



**Management Committee Meeting
Vodafone Arena Meeting Room
Suva Fiji
8.00am Friday 14th of April 2017**

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.
- The President thanked the Fiji Table Tennis Association for the hosting the event.
- The President introduced the ITTF President Thomas Weikert and proposed a change in the agenda to allow Mr. Weikert to address the MC at the beginning of the meeting before Mr Weikert's departure to the airport.

2. Apologies

- Mr Patrick Gillmann, Mr Alan Resture, Mr Reagan Moses, Mr George Shao, Mr David Powell, Mr Alan Hopkins, Mr Phil Males & Mr Choy Freddy.
- Mrs Annie Loi and Mr Rea Loi were welcomed as observers on behalf of Mr George Shao.
- It was pointed out that Alan restore of Tuvalu was present at event but had a prior appointment and could not attend the meeting

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- The minutes of the previous meeting held in Bendigo 2016 were approved by the MC. Motioned by Mr Graeme Ireland; Seconded by Mr Paul Kyle.

4. Address from ITTF President

4.1 ITTF Update

- Mr Weikert addressed the MC and thanked ITTF-Oceania and the Fiji Table Tennis Association for the hospitality provided.
- The new Marketing Agreement signed by ITTF was concluded on the 31st of December 2016 with a view "to do better" by buying back the marketing rights from TMS International. Mr Weikert explained that the subsequent Seamaster deal was one of the biggest deals in ITTF history. Furthermore, the ITTF World Championships in Dusseldorf represent the first time in ITTF history that 4 major sponsors were secured for an event. These agreements highlight a need for good governance and transparency, both from a moral and a legal point of view.
- Furthermore, the ITTF & ITTF-Oceania Strategic Investment Agreement formalizes a partnership between both parties to invest in the development of the region and social responsibility. ITTF-Oceania will receive on average US\$200,000 per year for 4 years in addition to another 65,000 euros for the first 2 years from the existing agreement with TMS. The agreement with ITTF-Oceania is the role model for future contracts.
- Mr Weikert highlighted the importance of having sustainable and well-presented events. He further expressed a need for ITTF to partner with continental federations to increase capacity to build new structures of events and pathways for competition, as well as to deliver exciting new events like TTX; especially in Pacific Island Countries that are well suited to the new format.



- Mr Weikert noted that Inclusion is a pillar of ITTF and highlighted the importance of having Para Table Tennis included in key events and commended ITTF-Oceania for having 3 events under one roof (e.g. the ITTF-Oceania Cup, the ITTF-Oceania Para Championships & the ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships). Mr Weikert & Mr Morris presented Anthony Ho, President of the Fiji Table Tennis Association with a commemorative plaque to recognize the successful delivery of these events.
- Mr Paul Kyle advised he had already provided the ITTF-Oceania President a number of suggested changes, and raised concerns about the termination clause, which in his opinion it should be removed. Mr Kyle specifically suggested that the termination clause should be removed. However, Mr Weikert noted that this is a standard clause in contracts.
- Mr Morris and Mr Weikert both emphasized that the Strategic Investment Agreement is a partnership between ITTF and ITTF-Oceania. Therefore, there's a possibility to renegotiate in good faith if unforeseen circumstances arise.

4.2 ITTF & ITTF-Oceania Strategic Investment Agreement

- Mr Weikert as President of ITTF and Mr Morris as President of ITTF-Oceania formalized the agreement at a signing ceremony.

Note: Item 4 in the Agenda was moved forward to the beginning of the meeting to allow Mr Thomas Weikert to depart for the airport on time.

5. Legal Advice

- Mr James Morris presented background information regarding a situation where US\$30,000 (AU\$38,820.79) were transferred to ITTF-Oceania's bank account in July 2016. Previously, the funds were said to be an anonymous donation to assist the MC members to travel to Dusseldorf, Germany for the ITTF President Elections. However, in early 2017 Mr Patrick Gillmann asked repeatedly for the funds to be paid back. Mr Morris expressed his concern that the funds could have political implications with the upcoming ITTF President Elections. For this reason, it was decided that ITTF-Oceania should receive legal advice. Subsequently, Mr Gillmann retracted his requests to return the funds and encouraged ITTF-Oceania to keep the funds.
- Mr Morris explained that (1) these funds were unsolicited; (2) ITTF-Oceania did not issue an invoice or receipt; and (3) these funds were not used and they're recorded in the 2016 Balance Sheet as a liability.
- Mr Michael Brown presented a summary of a legal opinion received by ITTF-Oceania which concluded that the funds were perceived as an intention to influence the votes for the upcoming ITTF President Elections. ITTF-Oceania was advised to return the funds to the original account named Table Tennis Marketing based in Ottawa, Canada.
- Mr Morris noted that ITTF-Oceania does not have a Code of Ethics in relation to its MC members. Moving forward, the 2017-2020 ITTF-Oceania Strategic Plan focuses on enhancing the existing policy framework with the aims of increasing the organisation's governance and transparency.

After careful deliberation, the MC resolved to return the US\$30,000 as advised by the solicitors. Motioned by Mr Graeme Ireland; Seconded by Mr Anthony Ho. 2 members of the MC voted against the motion.



6. Financial

6.1 Review of Financial Report for 2016

- Mr Michael Brown provided an update and presented the audited financial statements. The finances were accepted as presented. Motioned by Mr Graeme Ireland; Seconded by Mr Anthony Ho.

6.2 Approval for Auditor

- The MC wishes to send a Letter of Thanks to the auditor and the MC assigned Mr Michael Brown to search for a new auditor, or ask the current Auditor, to conduct a full audit of the next financial years.
- Mr James Morris acknowledged the significant return on investment from networking at the ONOC General Assembly, particularly from funds obtained through Olympic Solidarity and National Olympic Committees.
- Mr James Morris and Mr Paul Kyle suggested that moving forward ITTF-Oceania should set a benchmark for the Financial Reserves. The MC agreed that the Reserve should be sufficient to cover the projected expenses for the next 2-3 years.
- To comply with the ITTF & ITTF-Oceania Strategic Investment Agreement, the MC agreed to open a separate bank account as stipulated in the agreement.

7. 2017-2020 Strategic Plan

7.1 Final Discussion and Approval

- Mr James Morris provided a detailed explanation of the process involved in developing the strategic plan.
- Mr Michael Brown presented the 2017-2020 ITTF-Oceania Strategic Plan, both the 1-page version and in full detail.
- The MC discussed each item of the document and some suggestions were made to increase the clarity of the document by making it more succinct.
- Mr James Morris emphasized that this document is a living document that should be "owned" by ITTF-Oceania.

7.2 2017-2020 Budget

- Mr Michael Brown presented a detailed description of the budget that includes the new ITTF & ITTF-Oceania Strategic Investment Agreement.
- Mr Paul Kyle expressed surprise and commented about the lack of funds directed toward development. In addition, Mr Kyle questioned the amount directed toward staff employment. The MC also discussed the percentage of development money versus other areas of operation and Mr Kyle continued to express his opinion and concern of the imbalance.
- Mr Brown explained that the budget concerned funds for the Strategic Investment Agreement only. There's a separate budget for development funds. Similarly, the salaries on offer are competitive within the industry.

The MC resolved to approve and adopt the 2017-2020 ITTF-Oceania Strategic Plan and the proposed 2017-2020 Budget. Motioned by Mr Anthony Ho; Seconded by Mr Graeme Ireland.

7.3 Professional Staff Structure

- The MC discussed the roles needed to implement the 2017-2020 ITTF-Oceania Strategic Plan and tasked Mr James Morris with a mandate to employ 3 professional staff members. It was mentioned that this could



take some time to roll out and when working through the Operational Plan , timelines will become clearer. Motioned by Mr Graeme Ireland; Seconded by Mr Paul Kyle.

8. Development

8.1 Michael Brown Update

- Mr Brown tabled and summarised the report presented in the ONOC Annual Report. In 2016 4,128 participated in table tennis programs, 43.5% were female and 9.5% were people with disability.
- Mr Brown concluded by reporting that 19 out of the 24 Member Associations were active in the 2016 Development Program.
- Furthermore, the MC was informed that the "China in Oceania" project carried out in 2016 was so successful that the China Table Tennis Association has committed to deliver a similar training camp in Fiji, prior to the ITTF World Cadet Challenge.
- Mr Morris expressed his gratitude on behalf of the MC to Mr Brown for his efforts, especially considering his other work commitments.

8.2 Christian Holtz Update

- 2016 was the most successful year of the Smash Down Barriers (SDB) program. Over 1300 people with disabilities participated in inclusive SDB activities. The growth of the SDB program has positively impacted the growth of Para Table Tennis in Oceania as evidenced by the 48 para athletes and 10 countries competing in the 2017 ITTF-Oceania Para Championships.
- Mr Christian Holtz commended the support of the Fiji Table Tennis Association and highlighted that Ms Mere Roden became the first Pacific Islander to represent Oceania in Para Table Tennis at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. Subsequently, Ms Roden became the first woman with a disability to win Fiji's Sportswoman of the Year award.
- Mr Holtz concluded by advising the MC that the Australian Government has confirmed the SDB program will be extended for a further 4 years until 2021.

9. Administration Officer

- The MC agreed that Mr Phil Males should remain as Administration Officer of ITTF-Oceania until new staff is hired as stipulated in the 2017-2020 ITTF-Oceania Strategic Plan.

10. Marketing

- Mr Michael Brown updated the MC about the meeting hosted in Singapore by the Marketing Division. Each continent was represented at a 2-day workshop where they discussed how ITTF buying back the marketing rights from TMS would be leveraged to improve existing events and develop new events like TTX.
- Mr Brown informed the MC that other continents promote their officials or meetings ahead of their athletes and events and Oceania was acknowledged as having very well presented events with strong marketability. Mr Brown stressed that ITTF-Oceania does a good job at controlling the events, but hopefully through the strategic plan it will be able to increase the entertainment and quality of play to match the standard of the events.

11. Para Table Tennis



- A report was tabled by Ms Sue Stevenson on behalf of the ITTF-Oceania Para Table Tennis Sub-committee.
- Mr Christian Holtz provided further updates in relation to the 2017 ITTF-Oceania Para Championships and the Vanuatu Mini Games.

12. Events

12.1 Change Senior Championships to odd years

- Mr James Morris provided an update regarding proposed changes by ITTF on future events on the ITTF Calendar. Mr Morris is a member of a working group that aims to expand the footprint of the World Championships while reducing the total number of players,, but lifting the footprint through Continental Qualification Events, therefore reducing the requirements imposed on hosting the event.
- The MC agreed that making a decision to move the Oceania Championships to odd years needs to be deferred until more information is known about the ITTF World Teams Championships.

12.2 ITTF Oceania events from 2018 to 2020

- Mr Michael Brown updated the MC on each of the events hosted by ITTF-Oceania from 2018 - 2020.
- Guam has expressed an interest in hosting the 2018 ITTF-Oceania Championships. Mr Brown noted that it should be commercially viable due to tourism, interest from Asian countries, and the support of the Guam Government. However, Mr Brown noted that many of the South Pacific Island Countries would be unlikely to attend.
- There are currently no hosts for the 2018 ITTF-Oceania Junior Circuit & ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships, but Australia is a likely candidate.
- Mr Brown mentioned that ideally, the 2018 ITTF-Oceania Cup will be a standalone event for better presentation and easier management.
- No other hosts are confirmed and Mr James Morris encouraged all MC members to push their National Associations to host more events.

13. World Cadet Challenge

13.1 Qualification Event

- Both Mr Anthony Ho and Mr Michael Brown expressed their disappointment with the number of countries in attendance for the 2017 Oceania Junior Championships and how this will impact the composition of the Oceania and Fiji/Pacific Team.

13.2 Team Fiji/Pacific

- Mr Anthony Ho explained that any Fijian players that are selected to represent Team Oceania would be honoured to do so and that Fiji will encourage 2 other players Pacific Island Countries to join in a composite Fiji/Pacific Team.

13.3 2017 ITTF World Cadet Challenge

- Mr Anthony Ho provided an update on the preparations for the 2017 ITTF World Cadet Challenge. The event will be held from the 21-29 of October 2017 and Mr Ho noted that the 2017 ITTF-Oceania Cup, the 2017 ITTF-Oceania Para Championships and the 2017 ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships are providing a major learning opportunity for the Fiji Table Tennis Association.
- Mr James Morris indicated that ITTF-Oceania will provide human resources and expertise to assist the Fiji Table Tennis Association to host this event.



14. Umpires & Referees

- A report was tabled by Mr Alan Hopkins and Mr Graeme Ireland provided a verbal update. Mr Ireland stressed the importance of having more people involved in the URC to increase the standard of umpires in referees in Oceania.
- The MC agreed to provide Mr Hopkins permission to proceed with formulating a data base of umpires in the region.

15. Management Committee

15.1 Election of New Member

- Mr Paul Langley was voted by the MC to fill the vacant position after Will Goodier's resignation. Mr Langley will not be traveling to Dusseldorf for the next MC Meeting.

15.2. Review of Duties

- This discussion was deferred to the MC meeting to be held at the 2017 ITTF World Championships in Dusseldorf.

15.3. Update of MC Subsidy to Dusseldorf

- Countries to attend the 2017 ITTF World Championships are AUS, COK, FIJ, GUM, PNG, NCL, NZL & PYF. The subsidies will remain the same. GUM and PYF will not receive financial support but should hold a proxy.

16. Athletes Commission

- Mr David Powell has resigned as the Chairman of the OTTF Athletes Commission.
- The MC proposes that Tearo Le Cail is approached to become the new Chair of the OTTF Athletes Commission.

17. ITTF AGM

17.1. Agenda Items on ITTF AGM

- Mr James Morris encouraged all MC members attending the AGM to review the agenda and prepare for the Oceania Meeting in Dusseldorf before the ITTF AGM.

17.2 ITTF Committee Members nominated to ITTF

- URC – Mr Alan Hopkins (AUS)
- Rules Committee – Mr Stephen Gillespie (AUS)
- Veterans Committee – Mr John Sherriff (AUS) & Mr Paul Kyle (NZL)
- Para Table Tennis Committee – Ms Sue Stevenson (AUS)

18. Competition Schedule

18.1. Oceania Events

- 2017 ITTF-Oceania YOG Qualification Tournament to be held in Bendigo, Australia from 11-12 of November

18.2. World Events

- 2017 World Table Tennis Championships to be held in Dusseldorf, Germany from 29th of May to 5th of June.
- 2017 ITTF Hopes Week & Challenge to be held in Luxemburg from the 11-17 of August.
- 2017 ITTF World Cadet Challenge to be held in Suva, Fiji from the 21-29 of October.



- 2017 ITTF World Junior Championships to be held in Riva del Garda, Italy from the 26th of November to the 3rd of December.
- Ms Cathy Gautier also provided an update on the French Overseas Territories Games in New Caledonia in August 2017. All the French territories will be competing in this event and the New Caledonia Open.

19. Any Other Business

19.1. Vivian Dederko – Anti-Doping

- Due to the sensitive nature of this issue, this agenda item was “in committee”. All observers were asked to excuse themselves and the discussion is to remain confidential.
- Vivian was disqualified and was suspended for 3 months commencing on 24 January 2017. The outstanding issue is what happens with the prize money as “all competitive results obtained by the Player from the date of sample collection through the commencement of the provisional suspension shall be disqualified, with all of the resulting consequences including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.”
- The discussion which was robust was deferred to the MC meeting in Dusseldorf and Mr Graeme Ireland was asked to collect further information.
- The MC agrees that a new policy needs to be developed so that similar issues do not arise in the future.

19.2. Will Goodier – Resignation

- Mr Goodier resigned from his roles as ITTF-Oceania MC member and Chairman of Table Tennis Australia due to health concerns.
- Mr Graeme Ireland provided an update that Mr Goodier recently spent a week in hospital and the MC wishes him a speedy recovery.
- The MC also wishes to send Mr Goodier a Letter of Thanks for his contribution to ITTF-Oceania.

19.3. China in Oceania (2017 & Beyond)

- The China Table Tennis Association and China Table Tennis College have confirmed that they would like to continue to support ITTF-Oceania with further “China in Oceania” projects.
- Furthermore, the MC endorsed Mr James Morris to move forward with discussions to establish an ITTF-Oceania Academy. Motioned by Mr Graeme Ireland; Seconded by Paul Kyle.

19.4. Legal Counsel

- Mr James Morris proposed in the future, binding agreements should always be scrutinized by a solicitor. The MC agreed with Mr Morris’ proposal.

19.5. Incorporation

- Mr Phil Males & Mr Christian Holtz researched the feasibility of incorporating in Australia and Queensland was deemed as the most likely state due to the costs involved and legal requirements.
- The discussion was deferred to Dusseldorf with the intention to become incorporated and a special general meeting would be held electronically.

19.6 Veterans



- Mr Paul Kyle tabled a report indicating that the event held in Spain with 4,500 participants was very well received by all involved.
- Although the event was well organised, 50% more umpires were needed.
- Auckland is staging the World Masters Games April 2017 with over 250 entries.
- TTNZ and TTA continues to have a healthy Trans-Tasman rivalry.

19.7 North Harbour Table Tennis Association

- North Harbour Table Tennis Association (NHTTA) disaffiliated from Table Tennis New Zealand (TTNZ) in 2014. Mediation to resolve this conflict has failed and subsequently, the North Shore Table Tennis Association (NSTTA) was formed and is affiliated with TTNZ.
- TTNZ's position is that NHTTA and its supporters are putting the sport into disrepute and affecting the local community, governments and sponsors.
- The MC agrees that ITTF-Oceania will issue a Support Letter to TTNZ and NSTTA.

No other business.

20. Meeting Close

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