



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

**AFRICA-MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL TABLE TENNIS ASSEMBLY**

Minutes of a meeting of the Africa-Middle East regional table tennis assembly held on Wednesday 10 December 2003 at 08h10 during the Regional Championships in Amman, Jordan

**PRESENT:** Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, South Africa

**OBSERVERS:** Iraq and Tunisia; Dr Nabil Salem (ASCOD President); Jiri Danek, Dr Aart Kruimer, Nico Verspeelt (IPTTC)

**ABSENT:** Ivory Coast, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria

**CHAIRPERSON:** Alison Burchell (acting IPTTC regional representative)

**WELCOME:** the Chairperson welcomed everyone to the first meeting at which a quorum was present and outlined the process to determine the quorum as amended by the IPC. The Assembly noted that a quorum was now determined by the aggregate of the number of nations attending the previous world championships (Iran, Jordan and South Africa = 3) plus the previous Paralympic Games (Jordan [duplicate], Nigeria and South Africa [duplicate] = 1) = 4 divided by 2 = 2 as the quorum.

The Assembly noted that mandate forms for the nations present had been received and that Iraq (currently expelled from IPC) and Tunisia (not widely practicing) were accredited as observers.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** of the meeting held on 19 August 2002 were confirmed and signed.
2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** the Assembly noted that there was none.
3. **IPTTC REPORT:** the Assembly noted the report which had been circulated previously presented by the Chairperson and the following amendments:
  - the FESPIC representative, Lee Hong-Jae, had resigned and Silas Chiang (also the IPTTC Treasurer) had been elected;
  - FESPIC had been renamed Asia-South Pacific by the IPC and IPTTC had followed suit;
  - Jordan, not South Africa, was hosting the Africa-Middle East Championships;
  - Montreux, Switzerland would host the 2006 World Championships;
  - the number of players and countries widely practising table tennis was always on the increase.
4. **REGIONAL REPORT:** the Assembly noted the report presented by the Chairperson that:
  - under the umbrella of the African Sports Confederation of Disabled (ASCOD), two seminars had been held incorporating table tennis in September 2002 and with a follow up coaching seminar in January 2003 concentrating on the All Africa Games;
  - the 8<sup>th</sup> All Africa Games held in Nigeria in October 2003 had included table tennis

- the 9<sup>th</sup> All Africa Games would be held in Algeria in 2007;
- preparations for this Assembly had been undertaken;
- the new representative should concentrate on development of the game and expanding the number of countries participating in table tennis through seminars for coaches, classifiers, umpires and event organisers;
- the Africa-Middle East Championships should be rotated between Africa and the Middle East as had been done by default with Africa (South Africa) in 1999 and Middle East (Jordan) in 2003;
- Egypt had expressed an interest in hosting the Championships in 2005 and discussions were continuing.

The Assembly noted the report and recommendations.

- 5. ELECTION OF A REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE 2003 – 2005:** the Assembly noted that the resolution taken at the assembly held in October 2000 in Sydney was that the regional representatives should be elected at the regional championships starting the year after the Sydney Paralympic Games for a four-year term of office. Voting for these positions should be by that region's national members and not by the whole world.

The Assembly agreed to Nico Verspeelt taking over the chair for this part of the meeting.

The Assembly noted that the acting regional representative had called for nominations which were tabled at the meeting. The Assembly noted that three nominations has been received namely Zahra Yousefi (Iran), Maysoun Hamarshe (Jordan) and Alison Burchell (South Africa).

The Assembly noted the job description for the regional representative which included:

- a) committed to serving table tennis in the region from now until the next regional elections in 2005;
- b) in serving table tennis, to be committed to the further development of the sport in all countries in the region and in all aspects (coaching, player development, administration, refereeing, technical delegates, classifiers);
- c) able to communicate in English as this is the official language of the IPC and IPTTC;
- d) able to develop good communication with all countries in the region and with the IPTTC.

The Assembly noted the voting procedures to be used:

- i) voting would be conducted by secret ballot on forms supplied by the secretary of the General Assembly;
- ii) the Assembly appointed Aart Kruimer and Nico Verpseelt as independent scrutineers to count the votes;
- iii) the nominee polling the highest number of votes would be declared elected;
- iv) should there be an equality of votes, there would be a re-vote for the relevant two nominees to break the tie;
- v) the result would be declared (without revealing the number of votes polled by each candidate) by the acting Chairperson;
- vi) once the election results had been declared, the Assembly gave permission for the ballots to be destroyed.

After discussions on the need for a regional committee to be put in place including all candidates and other interested persons, the acting Chairperson declared Alison Burchell elected as the regional representative. The Assembly asked that the regional representative establish a committee of Mayssoon Hamarshe, Zahra Yousefi, Said Dowara (Egypt) and Majed D Rishk (Iraq).

**6. ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE FUTURE:** the Assembly confirmed that the above procedures would be used in future elections for its regional representative.

**7. FUTURE BIDS:** the Assembly noted the procedure set out by the Tournament Officer to be followed when submitting a bid to host:

7.1 regional team cup 2004: this was an expensive undertaking and the IPTTC would review this at its meeting in early 2004. The application should be submitted to the Tournament Officer as soon as possible;

7.2 the regional championships 2005: as discussed earlier, Egypt had declared an interest in this event and a site inspection would take place in 2004 but should any other nation be interested, they should make contact with the Tournament Officer;

7.3 world championships 2006: these had been allocated to Switzerland and consideration should be given to the 2010 world championships.

The Assembly noted that regular information about events was put on the IPTTC website: [www.ipttc.org](http://www.ipttc.org).

**8. ATHENS PARALYMPIC GAMES 2004:** in relation to the report on the Athens Paralympic Games 2004, the Assembly noted that:

- 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 events would take place from 18 to 27 September 2004 at the Galatsi Olympic Centre with 22 September 2004 being a rest day;
- 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;
- class 11 would be a demonstration event for 12 athletes for the 2004 Paralympic Games who would be selected from the INAS-FID World Championships held in November 2003 in Mexico;
- 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 by January 2004 for the ITTF Pro Tour, except for the parking area and surrounds which would be ready in May 2004;

- the venue had 12 accessible toilets;
- the competition hall could seat about 5 000 spectators;
- there would be 12 competitions tables, four for standing and eight for sitting;
- the tables and equipment will be Joola (blue) with a Taraflex floor;
- the balls will be Double Happiness three star white so no team should wear white shirts for competition.

The Assembly agreed that having an Assembly during the Paralympic Games was essential and asked the IPTTC to write to the IPC Management Committee to ask it to review its decision not to hold any sports assemblies during the Games.

**9. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR 2004:** the Assembly noted that:

- the information presented by the Selection Officer about the selection process for the Paralympic Games and he would be available after the meeting to answer questions;
- the ranking list would be updated by 15 December 2003 and this would be used for the selection process;
- to be selected, a player had to have an international classification card and be selected by his or her NPC;
- in the standing classes, all players would have to be classified in the new system.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS:** the Assembly noted that:

10.1 Classification: 40 athletes had been classified before these Championships and very few had changed. Seven people had attended the classification seminar (2 technical, 2 doctors, 1 lawyer, 1 physio from Jordan [2], Iran [2], Iraq [2] and South Africa [1]). The classification system for sitting players was still being reviewed but it was not likely to change greatly from the recommendations made at the Assembly held during the World Championships in 2003.

10.2 IPC Constitution: the document had been distributed and should be discussed with the relevant NPC and comments and suggestions submitted to Dr Salem who was on the constitution committee established by the IPC Executive to review the constitution in light of the adoption of the strategic review. A Special General Assembly would be held in November 2004 to adopt the new constitution and to review progress made by INAS-FID in terms of the eligibility/classification system. Dr Salem could be contacted on [nabilsalem40@hotmail.com](mailto:nabilsalem40@hotmail.com).

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 09h50.

**READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING**

**HELD ON** .....

**CHAIRPERSON** .....

AMB/

19 December 2003