



**Management Committee Meeting**  
10.00 – 12.00 Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2017  
Room 801 – World Table Tennis Championships  
Düsseldorf, Germany

## **Minutes**

### **1. Meeting Open & Welcome by Chairman**

- The ITTF-Oceania President, Mr James Morris opened the meeting by thanking the MC for their support to elevate him to the ITTF Executive Committee (EC) and the role played by ITTF-Oceania in the presidential election.
- Mr Morris recognised the work conducted by former ITTF EC member Mr Patrick Gillmann on behalf of Oceania and around the world. Mr Morris hopes that Mr Gillmann will continue to work in New Caledonia and Oceania towards the development of the sport in the region.

### **2. Apologies**

- Mr Paul Langley

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- The minutes of the meeting conducted in Düsseldorf on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 were approved unanimously and signed by Mr Morris.

### **4. ITTF-Oceania Policy Framework**

- Mr Christian Holtz provided a summary of the new proposed policies displayed on the screen.
- Mr Morris asked the MC whether ITTF-Oceania's new policy framework should include a provision preventing sponsorships from alcohol companies. Mr Graeme Ireland pointed out that the ITTF already has a policy that prohibits this which covers all members.

### **5. Marketing**

- Mr Michael Brown identified a need to refocus ITTF-Oceania's strategies around marketing and reevaluate its branding with the intent to maximize the commercial value of events.

### **6. Strategic Plan**

- Mr Morris discussed the strategic plan and how it will give ITTF-Oceania a direction over the next 4 years.
- Mr Brown presented the 1-pager version of the Strategic Plan and explained that human resources will be appointed to each of the priorities in the plan (Participation, High Performance, Events, Operations and Communications). For example, the Executive Director will supervise all areas with a focus on Operations, Mr Wade Townsend is already contracted as the Communications Officer, and recruitment for Events and the Oceania Para Development Officer (mainly focused on Participation) is underway.
- Mr Brown explained that all the MC should be involved in the strategic plan and specific roles will be assigned once the Operational Plan is complete.



- Mr Morris commented that ITTF staff and EC members have commended ITTF-Oceania for leading the way and developing the 2017 – 2020 Strategic Plan. Mr Morris recognised the great work done by Ms Vicki Reid in facilitating the process.

## 7. Communications

- Mr Wade Townsend, the ITTF-Oceania Communications Officer, was welcomed to the MC Meeting.
- Mr Townsend introduced himself to the MC and explained his role and involvement with ITTF-Oceania.
- Mr Townsend expressed a desire to connect with the member associations to promote events, athletes and human stories.
- Mr Morris pointed that out that sponsors and governments are particularly interested in the relevant data reported by Mr Townsend, such as the Reach, the Engagement, the Impressions, etc.

## 8. Events / Competition

### Change Senior Championships to Odd Years

- Mr Brown stated that this decision should be delayed until the outcome of the Futures Working Group is known.

### Perpetual Trophies – Update

- Mr Brown explained that the trophies are stored by Table Tennis Australia and there's a need to update them.

### ITTF-Oceania Tour

- Mr Brown explained that the tour will be a similar concept like the ITTF World Tour but within the Oceania region with 4 events introduced in 2018 and 1 event added per year until 2020.
- The logical events to target in 2018 would be Fiji and New Caledonia in Melanesia; 1 event in Polynesia likely to be hosted by Tonga, Cook Islands or Tahiti; and 1 event in Micronesia most likely to be hosted by Guam.
- ITTF-Oceania Tour Events will receive a contribution of AU\$6,000 per event from ITTF-Oceania, with 50% reserved as prize money.
- Ideally, members should bid to host these events.
- Regarding the quality of the event, ITTF-Oceania wants to maximize the value and reputation of the ITTF-Oceania Tour but the MC understands the capacity of each host to deliver events may not be up to international standards. Therefore, events are not expected to have flooring, proper lighting, etc. and instead they must focus on delivering the essentials to have a successful event with a view to grow and improve each year.
- Once an Events Officer is appointed, this person will lead this project and assist with a calendar of events. The aim is to have the dates and locations fixed by October 2017.
- Mr Brown also highlighted that Tonga has secured sponsorship from Digicel and that this year they will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> ever Tonga open.
- Mr Anthony Ho asked whether Australia and New Zealand should be included in the tour as governments are more likely to assist with funding to attend qualification events. Mr Brown explained that the Australian Open is part of the World Tour and part of the vision of ITTF-Oceania is that New Zealand joins the tour with a Challenge Series event. However, Australia and New Zealand will initially be part of the ITTF-Oceania Tour through their direct qualification events, and could be included in the tour at a later stage with an Open event, but this should be reassessed.



#### 2018 ITTF-Oceania Senior Championships

- Mr Brown explained that Guam has expressed an interest in hosting this event but the discussions have stalled.
- There is also the possibility to host the Senior Championships by participating in an “operational trial” by GOLDOC. GOLDOC will provide funding and resources to host the events at the venue for the Commonwealth Games. However, the venue is available only over 2 days which means the remaining 3 days of competition would be held at Seagulls.
- Mr Ireland asked whether the remaining 3 days should be held at the Gold Coast Table Tennis Association (GCTTA) which is located in closer proximity to the Commonwealth Games venue. Mr Holtz explained that the GCTTA venue is not suitable for TV Production which ITTF-Oceania intends to provide for the Senior Championships.
- With the introduction of TV Production, an updated schedule will be necessary, to ideally capture the finals of all seven events (MT, WT, MS, WS, MD, WD, XD) on the same day.

#### 2018 ITTF Junior Circuit & ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships

- Mr Brown explained that Australia will not be hosting a World Junior Circuit event in 2018.
- Cook Islands have expressed an interest in hosting both of these events along with the “Road to Buenos Aires” event. The event dates would likely be 1 & 2 of June for the Oceania Junior Championships and 4-9 of June for the ITTF Junior Circuit.

#### 2018 ITTF-Oceania Cup

- Most likely to be held in Vanuatu at one of the venues constructed for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games to take advantage of the facilities and the official education invested on the lead-up to the Pacific Mini Games.
- There’s an anticipated interest from the local crowd due to the popularity of local players like Yoshua Shing and Priscilla Tommy.
- New Zealand could be another option.

#### 2019 ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships; &

#### 2019 ITTF-Oceania Para Championships

- New Zealand is targeted to host these events, possibly in the same venue where the Agitos Para Camp was held in December 2016 (i.e. the Manurewa Table Tennis Club).

#### 2019 ITTF Junior Circuit

- Australia is expected to host a World Junior Circuit annually again, following the absence in 2018 due to the Commonwealth Games.

#### 2019 ITTF-Oceania Cup

- PNG could be an option but the Cup must take place before July and it should be in one of the legacy venues from the 2015 Pacific Games.

#### 2020 ITTF-Oceania Senior Championships; &

#### 2020 ITTF-Oceania Olympic Qualification

- Both events to be held jointly in either Australia or Fiji.



#### 2020 ITTF-Oceania Cup

- Targeted to be hosted in New Zealand.

#### 2020 ITTF Junior Circuit & ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships

- Targeted to be hosted in New Caledonia.

Mr Morris announced that at the ITTF BOD meeting yesterday ITTF-Oceania successfully bid to host the World Junior Table Tennis Championships (WJTTC) in Bendigo, Australia in December 2018.

- This will not be publicly announced until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June when the Sport Minister will be in Bendigo. Although it's already been published in Inside the Games and Clearinghouse (in Australia only). The announcement on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June will focus around a funding announcement, to confirm the contributions from both Visit Victoria and City of Greater Bendigo.
- Mr Morris remarked that this would be the first time that the WJTTC will be held in Oceania.
- The video used in the bid was shown to the MC.

### 9. Vivian Dederko – Anti-Doping

- This item was discussed "in-committee" from 11.17am to 11.26am. All observers were asked to excuse themselves and the discussion is to be held confidential.
- Mr Ireland explained that the parties involved in this case do not include ITTF-Oceania, therefore ITTF and TTA have already made a decision regarding this matter and ITTF-Oceania does not have the jurisdiction to further penalise the athlete. Furthermore, penalties cannot be backdated to include events before the date of the sample.
- Mr Paul Kyle stated "I agree with everything that Graeme has said – under 2.1 ITTF (a higher authority than us) undertook an investigation, made a decision and close this case. I am not interested in re-opening this case, I have another issue to table. Our moral obligation to ensure ASADA and / or WADA have had full disclosure." In particular, Mr Kyle wanted to ensure that both anti-doping organisations are aware that the athlete competed in and won titles, ranking points and prize-money during the period of April – October, during which time she has admitted using a banned substance.
- Mr Ireland and Mr Males stated that they believe full disclosure has been made.
- Mr Morris arranged a meeting between Mr Kyle and the Chairman of the ITTF's Sport Science Committee who agreed to explain the situation further.

### 10. Umpires & Referees

- Mr Alan Hopkins could not attend the meeting.
- Mr Morris and Mr Ireland informed the MC that Mr Hopkins is developing a database of umpires.
- Furthermore, with the upcoming Commonwealth Games all the selected umpires are receiving training. It's worth noting that only international umpires can be used for the Commonwealth Games.
- Mr Brown explained that ITTF-Oceania will target countries that host events to provide umpire & referee education courses through the Development Program.

### 11. Management Committee



#### The Review of Duties of the MC

- This needs to be deferred until the Operational Plan is in place. Mr Holtz advised that work to develop the Operational Plan has already begun.

#### Hopes Coordinator – Update

- Christine Young from NZ has taken over the role as the communication liaison between ITTF and ITTF-Oceania Hopes programs. New Zealand was the ideal location as there is a “hot spot” training centre in Auckland.

Mr Morris informed the MC that discussions have started to establish an Oceania Academy.

- There is already an intention of support from China following the success of the “China in Oceania” project in 2016.
- The location of the Academy will be dependent on the support of the local government. The search for the best offer has already begun in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. However, the Academy could also be located in New Zealand or a Pacific Island Country if a government offers significant support.

## 12. Competition Schedule

#### Oceania Youth Olympic Qualifying

- This will take place in Bendigo on November 11 & 12 with the previous 5 days being a training camp for Pacific Island athletes.
- Fiji has received a universality place for the female single events at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG). However, they must attend the YOG qualification event to be eligible to receive this place.
- Mr Brown explained that due to the support from sponsors and partners, this event has already made a surplus.

#### World Junior Championships

- This will be taking place in Italy at the end of November 2016.
- The qualified teams are Australia and New Zealand following the results of the ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji. If New Zealand is unable to attend then Fiji is the first reserve for the girls’ events and PNG is the first reserve for the boys’ events.
- Mr Kyle assured the MC that New Zealand would attend.

#### World Hopes Week & Challenge

- Takes place in August in Luxembourg. The 2 athletes that qualified are from Australia.
- Ms Cathy Gautier provided an update regarding the Oceania Hopes Week held at Seagulls in April 2017.

## 13. Any Other Business

#### ITTF-Oceania Uniforms

- Mr Morris proposed that we have a Bula shirt with the association’s logo and colours as the official MC uniform.
- Employees would also have a polo shirt as their official uniforms.
- Ms Carolyn Lee was appointed to seek designs and quotes for the Bula shirts while Mr Holtz will organise uniforms for staff once the team is hired.

#### ITTF-Oceania Historian



- The MC unanimously agreed that Phil Males will become the first Historian of ITTF-Oceania.

#### Bonus Payment

- Mr Brown was asked to leave the room as this item is in relation to his performance.
- Mr Morris explained to the MC that Mr Brown has done over 300 hours of work to bring and organise events to Oceania that is outside of the scope of his job description.
- Mr George Shao, Mr Anthony Ho, Mr Graeme Ireland and Mr Paul Kyle support paying a bonus of AU\$5,000 provided that this will be matched by ITTF.
- Mr Steve Dainton was welcomed to the meeting who confirmed that ITTF will match ITTF-Oceania's payment of AU\$5,000.
- As this has not been budgeted by ITTF-Oceania, Mr Kyle recommends that moving forward ITTF-Oceania should have bonus structures for all professional staff. The MC agreed and Mr Holtz was assigned to draft a policy.

#### ITTF-Oceania's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- Mr Morris announced that the MC would be celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> jubilee of ITTF-Oceania and the fantastic contribution by Phil Males to the association. The position of Administration Officer, held by Mr Males, will be made redundant on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2017.

#### **14. Meeting Close**

- Mr Morris concluded the meeting by announcing that he will stand down as President of ITTF-Oceania as he has been elevated to the EC of ITTF.
- Anthony Ho, as Deputy President, will take over from Mr Morris for the remainder of the period.
- Mr Morris mentioned that he will continue to support Oceania as a member of the EC.
- Mr Neil Harwood commented that Mr Morris' leadership was vital in the development of the 2017-2020 ITTF-Oceania Strategic Plan and urged Mr Morris to stay involved and continue to be responsible for the implementation of the plan for at least the next 12 months.
- Mr Ireland also thanked Mr Morris for his contribution and echoed Mr Harwood's sentiments.
- Mr Ho explained that he would welcome Mr Morris' assistance in this matter as Fiji is hosting the World Cadet Challenge in October 2017.
- With the consent of the MC, Mr Morris agreed to take on the Strategic Plan as part of his portfolio of responsibilities.
- Mr Ireland also pointed out that with Mr Morris elevation to the EC, ITTF-Oceania will lose a BOD member and one will need to be appointed over the upcoming months.

Mr Morris closed the meeting.