



Management Committee Meeting
14.00 – 16.00 Tuesday 30th of May 2017
Room 812 – World Table Tennis Championships
Düsseldorf, Germany

MINUTES

1. Meeting Open & Welcome by Chairman

- The ITTF-Oceania President welcomed all members of the ITTF-Oceania Management Committee (MC), staff, observers and guests.
- A special welcome to Mr Neil Harwood and Patrick Gillmann, both former presidents of ITTF-Oceania.
- Mr James Morris explained that due to schedule conflicts, Michael Brown would join the meeting at a later stage and this would affect the order of the agenda. The minutes below reflect the true order of events rather than the proposed agenda.
- Furthermore, Mr Morris advised that a number of distinguished guests would join the meeting at different points. These guests included Mr Thomas Weikert (ITTF President), Mr Glenn Tepper (ITTF Deputy CEO) and Mr Steve Dainton (ITTF Marketing Director).

2. Apologies

- Mr Alan Hopkins & Mr Paul Langley.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- The minutes of the previous meeting held in Fiji 2017 were sent to all MC members by Mr Phil Males. Mr Paul Kyle asked for changes to be made to better reflect his concerns as below:

“PK expressed surprise and commented about the lack of funds directed toward development. In addition, he questioned the amount of funds directed toward staff employment. There was some discussion about the % of development money versus other areas of operation and PK continued to express his opinion and concern of the imbalance.”

- The changes proposed by Mr Kyle and the minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved by the MC.

4. Executive Director

- Mr Morris introduced Mr Christian Holtz as the newly appointed Executive Director of ITTF-Oceania. Mr Morris explained that the main responsibility of the Executive Director would be the implementation of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan which would further increase the development and commercialisation of the sport in Oceania.
- Mr Holtz thanked Mr Morris and the MC for their support and warm welcome. Furthermore, Mr Holtz highlighted a desire to work closely with each Member Association.

5. Administration Officer

- Mr Morris explained that Mr Phil Males' role as Administration Officer will cease on the 30th of June 2017 due to the appointment of full-time professional staff.



- At the request of Mr Morris, the MC agreed to honour Mr Males with a dinner in Düsseldorf at the expense of ITTF-Oceania.

6. ITTF-Oceania Policy Framework

- The Executive Director (ED) discussed a need to enhance the governance of ITTF-Oceania and the importance of each Member Association and the MC adopting this new policy framework as living policies. With this in mind, there are a number of policies to be presented to the MC prior to the meeting taking place on the 2nd of June 2017:
 - Alcohol Policy, Child Protection Pledge, Conflict of Interest Policy (updated), Credit Card Policy (updated), Inclusion Policy, Internal Financial Policy, Member Protection Policy, Non-smoking Policy, Privacy Policy and Social Media Policy.
- The ED will email drafts of these policies to the MC to be reviewed before the next meeting.

7. Para Table Tennis

- Mr Holtz, as the former Oceania Para Development Officer, provided a brief summary of the progress made in the last 2 years.
 - In 2015, only 4 countries competed in the Oceania Para Championships in Bendigo (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand & Samoa). 3 players gained direct qualification to the 2016 Paralympic Games. In contrast, 48 athletes from 10 countries competed in Fiji at the 2017 Oceania Para Championships and 7 athletes gained qualification to the World Para Championships.
- Mr Morris commended Anthony Ho and Fiji Table Tennis Association for hosting the Oceania Para Championships. It was particularly pleasing to see the coverage the games received in social media with a large reach in Europe and Asia.
- Mr Holtz also informed the MC that Sam Von Einem and Rory Carroll had won a bronze medal in the Class 11 event of the 2017 World Para Team Championships in Slovakia.
- Furthermore, Mr Holtz also explained that due to a MoU signed with Table Tennis Australia (TTA), Mr Holtz will continue to supervise the Smash Down Barriers program and assist TTA by providing leadership to the new Oceania Para Development Officer.
- Mr Morris highlighted that this MoU further strengthens the relationships between ITTF-Oceania and TTA and thanked TTA for its support to the region.
- Mr Neil Harwood expressed his delight at the progress of Para Table Tennis in the region since his time as President and commended ITTF-Oceania, TTA and Mr Holtz for their combined efforts.
- Mr Glenn Tepper highlighted that Oceania is a world-leader in the development of Para Table Tennis and commended Oceania for leading the way with the new Strategic Plan.

8. Address from ITTF President

- Mr Thomas Weikert welcomed the MC and the delegations from Oceania to Germany, his home country. Mr Weikert commended the German Table Tennis Association and the local organising committee for the accommodation, transport and hospitality provided and encouraged the MC to let him know of any problems they experience during the week.
- Mr Weikert acknowledged that the ITTF AGM will take place on the following day and he took the opportunity to thank those who support his



candidacy. Mr Weikert also reassured that should he be successful he wants to see a united ITTF family and would hold no grudges against those that do not support his candidacy.

- Mr Weikert reiterated that he stands for stability, transparency and a new marketing concept, which identifies a need to spend money to make more money. In other words, ITTF will have to increase its capacity in marketing in order to meet the expected commercial growth over the next few years.
- Mr Weikert indicated that there's a gentlemen's agreement that every continent would be represented in the ITTF Executive Committee and this is reflected in his team. Mr Weikert believes that in order to understand the needs of each continent, it is vital to have a representative from each region.
- Mr Weikert emphasized that by taking control of the marketing rights, the ITTF will experience a growth in its budget. This growth will be met with an increased Social Responsibility and this implies that an increased percentage of funds will be invested in Development. This is particularly important for Oceania.
- Finally, Mr Weikert thanked the MC for the chance to speak at the meeting and wished everyone there a pleasant stay in Germany.

9. Incorporation

- Mr Males provided a brief history of Oceania's incorporation in New South Wales, Australia and that a decision was made in the past to unincorporate. However, due to the commercial agreement with ITTF and similar expectations for funding partners (especially governments) there's a need to become an incorporated association. Research has shown that the state of Queensland in Australia is the most viable option.
- Mr Holtz explained that the process would be:
 - ITTF-Oceania must pass a resolution to incorporate at a General Meeting. Mr Graeme Ireland explained that this can be done electronically.
 - ITTF-Oceania must choose a legal name. Mr Morris and Mr Males both urged the MC to think on the most appropriate name and proposed "ITTF-Oceania" and "International Table Tennis Federation – Oceania". Mr Holtz explained that the word "incorporated" or the abbreviation "inc" must also be included in the legal name but this can be removed at a cost of AU\$36.70.
 - ITTF-Oceania can lodge an application online and the cost is AU\$148.
 - The entire process will take 3-4 weeks.
 - Furthermore, the secretary of the association must reside in Queensland and it was proposed that Mr Holtz would take on this role as he resides on the Gold Coast.
 - The bank accounts would also have to be transferred to Queensland.
- Mr Holtz also explained that he has set up a meeting with the City of Gold Coast to see what kind of support they can offer to relocate the offices to Queensland.
- Mr Anthony Ho asked what the tax implications are of becoming incorporated and Michael Brown explained that there may be some GST implications but the process would not have a significant impact on ITTF-Oceania tax requirements.



- Mr Paul Kyle asked Mr Graeme Ireland to confirm whether a Special General Meeting can happen by email or should it occur via skype instead. Mr Ireland said he would confirm by the next meeting.

10. ITTF AGM Düsseldorf

- Mr Ireland explained that there are a number of resolutions to be voted on at the AGM on the 31st of May 2017. Some of these resolutions will impact ITTF-Oceania directly:
 - Proposition #1 is in relation to an inclusive athletes commission and Mr Ireland suggests that Oceania votes to pass the resolution.
 - Proposition #2 is in relation to equipment and specifically the rackets to be made from any material. Mr Ireland believes that because the equipment committee and the manufacturers are against this resolution it will not pass. However, there's a second resolution that states that ITTF should study and review potential changes in the rules and Mr Ireland believes Oceania should support the latter resolution.
 - Mr Ireland explained that the remaining resolutions are mostly about changes in the wording and therefore would not directly affect ITTF-Oceania.
 - However, there's a proposal to reduce the number of teams at the World Junior Championships from 20 to 16 which will be voted on at the ITTF Board of Directors meeting. This would mean that Oceania would have 1 team (instead of 2 teams) at the championships.
 - Mr Brown provided a rationale for this resolution explaining that this is based on based on reducing scheduling conflicts and costs which have negatively impacted the ability to find hosts for the championships.

11. Financial

- Mr Brown explained that through the MoU signed with Table Tennis Australia to deliver the Smash Down Barriers program the General and Commercial budget will be in surplus over the 4-year period. Initially the budget was going to make a loss of approximately AU\$18,000.
- Mr Holtz explained that in the MoU, ITTF-Oceania will receive a number of benefits including:
 - Exclusive rights to manage the SDB program;
 - 5% of the total SDB budget as a management fee;
 - Office space in TTA facilities if needed and access to all existing SDB assets such as shirts, wristbands & USBs.
- Mr Males explained that the bank signatories need to be changed in order for the ED to have the necessary authority and proposed that he be replaced by Mr Holtz as a signatory.

The MC resolved that the signatories should be Mr Christian Holtz, Mr Graeme Ireland and Mr Michael Brown. Furthermore, the signatories and method of operation should be transferred to Queensland upon incorporating in that state.

Motioned by Mr Paul Kyle and seconded by Mr Anthony Ho. The motion was carried unanimously.

12. Development



- Mr Brown provided a brief update because the last report was presented 6 weeks prior at the meeting in Fiji. Since that meeting, activities have taken place in Wallis & Fortuna which especially pleasing as they were in a dormant period.
- Mr Brown explained that a number of promising discussions were held with NOCs to use Olympic Solidarity funds later in the year.
- Furthermore, Mr Brown highlighted that with an increase in the capacity of ITTF-Oceania it is expected that the member associations will receive increased support for activities, events along more frequent communication.

13. Proxy Allocations

- Mr Morris asked Mr Tepper to explain how voting will take place at the AGM on the following day.
- Mr Tepper explained the procedure in detail and highlighted the importance of following the instructions or else the vote will be discarded. For example, for the Executive Committee elections the ballots must clearly mark 8 candidates.
- Mr Tepper clarified that those voting members that hold a proxy will be given 2 sets of ballots and they will be identified with a different wristband to avoid confusion.

14. Strategic Plan

- Mr Morris distributed copies of the 2017-2020 ITTF-Oceania Strategic Plan and urged the MC to review it before the next MC meeting where the plan will be discussed in further detail.
- Mr Brown explained the purpose of the strategic plan and that the ED will be developing an operational plan, which will be reviewed annually to measure performance and progress against the objectives of the strategic plan.
- ITTF-Oceania will provide support to any Member Associations that wishes to develop its own strategic plan.

15. Events

- This item was moved to the next meeting, but Mr Morris remarked that we do not have any confirmed hosts for ITTF-Oceania events and urged the MC to consider hosting an event.

16. World Cadet Challenge

- Mr Anthony Ho provided an update regarding the preparations to host the World Cadet Challenge in October 2017 and highlighted the close cooperation with the Fijian Government.
- Furthermore, Mr Anthony Ho stated that hosting the ITTF-Oceania Cup, the Oceania Para Championships and the ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships simultaneously was a huge learning opportunity for the local organising committee in charge of the World Cadet Challenge.
- Mr Morris mentioned that Ms Alison Burchell is the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Youth & Sport and therefore a huge asset to the sport in Fiji.
- Mr Brown stated that ITTF-Oceania will offer its support regarding transit visas through Australia for visiting teams.
- Furthermore, ITTF-Oceania will provide human resources prior and during the event.



17. Veterans Table Tennis

- Mr Morris explained that there was an enquiry from a Veteran Athlete in New Caledonia regarding competitions for veterans in Oceania.
- Mr Patrick Gillmann suggested that ITTF-Oceania should assess the feasibility to host Oceania Veteran Championships and Mr Morris stated that Guam and Cook Islands have already expressed an interest in hosting Veterans Competitions.
- Mr Paul Kyle mentioned that at the ITTF Veterans Meeting this possibility was discussed and Mr Kyle suggested to explore another alternative of upgrading existing veteran competitions to be an Oceania Championship.

18. Athletes Commission

- Mr Morris welcomed the new Athlete Representative to the MC, Ms Tearo Le Caill.
- Ms Le Caill introduced herself to the MC and expressed that she looks forward to representing Oceania and Tahiti.

19. Any Other Business

- 2018 World Junior Championships
 - Mr Brown explained that 4 days before the MC meeting, he received confirmation from the City of Greater Bendigo and the State of Victoria in Australia that they will provide funds to host the World Junior Championships. As a result, ITTF-Oceania and Table Tennis Australia will bid on Friday the 2nd of June at the ITTF Board of Directors Meeting.
 - There's another bid from Bangkok and Mr Morris, Mr Holtz, Mr Brown and Mr Dainton will try to set up a meeting with the Table Tennis Association of Thailand to see if an agreement can be reached whereby Bendigo hosts in 2018 and Bangkok in 2019. This is because the state funding is only secured for 2018.
- Adham Sharara's email
 - The MC decided in Fiji to return the US\$30,000 that appeared in the ITTF-Oceania's bank account because there were concerns that this money was attached to political implications regarding the upcoming ITTF elections.
 - Mr Morris explained that he sought legal advice upon receiving the US\$30,000 and emails from both Mr Sharara and Mr Gillmann. The legal advice strongly recommended to return the funds.
 - Once the funds were returned, an email from Mr Sharara was sent to Mr Males asking if ITTF-Oceania would return all funds in addition to the US\$30,000. The email was projected on the screen and presented to the entire MC.
 - The email from Mr Sharara alluded to funds transferred as "part of the DHS sponsorship to Oceania within the ITTF-TMS-OTTF Marketing Agreement" and a "DHS sponsorship because it also had a cash sponsorship in addition to equipment."
 - Mr Dainton explained that having worked for both TMS and ITTF, he was never aware of a DHS sponsorship that included a cash component.
 - Furthermore, Mr Dainton explained that all funds related to the ITTF-TMS-OTTF agreements were paid from the office in Singapore. However, no records exist of the funds mentioned in Mr Sharara's email indicating that said funds



were transferred from another account were outside the scope of any agreement/contract with ITTF, TMS or OTTF.

- Mr Morris explained that this deal was done prior to his tenure as ITTF-Oceania President for the 2013 Paris World Championships, when Mr Gillmann was President of ITTF-Oceania.
- Mr Paul Kyle suggested to reply to Adham's email saying that ITTF-Oceania has no obligation or inclination to return funds received in 2013. Mr Morris emphasized that said funds were an attempt for political gain and that the same strategy was being used to influence the upcoming ITTF Presidential Election.

The MC agreed unanimously that Mr Morris should reply to Adham's email stating that ITTF-Oceania would not return any further funds and that the allegations made in the email are believed to be misleading.

- The following items in the Agenda were moved to the next MC meeting on Saturday the 3rd of June 2017:
 - Item 9: Marketing
 - Item 10: Strategic Plan
 - Item 11: Communications
 - Item 14: Events/Competitions
 - Item 16: Vivian Dederko – Anti-Doping
 - Item 17: Umpires & Referees
 - Item 19: Management Committee
 - Item 22: Competition Schedule

No other business.

20. Meeting Close

- Mr James Morris thanked MC members for their contribution and closed the meeting.