



INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC TABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE
A Standing Committee of the International Paralympic Committee

EUROPEAN REGIONAL TABLE TENNIS ASSEMBLY

Minutes of a meeting of the European regional table tennis assembly held on Tuesday 24 June 2003 at 16h15 at the Hotel Panorama, Zagreb, Croatia

PRESENT (with voting rights): Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine

PRESENT (without voting rights): Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Portugal, Russia

PRESENT (SAEC members): Vincent Boury, Raúl Calín, Jiri Danek, Øivind Eriksen, Aart Kruimer, Christian Lillieroos, Nico Verspeelt

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Burchell, Gaël Marziou, Margita Homolova

BY INVITATION: Maria Mitakidou (ATHOC 2004)

ABSENT: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, France, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Moldova, Macedonia, Palestine, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Uzbekistan

WELCOME: in opening the meeting, the European Representative proposed that the IPTTC Chairperson chair the meeting and the Assembly agreed to this.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** of the meeting held on 15 July 2001 were confirmed.
2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** there were no matters arising from the minutes.
3. **IPTTC REPORT:** the Assembly noted the report presented by the Chairperson including the following highlights:
 - the change in name from International Table Tennis Committee for the disabled (ITTC) to International Paralympic Table Tennis Committee (IPTTC) following a decision to this effect for all 13 IPC sports to be called IP *sport* committee;
 - the subcommittees implementing the policies decided by the Sports Assembly Executive Committee for table tennis were selection, tournament, development and technical;
 - the strategic planning document issued by the IPC encouraged the establishment of “independent sports” which could either be separate from both the IPC and the able-bodied equivalent (e.g. World Organisation of Volleyball for the Disabled) or a part of the able-bodied federation (e.g. International Wheelchair Tennis Federation);
 - discussions with the International Table Tennis Federation were ongoing following the resolutions taken at the Assembly held in Taipei in August 2002.

The Assembly noted the questions raised by Belgium about why some nations were not present at the Assembly, whether decisions taken at the meeting would change after the meeting and about the language barrier that existed.

The Assembly noted the report tabled by the Ranking Director about the process being followed to investigate the implementation of a rating rather than ranking system. In particular, the Assembly noted that:

- the working group consisted of four people with a mathematician as a consultant;
- the recommendations would be tabled at the Assembly in Athens in 2004 for decision;
- the IPC had allocated a grant for this purpose from development funds;
- work had started in adapting the able-bodied national rating systems in existence to include classification, the IPTTC tournament system and the world-wide distribution of players;
- the system would be tested on the results from 1999 and the preliminary results would be put onto the website comparing the “old” and “new” systems for discussion through the forum.

The Assembly noted the report from the Medical Officer that:

- the Medical Committee felt that the new standing system was good, progressive and more easily understood;
- it could, as with all classification systems, be improved further and a clear profile of each class was being developed which would be added to the website in the near future;
- the proposal to adapt the system for sitting classes would be similar to that tabled in the 2002 Assembly;
- the Medical Commission had appointed a member to be responsible for doping control.

The Assembly, noted in response to the question from the Slovak Republic, that within the IPC there was provision made for the implementation of a “postal vote” between Assembly meetings to take important and urgent decisions and that this process had been followed in Taipei in relation to both the motions on the agenda for the Assembly which did not have a quorum and later in relation to the standing classification system. The Assembly noted that the IPC had accepted this process and had responded to the protest submitted by France but not to that submitted by the Slovak Republic. The Assembly noted that the Secretary General would follow up the response to the Slovak Republic with the IPC.

The Assembly noted the report from the technical delegate education coordinator that:

- the IPTTC had 12 to 15 were active TDs;
- more TDs were needed and thus training would be provided at regional championships;
- people with a wide background in table tennis, in organising tournaments, rules and regulations, coaching, umpiring and with an ability to speak English and other languages should be encouraged to undergo such training.

The Assembly also noted the greetings expressed by Ratko Kovacic, member of the European Paralympic Committee, on behalf of the EPC. The Assembly also noted that the EPC was re-establishing development initiatives in the region and wished for successful cooperation with nations and sports.

4. REGIONAL REPORT: the Assembly noted the report presented by the European Representative including that:

- in Frankfurt at the last Assembly meeting, there were 11 nations and the growth in attendance was evident;
- in 2001, there were tournaments organised in 18 nations around the world with 12 being in Europe;
- in 2002, with the world championships being the focus, the number of tournaments organised was lower with nine of 13 being organised in Europe;
- in 2003, there were 31 applications to host events and while some had dropped out, 17 of 25 would be organised in Europe;
- thus players in Europe had a wide choice of events in which to participate to get onto and improve their place on the world ranking lists;
- in addition, distance was comparatively shorter and costs lower than on other continents;
- thus there was no need to establish a committee as the number of events was good, organisation effect and distances short;
- however, many nations did not participate in tournaments mainly due to lack of finance, language barriers and NPCs not promoting the sport;
- unfortunately, the IPTTC was not able to assist with funding but could help to improve communication between the IPTTC and NPCs;
- once the final version of the IPTTC rules and regulations was available, it would be translated into Russian in conjunction with the IPC and published on the website.

5. FUTURE BIDS/EVENTS: the Assembly noted the following reports:

5.1 the IPC World Table Tennis Championships 2006: bids had been received from Spain (Bilbao) and Switzerland (Montreux), the SAEC would consider the bids at its meeting at the weekend and submit a recommendation to the IPC for final approval.

5.2 Athens Paralympic Games 2004:

- the Games would take place from 17 to 28 September 2004 with the Opening Ceremony on 17 September 2004 and the Closing Ceremony on 28 September 2004;
- table tennis event would take place from 18 to 27 September 2004 at the Galatsi Olympic Centre with 22 September 2004 being a rest day at which time the Assembly would take place;
- the draw would take place on 16 September 2004;
- the team events would be men's classes 1 – 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 - 7, 8, 9 and 10, women's classes 1 – 3, 4 – 5 and 6 – 10;
- the singles events would be men's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and women's classes 1 – 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 – 8, 9, 10 and 11;
- there would be 240 athletes of which 174 would be men and 66 women, 94 sitting and 80 standing men, 40 sitting and 26 standing women;
- 60% or 144 athletes would be selected from the ranking lists, 30% or 72 from regional championships and 10% or 24 from wild cards of which a maximum of four would be for the host nation;
- each match would be the best of five sets on a knock-out basis;
- for the 30 medal ceremonies, the gold medal would be silver with gold gilt, silver would be a silver medal and bronze with bronze gilt all with flowers and a certificate;

- the venue would be complete in September 2003, four months ahead of schedule;
- there would be 12 competitions tables, four for standing and eight for sitting;
- the tables and equipment would be Joolla (blue) with a taraflex floor;
- the balls would be Double Happiness three star white;
- there would be an exhibition event for 12 athletes in class 11.

The Assembly noted the request to ATHOC to have the presentation put on either or both the ATHOC (www.athens2004.com) and IPTTC websites (www.ipttc.org).

5.3 the regional championships 2005:

- following a site inspection of Italy's bid, two of the four venues had met the requirements with two possible hotels meeting the requirements;
- Italy did not present its bid to the Assembly as it was not complete;
- other nations interested in bidding should contact the European Representative;
- with two nations from Europe bidding for the world championships, it may be possible to suggest to the unsuccessful nation that it consider applying to host the European Championships;
- with a small number of bids being submitted, there was no room to negotiate a smaller entry fee but the IPC wished to keep this as affordable as possible.

5.4 regional team cup 2004:

- the RTC would be the first step towards qualification for the 2005 World Team Cup with the best two teams from each regional championship probably advancing to the WTC;
- potential organisers for the European Team Cup, a factor 30 event, were being sought;
- a TD inspection should be done at least eight months and the application 12 months before the event;
- the team's transport would be the responsibility of their respective NPCs;
- information on hosting the regional and world team cups would be published on the website by 15 July 2003.

5.5 world singles cup 2003: this new event in the calendar had been successfully hosted by France in May 2003.

6. **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR 2004:** the Assembly noted the information presented by the Selection Officer about the selection process for the Paralympic Games as follows:

- all information was on the website;
- there would be 240 slots for classes 1 to 10, men and women and 12 for class 11;
- the percentage allocations to ranking, regional winners and wild cards had been decided in 1997 and was continuing;
- it was possible to combine classes in regional championships but not to separate classes and the Selection Officer made this decision;
- in terms of wild cards and/or team target players and/or host nation allocation, 15 would be for men and 7 for women with two likely to be for the host nation;
- if a gold medallist in the regional championships rejected their place in the Paralympic Games, it would be offered to the silver medallist in that class and if he or she rejected their place, it

would be offered to the bronze medallist and if he or she rejected it, the slot would be allocated to the next player on the ranking list;

- if an NPC rejected an allocated slot, the NPC could not replace one player with another – it would be allocated to the next alternate player on the ranking list;
- for example, in class 1 men there would be 12 slots of which four would be allocated on the basis of the gold medallists at regional championships, six from the ranking list, one would be a wild card and one for a team target player;
- it was an IPC requirement for table tennis that the minimum numbers to make a valid event would be 12 men and seven women;
- the SAEC would decide on the ranking list to be used for the draw as this may be a special list;
- the latest ranking list would be used for seedings;
- a special ranking list at 1 December 2003 would be used for selections;
- in the team events, the minimum number of teams would be six in men and four in women due to the overall number of players in the event;
- for Sydney, there were 272 slots of which 36 were intellectually disabled athletes;
- for Athens, there were 240 slots with another 12 for intellectually disabled athletes so table tennis, overall, had an increased allocation for classes 1 to 10 of four slots.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Regional Championships issues: the Assembly noted that:

- team events: due to the length of team matches scheduled, extending the lunch hour to 16h00 on 26 and 27 June 2003 would be investigated;
- 19 medal presentations would be held on 25 June 2003;
- the payment to umpires had been done via the referee as the list had been received on 23 June 2003;
- the event programmes had been given to the referee.

7.2 IPC mandate: the Assembly noted that, in line with the IPC mandate, the SAEC was investigating ways to promote the participation of women and the severely disabled e.g. proportionately more athletes in these areas would be selected for the Paralympic Games.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 18h40.

READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING

HELD ON

CHAIRPERSON

AMB/

26 June 2003