

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS, Kuala Lumpur (MAS) 29.02 + 02.03.2016

Present:

Ronald Kramer (NED), (President),
Ivo-Goran Munivrana (CRO), (Deputy President)
Dorte Darfelt (DEN), (Vice-President for Finances)
Heike Ahlert (GER), (Vice-President)
Nikolas Endal (CZE), (Vice-President)
Sonja Grefberg (FIN), (Vice-President)
Roman Markov (RUS), (Vice-President)
Petr Korbel (CZE), (co-opted EB member)
Richard Scruton (Secretary General)
Pierre Kass (Deputy Secretary General)

Excused:

Veli Ozan Cakir (TUR), (Vice-President)

Welcome of the President

The President welcomed the Executive Board members and excused Mr. Veli Ozan Cakir.

President's Opening Remarks

The President reported about a meeting he had with the ITTF Chairman Adham Sharara. Mr. Kramer had an idea creating an event as the Tennis Davis Cup for Table Tennis. It would be a new way to organise the World Team Cup. The idea was to start with 16 teams, on Friday 2 matches and the 3rd match on Saturday. The event should be played during 2 days on 1 table in 1 hall. So local interest could be attracted. The start of the competition in 2018. 4 free dates in the calendar are needed.

Mr. Kramer had a meeting with the Continental Presidents and the ITTF EC members. A presentation was given by Steve Dainton about the WTTC. Interesting from marketing point of view. One of the most striking items was on how many times a WTTC host was neither European nor Asian, with the surprising answer of 1 only. Media attention and exposure of the events were further items on the presentation. All monies and viewers income are only from Europe and Asia. On that meeting all agreed that a change for the WTTC is needed.

ITTF had a meeting with the International Badminton Federation having its social seat in MAS and since 2006 they have more world wide viewers than Table Tennis.

Mr. Kramer reported about a meeting with Butterfly to become ETTHoF partner. They want to see further details. By 18th March they will inform ETTU if interested or not.

Mr. Kramer reported about the meeting with the ITTF BoD European representatives in KL. (report attached).

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meetings in Lisbon (9.12.2015)

The minutes of the meetings in Lisbon were adopted.

3. Report of President, Deputy President and Vice-Presidents:

- TT Champions League Men clubs meeting, Luxembourg (RK, PK)

Mr. Kramer reported about his attendance to the meeting with tsmg and the participating clubs where also the draw for the knock out stage has been done. During the meeting the TTCLM Management Board representatives from the clubs were appointed, Andreas Preuss (Düsseldorf – GER) and Loic Bréhu (Chartres – FRA). tsmg having 2 representatives, Bianka Stak and Philipp Möhring, and the representatives from ETTU are Nikolas Endal and Pierre Kass. The EB confirmed the members of the TTCLM Management Board.

- Meeting with FLTT President, Luxembourg (RK)

Mr. Kramer reported about the meeting with FLTT about hosting a Europe Top 16 Cup. FLTT will make a presentation later.

- Visit to FC TT Saarbrücken and meeting with TIBHAR (RK, RCS)

The President and Secretary General had a meeting with Roland Berg (Tibhar) in Saarbrücken and the President handed over the ETTU BoH diploma and pin to Mr. Erwin Berg before an enthusiast audience. The development agreement has been discussed.

- Visit to SVNO Ströck (RCS)

The Secretary General attended the ECLW match Ströck v Berlin.

- Inspection visit to Zagreb (IGM, RCS)

The Secretary General reported about a successful day and a half in Zagreb. The Deputy President and Secretary General inspected 4 different hotels, the playing venue, met with the Croatian TTA and spoke about technical matters and made a visit to the Secretary General of the Croatian Olympic Committee, met the Mayor of Zagreb in front of TV cameras and other media.

Prospectus will be available by 2nd or 3rd week in March.

Mr. Munivrana is convinced that the 2016 event will be one of the best organised EYC.

The organisers showed good will to accommodate the umpires in the 4 star hotel and not in the 3 star hotel.

Mr. Munivrana gave his compliments to the Secretary General for his good TV interviews which is important for the host Association. The new Croatian President has been asked to be patron of the Championships. Officials, players and coaches will have all meals served in the Panorama hotel, close to the venue.

- Visit to Hungarian Open, Budapest (RK, IGM, RCS)

The President informed that he presented to 5 Hungarian HoF inductees with their certificates and Judit Farago received her ETTU BoH.

A press conference was held on the ETTU and an inspection was done. A further meeting was arranged in Kuala Lumpur. The Hungarian TTA would like to have a physical HoF exhibition in Budapest.

- Visit to German Open, Berlin and meeting with Butterfly (RK)

The President informed about a sold out hall and good atmosphere at the German Open. He had a meeting with the Butterfly representative for Europe, Mr Imamura, and presented the idea about the HoF. The President took the occasion to hand over to Mr. Hans-Wilhelm Gäb his ETTU Honorary Membership diploma and pin.

- Visit to Russian National Championships, Sochi (RK)

The President had a "lunch meeting" with Mr. Levitin, Mr. Grigoriev and local organisers. The main items had been already reported. He invited the Russian delegation to bid for the under 21 Championships in Sochi. ETTU is asked to provide with a title sponsor. TTFR shall propose some dates.

- Inspection visit to Istanbul (RK, RCS)

The President reported about the inspection visit to Istanbul and that many things need to be done for the Olympic Singles Qualification event.

The Deputy President asked if any problems with the Cyprus delegation are expected. The problem had been discussed in the meeting with the TUR NA.

4. ITTF:

- AGM, Board of Directors

- Consideration of propositions and resolutions

The ITTF AGM and BoD proposals were discussed.

5. ETTU Extraordinary Congress (Wednesday 2.3.2016):

- Presentations

The EB discussed the presentation of the European Championships organiser and the consequences of host Association teams not competing in the qualification.

6. Financial Matters:

- Accounts 2015

The Vice President for Finances informed that the accounts have been finalised. ETTU will have a surplus of 139.000 Euros. The marketing activities created more income than expected.

Suggestion: to add 20.000 Euros to the development program, 12.000 Euros to employ an assistant for the Development Manager, 25.000 Euros to hire a part time help for the Secretariat in Luxembourg and 10.000 Euros for ETTU's 60th anniversary celebration.

The remaining amount shall be put in liquidity.

The ETTU EB agreed to the above suggestion.

- Member Association Invoices 2015 - outstanding payments

15 member Associations are having open accounts towards ETTU.

Member Associations being future event organisers and having outstandings will get these amounts deducted from their event income.

- Budget 2016

The 2016 Budget will be amended with the new amounts given above.

Moldova sent an email that they do not agree with paying the 2015 ETTC entry fees.

The ETTU EB discussed and concluded that these entry fees will not be charged but a symbolic fine of 10 Euros for late withdrawal will be imposed.

The President of the Kosovo TTF approached the ETTU Vice President for Finances asking not having to pay the entry fees for the ETTC. The request has been rejected but Kosovo had received a letter from ETTU with some proposals on further support in their development activities.

7. Development:

The Deputy President reported about the ETTU Hopes and during the next days a decision will be taken to hold the 2016 Hopes camp in Portugal, Luxembourg or Czech Republic.

The coaching seminar in Budapest was attended by 32 coaches from 15 Associations. Coaches are eager to participate in the seminars but would like to receive certificates for participation.

ETTU planned to organise a next coaching seminar in Prague during the Youth Top 10.

The under 18 program has been abolished.

A meeting was scheduled with the Associations of Russia, Sweden, Romania and France to propose integration of some of their players aged 14 – 16 to the development program.

European experts will be used instead of Chinese at the next coaching seminar.

The Secretary General mentioned that ETTU is planning for the women's program event. Tamara Boros and Csilla Batorfi will hold a coaching seminar for women at the WSA at the end of May / beginning of June with focus on the practical part of coaching and training.

The President said that he had an informal discussion with Jörg Roszkopf. They discussed opportunities to enhance Europe's TT performance. The idea came up of inviting 6-8 European top coaches to discuss 'how to win European medals in Tokyo?' Jörg Roszkopf would prefer to free the 5 first weeks from the year of the TT calendar which would help the players and to have some kind of a forum for discussion on how to achieve being more competitive with the Asians. The Deputy President was in favour of this idea and thought that 2 players shall be invited too.

8. Marketing: written report

The Secretary General informed about the Associations having not provided with the figures of their clubs and players.

He pointed out that the meeting with the President and Steve Dainton will be held on the following day. He started to consider having a marketing and promotion workshop in Budapest in October for the delegates and the national Associations' staff.

9. Hall of Fame: written report

The President and Secretary General had a meeting with Butterfly in Kuala Lumpur and ETTU asked for an annual partnership fee from Butterfly.

10. Report of Secretary General: written report

11. Club Competitions: written report

12. Events:

- 2016 European Top-16 Cup – Gondomar, POR, 5.2.-7.2.2016

The President reported about the meeting with the players. It has been decided that starting next year 50.000 Euros prize money is a must. A new set-up of the event with direct knock out matches has been discussed and the event shall last 2 days only.

Prize money or at least free hospitality shall be allocated to the players losing in the first round. Further items were the high hospitality costs in Gondomar and to open the possibility to let the participants to book accommodation on their own. Matches for positions 5-8 shall not be played. In case reserve players are needed for the World Cup, it shall go by ranking order. A day for (local) promotion with the participating players shall be on Friday. Maximum 2 participants per Association per gender was also proposed.

- 2016 European Championships – Budapest, HUN, 18.10.-23.10.2016.

A meeting with Liebherr will be arranged to check if they wish to become Title Sponsor.

The dates were confirmed for the ETTU Ordinary Congress and EB meeting.

A half day excursion will be organised by the OC. A second inspection visit will take place later in the year.

- 2017 European Under 21 Championships

The Russian TTF asked about the playing days and would like to play Monday to Friday or Wednesday to Saturday.

- 2017 European Top-16 Cup – bids from LUX, FRA

Presentations were held by the Luxembourg and the French TTF for hosting the 2017 ITTF Europe Top 16 Cup.

The EB decided to award the 2017 ITTF Europe Top 16 Cup to France.

- 2017 European Championships – bid from ITA

A presentation was held by FITET.

The EB decided not to allocate the 2017 European Championships to Italy.

- 2017 Europe Youth Top 10 – bid from ENG

A presentation was given by TT England.

The EB decided to grant TT England the 2017 Europe Youth Top 10.

- Bids for 2018 events

Norway showed interest in the Youth Top 10.

Applications for the 2019 events will be asked soon.

13. Athletes Commission:

The Athletes' Commission Chairman informed about players' feedback that more time for preparation is needed, at least 2 weeks before the start of the European Championships shall be free.

A blue playing floor is not adequate for TT. Floor advertisement containing white colour as at the Top 16 Cup in Gondomar shall not be accepted in future.

Umpire performance was discussed.

14. Para Table Tennis:

The Vice President for Finances informed that the ITTF Para TT meetings will be held on the following Friday and Saturday.

15. 60th Anniversary (2017):

No specific comments.

16. Any other business:

The December EB meeting could be held on the 9th and 10th December, place to be decided.

The EB shortly discussed some concerns about the LSS (Live Score System).

17. Closure

The President thanked the attendees for their contributions and closed the meeting.
