsibility of collecting the fees directly by the National Associations.
- It was noted that this was part of the discussion for affiliation and each Continent have their own continental fees, so they anyway collect their fees and it's easier logistically to collect both. Especially during election years, the ITTF collecting fees could cause good governance issues, if a benefactor was to pay outstanding National Association fees with subsequent expectations.
- It was noted that the point raised about losing money is not valid, because the development program budget is based on the number of countries and could actually have opposite outcome. As an example 10 National Associations not paying fees, which would result in a saving of US\$1,500 in ITTF fees, but at the same time a loss of approximately US\$20,000 in development funds, as the formula for development funds is based on member countries, with each member country worth approximately US\$2000.
- It was further noted that the high bank charges for international transfers of such small amounts, sometimes can be as high as the actual continental or ITTF fees and will be a burden for some smaller countries, especially if they need to make two separate payments to the Continental Federation and the ITTF.
- It was decided that the Executive Vice-President (Finance) with the help of the Deputy CEO will meet with ATTU in Dusseldorf to explain the reasons of the current system. At the same time, Mr Al-Mohannadi suggested that the Executive Vice-Presidents from Asia and himself as Deputy President will also explain the above mentioned points in person to ATTU representatives, during a meeting planned on 10 or 11 April in China.

## **7. Operations Program**

### **7.1. Financial Operations (PS, RC)**

#### **7.1.1. Audited Financial Statements**

- The Executive Vice-President in charge reported that:
- The accountings for 2016 are finalized despite the Finance & Administration Manager, who is on maternity leave, could not help as much as planned, what is normal in such situations. But with the help of the Chair of the AGM, CEO and Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) the accountings were finalized.
- The Chair of the AGM has offered his help to finalize the financial reports, if requested by the Executive Committee.
- The audit is planned to start on 20<sup>th</sup> March and the audit report meeting is planned for mid April.
- The CEO has started the work with the budget.
- As discussed in the past, the need for a CFO or an external service provider is important.

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games):
- Thanked the Chair of the AGM for his help in finalizing the November/December accounting input in the accounting software.
- Highlighted the fact that ITTF should not depend on one person for such tasks.
  
- The President thanked all who helped with this work and highlighted that, as already agreed in the past, the ITTF indeed should hire a CFO or a company providing such services and this should be a task for the next EC Meeting.

#### 7.1.2. Quadrennial budget 2017-2020

The Executive Vice-President in charge reported that:

- The work about budgets has started and the CEO already involved other departments.
- It's urgent to finalize the budgets and financial reports, for the auditors and the AGM.

#### 7.1.3. Payment policy

The Executive Vice-President in charge reported that:

- All financial transactions are now done by the ITTF Headquarters in Lausanne, including the payroll, as that was the only one left in the Ottawa account.
- There was a lot of administrative work but at the end of January the first transfer of salaries took place and it works fine, with the additional advantage of no bank charges deducted on beneficiaries' end.

#### 7.1.4. Finance Committee

The Executive Vice-President in charge informed that:

- The Finance Committee exists since 2013 and in the constitution it's noted that the new EC will have to appoint a new Finance Committee.

### **7.2. Governance and integrity**

#### 7.2.1. Code of Ethics and Prevention of Manipulation (BB, RC)

- The President:
  - Thanked the Executive Vice President in charge, for the work done, because despite using the IOC's Code of Ethics document as basis, there were still a lot of modifications needed, because not everything was applicable to the ITTF needs.
  - Addressed special notes of thanks to Sara Sutcliffe, Rudolf Sporrer and others who helped on this project.
  
- The Executive Vice President in charge:
  - Gave a brief background of the work done and thanked the CEO and an Executive Committee member, who have sent their comments to the earlier draft.
  - Noted that the 2016 BoD authorised the Executive Committee to finalize and implement the document from 1 September 2016.
  - Noted that the document submitted today is close to a final document, which was already forwarded to the Rules Committee Chairman for advice, in case of conflicts with the constitution.
  
- The Rules Committee Chairman:
  - Noted that his main concern is that there are a lot of references to specific IOC principles (i.e. IOC code, Olympic Movement etc.), but the ITTF has different structure than the IOC.

- Noted that he has also checked about conflicts or overlapping between the Constitution and the Code of Ethics.
- Raised the question whether the Code of Ethics should be finalized and implemented and if any conflicts or issues they can be solved after evaluation. He further noted that from a first impression, it might be necessary to change about twenty points, some minor, in the constitution, but it's now too late and any such propositions need to be submitted to the 2018 AGM.
- The President noted that his advice would be to implement the Code of Ethics and evaluate possible changes in the Constitution, for submission to the 2018 AGM.
- The Executive Vice President in charge, noted that he is aware that should be more references to ITTF documents, but the ITTF still does not have developed these sections in its Constitution.
- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) noted that IOC have just sent their feedback on 10 March 2017 and will be reviewed before finalizing the document.
- It was decided that the Executive Vice President in charge, the Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) and the Rules Committee Chairman should meet on 12 March 2017 in Dubai, review and take into consideration the evaluation from the IOC, adjust any minor points in question and send a final version (with changes highlighted) to all Executive Committee members for approval by e-mail. Once this is done the document will be implemented starting from 1 July 2017 and any clashes or overlapping between the Code of Ethics and Constitution they will be clarified at the next AGM in 2018. In case of conflicts between 01 July 2017 and the 2018 AGM, it will be the work of the Ethics Commission to solve the problem
- It was further noted that the Code of Ethics will be the Chapter 6 of the ITTF Handbook, with current numbering adopted and will be submitted to the 2017 BoD just for ratification, as it was already approved last year with the work entrusted to the Executive Committee.
- As to the appointment of an Ethics Code Officer, this will be a task of the new Executive Committee.

#### **1-EC-03-2017**

The Executive Committee resolved to the implementation of the Code of Ethics starting on 1 July 2017, following the final approval process as described above.

#### **7.2.2. LATTU correspondence (TW, RC)**

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games), listed a number of facts about this case:
- When the new LATTU board was elected in 2015 and during the transition of the board activities, it was found that a Fixed Term Deposit of US\$25,000 was blocked and could not be transferred to the new LATTU board.
- The LATTU President asked Mr Melecio Eduardo Rivera to help in getting the money back. Mr Rivera undertook this task and asked the ex-Treasurer (Mr Luis Salazar from El Salvador), several times, to release this money from his personal account.
- The money with the earned interest, were finally transferred on 27 December 2016.



- Despite this, and possibly on miscommunication due to New Year holidays, on 3 January 2017 the President of LATTU has sent a letter with sanctions and suspension of the National Federations of El Salvador, Venezuela and a list of people including Mr Rivera, based on a decision of the General Meeting of LATTU held in Peru on 28 October 2016 indicating that the funds were not received.
- On 9 January 2016, the persons suspended have sent a letter of appeal to LATTU.
- In the meantime ITTF has also received an official letter from LATTU, asking for suspension, and after consulting with the Rules Committee an answer with the possibilities was sent.
- On 26 January 2017 the President of LATTU responded to the ITTF indicating that they wanted to remove the request of suspension by the ITTF for the mentioned individuals, so the case was closed in this respect, although ITTF would remain vigilant about the situation of the finances.
- On 11 March 2017 a confirmation was received from LATTU President that all suspensions, except the one for the ex-Treasurer of LATTU, would be waived.

Mr Rivera noted as a conclusion, that the letter distributed in hard copies at this Executive Committee Meeting, is a short summary for the Executive Committee Members to be able to make their own judgment on the situation.

- The President noted that fortunately the suspension is lifted and this is a good decision.
- It was noted that before making any suspension it's important to have a hearing first, which didn't happen in the mentioned case.
- It was further noted that as ITTF has the affiliation of the continents, we should encourage Continental Federations to adopt policies, principles, and a hearing process in case of appeals, to avoid similar situations.
- It was last highlighted that the Executive Committee urges the Continental Federations to have accounts under the official organization, instead of personal accounts.

### **7.3. Membership application – Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau (GT)**

- The Deputy CEO:
  - Reported that constitution, formation meeting, election minutes and membership application form for both countries, have been filed by the ITTF Office. This means that the ITTF will be the first International Federation to have all countries on earth as members.
  - In regards to the two last countries the following were reported:
- Cape Verde:
  - The Director (Development Program) led the first course in Cape Verde, on 20-30 January 2017 and Stag equipment package is due to be delivered by end of March.
- Guinea-Bissau:
  - It was confirmed that a membership application was submitted.
  - The Director (Development Program) will lead the first course in Guinea-Bissau, on 27 April to 6 May 2017. The Digital Coordinator will also join for producing some videos.
  - The President will also join for the signing of the last country on earth.
  - An equipment package is being arranged.
- A question was raised on how does ITTF ensure that we keep all the NA(s) active and it was confirmed by the Deputy CEO that multi skilled specialists are sent to new member countries to help at all levels, equipment packages are also sent and each new member country is finally incorporated in the entire Development Cycle.
- It was further noted that US\$100,000 of the Seamaster sponsorship, will be allocated in Development. Half will be used for training camps and the other half will go to

supporting the four new member National Associations with “DNSS style” programs. More details under point 10.3. Seamaster Sponsorship.

- The Deputy CEO also advised that while assisting all countries on a rotation and needs basis has always been the policy, after signing all countries the focus would increasingly be to keep all National Associations active.
- It was noted that the four new member countries might affect the quota for the BoD.

### **2-EC-03-2017**

The Executive Committee resolved to support the applications for the 2017 AGM and check how/if the quota for the BoD would be affected.

## **7.4. Membership recognition issues (GT)**

The Deputy CEO, reported about the following membership recognition issues:

- Uganda:
  - There has been an on-going issue with two groups claiming to be the legitimate National Association. After much discussion elections took place on the 29 January, under the supervision of the Uganda NOC including their president.
  - ITTF and ATTF agreed that Tom Kiggundu, as ITTF BoD member, and Andrew Mudibo, as African Eastern Region President, represent ITTF and ATTF. They met with each group separately, prior to the election and counselled reconciliation. The two groups plan to meet after the elections but the alternate group finally did not attend the election. The Uganda NOC President (William Blick) and another NOC Member did attend and approved the election process, which resulted in the incumbent being re-elected.
- Comoros:
  - Comoros TTA held elections on 8 October 2016.
  - The NOC informed ITTF that they did not recognize the elections as legitimate, as they were not invited and the elections were held under the patronage of the Ministry of Sport.
  - The ITTF has been liaising with the IOC, NOC and the NA to find a solution. After multiple exchanges, the NOC invited the NA to meet and discuss, but they were reluctant and the ITTF advised them to reconcile and compromise with the NOC.

## **8. Competition Program**

### **8.1. LIEBHERR 2017 World Championships update (KA)**

- The Executive Vice President in charge reported that three inspection and meeting visits took place until now and everything seems promising. It was further noted that he believes everything will be fantastic and the hotels are in ideal locations. It was finally noted that it is very important for Ramadan, to accommodate the special conditions.

#### **8.1.1. Coordination visit report (RC, SD)**

The Director (Marketing and Commercial):

- Prepared a presentation, which covered all updates from the last two coordination visits (Frankfurt 24 January 2017 and Düsseldorf 8-9 February 2017). The presentation covered:



- Positive news announced, as the German TV confirmed some live broadcast.
- Confirmation of halal food and early breakfast availability seems to be prepared for Muslim participants.
- Several discussions about equipment took place and all was solved.
- A TTX launch event is also planned and will take place in the city-centre probably the day before the start of the WTTC.
- Other issues like visas, entries, hotels etc. were discussed and in principle there are no major issues.
- On the second meeting in Düsseldorf TV Tokyo attended and all is promising that it will be a great event.
- The Director (Competitions) was also present, coordinating the Results Management System (RMS) requirements.
- One person is dedicated for the visa applications and the process seems to be running smoothly.
- The tickets for the final three days of the WTTC are already sold out (Capacity of 9000 seats, with ~ 6000 being tickets for sale).
- The Athletes Commission representative asked about players' conditions and the Marketing and Commercial Director confirmed that everything seems to be planned as requested and promised to share information like maps, inspection reports etc., with the Athletes Commission.

#### 8.1.2. WTTC Equipment (SD)

The Director (Marketing and Commercial) reported that:

- The table colour and surrounds will be black.
- The net colour will be normal and not translucent, as discussed earlier.

#### 8.1.3. Associations with outstanding debts

The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) reported that:

- Jamaica and Kuwait were the only two cases, with outstanding payments at the end of the 2016 WTTC and both have paid.
- There may be some outstanding payments from the 2013 WTTC in France. The ITTF CEO is in contact with the FFTT and after the final entry list for the 2017 WTTC they will follow up on these cases.

### **8.2. 2017 ITTF World Tour and ITTF Challenge update (SD)**

Covered under point 9.1. Marketing update.

### **8.3. World Cups**

#### 8.3.1. World Cup qualification system (MM)

- The letter of the DTTB, addressing the World Cup qualification was discussed and it was noted by few EC Members that in general qualifying through the Continental Cups, is preferred, as this also helps the Continental events. It was decided that after checking with the Director of Competitions, a response should be sent to DTTB.
- In regards to the change of point 4.6 in the Men's and Women's World Cup Qualification System document, it was noted that this is not a change in the process, just a clarification as requested by the previous EC Meeting.

#### 8.3.2. 2018 Men's and Women's World Cup update

- The Director's (Competitions) report was enclosed and the only issue noted was the possibly small issue about the lighting, which can be solved.
- It was further noted that the IOC has confirmed, that there is no conflict with the 2024 Olympic bid and the event can be hosted as planned.

- In regards to the Women's World Cup it was noted that ITTF would need to target some National Associations for finding a host.

#### **8.3.3. World Team Cup (SD, RC)**

- The Director (Marketing and Commercial) reported that:
  - The English Table Tennis Association was already targeted, with discussions going well and should be able to confirm it in the next few months.
  - Due to the calendar being packed in 2017, the event will take place probably in January 2018, but it will be the 2017 World Team Cup.
- It was further noted that for the 2019 World Team Cup, priority should be given to Japan, as it can also serve as a test event for Tokyo 2020.

#### **8.4. Bids for 2020 World Championships (SD)**

The Director (Marketing and Commercial) reported that:

- The usual bid process is three years before the event and the plan is to send the bids out, just after the 2017 WTTC.

#### **8.5. Future Events Working Group update (SZ, SD)**

The Executive Vice President in charge reported that:

- Three meetings took already place in 2016 (Malaysia, Singapore and Brazil), with the participation of Deloitte.
- A forth meeting is already planned from 11 April 2017 in Shanghai, in order to prepare the final report for the 2017 BoD.

#### **8.6. New World Ranking system update (TW)**

The President reported that:

- As already agreed, the new world ranking system, with implementation date 1 January 2018, will be running in parallel with the current world ranking system in 2017. The Ranking Consultant has been working with the IT Consultant and they confirmed that the new world ranking system should be published on 18 March 2017, in parallel to the current one.
- In a meeting, the President and the Events Marketing & Player Services Coordinator had, with players during the WTGF in Doha (December 2016), the President explained to players that for 6 months they could give input for consideration. It was noted that, during the same meeting, players' opinions about the new world ranking system were divided to 50-50%, with some wishing for longer validity of points (48 months instead of 12 months).
- It was noted that as already decided, will anyway wait for 6 months and the newly elected Executive Committee can then make a final decision, based on the feedback received.
- The President asked the Director (Marketing and Commercial) to request the Events Marketing & Player Services Coordinator, to prepare the minutes from that meeting and also send to players after finalized.

### **9. Marketing and Promotion Program (TW, SD)**

#### **9.1. Marketing update**

The Director (Marketing and Commercial):

- Prepared a presentation, which covered all marketing updates. A brief report follows:

- It's been an extremely busy first part of the 2017, having the rights coming back in house. It feels that it was a good start and the team was quite excited to share some information through this video: <https://youtu.be/-VaTEI1DsAY>
- The video showed how the Seamaster Sponsorship has given the World Tour a massive boost with a dramatic increase in prize money and now helping organisers financially to stage events with a much higher quality of Sports Presentation. The Qatar and Indian Opens in particular were of extremely high quality with innovative social media, LED surrounds, customised lighting and many other new additions. The video also showed the signing of the TTX agreement and the fantastic results the Social Media team is having across the World.
- The contracts from TMS moved back to the ITTF with the procedure being very smooth and no issues with any of the contracts.
- All invoicing and payments are well coordinated between Lausanne and Singapore offices, with the help of the ITTF CEO.
- Regarding sponsorship there are several discussions with potential sponsors, from different parts of the world.
- A Meeting on the 22nd of January with Lagardère representatives in Frankfurt took place with the attendance of Mr Thomas Weikert, Mr Anders Thunstrom, Ms Petra Sörling, Ms Judit Farago and Mr Steve Dainton. The main topics discussed were the future of the ITTF TV broadcast situation, including Chinese TV rights, future strategies to grow the TV distribution and the fact that Lagardère are interested for a longer-term deal with the ITTF. It was reminded that Lagardère have acquired the TV rights from 2017-2020.
- The first big deal was the Seamaster sponsorship, for the 2017-2020 WT and the 2017 Challenge Brazil and Chile Open.
- A list of TV and broadcasting deals already concluded is included in the presentation and it was highlighted that this will probably be the best-ever broadcast situation in the history of ITTF.
- In regards to Continental Marketing agreements, it was noted that there is a small delay with the negotiations, but now getting close in final stages of negotiations.
- Two new hires in Marketing were announced: Jonny Cowan, Partnerships Manager and Iulia Necula, Event Marketing & Player Service Coordinator. Details are also listed under point 11. Professional Update.
- A Marketing/Media Seminar with all marketing staff took place in Singapore on 2-3 March 2017. It was noted that building a strong team helps to increase revenues and commercial opportunities for the ITTF.
- The President noted that the sales team for Asia would need to grow in the near future.
- The Executive Vice President from Oceania requested to be informed about the update on Oceania activities, as the continental representative.

## **9.2. New web-site**

- The Executive Vice President in charge noted that:

- He is currently not much involved on the new web-site progress, as he was at the beginning, but he receives feedback on positive and negative comments.
- There seems to be a need for an audit on the structure of the website and one of the most problematic areas seems to be the results section.
- There is definitely a high amount of work to be done, on the transfer from the old website.
- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) suggested that, perhaps after the 2017 WTTC, it would be good to set a strategy. Perhaps separate the website in three sections (ie. Fans, Core Website and Intranet for members).
- It was discussed and agreed that having an intranet for the ITTF Staff/Officials and also for the National Associations, is important.

### **9.3. TTX – urban table tennis**

The Director (Marketing and Commercial):

- Prepared a presentation, which covered all marketing updates, including TTX. A brief report follows:
  - Commercial deal signed with Seamaster, in Shanghai on 28 February 2017.
  - So far, it has been at no cost for the ITTF; the deal includes a minimum guarantee and profit share.
  - TTX app is now in design phase and also at no cost for the ITTF, as it's part of a commercial agreement.
  - A launch event will take place in Düsseldorf, during the 2017 WTTC.
- One of the Executive Vice Presidents raised a question, asked by equipment manufacturers who are interested to know more about the TTX Equipment. It was noted that the approval concept will be not same but similar to the current one and the technical specifications are on the final phase and will be published soon.

## **10. Development, Education & Training Program (GT)**

### **10.1. Athlete Career Pathway (ACP)**

- The Deputy CEO reported:
  - That this is a new and important project by the IOC.
  - The IOC trained targeted IF athletes in the presentation of this program, and the ITTF was represented by Vladimir Samsonov (BLR) and Zoran Primorac (CRO) for the training, which took place from 31 May to 1 June 2016.
  - Since that date, the Education and Training Department was looking for suitable multi-country events for implementation of the program but scheduling difficulties at major events made this a complicated process.
  - Finally the first presentation was scheduled during the Indian Open, on 15 and 16 February 2017 and attended by Claudia Bokel, member of the IOC Entourage Commission, Vladimir Samsonov, Athletes Commission Chairman, Polona Cehovin, Director (Education & Training), and Daniela Gomes, Development and Education & Training Projects Officer.
  - The next ACP presentation will probably take place during the WTTC and in the meantime the effort to find more options continues, with the possibility also for getting some funding through Olympic Solidarity NOC programs.
  - It was further noted that some compromises in the competition scheduling are needed, to ensure the success of this important program.
  - On a discussion about possible events, it was noted that the IOC discouraged ITTF from organizing a presentation during the World Cadet Challenge, because the players were under 15.
  - The Athletes Commission Representative noted that it would be very helpful to have a portal for athletes in the ITTF website, which could also be part of the ACP.

## **10.2. World Table Tennis Day – April 6**

- The Deputy CEO reported that:
  - Currently 120 events are registered but only 30 countries.
  - Newsletters and ideas are sent out every week and now were brainstorming on how to push and promote NA(s) to register activities.
  - It is requested that everyone encourages those they have contact with in their countries and continents to register. It can be National Association, Club, or a group of individuals.
- On the question whether the event has to be on 6 April 2017, it was clarified that it can be on any date reasonably close to 6 April 2017. More important is to update on [www.tt4all.com](http://www.tt4all.com).

## **10.3. Seamaster Sponsorship**

- The Deputy CEO reported that:
  - Part of the Seamaster World Tour sponsorship includes US\$100,000 per year for development and education & training projects. Seamaster suggested to include a link with the World Tour and training in China if possible and finally the following was agreed:
    - US\$50,000 will be allocated on training camps connected to the World Tour China Open and the China Junior and Cadet Circuit.
    - USD\$50,000/year will be allocated on “DNSS style” support for the last 4 non-ITTF members (Eritrea, Bahamas, Cape Verde-Guinea-Bissau). 2 per year for 2 years, managed by Development.
    - Normally new ITTF members have an initial course and equipment package and then move to the regular development program support, based on rotation. It was found that some countries had difficulty in this transition, so it was necessary to strengthen their foundation in the initial phase through this program.
- It was noted that the ITTF and Seamaster are very keen on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and part of the money will therefore be used on such projects. It’s a model to use for future sponsorships as well.

## **10.4. ITTF Administration Course**

- The Deputy CEO reported that:
  - As part of the ITTF DNA (Developing National Associations) philosophy, a new ITTF Administration online course will be released prior to the World Championships in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic.
  - The ITTF & Africa-Oceania Development Coordinator has been responsible for this project, working in close consultation with the IOC and it will be a course that can be done as a whole or partly to maximize the benefit for National Associations.

## **11. Professional Staff update (GT)**

- The Deputy CEO reported that:
  - Jonny Cowan was hired as Partnership Manager, with 1-year contract.
  - Iulia Necula was hired as Events Marketing & Player Services Coordinator, with a contract for 2017, with half-time engagement till the end of June 2017, then moving to full time due to prior commitments.
  - Matt Pound changed his title to Head of Communications, with 1-year contract renewal.
  - Guo Ruiling Leah was promoted to Administration & Finance Manager-Singapore with 1-year contract renewal.
  - Emese Barsai, renewed her contract for 2 years.

- Etsuko Enami, the Project Manager temporarily moved to Lausanne for 2 months and is located at the ITTF Head Office to help the administration work before the upcoming World Championships and official ITTF meetings.

## **12. Athletes' Commission report (AJ)**

The Athletes Commission representative reported briefly, based on the written report, submitted prior to the meeting, by the Athletes Commission:

- In Para TT there is no single event with prize money.
  - On a discussion about this issue, it was noted that the newly hired Partnership Manager, has been helping ITTF, previously with CSR projects and now one of his tasks as a full time staff will be to look for more partners, including the Para TT.
  - The Executive Vice President in charge noted that back in 2013, it was the first time that Marketing and Development staff were present in a Para TT meeting and the wish is to also have a professional structure in competitions. It takes time to make everything professional and on the same model as other ITTF events, but the process has started and ITTF is on the right track.
- The Athletes Commission representative thanked the President for taking the time to personally meet the players and further clarified that the request to increase the validity of points, for the new world ranking, from 12 to 48 months is not the Athletes Commission position, it's just coming from some of the players who attended the meeting.
- The Athletes Commission is overall very happy to see the improvements with the 2017 World Tour changes and thanked all who worked on this.
- In regards to the IOC Athlete Career Program it was noted that education is an ongoing and forever process and the Athletes Commission is open to help ITTF, with whatever help requested.
- In regards to the Proposition 1 it was noted that, as discussed in this meeting earlier, the Athletes Commission will suggest some amendments.
- In regards to the new balls, it was noted that DHS gets closer to a higher standard. On a general comment it was further noted that plastic is a very broad product and with different ball, players reported that it takes perhaps about 2 weeks to adjust to different brands.
  - The President promised to take this matter up in a meeting with ball manufacturers.

### **12.1. Service Working Group**

- The members of the group were identified: Shi Zhihao, Timo Boll, Ashu Jain, Graeme Ireland, Rudi Sporrer, Norman Tang and Karl Jindrak.
- It was noted that the Challenge (video judgement), should be included in the scope of this working group.
- The Rules Committee Chairman raised the necessity to at least meet once, and not only work by e-mails as discussed until now and suggested that a meeting could be organized during the WTTC.

## **13. Anti-doping**

### **13.1. WADA follow-up on McLaren "Independent Person" report (RC)**

The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) reported that:

- ITTF was invited to a meeting with WADA and IOC attended by ITTF Anti-Doping Manager, Françoise Dagouret and DOOPG Raul Calin. After five hours of meeting, including general discussion with all IFs involved, followed by an individual meeting with the WADA legal representatives attended by Françoise Dagouret, ITTF concluded that based on the available evidence in the McLaren report and results of its own follow-up investigation to date, it shall not bring forward any proceeding.



## **14. Equipment**

### **14.1. Plastic ball update (TW, VE)**

- The President noted that he had a lot of meetings with ball manufacturers, and as promised to the Athletes Commission Representative earlier in this meeting, that he will try to organize a meeting during the 2017 WTTC.
- The Equipment Manager noted that samples of the new DHS D40+ balls were distributed to players during the Qatar and India Open and asked the Athletes Commission to encourage players to send their feedback.
- On discussion about the ball quality, it was noted that more manufacturers are now using ABS and the only difference is that such balls have reduced spin.
- One of the Executive Vice Presidents reported that he received some complaints from a ball manufacturer about the sudden bounce change.
  - The Equipment Manager explained that this question was already answered by e-mail and that the change was officially approved by the 2016 BoD.
  - On this discussion it was further noted that it is always recommended to consult with different bodies, before any changes.

### **14.2. Net height project**

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) reported that:
  - All details were already sent by e-mail from the ITTF CEO to the Executive Committee, on 21 February 2017.
  - The study will be conducted in Slovenia, under the supervision of the SSMC Chairman, with a budget of EUR 4,300 and the 2nd SSMC workshop session in Düsseldorf during the WTTC would be dedicated to this topic, with involvement of experts and the Swiss TTF, as proposer.
  - The Executive Committee resolved to go ahead with the project and the budget of EUR EUR 4,300.

#### **3-EC-03-2017**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the budget of EUR 4,300 for the net height study, to be conducted in Slovenia, under the supervision of the SSMC Chairman.

### **14.3. T4 Technical Leaflet update (VE)**

- The Equipment Manager reported that:
  - Most of the changes in the T4 Technical Leaflet are administrative or editorial.
  - The most important change is the one restricting authorization, to suppliers who are anyhow associated with illegal substances.
- The EC agrees with the principle, but with a request to the Equipment Committee to review the text and make it clearer and in line with the rationale of this change.

## **15. Any other business**

### **15.1. Next EC meetings**

- It was noted that the next EC Meetings are planned to take place on 28 May 2017 and 5 June 2017, in Düsseldorf.

### **15.2. Proposal to IOC on Tokyo 2020 OG event program (RC)**

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games):

- Thanked all the Staff (ITTF CEO, Marketing and Commercial Director, Head of Communications, Digital Coordinator, Results and Ranking Manager) and the EC Members (with special notes of thanks to Bruce Burton) who contributed to prepare the proposal and the videos, which were included in the proposal.
- Noted that as agreed two separate propositions were submitted and the IOC staff in charge, appreciated the professional presentation made by ITTF and the two videos. The final decision will be made in July.
- The President noted that on some communication he personally had with the IOC President, he was informed that if Tokyo 2020 is supporting then the chances are higher.
- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) thanked JTTA for meeting Tokyo 2020 representatives (Mr Morita) for promoting the application and also for planning another meeting soon for the same purpose.

### **15.3. Para TT meeting update (PS, RC)**

- The Executive Vice President in charge and the Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games):
  - Reported that the last Para TT meeting, which took place in Copenhagen, was positive.
  - Reinstated that with the current structure of Para TT calendar it's impossible to sell it as a product, therefore the goal is to restructure first and then start promoting. It was further noted that during the meeting it was explained the future structure.
  - Reported that in regards to the 2018 WPTTC bids (Germany, Italy, Denmark, Slovenia and Morocco) it was decided to shortlist Denmark and Slovenia. Inspections will follow and the allocation will be the last made by the Division. In the future, World Championships should be allocated by the ITTF BoD.
  - Noted that a person will be hired to run the Para TT Competitions.
  - Thanked Pablo Perez and the Development Staff for producing the Classification Manual.
  - Noted that, during the Para TT meeting, it was observed that activities in Oceania are increasing and the work done by Christian Holtz, and the financial support of the Australian Government, has certainly been a key factor.

### **15.4. Expert Group proposed by SSMC (RC)**

- It was noted that before creating another group it will be recommended that SSMC chair discuss with the Equipment Committee chair as this topic was already presented to EC before.

### **15.5. Eligibility Working Group (KA, BB)**

- The Executive Vice Presidents in charge:
  - Noted that it was decided to start working after the WTTC in Dusseldorf.

### **15.6. Omar Assar case**

- The President reported about the incident:
- During the World Tour in Doha, at the lobby of the hotel, Assar Omar kicked Khalil Al-Mohannadi. The ITTF President and the Athletes Commission Chairman met Omar Assar and suggested to him to apologize to Khalil Al-Mohannadi, but he didn't do so while in Doha. It was further noted that the Egypt TTF President, who was also in Doha, spoke with the player during the event trying to convince him to apologize, also unsuccessfully.
- Following the event, a hearing was conducted by the Egypt TTF with the player, and the ETTF board decided to suspend Omar Assar from participation of any international events until 30 June 2017 and also applied a penalty fee of LE 200,000.

- Khalil Al-Mohannadi noted:
  - That he wants to forget this, as he recognizes that Assar Omar is the best Arab player, reason why he invited him many times to events in Qatar, also offering him free hospitality.
  - Noted that this action is not normal and further suspects that someone may have instigated Omar Assar to do this, reason why he is asking the Executive Committee to take this into consideration.
  - Noted that he could have insisted on local law, with Assar Omar possibly spending some time in jail, but for the good for table tennis he did not report the incident to the police.
- It was noted that an apology letter was sent on 3 March 2017, before the Egypt TTF hearing on 8 March 2017.
- It was further noted that this incident, maybe shows the need to have rules about protection of officials and players during events.

#### **4-EC-03-2017**

The Executive Committee, with the agreement of the Deputy President victim of the incident, resolved to acknowledge, respect and endorse the decision of the ETTF, thank the ETTF for their approach in this matter and look at rules about protection of ITTF stakeholders.

#### **15.7. Challenge (video judgement)**

- One of the Executive Vice Presidents noted that:
  - Nowadays there are more and more questionable points during matches and this is where Challenge (video judgment) can help table tennis.
  - Informed that JTTA is ready to support and have this tested at the World Tour, Japan Open.
- The Director (Marketing and Commercial) noted that:
  - Any way to bring this new technology into the sport and create some drama will help, whether it's a challenge about service, edge points or other questionable points.
  - He is aware that TV Tokyo is very interested on technology, statistics etc., and trying this at the World Tour Japan Open can only be interesting.
  - The EC agrees with experiments taking place at the World Tour Japan Open.

#### **16. Adjournment**

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 16h23, with once more special thanks to Falcon and Associates for hosting the meeting.

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Thomas Weikert  
President

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Date