



## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of MEETING

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015

At Suzhou International Expo Centre Meeting Room 1

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

James Morris (President), Graeme Ireland (ITTF BoM), Will Goodier, Paul Kyle, Patrick Gillmann (ITTF EC), Phil Males (AO), Michael Brown (ODO), Glenn Tepper (ITTF DCEO), Steve Dainton (ITTF), David Powell

#### **1) MEETING OPEN & WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN:**

Meeting Opened at 10.05am

President James Morris welcomed those present with a special welcome to ITTF President Thomas Weikert who will only be able to stay for a little.

#### **2) APOLOGIES:**

Anthony Ho, Tearoa Iorangi, James Ji, George Shao

Apologies not Received :- Louis Terii TEINAORE, Susan Perez, Cathy Gauthier, Reagan Moses,

*It was noted that Anthony Ho will be travelling to India next week for his long delayed kidney transplant operation and this should take place during the week of the Oceania Junior Championships. We wish him well with a speedy recovery.*

#### **3) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS METINGS**

Bendigo 2015 – Confirmed as a True and Correct record

Business Arising will be dealt with in on other items on the agenda.

It was agreed to deal with items 5 & 6 first as Steve had to leave early

#### **5 & 6 OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION & OCEANIA CHAMPINSHIPS**

Michael Brown advised that he had been in further discussions with Bendigo Table Tennis Association and put a proposal that the Oceania Championships to be hosted by the Bendigo TTA at the Bendigo TT stadium. The championships would be the initial qualification rounds of the Olympic Qualification and then the final round of the OQ will be played at a separate venue that was inspected during the Oceania Cup a few weeks ago and found very suitable. Everything was positive and a contract was on the verge of being signed, but unfortunately the Bendigo President's mother passed away so had to be held over. It was noted that the OC was only a participation event so combing it this way will give the OC some status as players would prefer to play the Oceania Cup in lieu of the Championships. Michael said that the Bendigo Council is supporting the event and will provide the TV coverage for free.

It was agreed that Michael to finalise the contract ASAP.

Also to facilitate this event, the date needs to be changed so it was agreed that the dates be changed from 1 – 4 April 2016 to 20 -25 March 2016. As the dates had already been advised to ITTF, Phil to advise ITTF CEO of new dates and host.

It was also noted that with the new ITTF restrictions to World Team and Individual Championships there is growing support for individual players to qualify at Continental Championships. At the moment, as long as the country qualifies then anyone can go, however especially for the individual championships the actual player must qualify.

Paul Kyle brought up the situation in New Zealand where if a player qualifies then their NOC will not send them anyway so what is the use of coming. An agreement between the NZOC and TTNZ had to be signed by 31/03/2015. Patrick Gillman said that the IOC would not interfere with an NOC in that regard and at the OPC meeting confirmed that Continental Federations cannot forbid players to enter the qualification events in that regard.



It was agreed that Item 11 be discussed now as Steve had to leave soon.

#### 11) OCEANIA CUP

Michael Brown advised that although negotiations have not been completed he was fairly positive that Fiji would be organising the event. He has been in contact with Anthony Ho who has confirmed that Fiji wants to run the event however Anthony was leaving for India soon for his transplant operation but Michael hoped to make contact with him before he goes as he is going to Fiji for the ONOC conference and meeting tomorrow. Michael also advised that Fiji wanted to run a Para event in conjunction with the Oceania Cup which can be a factor 20 event. The Vodafone venue is too large so it is proposed that it be across the road in the Fiji TT stadium which is the old basketball stadium. Michael to update after his meetings.

Michael also advised that some changes are being proposed for the Oceania Cup. The prize money to be increased to \$40000-00 and as there are only 8 men and 8 women all players would receive some prize money which would allay some of their expenses.

The Pacific Cup tournament would remain (with the Top 4 Pacific qualifiers), however there will be no prize money awarded to this event, just the title and medal/cup from the organisers.

The committee confirmed the increase in prize money to \$40000-00.

It was suggested that if a country qualifies for the Oceania Cup then no subsidy would be paid for junior players as all players would get prize money anyway. Prize money would be paid to the player but he/she may have been sponsored by their National Association so the money should go back to the NA. Possible problems were identified so it was suggested that there should be no link between the Oceania Championships and juniors.

Michael Brown and Graeme Ireland to work on a concept to resolve this and report back.

#### 4) COMMONWEALTH TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

A situation developed at the Commonwealth TTF meeting where Graeme Ireland was not re-nominated by Australia and it was not known at the time if he wanted to continue. TTA President Will Goodier nominated Phil Males at the meeting but he could not be elected as it was a vacancy and must be approved at their MC meeting. Graeme Ireland indicated he would like to continue so it was decided to withdraw Phil Males nomination and re-nominate Graeme Ireland.

Phil Males to confirm with the Secretary Mr Chan and copy to Alan Ransome.

#### 7) PARA TABLE TENNIS

Patrick Gillmann reported that he and James had a meeting with Petra Sorling, Dorte Darfelt and Nico Verspeelt to raise the matters of concern expressed at the Bendigo meeting. They agreed that everything is weighted towards Europe because that is where it all originated.

PTT could not give a guarantee for autonomy but can give support.

It has been confirmed that a Para Sub-committee will be formed under the OTTF MC and Sue Stevenson be asked to set this up, and it should include Christian Holtz as a staff member. The sub-committee chair will be Barbara Talbot as the Oceania PTT representative on the ITTF. The sub-committee could include persons from New Zealand and Fiji. James to follow up with Sue/Barbara re the establishment of the sub-committee. It was suggested that PTT could create a TOR for continents forming a Para Sub-committee.

A letter has to be sent to the Para TT Division c/o ITTF. In the letter we need to add that in the future, no organiser can support inspection expenses outside from Oceania, and that we need help for the expenses of the classifiers. The ITTF Development program do not get subsidies out side of the PIOC so how can the capitation fees come back to Oceania, and that we are in favour to have the similar qualification system as able bodied players for the Olympic and World champs.

Copy of this letter to go to Barbara and Patrick and also the minutes be sent to Barbara under advice so that she is aware what we have discussed and what she needs to bring up at the next meeting;



It was discussed in OPC meeting but nothing resolved.

As Barbara Talbot is on the ITTF Para Division, this is her responsibility to follow this through to achieve a result if possible.

The question was asked who owns Para TT Championships. Should be Oceania.

It appears PTT have a lot of money but unknown where or how much.

#### 8) ITTF JUNIOR CIRCUIT

Australia will apply to run an event in 2016 and on-going each year at Tweed Heads.

No other at this stage

Michael Brown said that they are looking at an Oceania Junior Championships each year. A full event will be held in the odd year and a condensed event attached to a Junior Circuit event will be held in the even year.

The condensed event would be 2 days only and limited to U15 & U18. One day for teams and 1 day for individuals but singles only and players can only play in one age group.

Michael and Graeme to continue to work on concept.

#### 9) OCEANIA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Entries had been received from Australian, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Fiji, Nauru, Tuvalu and maybe Marshall Islands, PNG are training in China.

This will be a good experience for Kiribati. The government has financed the event so funds have not been re-directed.

Christian Holtz is in Kiribati at the moment and is overseeing preparations, and Michael will get there on May 4<sup>th</sup> as well as the Referee Dave Delpratt.

Subsidy will be \$2000-00 per country that haven't attended the championships before. Nauru will only accept \$1000-00 as they are only sending a boy as they consider their female player is not quite up to standard.

#### 10) WORLD CADET CHALLENGE

Date and venue not yet allocated by ITTF.

#### 12) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

James Morris confirmed all positions and said that Dave Powell would be in charge of the Oceania Athletes Commission and will be on the MC as a non-voting contributor as approved at the last meeting.

By his own admission Will Goodier had done very little with the Calendar position so President suggested it be taken over by the Administration Officer. AGREED

All other MC roles were discussed and with the Finance, Paul Kyle and Michael Brown will meet to get up to speed with the Finance and Budgeting.

A suggestion that the Pacific Commission be split into regions with Anthony Ho at its head will be investigated by Michael.

James said that he was grateful to Michael, Patrick and Phil for their support during his illness as it took a big burden from him at the time.

#### 13) ITTF COMMITTEES

The following were elected to ITTF Committees.

Rules Committee      Phil Males (AUS) (Deputy Chairman)

Umpires & Referees    Alan Hopkins (AUS)

Veterans                Paul Kyle (NZL)

Junior Commissioner   James Morris (NZL)

Para Division            Barbara Talbot (AUS)

**14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Pacific Games will be in PNG later in the year. 11 countries have entered Table Tennis Teams. Cook Islands as they have the same problem with their NOC as New Zealand. Will have Para in TT but only in 4 events, Wheelchair M & F, Standing M & F. Patrick said that Australia & New Zealand may be allowed to enter Para teams down the track. They are already there in some sports but not TT. Discussions to continue with 2019 as the likely time to achieve a result.

Patrick will arrange a meeting of Pacific associations in PNG during the Pacific Games. This will be an informal meeting but is seen as necessary as it is the only time when almost all the Pacific nations can get together so the opportunity must be taken.

Patrick said that OTTF MC must validate Oceania Athletes Commission members but Dave Powell is automatic chairman being on the ITTF Athletes commission.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.06pm

**Minutes Confirmed:** \_\_\_\_\_