

OCEANIA TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

A Continental Federation of the International Table Tennis Federation

***Biennial General Meeting – Whangarei New Zealand
21st April 2004***

MINUTES of BGM

Present: Neil Harwood (President), Phil Males (Exec Director), Patrick Gillmann (Deputy President & ITTF Board Member), David Jackson (ITTF Board Member) Graeme Ireland (ITTF Board Member), Steve Dainton (OTTF Development Officer), Joh Fifita (Tonga) Michel Lehoullier (New Caledonia), Anthony Ho (Fiji) Setapu Resture (Tuvalu). Alan Clarke & David Beaumont (Australia), Eddie Satungia & Tsi Wei Mok (Vanuatu) Ron Garrett & John Stapleton (New Zealand), BweBwenimeang Kaureata (Kiribati) Glenn Tepper (ITTF Program Development Manager), Mareta Tovata (Fiji).

Apologies: Vetea Mollon (Tahiti Nui)

Meeting Open & Welcome:

Meeting Opened at 7.45pm.

President, Neil Harwood, welcomed all Delegates & Management Committee

Appointment of Chairman:

Neil Harwood was confirmed as Chairman of the meeting.

Voting Requirements:

It was confirmed that Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Tonga, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, New Zealand would vote when necessary.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Moved Anthony Ho, Seconded Patrick Gillmann that minutes of BGM held in Suva 2002 be taken as read and accepted. **“CARRIED”**

Presidents Report:

Neil presented his report, which was read out and a copy will go with the minutes.

Adham Sharara sent his apologies for not coming as his wife had to go into hospital and obviously wanted to be close by.

Since the report was done it was learned that Table Tennis had been excluded from the Olympic Youth Festival. The President will do some lobbying to try and correct the situation.

Moved Ron Garrett, Seconded Patrick Gillmann that report be accepted.

Finance:

It was advised that the auditor would not give an opinion on the 2003 Financial Report as the figures for the ITTF Development Manager had been excluded following direction of the Management Committee. He felt that as the figures were substantial and had passed through the books they must still be included.

The Finance Director/Executive Director produced an amended version reinstating the figures for the ITTF Development Manager and requested these be accepted subject to audit.

Some delegates felt that this must be held in abeyance until the audited financial statement was presented and that the meeting could not be closed until they were received. The matter was deferred until the end of the meeting for a decision.

The President also advise that from the 1st July 2004, which is the beginning of the Financial Year for Australia, the practice of paying the ITTF Development Manager through OTTF would be ceased. There were many implications which apply to employers in Australia and OTTF could be held accountable should any problems arise. Glenn Tepper was advised of the situation and will make arrangements with the ITTF to be paid by another method.

In addition, as OTTF appears to be unprotected the matter of Incorporation was brought up. This was referred to the Management Committee for investigation.

Membership Fees:

The President explained how the current fees are structured.

Moved Alan Clarke, Seconded Ron Garrett that fees remain unchanged.

“CARRIED”

Reports:

Umpires' Co-ordinator

As Fran Keyhoe was not present Graeme Ireland gave a brief verbal report.

The main highlight was the training of 30 umpires in Fiji prior to the South Pacific Games in Fiji

As there is no longer any money in development for umpires, OTTF will help whenever possible.

Development Officer

Steve Dainton gave a Power Point Presentation of his Development Work carried out in 2003 and what is proposed for 2004. Discussion ensued and questions were received.

The subject of South Pacific Games came up and Patrick Gillmann advised that the SPG would be in Samoa in 2007 in which Table Tennis was not originally included because of the lack of activity in the country and that in Fiji it did not reach the quota. However, after much lobbying by Steve Dainton and Patrick it was re-included with the likelihood that it may become a compulsory sport if we can get 10 countries to participate. Steve, Patrick and Glenn urged all South Pacific countries to get behind this and ensure that participation becomes a reality in 2007. Other South Pacific countries will also be lobbied.

Neil Harwood said that OTTF will assist with personnel and equipment because of the lack of Table Tennis people on the ground in Samoa.

Women's Affairs

Mareta Tovata read her report which will be circulated with these minutes.

She recently attended meetings in Doha Qatar during the recent World Team Championships.

Mareta urged all women to embrace this aspect and a seminar is being proposed for Fiji later this year.

Patrick Gillmann suggested that one person be appointed in each country to link with Mareta so that a combined effort can be achieved.

Funds were also requested for Women's Development.

ITTF Information:

Glenn Tepper gave a report on ITTF Development in which he strongly emphasised the ITTF Global Youth events. World Junior, World Cadet and World Junior circuit.

Discussion ensued and questions answered.

Patrick Gillmann indicated that there was no ITTF Head Coach for the Training Camp in Noumea during the World Junior Circuit event and this was unacceptable as he felt that ITTF should provide a coach as has been done for all other ITTF Training Camps.

Glenn advised that there were problems with travel and if it was OK he would come to Noumea as the ITTF Head Coach.

A new ITTF Coaching Manual has been published and is available although the demand has been so great the first print has been exhausted. Steve Dainton would supply 10 free copies for each future course he undertakes but further copies would need to be purchased, but if a Solidarity Course the cost could be brought into the expenses.

ITTF Global Youth:

World Junior Circuit 2005

Fiji expressed interest for Sept/Oct 2005. Glenn indicated that may be too late as the finals would be held in that period so the last event must be early September.

Also, at that time Australia & New Zealand have their own National Junior Championships.

Steve Dainton to work with Fiji and Mikael Anderson for 2005

It was suggested that more information should go onto the OTTF Website.

Management Committee to follow up.

World Junior Championships - Qualification

In the year when the Oceania Championships is not held it was suggested that if a World Junior Circuit event is held in Oceania then a separate play off event be staged whilst all teams are present. However this would need to be played prior to 30th June to enable players to prepare for the event and raise funds. If the World Junior Circuit event is held after 30th June or if no event is held in that year then it was suggested that the team who qualified the previous year during the Oceania Championships will represent Oceania.

Another event suggested was for this to be held in conjunction with the Australian Youth Championships at Easter in Melbourne Australia.

The matter was referred to the Management Committee to follow up.

World Cadet Challenge:

Neil read the report from Karen Pon who was manager of the 2003 Oceania team.

Copy enclosed with these minutes.

A discussion on procedure and selection for future Cadet events was begun. It was decided that the Development Officer will accompany the team as Manager/Coach. Also, it was suggested that the initial selection will be no more than (1) per country and this selection will be conveyed to the player and players association and availability requested. If that person is unavailable, then next person in selection list will be asked. There should be no more than 2 players from the one country in each team.

Oceania Championships:

Kiribati advised that they would not be able to host the event in 2006 because completion of their new facilities cannot be confirmed.

Vanuatu expressed interest but they are also re-building and cannot be sure of completion time.

Australia registered an expression of interest. Alan Clarke will take it further with their Board and get back to us as soon as possible.

Management Committee to follow up to confirm host.

Constitution:

Move Anthony Ho (Fiji), Seconded Joe Fifita (Tonga) that proposal as set out in Annexure "A" to the agenda be accepted in block. **"CARRIED"**

General Regulations:

Proposals in Annexure "B" & "C" referred to Management Committee as comes within their jurisdiction.

Elections:

As nominations for all elected positions are the exact number required, no election was necessary.

The Chairman declared the following elected.

- President/ITTF Vice-President Oceania - Neil Harwood (AUS)
- ITTF Board Member/OTTF Management Committee - Patrick Gillmann (NCL)
- ITTF Board Member/OTTF Management Committee - David Jackson (NZL)
- ITTF Board Member/OTTF Management Committee - Graeme Ireland (AUS)
- OTTF Management Committee Member - Ron Garrett (NZL)
- OTTF Management Committee Member - Anthony Ho (FIJ)
- OTTF Management Committee Member - Michel Lehoullier (NCL)

All the above have been elected for a 2-year term as members of the OTTF Management Committee and take up duty immediately. ITTF Vice-President Oceania and ITTF Board members will take up duty after the ITTF Annual Meeting in Shanghai China in 2005 and will serve a 4-year term in those positions as approved at the ITTF Annual Meeting in Doha Qatar.

Following changes to the constitution at this meeting, in future Management Committee members will be elected for a 4-year term and elections will take place in the year of the Olympic Games. To conform to these requirements, those elected at this meeting under the old constitution requirements will need to be re-elected at the BGM in 2006 for a further 2year term, or earlier, if considered appropriate.

General Business:

Through the President James Morris suggested that OTTF assist countries to come to Oceania Championships with their passports, visas and travel arrangements, possibly work with Olympic Committees if they have them.

Steve Dainton said that each country is different and would have to be on a country by country basis.

Glenn Tepper said there was no one solution to this problem.

Host & OTTF need to communicate with countries early with Steve Dainton in the loop.

Management Committee to look at.

Finance (Deferred from earlier):

Moved Ron Garrett, Seconded Anthony Ho that Financial Report be accepted subject to Audit and the meeting be adjourned until the audit report is circulated and ultimately approved by e-mail of members.

This to be completed by the end of June. **"CARRIED"**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.02pm

Chairman: