

MINUTES OF THE
SWAYTHLING CLUB INTERNATIONAL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Rotana Hotel, Amman, Jordan
4th December 2022, commencing at 19.00

Before the meeting commenced Mrs Petra Sorling, ITTF President, gave a short address, before she had to leave for another commitment.

In Attendance: -

Claude Bergeret, Reto Bazzi, Richard Scruton, Harvey Webb, Oivind Eriksen, Esko Heikkinen, Sonja Grefberg, Rudi Sporrer, J.F.Kahn, Zbynek Spacek, Anton Hamran, Bruce Burton, Christian Ibenfeldt, Andreas Georgiou, Pedro Moura, Ina Jozepsone, Adriana Zamfir, Beatrice Romenescu, Christinel Romanescu, Miran Kondric, Arne Madsen, Ian Marshall.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from the following:-

Lilamani de Soysa (Executive Committee), Ken Strong (Ireland), Aleksander Matkovic (Serbia), Alan Ransome (England), Jose Ransome (Canada), Zdenko Kriz (Slovak Republic), Karen Tonge (England), Jill Parker (England), Don Parker (England), Brian Kean (England), Jonny Cowan (Ireland) Diane & Ebby Scholer (Germany), Yvonne Fogarty (New Zealand).

Notice of Non-Members Present: -

Heike Ahlert, Miguel Vicens, Stefano Bosi, Carlo Borella, Marios Papodopoulos, Rita Bsaibes Salim Nicholas – Lebanon

1. President's Welcome

Claude Bergeret welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Petra Sorling, who is a member of the SCI for her opening address.

2. In Memoriam

The President asked for a moments reflection for those members who we had lost over the last two years:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Passed in 2021 | Toni Borg – Sweden |
| | George Damianov - Bulgaria |
| | Fujie Eguchi - Japan |
| | Dominik Huber – Switzerland |
| | Laszlo Pal - Switzerland |
| | Wesley Pappin – Ireland |
| | Berni Vossebein – Germany |
| | Libuse Uhrova – Czech Republic |

3. Appointment of Scrutineers

Harvey Webb (SCI secretary) asked for volunteer scrutineers in the event that the Motions for alterations to the Constitution required a vote.

Pedro Moura and Ina Jozepsone volunteered and were accepted by the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM 11th December 2021

The President stated that these had been previously circulated and were available on our website and asked for any comments or questions. There were none and the minutes were therefore accepted as being a true record of that meeting.

5. Presidents Report

The President read her report which is re-produced here:

Dear friends,

Since the last AGM being held last December, on-line, where you have elected a new EC and entrust me as the new President, (thank you for that) we have worked hard to continue to develop our club and promote its values. Not very easy after these 2 years' pandemic without being able to meet and celebrate our sport through friendship but we have tried to be very active for the benefit of TT and the SCI.

So my report will not only be the report of the President but the report of the EC whole team. Since the last AGM we organised 3 EC meetings always on the occasion of international competitions in order to be connected with our players, coaches, officials and when possible members.

End of February in Montreux (European Men's Top 16)

End of June/ beginning of July in RIMINI (European Veterans Championships)

Beginning of October in TOURS (European Youth Top 10)

OMAN: We had and still have many contacts and discussions with the local organizers of Oman and Jordi Serra. We met them in Rimini on the occasion of the European Veterans Championships end of June. And the works are still going on. We intend to organise some SCI activities in parallel of the competition, for kids, women, coaches.

MAGAZINE: As you were informed some months ago, we unfortunately had to stop the production of our SCI News. The reason is very simple. Our redactor Ian Marshall was approached by the ITTF to produce an ITTF magazine, 4 times a year. And he of course could not continue having 2 magazines at the same time and with more or less the same articles. I would like to take the opportunity to warmly thank Ian for the job he has done and is continuing to do with our website and maybe soon I hope with our possible Newsletter only dedicated to our members.

But in the ITTF magazine you can find a few pages dedicated to the SCI activities, the number of pages is depending on our actuality and activities.

You can also find the ITTF magazine in our website.

MEMBERSHIP: As stipulated in our last AGM, our aim is to attract more members from outside Europe. This is the reason why I attended the Pan American Veterans championships a few days ago in Lima where I met some officials and players. I will continue to work on it by keeping contact with them.

I hope that we will get more members of this continent soon.

But also we should open SCI sections in the European countries which do not have any. And here I would like to thank Gloria Wagener who is following our memberships data very carefully.

And our secretary Harvey Webb who is keeping regularly the contact with all our members by email. We are also discussing to review the process of the memberships fees. Of course if something would be decided, you will be the 1st to know.

ITTF: I have also continuously been in contact with the ITTF in order to put in place a Memorandum of Understanding between our 2 entities and also to work together for the forthcoming WVC in Oman and the World ITTF Veterans Tour.

CONSTITUTION: We are continuously amending our constitution in order that it becomes as accurate as possible. Our members will have later in this meeting the opportunity to take some decisions, especially concerning the case of the vacancy in the EC.

Reto Bazzi is our mentor concerning all these matters.

BOOKLET: Our last booklet is dated 2019. It has been decided to print a new booklet in a lighter format. Lilamani de Soysa was in charge of refreshing and updating the booklet. And if everything will run smoothly we intend to launch it in Oman, mid of January. That means that our members should receive it end of January.

BANK: We are facing some problems with our bank, CREDIT SUISSE but I will let our treasurer Richard Scruton explaining you the situation.

ITTF Foundation: We (and especially Oivind ERIKSEN) are in contact with the ITTF Foundation in order to try to coordinate some actions together. And we will have a meeting about this on the 6th December after the ITTF AGM.

ADVERTISING – PROMOTION: I am in contact with a few TT manufacturers to study the possibility to create a SCI tee-shirt.

We will keep you inform about the follow up.

HELP TT: We are also thinking about how to help TT, TT players, coaches, associations, clubs etc... We recently helped financially the Ukrainian youth team in order to be able to take part in the U13 ETTU Challenge: We would like to do more, of course, but we also need funding's.

MEMBERSHIP: Before finishing my report I would like to come back on the Memberships subject. This is the task of all of us, all of you, members and National Representatives to be active at your level and to make our club alive in your own country by contacting your former players, coaches and officials; to organise activities in your country on the occasion of your National championships or any championships you would organise.

We need to meet people, we need to do things together, we need to remember and celebrate together...

So do it...

TT for all, for life and for ever...

Thank you for your attention

The President asked for any questions on her report and as there were none the report was accepted by the meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

Richard Scruton (Treasurer) presented his report which is re-produced here:

SWAYTHLING CLUB INTERNATIONAL (SCI) TREASURER'S REPORT 2021

I am pleased to present my report for the year 2021.

As I stated 12 months ago the 2020 World Veteran Championships (WVC) had to be postponed and then cancelled due to the global pandemic. Consequently, SCI has not benefitted from a WVC financial contribution since 2018 and this has resulted in deficits for the past 3 years.

For the period 2021 SCI has a deficit of CHF 28,060 (2019-2020: SCI deficit CHF 34,984).

All SCI committee meetings during 2021 were held virtually.

The advance payment received in 2020 from the WVC Bordeaux local organising committee had to be repaid during 2021 due to the cancellation.

Ian Marshall prepared and edited the SCI magazines 110 and 111 to ensure a continuous record of our sport and its many achievements.

Subscription income fell significantly in 2021 and the global pandemic has reduced activity and social meetings of members. We are pleased to report that income from the membership has increased during 2022.

The current assets of the Swaythling Club International have decreased to CHF 363,295 but are substantially more than the figure for 2015-2016 (31st December 2016): CHF 329,145.

With this amount we remain confident we can ensure our future activities and responsibilities towards our members and Table Tennis family friends are maintained.

However, it is important to note that it is increasingly difficult to seek annual payments from an older membership. Therefore, I am asking the Committee to consider my proposals for changes to the current structure and payment method of membership fees.

We have been encouraging new members during 2022 and will continue to do so to ensure the future continuity and prosperity of the Swaythling Club.

We have been informed by our bankers Credit Suisse that our accounts will be closed. We are making arrangements for new banking facilities and will update members in January 2023.

I am working with the auditors to ensure their reports for 2019-2020 and for 2021 are available at the 2022 SCI AGM.

6.1 Income & Expenditure account

The Treasurer also presented the Income & Expenditure account for 2021 which can be seen as a separate document.

7. Auditor's Report

The Treasurer also presented the Auditors Reports for 2019/20 and 2021 and also an Auditors Commentaory for 2019-2021.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions on Financial Matters.

R.Sporrer stated that he was pleased to see savings by having virtual meetings and also that he agreed with the Auditors Commentary that we should get the money at the Bank to work for us.

The Treasurer accepted this comment and would investigate possibilities.

There being no further questions all Financial matters were accepted by the meeting.

8. Adoption of Budget for 2022/23

The Treasurer apologised that this was not avaiable and undertook to email all members when it was available.

9. Appointment of Honorary Life Members (if any)

There were none.

10. Motions for Alterations to the Constitution

The President handed over the chair to Harvey Webb who went through the propositions in turn, and explained the rationale behind each one. All Propositions are from the Executive Committee.

Proposition 1. Name – Line 4 = delete “Management” and replace with” Executive”
This was accepted

Proposition 2. Principles – Line 1 Delete “for one another” and
Line 2 delete “race” and replace with “ethnicity”.
This was accepted.

Proposition 3. Aims – a) Line 1 delete “champions and”.
Line 1 after players add” and officials”
Line 1 delete remainder.
Line 2 Delete entire line.
This was accepted.

Proposition 4. . Structural Entities

1) AGM – Line 1 & 2 delete “during the World Championships (World Team Championships and World Individual Championships)
Line 3 delete “in the SCI News” and add “on the website 30 days prior” in its place.
This was accepted.

ii) Executive Committee – Line 2 & 3 delete” Associate SCI Members are only permitted if they have received their membership status at least 10 years beforehand”
This was accepted.

- iv) MEDIA - Line 2 – Delete “printing of a magazine” and replace with “the production of a Newsletter, and then delete “and distribution by post to all members”

This was accepted.

Proposition 5 - Membership

6.1 Eligibility for Membership Delete entire section and replace with

“Players and non-playing team captains who have been selected by their National Association/Federations or their Olympic/Paralympic Committees and have participated in World or Continental Championships, Para World or Continental Championships, Olympic or Paralympic Games, International Competition.

The Executive Committee may also nominate for membership those who have officiated at an international level or who have rendered distinguished service to the sport of table tennis.”

There was considerable debate on wording of this proposition with Ian Marshall and Rudi Sporrer both making valuable contributions. A consensus was not reached, and the proposition was WITHDRAWN and the Executive Committee tasked with revising the wording and submitting to next year’s AGM.

6.2 Associate Member - Delete entire section

6.3 Personal Honorary Life Member – this now becomes 6.2

Add new sentence at end “Personal Honorary Life Members are exempt from memberships fees”

6.3 Honorary Life President

Add after last word, “and is exempt from membership fees”.

These three propositions were accepted.

Proposition 6 – Subscriptions

Amend Heading of Section to: - “Subscriptions/Entry Fee/Membership Fee”

This was accepted after removal of “Entry Fee” from the heading.

Proposition 7 - Nominations and Elections

8.1 Line 1 add “SCI” before “Newsletter” and after “News” add “or the SCI Website”

8.2 Line 2 after “Secretary” delete “by the 31st of December preceding the holding of the World Championships but”

8.3 Line 1 – Insert after “he” “he/she”

All three propositions were accepted.

8.7 Add New Section – “In the event of a retirement, resignation, or death of a member of the Executive Committee the Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt a replacement to complete the term of office until the next election”.

This was accepted, but the meeting directed the Executive Committee to add a rider in a proposition for next year’s AGM to ensure the Executive Committee always had a majority of elected members.

Proposition 8 – Proceeding at AGM

10.1 Line 1 – add after “his” “or her”

This was accepted

10.2 Line 3 – Delete “in the SCI News”

Line 4 – delete last two words “Office by”

Line 5 – delete “December 31st preceding the AGM” and insert “Secretary, to arrive no later than 60 days before the date of the AGM”.

This was accepted.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Ian Marshall suggested that the Executive Committee should consider allowing our membership to pay their Membership Fees by Credit Card or PayPal. The Treasurer replied that the EC is already considering a more modern approach and we hoped to introduce a new procedure sometime in 2023.

11.2 Ian Marshall asked the members to look in their files and see if they can find any of the missing copies of the SCI News as he was trying to ensure that we had a complete historical record on our website.

Note: If you have got any old copies contact the Secretary who can advise which copies are missing.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 20.55.

Minutes by Harvey Webb(Secretary) and approved by Claude Bergeret (President) 20/12/22