



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

PARA TABLE TENNIS DIVISION: 2/2013

Minutes of a meeting of the Para Table Tennis Division held in Lignano, Italy on 1 and 2 October 2013 from 09h00.

PRESENT: Dorte Darfelt (Chairperson), Emese Barsai, Lill Bhagwan, Alejandra Gabaglio, John Ng, Juraj Stefak, Nico Verspeelt, Barbara Talbot, Gorazd Vecko

COOPTED ADVISORS: Egon Kramminger, Gaël Marziou

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Burchell, Jolanda Paardekam

APOLOGIES: Alena Kánová

WELCOME: the Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and looked forward to a constructive 2 day meeting. The Division heard a short introduction of each person. The Division noted that Jolanda was attending the meeting as the Players' Committee representative and that Egon had resigned as chairperson and member of the Players' Committee.

- 1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** the minutes of the meeting held on 25 to 27 January 2013 were confirmed and signed.
- 2 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the Division noted the Chairperson's report including:
 - 2.1 succession planning: all members were addressing this issue to ensure continuity and a smooth succession although finding volunteers was always a challenge.
 - 2.2 nominations 2013-2015: there had been only 1 change with Dorte Kronsell being appointed chairperson and Øivind being appointed advisor for integration.

The Division asked:

- a) Players' Committee to review its terms of reference and structure together with the SOC so that a proposal could be submitted to the next Division meeting in preparation for the elections in 2014.
 - b) Dorte to contact ATTU, LATTU and NATTU about involving John and Alejandra respectively more directly in their operations and thus to integrate PTT.
- 3 **VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the Division noted the Vice-Chairperson's report that:
 - there were elections for the Executive Committee in Paris.
 - following this, Petra Sörling had been appointed by the Executive Committee to take responsibility for PTT.
 - 4 **SECRETARIAT'S REPORT:** the Division noted the Secretariat's report including:
 - 4.1 marketing and sponsorship: discussions were ongoing with the Marketing Program with success in getting the equipment for the 2013 PTT Asian Championships which would be used for the 2014 PTT World Championships as well as for the 2013 PTT Oceania Championships.
 - 4.2 review of the strategic plan: update of player profiles still had to be addressed,
 - 4.3 liaison with IWAS: ongoing primarily for the IWAS Games (youth and senior).
 - 4.4 liaison with CP-ISRA: nothing to report.
 - 4.5 liaison with INAS:

- the working group had responded to INAS following the January 2013 meeting in line with the mandate.
 - INAS had responded following their AGM in April 2013 highlighting areas for further discussion namely the transfer of primary eligibility (INAS wished to maintain this role), sanction for INAS world and regional championships.
 - the impression created was that INAS wished to continue its operations without any major change with ITTF taking on significant additional responsibilities.
 - initial eligibility for players who would traditionally come from IWAS and CP-ISRA was decided by ITTF and so the INAS approach was not consistent with other disability groups.
 - generally INAS did not follow ITTF's rules and regulations for events for which a sanction was requested while a sanction allocated indicated a minimum standard of organisation.
 - one NPC had indicated that it had to pay a significant sum of money to INAS as a membership fee as well as a fee per player who was deemed active on the list i.e. unless a player's fee was paid, the player was inactive and therefore ITTF could not accept their entries for ITTF events.
 - as a result of the fees, some associations and NPCs were not seeking out ID players to come into the system.
 - if INAS supported ITTF to train psychologists to take on the work of determining eligibility, this would enable ITTF to take full responsibility for classification in line with other disability groups.
 - a more constructive approach to ensuring the players were able to participate was required.
- 4.6 liaison with Special Olympics International:
- positive feedback on the MoU has been received but a meeting to follow up may be required.
 - ETTU had attended a meeting of Special Olympics Europe and had offered support for the upcoming Special Olympics Europe Games to be held in the Netherlands.
- 4.7 liaison with Deaflympics/CISS/ICSD: no feedback had been received but elections have recently been held which may require some ground to be covered again.
- 4.8 transfer of work to Headquarters: classification cards were scanned and Gaël was developing an electronic form for use soon.
- 4.9 online entry system: work with MSL was being finalised and the system would become active from 1 January 2014 with username and passwords being sent to associations.
- 4.10 Commonwealth Games 2018: discussions were ongoing with the Gold Coast to include 2 events for men and women standing players.
- 4.11 capitation fees 2012: all had been paid.
- 4.12 capitation fees 2013: Bangkok was outstanding and Ostrava had paid.
- 4.13 IPC grant 2013: 50% of the grant had been received.
- 4.14 application to the Agitos Foundation: was submitted, a grant of €16 000 had been made and:
- the full grant available had been allocated and the grant agreement had been signed and the first payment would soon be made.
 - the grant would be used to achieve the strategic objective of creating online courses for TD and classification training and to improve the PTT component of umpire training.
 - in addition, this would also assist the training of national umpires in Brazil in preparation for the 2016 Paralympic Games.
 - meetings and activities needed to be defined so that video material in particular could be developed for all courses.
- 4.15 IPC Sports Council: a meeting would take place 4 to 6 October 2013 where a major item for discussion was the status, mandate and structure of the Sports Council following a review of the IPC structure.
- 4.16 IPC General Assembly: this would be held 22 to 25 November 2013 in Athens and Petra and Alison would attend.

The Division asked Dorte, Nico and Alison to meet representatives of INAS to discuss a way forward to include class 11 fully in ITTF.

5 DEVELOPMENT REPORT: the Division noted the report from the Development Program that:

5.1 Africa: Angola was the first and targeted option but communication and lack of interest had been an issue and Libya, Rwanda and Mauritius were now being targeted for a PTT activity to be held in 2013.

- Asia: nothing had been arranged as the continental agreement still had to be signed.
- Europe: nothing had been arranged as the continental agreement still had to be signed.
- Latin America: Chile would host the PTT course and details were being finalised.
- North America: USA would host the PTT course and details were being finalised.
- Oceania: would host a PTT course in Cook Islands led by Michael Brown in December 2013.
- the Australia Sports Outreach Program (ASOP) “Pacific Sports Partnership” (PSP) “Smashing Down Barriers Disability” was a project funded by the Australian Government through Table Tennis Australia working in the close cooperation with OTTF and ITTF:
 - A\$700,000 had been approved for the period 2013-2017 targeting Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, PNG as they had a good balance of support including NPC and table tennis activity from associations.
 - the majority of this funding would be related to appointing an Oceania Para Development Officer, the costs related to extended stays in each of the countries, to national PTT Development Officers and equipment.
 - the job description had been finalised for the OPDO and would be advertised in the very near future through Australia, Oceania and ITTF, with an estimated starting date in late 2013 or early 2014.
 - Table Tennis Australia, OTTF (Michael Brown) and ITTF (Glenn Tepper) met on 18 September to put final details in place.
 - from 2014 the Oceania PTT course would be connected with this project and an important component to show both our commitment and contribution.

5.2 Dream-building:

- from the Dream Building dinner held during the 2013 ITTF World Championships, funds had been allocated to PTT for a training camp (US\$15 000) and scholarships (US\$10 000).
- this funding should be spent by the next Dream Building dinner to be held in January 2014 so that a report back could be presented.
- a small amount (about US\$500) would be spent for a training camp to be held in Argentina during the Americas Youth Para Games.
- including scholarship holders in the ITTF Hopes activities would further promote integration.

The Division agreed to:

- a) allocate the funding for the training camp to the Egyptian Table Tennis Federation to organise a training camp in conjunction with the 2013 PTT African Championships.
- b) approach the Development and Education and Training Programs to include the relevant number of PTT scholarship holders in a Hopes activity to promote integration.

6 PLAYERS’ COMMITTEE REPORT: the Division noted the report including:

6.1 brochure on player education on the rules including racket testing and doping control: this had now been finalised and a small number of copies printed to be checked before 15 October 2013.

6.2 criteria for an award for the best organised tournament:

- the process of selecting the best tournament may have been too open in terms of security via the online questionnaire and the criteria needed to be clear and defensible so that all organisers understood the standards.

- the TD and referee for each tournament could also be included in the assessment process.

6.3 criteria and process for the best players awards: these came into existence for the regional championships to recognise, on the basis of statistics, who had dominated their event.

6.4 criteria for “players’ player” award:

- there had traditionally been a very low response rate to voting and players often voted for their own team mate.
- the criteria were not clear.

6.5 report:

- the presence of members of the Players’ Committee at events was helpful for feedback from players.
- the PC was happy that players from India could now participate.
- players had indicated that tournament fees were increasing too much.
- the tournament credit for Europe was too high but the PC agreed that the credit for Africa should be lower.
- the combination of classes had caused some problems for Lignano and the rules should be clearer.
- the approach to combining classes was to promote the lower classes but some teams had withdrawn from the women’s team event in Lignano as they would not get prize money from their government for the event.
- the perception that entries for events had decreased may be as the result of many associations were now only sending elite players whereas in previous years, some more “recreational” players were entered although entry numbers for events had not decreased significantly in the year after the Paralympic Games.
- the initial cost for the European Championships was €145 and this had been reduced.
- having a reduced entry fee for carers for class 11 was difficult to justify against carers for class 1 but where this was required, the association could discuss with the organisers.
- a second class 11 i.e. class 12 should be considered at some point although there were not enough players to do this currently.
- another member had resigned and this affected the level of output from the PC.
- the PC should review the terms of reference to provide more focus to be able to determine the type of player needed to do the work and how to identify the best people to do the work over a 2 or 4 year period.
- perhaps players elected at a continental level, where this happened, could become part of the PC.
- the rating system was based on a number of points in the system which players won or lost according to the result.
- the rating system was a measure of quality and performance rather than quantity of events in which players were able to participate.
- there should be a number of points (to be determined) for a win as players felt that they did not see the impact of winning matches when they were highly rated and won against a lower rated player.
- new players were given a similar rating initially but to be rated properly, they had to win against a higher and lower rated player.
- updating the rating should be done as soon after the event as possible although there were sometimes errors in the results.
- prize money was dependent on sponsorship and/or the organisers providing this incentive.

The Division asked:

- a) Gorazd, Nico and Jolanda to clarify the directives for combining classes in time for implementation with effect from 1 January 2014.
- b) Gorazd and Alena to review the process of selecting the best tournament for 2013.

- c) the PC to review the terms of reference and member profile for the next meeting.
- d) the SOC to review some of the proposals from the PC related to the rating system specifically:
 - points for wins (1 point for each win for a highly rated player against a lower or unrated player instead of 0 points where the difference in rating was less than 250 points).
 - having a sliding scale for wins and losses where players were in different or combined classes.
 - bonus points for medals (3 for gold, 2 for silver and 1 for bronze) only in the singles event.

The Division agreed to:

- i) ask Gorazd to present the award for the “best new tournament 2012” to San Diego acknowledging the input of the players and Players’ Committee in the process.
- ii) cancel the “players’ player” award and the 4 best players awards at the regional and world championships with effect from 2014.

7 ATHLETES’ REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: the Division noted that there was no report as Alena was not present.

8 TOURNAMENT OFFICER’S REPORT: the Division noted the Tournament Officer’s report including:

8.1 review of the tournament structure and quality of tournaments including a world junior championships:

- the new structure was developing in the right direction with new players participating in Fa20 events.
- where there were players who did not participate in the team event, team partner permitting, the tournament credit should not count for Fa20 and Fa40.
- for wheelchair classes, if Taraflex was used, there should be a wooden or concrete floor below but not another rubber floor.
- junior circuit:
 - an age group definition would be developed and organisers would be approached to have a junior event immediately before an event already on the calendar.
 - a proposal would be developed for the top 2 players to gain automatic qualification to certain events e.g. the world championships.
 - a separate rating list could be maintained.

8.2 regional championships 2013:

8.2.1 Italy (Europe):

- the event was well underway.
- for the future, 14 tables would be necessary.
- the atmosphere was good.
- the officials were good.
- transport was an issue and no welcome desk was set up at the airport.
- there was an insufficient number of accessible toilets due to the field of play being closed.

8.2.2 China (Asia):

- the final preparations were in place.
- for the world championships, the organisers would have 2 show courts in addition to the main hall.
- following a poor response for umpires from outside China, the organisers had agreed to have umpire evaluations and so a number of umpires from outside China had applied to officiate at the event.

8.2.3 Oceania (Australia): all was going well.

8.2.4 Americas (Costa Rica):

- Brazil withdrew a short period before the event was scheduled which was unfortunate as they were hosting the Paralympic Games and this would assist training and preparation of officials and volunteers.
 - Costa Rica had stepped in at short notice and converted the Fa20 event to the regional championships.
- 8.2.5 Africa (Egypt):
- The Moroccan association was not able to host the event until February 2014 and Egypt (Sharm el Sheikh) had stepped in after an intervention from the ATTF.
 - a site inspection would be done and back to back events for Fa20 or 40 and the regional championships would be organised to help African players qualify for the world championships.
- 8.3 2014 calendar: a draft calendar had been established with a couple of events possibly to be added.
- 8.3.1 world championships and key appointments: the team for the Paralympic Games was usually appointed for the world championships.
- 8.3.2 Para Odesur Games in Chile in 2014: this was for south American countries and the organisers wanted PTT to appoint officials.
- 8.4 2015 regional championships:
- Europe: a candidate from Denmark had submitted its proposal.
 - Americas: Toronto would host the Para Pan Am Games.
 - Africa and Asia had no candidates as yet and a rotation system could be considered with countries with the facilities to host a regional championships.
- 8.5 tournament organisers' handbook and education: no progress as yet but the Danish NPC may be able to assist.
- 8.6 TD training and review for 2014:
- training should be done with a focus on Americas and Africa in 2013.
 - some TDs were doing well.
 - the status of TDs would be reviewed.
- 8.7 rules for mixed standing and sitting players: the proposals submitted were approved by the AGM (2.8 of the Handbook).
- 8.8 names on backs of shirts for all tournaments: it was a requirement in world tour and junior circuit for players to have their names on the back of shirts while for PTT events, the country code was also required for regional and world championships.
- 8.9 Doha:
- in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Qatar Open, the QTTA may wish to have a small PTT event with prize money.
 - the proposal from the QTTA would be developed.
 - there should be no rating points for the event as it would be an invitational event, if it happened.
 - an exhibition event may be a better option using the prize money to cover travel costs.
- 8.10 players' list: 2 event organisers had put the players' list on Facebook which was not official which led some players to enter (if not already entered) or to withdraw (if already entered).
- 8.11 2 bronze medals:
- a lot of time was saved and the quality of the event improved without a bronze medal play-off.
 - a second bronze medal also benefitted players in terms of incentives which they may receive.
 - if in a round robin with 5 players, a bronze medal should be awarded.
- 8.12 call area:
- some players were not arriving 30 minutes before the match at the call area so they continued to warm up.
 - thus some players arrived on court warm and others not.
 - there was no sanction except losing the right to select the ball, check the shirts, choose ends.

- there was, however, the risk of an after match racket test.
 - otherwise there was nothing the player or umpire could do as the match had formally not started and was not under the jurisdiction of the umpire.
 - this was not a good example fair play.
 - players could be asked to leave the warm up or training area at designated times by the referee.
- 8.13 eligibility: there was a different approach to eligibility between ITTF and IPC (Guam in ITTF was a separate association but in IPC was USA) so this would be catered for in the new online entry system.
- 8.14 Natalia Partyka:
- the Polish association had proposed that, as Natalia competed in both world tour and PTT events, she should be allowed to play in the world championships and Paralympic Games without meeting the tournament credit.
 - to be fair to other women's class 10 who met the tournament credit, Natalia should meet the same requirements.
 - there was a marketing aspect as Natalia was now a "Dream Building Ambassador" and was obliged to be a role model at a PTT training camp.
 - however, if integration was supported, it should not matter whether a player competed in world tour or PTT events.
 - a proposal had been submitted to the Polish association that if a world tour and PTT events were very close, then the PTT event in which she was not able to compete would still count to the tournament credit if she competed in the world tour event.
- 8.15 new polyball: the ITTF would introduce a new polyball with effect from 1 July 2014 although organisers would have some discretion whether to introduce the new ball or not for their tournaments to allow players to get accustomed to it.

The Division asked:

- a) Gorazd to ensure that TDs checked that the floor below Taraflex was wood or concrete.
- b) Gorazd, Juraj and URC to appoint officials for the Para Odesur Games.
- c) Gorazd and Emese to complete the tournament organisers' handbook as soon as possible.
- d) Gorazd and Alison to assess the TDs based on their performance in 2013 and to make recommendations to the SOC.
- e) Alison to follow up with the Technical Commissioner and chair of the URC whether a sanction for not reporting to the call room on time could be considered.
- f) Gorazd to caution all organisers, copied to TDs, not to publish the players' list anywhere at any time.
- g) Gorazd, Nico and Jolanda to identify the players to be invited should the event be hosted in Doha.

The Division resolved to:

- i) to approve Vejle, Denmark, as the host for the 2015 PTT European Championships.
- ii) to accept the Guam player as being eligible for PTT events.
- iii) to require players' names to be on the back of their shirts with effect from 1 January 2014 for all events.
- iv) to require the 3 letter code from the country to be on the back of players' shirts for all events with effect from 1 January 2014.
- v) not to require player numbers to be issued with effect from 1 January 2014.
- vi) add to the directives that where a round robin involving 5 players or 5 teams in an event was played, 1 bronze would be awarded.
- vii) ask Graeme and Alison to develop a short document outlining the approach to eligibility for PTT events to be applied from 1 January 2014.
- viii) maintain its position on players competing in world tour and PTT events.

- ix) introduce the new polyball with effect from the end of the world championships for all PTT events i.e. 1 October 2014.

9 CLASSIFICATION OFFICER'S REPORT: the Division noted the Classification Officer's report including:

9.1 classifier education and manual:

- courses had been run at various seminars.
- some new level B classifiers who were competent in technical classification had participated.
- in a couple of years' time, level A and level B classifiers would be able to run seminars in all regions of the world.
- the focus of raising the standard of classifiers over the past 2 years had been realised.
- the seminar teaching materials were upgraded after each seminar and the seminar participants received all relevant documents and presentations.
- about 60% of the manual had been completed with some further additions and adaptations needed.
- the new classification code should be published once the manual was ready.

9.2 publication of documents on the website:

- class profiles had been updated and would be published with the update of the classification code.
- the list of classifiers would be updated for the website at the end of 2013.

9.3 INAS classification update, INAS list to match the ITTF list, tournaments for classification:

- this was a costly process as the touchscreens had to be replaced following 120 players being classified and the touchscreens had to be used around the world causing wear and tear.
- with new technology, a new tablet or iPad may be a better investment.
- additional training for classifiers required.
- countries understood that borderline players were more likely to win which increased the complexity and need for care during the process as the majority of class 11 players were easy to identify.
- more than 60% of the issues in classification arose from class 11.
- table tennis was recognised as the best of the 3 sports involved in ID sports following Sheng's presentation to the Vista conference.
- the research done gave an indication that the classification system was valid.
- a positive approach was taken forward to have practical tests in Fa20 and touchscreen tests in Fa50 but this caused some issues for the classifiers and the tests should be done at the same event.
- with class 11 in the world championships, a number of players had to be confirmed before selections were finalised.

9.4 seminars in 2014: would be determined soon following the calendar being finalised.

9.5 IPC heads of classification meeting: Sheng had attended this meeting following which he attended the Vista conference and presented his research on class 11 with elicited several positive comments from other sports.

9.6 review of the classification code:

- ITTF had to comply with the IPC Classification Code and international standards as this was a requirement to be a member of the IPC.
- the IPC was following the WADA process of reviewing the Code periodically.
- the draft comments from ITTF covered ensuring that IFs were responsible for the full classification process, including eligibility, and that it was athlete-friendly allowing full assessment and interaction in the classification process.

9.7 Ostrava classification: in order to cover the number of classifications at the event, 2 additional classifiers had to be appointed at the ITTF's cost.

The Division asked:

- a) Alison to discuss with IPC the request to change the current touchscreen to a more portable and long-lasting technology.
- b) Juraj to issue a letter to any class 11 review cases to attend the tournament in Eger.
- c) Juraj to submit the costs of his and Gorazd's travel to Ostrava.

The Division resolved:

- i) to ask Juraj to ensure that class 11 athletes were confirmed at the tournament in Eger.
- ii) to ask Juraj to provide budget for up to 3 additional classifiers (travel, daily allowance and accommodation) for the tournament in Eger.
- iii) that only class 11 players with a confirmed status following the tournament in Eger be eligible for selection.
- iv) to ask Nico to publish the amended selection process on the website as soon as possible and to highlight those players from class 11 to be reviewed as part of the selection process.

10 SELECTION OFFICER'S REPORT: the Division noted the Selection Officer's report including:

- 10.1 selection issues for the 2014 World Championships:
 - the tournament in Eger would provide a final opportunity for class 11 to be finalised.
 - the issue of "protecting" players competing in the world tour would be considered carefully.
- 10.2 selection issues for the 2016 Paralympic Games: the tournament credit would continue and would be decided in February 2014 to be effective till 31 December 2015.

The Division approved the composition of the selection panel to be Nico (chairperson), Dorte, Jolanda, Georgios and Alison to meet in Belgium from 7 to 9 March 2014.

11 WEBMASTER'S REPORT: the Division noted the Webmaster's report including:

- 11.1 integration with the ITTF website and web server: no progress had been made although the ITTF was reviewing its website and would address possible integration.
- 11.2 players' database including classification:
 - a desktop application, rather than online, may be considered as part of the initial classification card process.
 - specifications could be developed to assist this process.
 - once the classification card had been printed and signed, it would still be scanned.
 - however, in order to protect personal medical data, copies should not be kept by the classifier.
- 11.3 source code for Dr Wu's programme: the programming code was in Chinese and needed to be translated.

The Division asked:

- a) Juraj and Nico to require classifiers to destroy any paper copies of classification form they may have in their possession.
- b) Nico and Alison to seek a translator, perhaps Dr Wu, for the source code.
- c) Nico to contact Dr Wu to adjust the programme to provide for no bronze medal play-off in ITTF events.

12 RATING REPORT: the Division noted the report much of which was covered under 6.5 and that:

- 12.1 loss of points in a team match against a higher classified player:
 - this discouraged players from competing in the team event.
 - a reduction of points lost by a lower class against a player in one higher class of 25% should be considered i.e. if there was a difference of 4 classes, it would mean no points lost (100%).
 - the last line of the table on the website explaining the rating system (0 for normal and 32 for upset) should be deleted as this change would ensure that a normal win would reward

at least 1 point to the winner whatever the rating difference was with the loser in both singles and team events.

12.2 David Jackson was no longer working for the ITTF and so steps were being taken to ensure continuity with the rating system.

The Division asked Nico, Jolanda and Gaël to finalise a proposal for a reduction of points lost in team events where the player loses against a higher class player for implementation from 1 January 2014.

13 REGIONAL REPORTS: the Division noted the regional representatives' reports including:

13.1 Americas:

13.1.1 integration: there were some problems being experienced in Ecuador which were being addressed with the newly elected association committee.

13.1.2 development and new countries:

- there were 67 players entered for the Para Pan American Youth Championships in Argentina next week.
- a training camp would also be offered at this event.
- an informational classification course would be offered in Chile with national classification although it would not be official.

13.1.3 regional committee: was being addressed.

13.1.4 other: 3 tournaments would be held in the region in 2013 and in 2014, hopefully Chile would be added and the Global Games would be held in Ecuador in 2015.

13.2 Africa:

13.2.1 integration:

- increasing close cooperation was developing in Cameroon between the association and NPC and they would like to host a Fa20 event in 2014.
- Egypt, South Africa and Cameroon hopefully would host events in 2014.

13.2.2 development and new countries: Nigeria was working with schools for disabled.

13.2.3 regional committee: was the ATTF PTT committee.

13.3 Asia:

13.3.1 integration:

- the TTFI had now taken on responsibility for PTT in India and a team had been entered for the Asian Championships following trials for selections being done by TTFI.
- the Asian Youth Para Games would be held in October 2013.

13.3.2 development and new countries: 3 courses (classification, TD and AUT) would be held during the Asian Youth Para Games.

13.3.3 regional committee: would be established later in 2013.

13.4 Europe:

13.4.1 integration: hopefully the EPC would accept the ETTU as a new member at its AGM on 4 and 5 October 2013.

13.4.2 development and new countries: when the continental agreement with ITTF was signed, this would be implemented.

13.4.3 regional committee: ETTU had established a PTT committee with Emese as chairperson, Georgios as deputy chairperson and Alena as a member in addition to other appointees.

13.5 Oceania:

13.5.1 integration: no problems were being experienced and contact was being pursued with Special Olympics in the region.

13.5.2 development and new countries:

- significant progress was being made here with financial support from the Australian Sports Commission.
- New Zealand had sent a player to the Thailand Open and benefitted from this.

- the Pacific Games would be held in PNG but excluded Australia and New Zealand.
- 13.5.3 regional committee: the OTTF had established a committee for PTT.
- 13.6 co-option of the regional representatives on to the continental federation boards: this was being managed via the established PTT committees rather than co-option onto continental federation boards.
- 13.7 affiliation to regional Paralympic committees: Europe would soon achieve this but some of the regional Paralympic committees did not provide for affiliation by sports but this was being investigated.

The Division asked Gorazd and Alison to develop a short outline for the allocation of continental championships.

14 2016 PARALYMPIC GAMES: the Division noted a report including:

- 14.1 draft qualification guide: this had been approved by the ITTF Executive Committee and would formally be submitted to the IPC for final approval.
- 14.2 recommendation of appointment of the TD: the ITTF Executive Committee had approved the appointment of Georgios Seliniotakis and this would be submitted to the IPC.
- 14.3 recommendation of appointment of the technical operations manager: the ITTF Executive Committee had approved the appointment of Sonja Grefberg and this would be submitted to Rio 2016.
- 14.4 2 medals for the whole team regardless of whether they played or not in the team event:
- in the singles, there would be a bronze medal play-off i.e. only 1 bronze medal awarded.
 - in the team event, only those players who actually played would receive a medal if they came 1st, 2nd or 3rd and similarly there would be a bronze medal play-off).
 - in the team event, only players, not coaches would receive medals.

15 NEXT MEETING: the Division agreed to meet from 7 to 9 February 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 13h01.

READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING

HELD ON.....

CHAIRPERSON.....

AMB/

2 October 2013