

CHINA VS THE WORLD

A new exciting tournament will be born this year. 14-15 December, China's men's team will meet the rest of the World in a new format following the idea from the Ryder Cup in golf where USA meets Europe.

With 5 players on each team, each player will play 2 matches. If, at the end, the match score is 5-5, the captains will select one player to play one (1) deciding game to 11 in order to find the winner of the team match. The match is organised following an agreement between ITTF, TMS and T & A Sports Marketing based in Beijing. The total prize money will be 200.000 US Dollars, distributed to the two teams but also to each player winning individual matches. The match will be played in China – the venue is still to be decided.

Imagine this line up (following the present World Ranking):

China: 2003 World Cup winner MA Lin, former World Champion WANG Liqin, 2003 Grand Finals winner WANG Hao, shooting star CHEN Qi and Olympic Champion KONG Linghui.

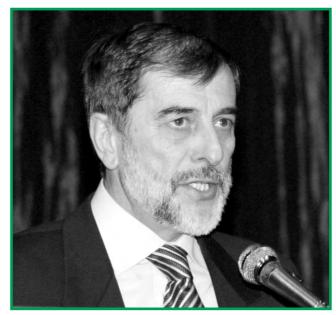
The rest of the World: European Champion Vladimir SAMSONOV (BLR), 2002 World Cup winner Timo BOLL (GER), World Champion Werner SCHLAGER (AUT), Korean ace RYU Seung Min and the spectacular Kalinikos KREANGA (GRE).

What a match.

IU EXAMS 2004

The ITTF will hold an IU exam this summer. All information and procedure will be posted to National Associations by the **15th of April**. Applications should be sent in to the ITTF together with the examination fees by the **15th of May**. For all information please get in touch with Lila de Soysa (**Idesoysa @ittf.com**).





IVO-GORAN MUNIVRANA WAS SUCCESSFUL IN DOHA.

ZAGREB 2007

The ITTF Annual General Meeting in Doha chose the Croatian Table Tennis Association as the organiser of the individual World Table Tennis Championship in 2007. The Championship will be held in Zagreb.

Originally 4 associations made a bid for the championship. However, already the week before the meeting in Doha, USA withdrew the bid, and at the AGM Korea announced that they would make a bid for 2008 instead.

Eventually at the end it was a matter between Sweden and Croatia. 84 delegates voted for Croatia, 49 for Sweden.

ANTI DOPING RULES

The ITTF Board of Directors, at a meeting in Doha on Friday 5th March 2004, approved the new anti-doping rules in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code passed in Copenhagen last year during the World Conference on Doping.

The usual policy followed by the International Table Tennis Federation is that new rules come into operation on the first day of September; however, as the Olympic Games are imminent

and will be staged in Athens in August, the Board of Directors decided that the new anti-doping rules should take effect as soon as the Liebherr World Table Tennis Team Championships came to a conclusion. Therefore, the new anti-doping rules are in effect from Monday 8th March 2004.



THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN FRONT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ADDENDUM TO ITTE ANTI-DOPING LIST NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WADA

Following a recommendation from the Chair of the WADA Health, Medical and Research Committee, and after approval by the WADA Executive Committee, WADA is issuing a modified version of the 2004 List of prohibited methods and substances. The changes, which do not affect the substances currently on the List aim at preventing any legal loophole in case of the discovery of a new "designer steroid".

The discovery of the "designer steroid" Tetrahydrogestrinone (THG), has made clear that the definition of "analogue" as defined under sections S4 and S5 of the former List is inappropriately restrictive. In fact, in its former version, the List required an analogue to have both a similar chemical structure and similar pharmacological effects. However, contrary to good medical and pharmaceutical practice, these "designer steroids" are administered to athletes despite the lack of any studies on their pharmacological effects.

Therefore, in order to be able cover new "designer steroids" in the future and to prosecute such cases quickly, it is important that substances that have a similar chemical structure or similar pharmacological effects be prohibited.

In consequence, the references to "analogues" and "mimetics" in sections S4 and S5 have been deleted and replaced by the same wording that is used in sections S1 and S8 namely: "and other substances with similar chemical structure or similar pharmacological effect(s)". The "pharmacological effect(s)" can be interpreted both in plural and singular. Given that this is an urgent matter as new "designer steroids" are potentially on the market, it is necessary to have this new List in force immediately as authorized by Article 4.1 of the Code. **David Howman, Director General WADA**

THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS (TUE)

In case of medical necessity, any athlete eligible to take part in the Olympic Games in Athens must be in possession of a TUE in conformity with the international standards, delivered by the International Federation.

Abbreviated Therapeutic Use Exemptions Request

- It is noted that this procedure concerns only:
- Corticosteroids administered by non-systematic routes (local)
- Beta-2 agonists by inhalation
- In accordance with the standards, these exemptions must be forwarded by the International Federation to:
- The athletes' NOC
- The athletes' national anti-doping organisation
- WADA
- The IOC medical commission for eligible athletes

The exemptions have to be sent in by 30th June 2004 at the latest to the IOC.

For all further information please get in touch immediately with the ITTF (jserra@ittf.com).

A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

The ITTF Board of Directors meeting held on 5 March 2004 in Doha, Qatar, it was decided that the gluing of rubber coverings on the racket within the event venue would not be allowed as of 1 September 2006. It was further decided that glues containing toxic materials would be banned as of 1 September 2007.

In order to avoid any misunderstandings or any incorrect conclusions, a detailed explanation and statement will be produced by the ITTF in due time.

In the meantime, an ITTF Working Group will be formed to investigate all matters concerning the use of the currently approved glues. This Working Group will be headed by ITTF Executive Vice President, George Segun, and will include the Chairman of the Equipment Committee, Odd Gustavsen, as well as the Chairman of the Sport Science Committee, Jean-François Kahn.

The first step will be a meeting between the three above-mentioned members of the Working Group with the President of the ITTF. At this meeting the President will provide the Group with their mandate, objectives and time-lines. The next step would be to add experts to the group from within the ITTF and from outside the ITTF.

All speculations, assumptions and misinformation would be very poorly placed at this time. It is wise to wait until the detailed work and objectives of the Working Group are announced in due time.

The decisions taken by the ITTF Board of Directors regarding the toxic glue are wise decisions with the health of our athletes in mind. We are sure that the table tennis manufacturers will fully co-operate with the ITTF in finding solutions that will provide to our players a clean and healthy environment in which to practice our beloved sport.

Adham Sharara, ITTF President

TEAM FORMAT IN REVIEW

In Doha, at the 2004 Liebherr World Team Championship, a new system of play was used. The main features of this system are small Divisions of 12 teams, and the controversial "Page" system.

A Working Group is being formed to study the Team Playing system for future World Team Championships.

The advantages of the system used in Doha could be summarised as follows:

- Very competitive divisions with even-level of play all across
- Light schedule for the top teams (one match per day)
- "Page" system produced 2 times the match between the top 2 teams

According to many of the participants these are some of the disadvantages:

- Divisions are too small, should be 16 teams or 24 teams per division
- Lower ranked teams would like to play more matches, at least 9 or 10 matches.
- "Page" system difficult to understand and gives a second chance to a losing team.

Input is requested from all associations and the Working Group will use this input to produce one or two models to propose to the Board of Directors meeting in May 2005 in Shanghai.

The Working Group will be chaired by the ITTF President and will consist of several Committee Chairmen/Chairwomen and one representative from each Continent. Adham Sharara, ITTF President



AT THE AGM.

NEW MEMBERS

THE ITTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN DOHA ACCEPTED TWO NEW MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS:

COOK ISLANDS AND MONTENEGRO MONTENEGRO WAS PART OF THE SER-BIA AND MONTENEGRO TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION, BUT MONTENEGRO AP-PLIED FOR APPROVAL AS AN INDEPEN-DENT ASSOCIATION. SERBIA SUPPOR-TED THE APPLICATION FROM MON-TE-NEGRO, AND IT WAS ACCEPTED AS A NEW INDEPENDENT MEMBER ASSOCIA-TION.

THE ITTF NOW HAS 197 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS.

PAGE 4

SERVICE RULE

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN DOHA REJECTED A PROPOSI-TION FROM CHINA AND GERMA-NY CONCERNING THE SERVICE RULE. IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE RULE CHINA AND GERMANY SUG-GESTED THAT THE BALL SHOULD BE THROWN OVER THE PLAYERS HEAD DURING THE SERVICE. THERE WAS A CLEAR MAJORITY AGAINST THE SUGGESTION.

Scholarships The ITTF granted two media

The ITTF granted two media scholarships for the Doha Championship. 26 year old Tobias Schall from Stuttgart Zeitung, Germany, was invited to attend the event in order to learn more about "the table tennis world". Of course he also followed the German team's success and he had the opportunity to talk to several ITTF officials and to make an interview with the ITTF President Mr. Adham Sharara.

Milica Popovic, Sportski Zurnal, Serbia and Montenegro, was invited as a media representative to the Women's Forum in Doha. After the conclusion of the Women's Forum she also attended the Championship.

A third young journalist was also invited but he had to cancel a few days before the start of the event.



CHRISTIN SCHWUCHOW FROM THE GERMAN TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION AND STUDENT IN SPORT MANAGEMENT IN GERMANY

will be working at the ITTF Headquarters until the end of July 2004. She is helping with the Athens accreditation process and other administrative tasks at the Headquarters.

STAR IN JORDAN

Fifteen year old ZEINA SHABAN

was named Jordan's "Athlete of 2003" on Tuesday 2nd March 2004 following a nationwide poll organized by Sport Up Jordan; a campaign aimed at highlighting the achievements of sportsmen and sportswomen.

The award ceremony was held under the patronage of HRH Princess Haya and brought together many of Jordan's rising young athletes; especially those who are making progress in individual sports, Zeina SHABAN won a staggering 43.79% of the votes finishing ahead of taekwando's Ibrahim AQIL (32.69%) and footballer Mahmoud SHILBAYEH (15.38%).

Zeina SHABAN started gymnastics at the age of seven, table tennis at age of eight, competed in both until the age of eleven when she decided to concentrate her efforts on table tennis, saying goodbye to any possibility of a gymnastic career.



www.volkswagen.de



TV SUCCESS

Once again the Chinese were in front of the TV to see their table tennis heroes take home the World Championship titles.

CCTV's ratings for the 2004 LIEBHERR World Table Tennis Team Championship were solid all week. 28 million viewers saw the Chinese men beat Germany in the Men's Team Final. 24 million followed the Chinese women when they overcame Hong Kong in the final.

In total CCTV could count 80 million viewers during the week of the Championship. 9 broadcasters had bought the rights in advance to broadcast from Doha and a few broadcasters joined before the final matches. The list of broadcasters counted CCTV (CHN), KBS (KOR), HK Cable (HKG), DD Sports (India), J Sports (JPN), Eurosport (Europe), Al Jazeera (Middle East), EBU News (Europe), ZDF (GER) and Reflex Sports (World Wide Home Video and DVD).



The ITTF Project Manager, **LILAMANI DE SOYSA**, together with Dorte Kronsel, Chairwoman of the ITTF Women's Working Group, were in Marrakech to present a talk entitled "Women in the Olympic Movement: ITTF, a success story", at the IOC **3rd World Conference** on Women and Sport. There Lila met **DENG YAPING** who was speaking about Athletes' as Role Models.



MR HAN SANG KOOK, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE) VISITED THE ITTF HEADQUARTERS IN LAUSANNE WHILE THE ITTF ACCOUNTS FOR 2003 WERE BEING AUDITED BY PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPERS.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Ms Sheri Pittman who has resumed her position as Continental Vice-President of the North American Table Tennis Union and will hold it until the next elections in May 2005. To **MR. MICHEL DE CHADAREVIAN (LIB)** who has been elected member of the Executive Board of the Lebanese National Olympic Committee. To Mr. Hosny Sonbol (EGY) who has been promoted full member of the ITTF Equipment Committee in replacement of Dr. Keith Powell (deceased).





The ITTF Level 1 Coaching Manual will be used for all base level ITTF Development Program and Olympic Solidarity Courses, and for countries without a Coach Ac-creditation system in place. The manual contains the syllabus and content for 4 levels of Coaching Courses, all of which are cumulative and as follows:

Community Leaders Course-3 hours. School Teachers Course-6 hours. Club Coach Course-12 hours. ITTF Level 1 Coaching Course-24 hours. For 1-9 copies the price is USD 25.00 (EUR 20.00 / Fr. 35.00) per copy, including postage and VAT.

For more than 10 copies USD 20.00 (EUR 16.00 / Fr. 25.00) per copy, including postage and VAT.

Available from the ITTF, Chemin de la Roche 11, 1020 Renens / Lausanne, Switzerland Tel: + 41 21 340 70 90, Fax: + 41 21 340 70 99, E-mail: bhabiba@ittf.com.



APPROVED EQUIPMENT

The new lists approved from 1st January to 31st December 2004 are now on the web (www.ittf.com). Newly approved list of racket coverings enclosed with this issue. Available on the web now.

BALL APPROVAL Dunlop Excel Sport, white & orange, Espas, France NET APPROVALS Killerspin, blue, Killerspin, USA Sponeta Classic, blue, Sponeta GmbH, Germany Śtiga Premium VM, blue, Sweden Table Tennis AB, Sweden Stiga Premium Clip, blue, Sweden Table Tennis AB, Sweden

> **TABLE APPROVALS** Chiodi F-2002, blue, Chiodi C S.r.l., Italy

The updated approved equipment lists are available at all times on our web site www.ittf.com

CORRECTION

Please note that the floorings REXCOURT and SPORTCOURT are not ITTF approved yet. The last News mistakenly stated that they were.

2006 CALENDAR FOR WORLD TITLE EVENTS

18-22 January: Pro Tour Europe 25-29 January: Pro Tour Europe 22-26 February: Pro Tour Middle East 1-5 March: Pro Tour Middle East 24 April-1 May: World Team TT Champ. 24-28 May: Pro Tour Asia 31 May-4 June: Pro Tour Asia 21-25 June: Pro Tour Americas 28 June-2 July: Pro Tour Americas 13-17 September: Pro Tour Asia 20-24 September: Pro Tour Asia 29 Sept.-1 October: Women's World Cup 11-15 October: Pro Tour Europe 18-22 October: Pro Tour Europe 26-29 October: Men's World Cup 8-12 November: Pro Tour Europe 15-19 November: Pro Tour Europe 2-10 December: Asian Games 13-16 December: Pro Tour Grand Finals 18-19 December: China vs. World

DIRECTORY CHANGES Changes or additions are in italics

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APRIL

твс	ITTF World Junior Circuit, Ljubljana (SVN)
09 - 13 Asian Singles &	Doubles Olympic Qualification, Beijing (CHN)
12 - 15 Oceania S	& D Olympic Qualifications, Melbourne (AUS)
17	International Veterans, Tisnov (CZE)
19 - 24 O	Oceania Junior Championships, Whangerei (NZL)
10 3E Colored U12 Loc	A (A DC)

19 - 25 Cadet and U13 Latin American Championships, Buenos Aires (ARG)

MAY

01 - 02	
04	
04 - 07	ITTF Pro Tour Egypt Open, Cairo (EGY)
09 - 15	Latin American Junior Championships U18-U21 (VEN)
13 - 16	
15	International Veterans Tournament, Chrudim (CZE)
15 - 16	
16 - 18	ITTF World JUnior Elite Camp, Noumea (NCL)
18 - 22	

If you have any information you wish to include in the Calendar and all matters concerning the Handbook should be sent directly to Ms Etsuko Enami, E-mail: ee@ittf.com

20 - 23	
27 - 30	
30 - 05	12th World Veterans Championships 2004, Yokohama (JPN)

IUNE

01	
твс	African Youth Championship and Senior African Cup (TOG)
03 - 06	
03 - 06	Idea Polish Junior Open ITTF WJC, Cetniewo (POL)
03 - 06	
03 - 06	
12	International Veterans Tournament, Liberec (CZE)
17-20	Pro Tour Chile Open, Santiago (CHILE)

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The next ITTF News will be issued from the Lausanne office, on 3rt June 2004 <u>Deadline for sending items for publication: 26 May 2004</u> Please send all items for the ITTF News to Lilamani de Soysa at the Lausanne office (Idesoysa@ittf.com)

Please send all items to be featured in the Table Tennis Illustrated to Editor Ian Marshall E-mail: imarshall@ittf.org.uk, Fax + 44 16 30 657 406 Deadline for sending items for publication May-June issue: 23 April 2004

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