



# INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC TABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE

## A Standing Committee of the International Paralympic Committee

### SPORTS ASSEMBLY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 1/2006

Minutes of a meeting of the IPC Table Tennis SAEC held at 16h00 on Friday 20 and 08h15 on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 January 2006 in Bonn, Germany.

**PRESENT:** Øivind Eriksen (Chairperson for late Saturday and Sunday), Alison Burchell (acting chairperson Friday and Saturday), Raúl Calín, Linda Chen, Jiri Danek, Aart Kruimer, Leandro Olvech, Nico Verspeelt

**APOLOGIES:** Vincent Boury, Silas Chiang, Christian Lillieroos

**BY INVITATION:** Xavier Gonzalez (for item 6.1), David Grevemberg (for items 2.4, 6.1)

**WELCOME:** the acting chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting, wished all well for 2006 and congratulated Raúl on his recent marriage.

The acting chairperson welcomed the IPC Director of Sport to the meeting and the IPC CEO who later joined the meeting. There had been a good meeting with Montreux earlier in the day about the contract for the world championships.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** of the meeting held from 22 to 24 July 2005 in Mar del Plata were confirmed and signed.

**2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the SAEC noted aspects of the report including:

2.1 marketing of and sponsorship for IPTTC including:

- Donic which had offered equipment at reduced prices;
- Schenker which was still being investigated by the IPC;
- travel agency which had indicated it wanted to offer tours in and around Montreux;
- advertising on the website would be done once contracts had been signed;
- a contract had been provided by the IPC for the travel agency.

2.2 report of the Sports Council meeting held in September 2005: no report had been received but the minutes had been distributed.

2.3 contact with Linda: had taken place to convey the feeling that Linda had too much other work with her university and NPC to be able to give IPTTC the amount of time needed.

2.4 response to European coaches:

- the IPC had developed significant changes in the Paralympic programme review process including guiding principles of quality, quantity and universality as well as doing a strategic review for the sports and Paralympic Games;
- the number of events had decreased across the board with table tennis being reduced by 4 events where athletics had been reduced by 60 events;
- however table tennis had received an increase in the number of women's places;
- for the past 3 years, this process had been discussed at the Sports Council and in August 2003, had discussed possible cuts and adjustments to the programme and how the process would unfold as well as the IOC contract requirements;

- the message of the letter to the European coaches was that IPTTC was not responsible and that the problem had been caused by the IPC;
- tough decisions had been taken;
- table tennis was valued as a sport together with the SAEC;
- targets should be met wherever possible but it may take longer to achieve targets for disability but this could be discussed;
- those involved in table tennis perhaps had a sports focus while NPCs perhaps had a wider focus;
- the NPCs had received explanations of the process in writing and at the General Assembly and it was possible the message had not reached the coaches who were concerned about how many medals they could win;
- global targets had to be developed and table tennis would have to see how it could contribute to meeting these targets;
- Nico, at each regional championship, had explained the process, requested feedback but had received none;
- class 11 had been included in the total number of slots and events for 2008;
- overall for 2008, 471 events had been included instead of the contract number of 450 and special dispensation for this had to be requested;
- IPTTC should consider how to use the Paralympic Games to show table tennis as a top sport;
- BOCOG was paying for all teams to get to the Games;
- issues such as having 182 matches on the first day as happened in Athens should be reviewed, how to focus on the top matches, having élite players at the Games, performance versus participation, competition format, eligibility and classification.

The SAEC asked Alison to check with the IPC about transport costs for equipment.

The SAEC agreed to consult the IPC about issues that could prove to be controversial.

**3. VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the report from the Vice-Chairperson that:

- there was no contact with ISMWSF at the time as they were merging with ISOD;
- awards for the best player had been made in 2003;
- the proposals for the future structure of the SAEC.

The SAEC noted Linda's resignation as Vice-Chairperson with sadness but understood that there had been a misperception that the position was an honorary one, that the SAEC had seemingly not provided adequate guidance and that Linda indeed had some pressures on her time.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the Treasurer's report including:

4.1 sanction and capitation fees:

- only Bilbao was outstanding from tournaments held in 2003 and 2004 but this could be offset against the application fee of US\$1 500 for the world championships which should be refunded;
- 4 tournaments in 2005 had yet to pay about €8 000,00;

4.2 report on the budget for 2005:

- members who had received funds in advance of expenditure had submitted invoices and receipts to the IPC;
- the income from 2005 was €95 274,96, expenses €62 019,27 leaving a surplus of €33 255,69;
- overall the balance at 1 January 2005 was €100 828,98 and at 31 December 2005 was €134 084,67;
- the classification account had to be addressed in 2006;
- in general, IPTTC was in a sound financial position.

#### 4.3 report on the budget for 2006: (all in €)

| Income          | Expenditure   |
|-----------------|---|
| IPC grant       | 26 000  |
| Sanction fees   | 2 500   |
| Capitation tax  | 44 000  |
| 2005            | 8 000   |
| World champs    | 6 000   |
| Other events    | 30 000  |
| IPC development | -   |
| Classification  | <u>250</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b><u>72 750</u></b>  |
|                 |   |
|                 | Chairperson (administration) 500  |
|                 | Vice-Chairperson -  |
|                 | Treasurer 2 100   |
|                 | (administration 600, representation 1500)   |
|                 | EC meetings 16 500  |
|                 | (Bonn 7 500, Montreux 7 500, other 1 500)   |
|                 | ITTF-IPTTC (representation) 1 000   |
|                 | Athlete representative (administration) 500   |
|                 | Development (2005 5 000, 2006 5 000) 10 000   |
|                 | Tournament 5 200  |
|                 | (administration 1 700, senior TD 1 000, TD education, cards, accommodation 2 000, TD education preparation 500) |
|                 | Technical 5 000   |
|                 | (administration 500, referees conference 2 000, software 1 500, Montreux equipment 1 000)                       |
|                 | Medical (administration 250, Ghana 900) 1 150   |
|                 | Selection (administration 4 800, meeting 7 230) 12 030  |
|                 | Regional 18 600   |
|                 | Americas (administration 2 500, website 800, development 5 000, office 800)                                     |
|                 | Europe (administration 100, Kiev 700, Kiev x 3 2 300, translation 400)  |
|                 | Africa (development 5 000)  |
|                 | Asia (development 1 000)  |
|                 | Webmaster 800   |
|                 | Gifts (awards + gifts 4 350, clothes 2 500, other 150) 7 000  |
|                 | Coaching (manuals 3 300, meeting + ITTF seminar 5 900) 9 200  |
|                 | <b>Total</b> <b><u>89 580</u></b>   |

Deficit for the year -€16 830

#### 4.4 asset register lodged with the IPC and submission of information on IPTTC assets: no progress.

The SAEC asked:

- Nico to move the classification account from Belgium to Germany when the IPC system was working well;

- ii) Øivind to investigate the payment of Bilbao's fees from 2004 from the world championship application fee;
- iii) Øivind to investigate the asset register lodged with the IPC.

**5. SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the Secretary General's report including:

- 5.1 postal vote: all motions had been approved.
- 5.2 IPC General Assembly in November 2005 including new developments: Silas had submitted the formal report.
- 5.3 communication including ITTF magazine, IPC newsletter, Paralympian and website: deadlines for articles would be circulated asap.
- 5.4 volunteer form for the website with job descriptions: classification by Aart or Nico, referee and umpire by Raúl and TD by Øivind to be done by 31 January 2006.
- 5.5 strategic plan in draft including succession planning: this had been circulated and was a "high level" draft as each section would have to have more detail added.
- 5.6 code of conduct for IPTTC:
  - a simpler undertaking should be signed so that the undertaking was relevant to the work done by the volunteer;
  - the whole document should be kept for reference purposes;
  - education, TDs, referees and organising committees should be included;
  - discipline at an event should be managed by the TD and form part of TD education.
- 5.7 certificates from the IPC including Award for Dr Wu and Gaël Marziou.
- 5.8 internet communication via [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com): members should register to take advantage of this.
- 5.9 contracts:
  - had been implemented for regional championships in 2005;
  - contracts for the IOSD Games had been tabled but not approved;
  - IOSDs were members of the table tennis Assembly as well as owners of major games which offered competition opportunities;
  - contracts with IFs had been approved;
  - IPC competitions included the Paralympic Games and world championships and the IPC controlled the sanction (FA 80 – 100);
  - events held under IPC "patronage" included FESPIC, IOSD Games and regional championships (Fa 50);
  - IPC "recognised" events included national and invitational events (FA 10 - 40);
  - if there was doping control, a sanction was required;
  - the purpose of the contract was to achieve a standard;
  - implementation and monitoring would be done as appropriate;
  - action to be taken if organisers and/or IPTTC default would be taken by the "innocent party";
  - the IPTTC was responsible for the technical aspects of an event;
  - capitation tax should be included in the technical agreement with the IOSDs in future;
  - the TD was empowered to monitor the technical implementation;
  - there should be clarity about the terminology and intent of the per diem (compensation for time) or stipend (supplement for service) or pocket money or payment in terms of a service agreement.
- 5.10 Assembly 2006:

- agenda items and motions included ranking penalty points, cushions, ranking and rating system, Laureus Award;
- availability of current members for election 2006 to 2010 was confirmed by Jiri, Nico, Øivind, Leandro, Silas, Aart, Vincent and Alison;
- thus at least a new technical officer had to be found;
- structure of the SAEC would have to be confirmed.

5.11 SAEC meeting before, during or after the world championships:

- the Assembly would take place on 27 September 2006;
- therefore Christian, Øivind and Alison should arrive on 24 September 2006 to prepare for the Assembly;
- other SAEC members should arrive 26 September 2006 if they were not directly involved in the world championships;
- an SAEC meeting should be held on 27 and 28 September 2006 if possible.

5.12 IPC logo included in the ITTC logo: the IPC would clarify this issue but it should be debated with the ITTF too.

5.13 demonstration events:

- in essence this involved ITTF's events;
- this allowed IPTTC to showcase the sport, promote inclusion, to some extent to "demystify" the sport and table tennis for the disabled;
- this was done in the hope of increasing the number of spectators, of players by making people aware of the existence of the sport thus educating the "table tennis family";
- linked to this is the hope of increasing fitness through participation;
- to promote and distribute information on IPTTC and IPC;
- it was possible to have a stand or sell products at the event.

The SAEC resolved to:

- a) ratify the AME contract;
- b) pay the costs for accommodation for SAEC members not directly involved as championships officials in the world championships.

The SAEC asked:

- i) Alison to circulate deadlines for articles as soon as possible;
- ii) Aart or Nico to write a job description for classification, Raúl for referee and umpire and Øivind TD by 31 January 2006;
- iii) all SAEC members to comment on the strategic plan by 31 January 2006;
- iv) Alison to simplify the code of conduct and include TDs, referees, organising committees and education;
- v) Øivind to include doping control and managing discipline at tournaments in the TD education;
- vi) the new SAEC to investigate longer term sanctions for disciplinary offences;
- vii) all SAEC members to register with Skype;
- viii) Alison to sign the AME contract for 2005;
- ix) Christian, Øivind and Alison to prepare for the Assembly from 25 to 27 September 2006;
- x) all to submit to Alison by 15 March 2006 the draft motions plus a short report on activities for the past 4 years including statistics, successes and recommendations which would form the chairperson's report to be sent out in June 2006;
- xi) Alison to circulate the draft 4 year report by 31 March 2006;

- xii) Alison to follow up with the IPC Director of Sport about the logo, the process by which a TD was empowered to monitor technical aspects of events, structure of the SAEC, sending out documentation for the Assembly in June 2006 before summer holidays;
- xiii) TDs in future to sign contracts for tournaments where they were the TD;
- xiv) Alison to respond to the IPC on the SAEC's views on demonstration events.

## **6. ITTF-IPTTC LIAISON REPORT:** the SAEC noted the ITTF-IPTTC Liaison's report including:

### 6.1 status of relations:

- meeting with ITTF in China: the report on the meeting had been sent out in September 2005;
- the committee established by the ITTF relations with VP in charge of IPTTC relations: this committee was waiting to discuss matters further with IPTTC;
- appointment of an administrative person: this would be determined after further discussions with the ITTF committee;
- inclusion of an "introduction to classification" in the ITTF umpires' seminar: this was done already and would be included in the 6 hour module for level ITTF coaching;
- further discussions on integration with ITTF including the circuit, U14, U17 and U21 events: this would be discussed with the ITTF committee;
- the ITTF constitution, transfer of governance 1 January 2009: this would be discussed with the ITTF committee;
- membership (NPC or NF) : this would be discussed with the ITTF committee;
- progress with Kenya, Lesotho and East Timor: there was seemingly no progress.

In further discussions with the IPC representatives present; the SAEC noted:

- ✓ after transfer of governance, the ITTF would be the official member of IPC;
- ✓ an IF membership agreement would be signed with the IPC with terms and conditions of transfer of governance, responsibility for the disabled and management thereof;
- ✓ the ITTF was intrigued as to why the transfer could not take place now and was waiting for the IPTTC to follow up;
- ✓ currently IPTTC was looking at end 2008 for the transfer although good cooperation already existed;
- ✓ if IPTTC and ITTF made the case for an earlier transfer, it could be done;
- ✓ the reasons for joining ITTF or not had to be made and assessed by the Assembly;
- ✓ IPTTC would benefit particularly in terms of development, marketing, coaching, umpires, referees and initiatives like assisting Sri Lanka after the Tsunami;
- ✓ a motion approved by the Assembly for the transfer of governance was necessary;
- ✓ the IPC CEO had met the ITTF Executive Director in July 2005 and IPC had to follow up the presentation done by the Chairperson in Shanghai, set out the next steps and thank the ITTF for cooperating well with IPTTC;
- ✓ the next steps would be:
  1. the IPTTC-ITTF working group to meet with the IPC being kept informed of progress;
  2. the ITTF to confirm they were happy with the process;
  3. the motion presented to and approved by the Assembly;
  4. the plan and agreement approved and signed by the ITTF and IPC Governing Board;
- ✓ the FEI and IPEC had established a working group for 2 years to iron out any problems;
- ✓ the IPTTC strategic plan would have to be approved by the IPC Governing Board;

- ✓ there would need to be an agreement on the way forward for national transfer of governance from NPCs to the national ITTF associations;
- ✓ IPC would continue to support Paralympic table tennis even if it was under ITTF;
- ✓ if IPTTC was under ITTF, the financial support would be €11 000 whereas in 2006, IPTTC had been allocated €26 000 (the second largest allocation) but the full capitation fees would remain with IPTTC;
- ✓ there was a need for continuity in contact with the ITTF.

6.2 plans for 2006: covered in 6.1 in terms of meeting in Bremen, distribution of the strategic plan and Assembly.

The SAEC asked:

- i) Alison to prepare a draft letter for the IPC Director of Sport (for the IPC CEO to send to the ITTF) to consider after having sent it to Raúl for comment;
- ii) Øivind, Vincent and Raúl to meet the ITTF working group in Bremen, Germany at the end of April 2006 to discuss the way forward and to keep the IPC informed;
- iii) Raúl to send the draft strategic plan to the ITTF for comment in time for their Executive meeting on 23 February 2006.

## **7. TD COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the TD Coordinator's report including:

### 7.1 Materials:

- the handbook was still in process;
- selection section had been included in the handbook together with recruitment criteria;
- a basic examination had been developed;
- an application form had been developed;
- a checklist with explanation of items on the checklist available for 2006 had yet to be done;
- education plan for 2006 with a TD seminar in Montreux would be held and invitations sent out;
- there were 12 TDs with the vast majority based in Europe;
- some of these TDs had been consulted about their availability in 2006;
- the process of appointing TDs was not consistent as some had not completed the required 2 TD seminars and followed the process outlined in the handbook.

### 7.2 TD ID cards and certificates: would be implemented in 2006.

### 7.3 the Fair Play Awards with TDs to work with the referees, umpires and use the questionnaire: this would be done.

The SAEC asked Jiri to ensure that the TDs were briefed about the fair play awards.

## **8. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the Development Officer's written report including:

- 8.1 coaches' education including the composition of the interim committee and a budget for 2006, the next conference, integration with the ITTF, handbook, teaching resources, certification: dealt with under 14 below.
- 8.2 IPC development grant 2005 for the coaching conference, report and financial reconciliation: these have now been completed and submitted.

- 8.3 IPC development grant application for 2006: this had been submitted to print the new coaching manual.
- 8.4 player education on the rules and updated brochure: this should be distributed by TDs at tournaments.
- 8.5 development of women and the severely disabled in all areas (all to submit proposals by 31 December 2005): no proposals had been submitted.
- 8.6 promotional DVD, funding and distribution: this had been distributed at the IPC General Assembly, the balance sent to Vincent and some to IPC.
- 8.7 equipment including Waldner table, recognition by ITTF and IPTTC and information on the website: the recognition of the Waldner table had been done.
- 8.8 new mandate including “new table tennis nations” (Kenya, Lesotho, East Timor and Ghana), equipment and a Fa 10 tournament, facilitating education, recreation, social activities leading to élite player development: this was a large area and not much work had been done.
- 8.9 ITTF shipping company.

The SAEC resolved to accept Vincent’s resignation as development officer and to ask Alison to approach 2 alternatives to fill in for the portfolio until the Assembly.

The SAEC asked:

- i) Jiri to ensure that TDs distributed the brochure for player education at tournaments;
- ii) Vincent to submit invoices for the DVD to get a refund;
- iii) Alison to distribute her proposal to ASCOD for the money allocated from capitation fees from the regional championships to the other regional representatives.

**9. ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the Athlete Representative’s written report including:

- 9.1 database for athletes: unique identification numbers for athletes were now available and would soon fit into the classification database but the IPC was not yet able to supply numbers for its database.
- 9.2 Laureus Award: it was unlikely in the current situation that a table tennis player would be selected so this should be discussed at the Assembly.
- 9.3 website development and hall of fame: a forum on the website would be posted asking for suggestions.
- 9.4 athletes’ committee: despite efforts to establish this, there had not been a good response from the athletes themselves.

**10. TOURNAMENT OFFICER’S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the Tournament Officer’s written report including:

- 10.1 tournament information on the website with all templates and documents needed by TDs on the website: while Raúl was working on the electronic entry process, the word documents developed to date should be continued.
- 10.2 regional championships in 2007:
  - thanks to Nico for his excellent assistance during all regionals in 2005;
  - the ASP would be held in Korea but the dates would change to avoid any clash;
  - the European Championships would be in October 2007 in Slovenia;

- Africa would be held during the All Africa Games but the dates had to be confirmed;
  - the Americas would be 12 to 19 August 2007;
  - there were 2 candidates for the 2009 regional championships.
- 10.3 World Singles Cup: there was no confirmation that France would host this in 2007.
- 10.4 World Team Cup and the review by the Tournament Committee: this still had to be done.
- 10.5 questionnaire on the organisation of tournaments, review and feedback: a shorter questionnaire should be investigated.
- 10.6 tournament structure including fixed number of each Fa tournament per year, fixed dates, deadline for application, application for tournaments and entries by NPCs:
- a “pro tour” with a maximum of 8 Fa 30 tournaments for example should be considered;
  - there was not enough personnel for all the tournaments on the calendar;
  - back to back tournaments should also be considered as this assisted players who had to travel further e.g. from Asia;
  - the allocation of the factor for a tournament should be used as a mechanism to maintain standards;
  - to date, all applications for tournaments have been accepted with the dates proposed;
  - there seemed to be a correlation between an increase in the number of tournaments and a decrease in the number of players at each tournament so that classes had to be combined or cancelled due to lack of entries;
  - the deadline for applications should also be considered as it could assist better planning;
  - the number of factors should also be reviewed to see if it was necessary to have Fa 10 – 50.
- 10.7 tournament organiser’s handbook and education: having the forms on the website was a start but education was necessary too.
- 10.8 VIP gifts: the proposed gifts should be made for appreciation (2), best player (4), players player (2), organiser plus for the regional championships in 2007.
- 10.9 World championships 2010: information about this should be put on the website.

The SAEC asked:

- i) Raúl and Dr Wu to continue work on the electronic entry form process;
- ii) Alison to confirm the dates for the All Africa Games;
- iii) the tournament committee to review the rules and regulations for the world team cup;
- iv) Jiri and Leandro to consider ways to shorten the questionnaire on the organisation of tournaments;
- v) the tournament committee to present proposals on the tournament calendar for the SAEC to consider by June 2006 so that the proposals could be presented to the Assembly and implemented perhaps in 2007;
- vi) Jiri to continue to develop materials to assist tournament organisers;
- vii) Jiri to order the gifts for the world and regional championships;
- viii) Jiri to put information about the 2010 world championships on the website.

## **11. TECHNICAL OFFICER’S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the Technical Officer’s written report including:

- 11.1 updated handbook: this had been put on the website on 14 January 2006.
- 11.2 translation of the handbook: into Spanish was in process, into French, Chinese and Spanish was being investigated but the English version remained the official version.

- 11.3 new page on the website to draw attention to changes in rules and regulations: this was not necessary as the version of the handbook on the website showed the major changes in grey.
- 11.4 update on referees and umpires:
- database for referees and umpires on the website was being reviewed where each person was provisional until they had been confirmed as a referee or umpire;
  - the minimum requirements for a referee and umpire would be defined;
  - an ITTF world conference for referees would be held in 2006 and would include the IPTTC;
  - adding the referee for each tournament to the calendar still had to be done.
- 11.5 umpires' education seminars:
- "teachers" would be the IPTTC appointed referee at a tournament but from October 2006 (depending on the Assembly resolution), the ITTF lecturers would do the education;
  - regional umpires would be investigated;
  - guide and video had not been developed pending the discussions with the ITTF;
  - in coordination with ITTF, refresher courses would be offered which included the two new rules from IPTTC.
- 11.6 plan for referees' seminars: this would be included in a "world conference" run during the world championships or another time.
- 11.7 mixed gender events (with Rating Committee): this had disappeared from the ITTF programme due to time schedules and another ranking system would be needed.
- 11.8 competition management software: this would be discussed during the world championships.
- 11.9 medical recovery time: a motion was necessary for the Assembly.
- 11.10 ranking penalty points: a motion was necessary for the Assembly.
- 11.11 referee for the world championships: Patrick Ringel was proposed with deputies Karol Ziduliak, Regina Leung and a referee from Switzerland.
- 11.12 umpires at the world championships: invitations would be sent to the NPCs and national table tennis associations together with a list of qualified IPTTC umpires for them to consider sending umpires to the world championships.
- 11.13 racket control: this would be needed for the world championships.
- 11.14 umpires at regional championships: this was mandatory in other sports and could assist the organisation of the regional championships.

The SAEC resolved to:

- a) appoint Patrick Ringel as referee for the world championships;
- b) appoint Karol Ziduliak, Regina Leung and a referee from Switzerland as deputy referees depending on availability.

The SAEC asked:

- i) Raúl to investigate with Linda the possibility of translating the handbook into Chinese and with Alison into Arabic;
- ii) Raúl, Nico and Dr Wu to meet about the competition management software during the world championships;
- iii) Raúl to draft motions on the medical recovery time and ranking penalty points and send to Alison;
- iv) Raúl to confirm the referee and deputy referee appointments for the world championships ensuring gender and regional representation;

- v) Raúl to send out invitations for umpires as proposed;
- vi) Raúl to contact the chairperson of the ITTF equipment committee about appointing racket controllers from Europe for the world championships to assist with costs;
- vii) Raúl to investigate making it mandatory to participating nations to bring an umpire to the regional championships.

**12. MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the Medical Officer's report including:

- 12.1 classification cards (new format, indication of limits on serve): this would be addressed once the players' new ID numbers had been included in the system.
- 12.2 classification handbook and consistent terminology (with interim coaching committee): this would be incorporated into the level 1 ITTF coaching course.
- 12.3 proposed motions:
  - for minimum eligibility definitions had been submitted for the postal vote and approved;
  - implementation of the minimum eligibility should done via a review of classes 4 and 5 based on current classification cards and those players so identified would be reviewed;
  - new players classified from 2005 would play in terms of the new system;
  - those currently in sitting classes would effectively stay in that class until after Beijing as the disruption of moving from playing in a wheelchair to standing was significant;
  - in reality many players were moving into the standing classes voluntarily;
  - “shadow classifiers” nominated by the coaching committee was still not finalised;
  - “contact” with the cushion and the maximum height and incline of the cushion would be addressed once classes 4 and 5 had been sorted out.
- 12.4 INAS-FID classification update:
  - the members of the research group seemed to be mostly from universities;
  - the sports originally on the programme were athletics, swimming and table tennis (summer sports) and the research now covered rowing, football, basketball and equestrian in addition;
  - athletics, swimming and table tennis had agreed in February 2005 that the maximum IQ considered should be no more than 70;
  - IPTTC had proposed that the regional and INAS-FID world championships be used to develop a system but this had not happened;
  - INAS-FID had not yet appointed a person to work with the IPTTC appointed person.
- 12.5 athlete nominees for Classification Committee: this still had to be addressed by the athletes' representative.
- 12.6 players list on the website (Classification Secretary) and link to the IPC unique identity number: this would be addressed when the classification cards and new ID numbers were developed.
- 12.7 liaison with CP-ISRA: this would revert to Aart.
- 12.8 classifier education: this was ongoing at tournaments.
- 12.9 definition of severe disability: this was in process with definitions for both sitting and standing being developed.
- 12.10 Nanism or dwarfism: the Committee had agreed to recommend that:
  - Nanism be recognised as a disability;
  - the minimum eligibility be 1.4m with the player being in class 9;
  - if the player had an additional disability, he or she would be placed in the appropriate class from class 8 to 6;
  - this would require a motion to the Assembly to include Nanism as part of the minimum eligibility definition;

- if a player was in the standing classification system prior to 2000 and did not meet the new minimum eligibility definition, he or she would remain in the system.

The SAEC resolved:

- to accept the recommendation of the Committee to introduce a motion to the Assembly to include Nanism or dwarves in the classification system;
- in relation to INAS-FID, to ask Nico to reflect to the IPC-INAS-FID general and research groups the following position:
  - the principle should be that of applying a consistent approach to the all disabilities playing table tennis while meeting the requirements of the IPC General Assembly's resolutions from 2001, 2003 and 2005;
  - the research done must be directed by the IPTTC;
  - the research group must define the circumstances where an athlete could be defined as intellectually disabled or not and develop tests which were proven to be reliable, watertight, valid;
  - the research group must define the minimum eligibility in relation to intellectual disability and its impact on the athlete's locomotor abilities in table tennis and develop tests which are proven to be reliable, watertight, valid;
  - the research group must define when an athlete became the responsibility of the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games and the Special Olympic World Games;
  - the research group should define what was élite in the context of intellectual disability and table tennis as the Paralympic Games and the world championships were by definition events for élite athletes
  - all tests must be specific to the sport of table tennis;
  - the final tests, report etc must be sent to the Classification Committee for confirmation and once that was done, the Committee would send its recommendation to the SAEC and then the Table Tennis Assembly for final approval;
  - the work above must be submitted only once it was complete, had been thoroughly tested and agreed by the IPTTC representative (Nico) before it was formally submitted to IPTTC;
  - there would not be an opportunity provided at world championships or the Paralympic Games for testing the research these were not appropriate events to test the system.
- to appoint Aart Kruimer (chief classifier), Sheng Wu (technical) and Norma Angelica Patino Marquez (medical) as classifiers for the world championships;
- to implement the change in classification for sitting classes with effect from 1 January 2009 for those players already in the system, with a protest against a player currently in the system to come into effect 1 January 2009 and classification to be in effect immediately for new players coming into the system.

The SAEC asked:

- Aart to send his transparencies to the IPC to put them into presentation format;
- Aart to follow up with Vincent athlete representatives for the Classification Committee;
- Aart to fulfil the role of liaison with CP-ISRA and to monitor his workload as a result;
- Aart to nominate classifier/s for IWAS through Leandro;
- Aart and Nico to decide which players in class 4 and 5 would need to be reviewed;
- Aart to draft an initial motion for consideration at the Assembly on introducing Nanism or dwarfism into table tennis.

**13. SELECTION OFFICER'S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the Selection Officer's report including:

- 13.1 regional championships 2007 may need the format and system of play adapted based on experience of the 2005 championships and where possible, the same format and system of play would be used leading to the Paralympic Games.
- 13.2 the 2006 World Championships in Montreux:
  - a high quality test event had been held in November 2005;
  - guest invitations should be issued to Adham Sharara (ITTF President), Neil Harwood (ITTF VP in charge of liaison with IPTTC), Jordi Serra (ITTF Executive Director), Mr Yao (2008 competition manager);
  - TD seminar,
  - number of players and teams to advance to the next round had been decided and everyone informed;
  - the costs of the racket controllers had been included in the contract with Monteux but the costs of consumables would be included in the Technical Officer's budget;
  - no classification seminar would be held;
  - it may be necessary to adjust the number of teams after the selections for the singles events had been finalised;
  - therefore the maximum number of teams would be:

| Class men | No of teams | Class women | No of teams |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1         | 5           | 1-3         | 6           |
| 2         | 9           | 4           | 8           |
| 3         | 8           | 5           | 6           |
| 4         | 12          | 6-8         | 6           |
| 5         | 15          |             |             |
| 6         | 5           |             |             |
| 7         | 12          |             |             |
| 8         | 8           |             |             |
| 9         | 10          | 9-10        | 6           |
| 10        | 12          |             |             |

- 13.3 the 2008 Paralympic Games:
  - format of play would be the first placed in the group going to the next round;
  - in 3 groups of 3 players, A1 and B1 would advance to the next round and C1 and C2 would play A1 or B2.
- 13.4 combination of classes for class 5 and 10 if there is an insufficient entry: the wording had to be changed as currently no combination with class 4 or 9 was possible.
- 13.5 a new ranking system if the rating system was not accepted:
  - the explanation of the proposed rating system was perhaps not clear;
  - various motions would be submitted to put into effect some changes to the ranking system if the rating system was not approved;
  - the issue was to simplify the proposal and to explain it to delegates before and during the world championships;
- 13.6 the ideal number of players in combined classes

- in all tournaments (not championships) should be decided by the referee and TD to ensure the ideal number for the system of play with a minimum of 1 player from each class including the lowest class;
  - currently no bonus points were allowed where an event had only 3 players so it was best to combine classes to be able to allocate bonus points provided the requirements for national representation were met.
- 13.7 classification changes of players selected for the world championships should change only after the world championships as this could otherwise pose problems with the world championships selections;
- 13.8 checks for all tournaments: from now, the TD and Classification Secretary would have to check that all entries were from the President, Secretary General or designated person (the latter for tournaments only not championships) with the stamp of an NPC which was in good standing with the IPC. In future, entries could be done with allocated usernames and passwords.
- 13.9 Americas penalty: the SAEC took doping control seriously and had to take some action in this case although the mistakes were made by the organisers and courier company.

The SAEC resolved:

- a) to authorise the Selection Officer, as per the regulations, to make any necessary amendments to the format and system of play based on the needs of each regional championships;
- b) to invite Neil Harwood, Jordi Serra and Mr Yao to attend the world championships at their cost and to award medals;
- c) to confirm the slots and events for 2008 noting that the version with class 11 would only include a singles event;
- d) to change the regulation so that TDs may combine class 5 and 10 with up to 3 lower classes in order to ensure events were possible;
- e) to change the regulation so that the ideal number of players in combined classes in all tournaments (not championships) would be decided by the referee and TD to ensure the ideal number for the system of play with a minimum of 1 player from each class including the lowest class;
- f) that classification changes of players selected for the world championships would change only after the world championships;
- g) to reduce the ranking points of the Americas regional championships from Fa 50 to 30 with effect from 1 April 2006 and not to approve a regional championship for Argentina in 2007;
- h) to consider working days at a tournament to be tournament days i.e. from the arrival of players to the final function;
- i) to pay for the SAEC members' accommodation during the world championships and thus to change the relevant regulation;
- j) to appoint Øivind, Fred Jansen, Jiri and Nico to the board of protest which would convene around 15 April 2006.

The SAEC asked:

- i) Alison to draft a letter of invitation to the ITTF to be sent by the IPC and to check it with Raúl;
- ii) the Selection Officer to propose in 2007 the points system for team events for the Paralympic Games;

- iii) Raúl to work with Alison, Aart and Gaël to develop a simple explanation to send to all NPCs prior to documents being sent out for the Assembly;
- iv) Nico to inform all players and NPCs that the player's classification at 1 January 2006 would not be changed until 1 October 2006 if changes were necessary;
- v) Nico to contact Patrick Ringel to develop the first competition schedule in draft to be able to confirm the number of tables and umpires needed for the world championships;
- vi) Nico to submit to the IPC by 15 February 2006 the proposals for Beijing 2008 for the Governing Board to approve at its meeting in March 2006.

**14. COACHING COMMITTEE SECRETARY'S REPORT:** the SAEC noted the interim Coaching Committee Secretary's report including:

14.1 composition:

- was chairperson (Alessandro Arcigli), secretary (Leandro Olvech) and a representative from each region which would review the material developed;
- thereafter there was a working group of specialists which would write parts of the manual.

14.2 six hours content for the ITTF level 1 coaching course:

- this had been completed in draft and would be tested with and without ITTF input, perhaps at the world championships;
- the plan was to run seminars with the ITTF and separately;
- the Australian Sports Commission and Paralympic Committee had given permission for part of the "Coaching Athletes with a Disability" manual to be used;
- the ITTF had scheduled 59 coaching courses in 2006 at level 1 and perhaps these could be considered for testing the manual;
- Taipei could be considered as a host for testing the manual;
- having the coaching committee separate from the development committee was proposed.

14.3 budget for 2006: considered under item 4.

14.4 criteria for best coach: the committee proposed that there should be no such award made.

The SAEC resolved:

- a) to approve the composition of the coaching committee;
- b) to approve the recommendation that the coaching committee be a stand alone committee.

The SAEC asked:

- i) Leandro to send the final draft of the manual by the end of January 2006 to Glenn and Alison to send it to the Australian Sports Commission and Paralympic Committee to check;
- ii) Leandro to check with the IPC the printing of the cover and copyright;
- iii) Leandro to discuss a meeting and/or training with Glenn Tepper.

**15. REGIONAL REPORTS:** the SAEC noted the regional representatives' written reports:

15.1 Americas:

- the following had been elected "best players" at the regional championships: Giovanni Rodriguez (CRC), Marta Makishi (ARG), Tahl Leibovitz (USA) and Giselle Munoz (ARG);

- regional rankings for juniors had been well received as this could help with sponsorships for players and were issued four times a year based on the world rankings;
- Mexico and Costa Rico were now back in good standing for 2005 with the IPC and had to ensure they were in good standing for 2006;
- the website had been the most time consuming project, was updated weekly and was being translated into English and then Portuguese;
- the hosting company had increased its costs;
- there was an average of 35 hits per day;
- 3 classification, 1 TD and 1 umpire seminars had been held plus an “introduction to the IPTTC”;
- each participant paid €25 for a regional classification seminar;
- there were 3 active classifiers who had made a DVD and powerpoint presentation;
- the Panamerican Junior Games in Venezuela had taken place where participants did not pay;
- Venezuela had halls for 15 tables;
- the ITTF coaching seminar had been held in the Caribbean and had led to development ideas where a school for the disabled had been visited;
- for the Americas regional championships, players should not be penalised for the mistakes of administrators;
- after 4 years in the region, the experienced people on the committee had proved to be too busy while those without a position had worked hard and this could lead to some changes;
- the committee wanted to set up a part-time office;
- the representative had attended the Americas Paralympic Committee Assembly where it was agreed that sports should have a vote.

#### 15.2 Africa-Middle East:

- the criteria and process for the best player should be consistent across all regions whereas now some were elected and others selected;
- “best” player implied best results but rankings were not necessarily the best measure;
- there could be a “players’ player” award where the players could vote.

#### 15.3 Europe:

- during the regional championships in Jesolo, everything was completed on time;
- the software had been tested at the championships;
- for 2007, bids had been considered from Belgium, Netherlands and Slovenia where the latter had been recommended to the EPC in 2005 at their request as they had 60 rooms for tetraplegics, new hotels 500m from the competition venue and a full-time appointee to manage the event;
- there would be a meeting in April 2006 to prepare for development in Eastern Europe, Nico and Øivind would be involved in the next meeting at the end of 2006 and translation would be provided;
- the committee was being established.

#### 15.4 Asia and South Pacific: the FESPIC Games would take place in Malaysia in 2006.

The SAEC resolved:

- a) 1 IPTTC classification seminar = 2 ATTC classification seminars and would lead to a participant becoming a level B classifier;

- b) to have the best players award in both the regional and world championships in standing men and women, sitting men and women selected from 2006 on the system devised by the Ranking Director (using age, results from the singles and open at the championships, improvement in the year with a balance included for the more severely disabled);
- c) to institute the “players’ player” award in both the regional and world championships in standing men and women, sitting men and women elected from the players present at the championships from 2006 based on the most popular player, fair play, youth and contribution to table tennis.

The SAEC asked:

- i) Leandro to ensure that from 2006 classification seminar fees were paid into the IPTTC classification account and from there the costs would be refunded to the seminar leader;
- ii) Leandro to send to Nico the receipts from the seminars run in the Americas in 2005;
- iii) Leandro to consider a classifier who could teach and had medical qualifications as well as a good organiser;
- iv) Alison to write to Lommel to clarify the process of allocating the European Championships for 2007 once Nico had supplied the email address;
- v) Jiri to contact Øivind and Nico about the meeting in Eastern Europe preferably in early November 2006.

## **16. GENERAL**

- 16.1 Liaison with IWAS: the SAEC noted the written report and asked Leandro to discuss with IWAS the level of organisation of their Games.
- 16.2 Anoraks, golf shirts and ties for the SAEC: the SAEC asked Leandro to investigate 15 anoraks, 32 polo shirts and 15 jackets as the IPC ties had already been distributed.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 14h35.

## **READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING**

**HELD ON .....**

**CHAIRPERSON .....**

AMB/

7 February 2006