

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**held at Centara Grand at CentralWorld, Bangkok, Thailand**  
**at 1000 hours on 19 May 2018**

**Represented by** - 130 countries with 252 votes. \*

**AFRICA** (31 countries)

Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**ASIA** (32 countries)

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

**EUROPE** (36 countries)

Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, England, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Wales.

**PAN AMERICA** (23 countries)

Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, St Lucia, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela.

**OCEANIA** (8 countries)

Australia, Cook Islands, Guam, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga.

\* The total number of countries and votes after final sign-in later in the meeting.

**PRESIDENT**

Poul-Erik Høyer

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

Anton Subowo, Geraldine Brown, Gregory Verpoorten, Michel Bau, Paul Kurzo, Vishu Tolan.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Battushig Batbold, Chipu Zumburani, David Cabello, Emma Mason, Etienne Thobois, Jassem Kanso, Koen Ridder, Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, Lim Teong Kiat, Moosa Nashid, Ng Yoke Weng, Nigel Skelt, Nora Perry, Peter Tarcala, Robbert de Kock, Sergey Shakhray, Tang Jiu Hong, Wayne Somers.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



#### BWF Staff

Thomas Lund – Secretary General  
Stuart Borrie  
Ian Wright  
Darren Parks  
Patricia Wong  
Sharon Chan  
Sharon Springer

Rodrigo Pacheco-Carrillo  
Owen Leed  
Christopher Trenholme  
John Shearer  
Gayle Alleyne  
Rachel Jayaratnam  
Thomas Delaye-Fortin

#### CC Representatives

Brian Agerbak and Jimmy Andersen (Badminton Europe), Julie Carrel, Lynne Nixey and Nadia Bleaken (Badminton Oceania), Pilar Carrillo and German Valdez (Badminton Pan Am), Kenny Goh, Thana Arikrishnan and Chooi Weng Sheng (Badminton Asia)

**Honorary Life Vice President** – Charoen Wattanasin

#### Apologies

Hon. Life Vice Presidents – Sir Craig Reedie, Mme Lu Shengrong, Stellan Mohlin, Jeffrey Robson, Dr. Kang Young Joong, Justian Suhandinata

#### Observers

Twenty-four observers registered their attendance.

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## 1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

### 1.1 President's Remarks

- Poul-Erik Høyer said that it was an honour to welcome delegates to Bangkok, for the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

He thanked the Badminton Association of Thailand and President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul for their hospitality and the hosting of the **TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals** which would start the next day.

He wished all the participating teams a good tournament and looked forward to an inspiring week of competition.

He added that it had been a year since the present Council was elected at the AGM held in Gold Coast in 2017 and he thanked Council for this first year of work and for the great achievements of 2017 and to the staff of the BWF secretariat for their commitment in making it a productive and successful year.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



Poul-Erik Høyer said that there were some changes to the Council since May 2017;

- Council Member Danlami Zama Sanchi resigned in January – both from Council and as President of Badminton Confederation of Africa.
- Deputy President Gustavo Salazar resigned last week due to personal reasons. Gustavo had served on Council since 2005 and made a significant contribution to badminton at the world and continental level. The BWF acknowledged Gustavo for his service.
- In the previous day, the Badminton Confederation of Africa AGM elected Michel Bau as the President of Badminton Africa and BWF Vice President – Africa. On behalf of the Council, Poul-Erik Høyer welcomed Michel to the BWF Council.

Continuing with his opening remarks, Poul-Erik Høyer highlighted three points to reflect on in 2017;

1. Tournaments and competitions were central to badminton and he acknowledged and thanked all members and the Continental Confederations (CC) who hosted international, regional and national badminton tournaments.

The BWF thanked the hosts of BWF major events for 2017 and the twelve hosts of the BWF World Superseries tournaments for 2017 which marked the final year of the Series.

2. Partnerships with the commercial and media agencies were an important aspect and he acknowledged MetLife, TOTAL, YONEX, ESG, IMG and Infront Sports & Media for their contributions.
3. Moving on, Poul-Erik Høyer said that 2017 was a transition year where the BWF said goodbye to ESG and IMG. The BWF continued its strong partnership with TOTAL and YONEX and worked closely with new commercial and media rights partner, Infront Sports & Media.

In January 2018, the BWF welcomed HSBC as a new partner and the start of the HSBC BWF World Tour.

Poul-Erik Høyer said that this was an important day for the BWF membership who was about to make a very important decision for the sport.

At part of the presentations during the Member's Forum the previous day, the members have heard about a package of enhancements that BWF was, and would be implementing, to raise the quality and reach of our sport.

Some of the proposals in the AGM agenda were related to enhancing the competition regulations of badminton.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



Poul-Erik Høyer invited the membership to support the Council in its vision for enhancing badminton's future.

He thanked the membership and the five CCs who had continued to play the central role in the organization, administration and development of badminton globally through 2017.

With these, he handed over to Thomas Lund for agenda item 1.2 – the appointment of the scrutineers.

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#### 1.2 Appointment of Scrutineers

- Thomas Lund introduced the proposed team of scrutineers and the AGM was asked to approve the appointment of the following scrutineers;
  - External – Shigeru Kondoh (Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee), Connie Aitcheson (Jamaica), Tanat Thanakarnchot and Jidapa Janjamsai (volunteers with Badminton Association of Thailand).
  - BWF Staff - Ian Wright, Sharon Chan, Sharon Springer and Thomas Delaye-Fortin.
  - Chief Scrutineer – Torsten Berg.
- Thomas Lund explained that some proposals would require 2/3 majority while others a simple majority. One proposal would need to be voted unanimously. The basis of calculation of votes is by “votes cast” and as defined in the constitution, abstentions would not be counted as they were not votes cast. He added that no amendments could be made on any of the proposals other than wording that would not alter the original intended meaning of the proposals.
- The AGM was asked to accept and approve the list of scrutineers.
  - **There being no objections, the proposed panel list of scrutineers was approved by the AGM.**

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#### 1.3 ROLL CALL

- Thomas Lund reported that at the close of registration at 10am, a quorum was met with a representation of 126 Member Associations (MAs) with a total of 238 votes.

He emphasized that as per the constitution, decisions by the meeting would be taken based on actual votes cast and the result would be announced in connection with each proposal.

The numbers of delegates registered would be revised prior to the calling of votes if there were delegates who arrived late and registered.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



#### 2. MINUTES

2.1 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 21 May 2017 (Annexure A).

- Derek Batchelor of England pointed out the following typographical errors and omission that needed to be corrected;
  - Fourth bullet under item 3.1.4 on Page 11 – the word 'no' in line 1 should read as 'now'
  - Item 4 in Page 11, the word 'support' in the last line to read as 'sport'
  - Second paragraph in the second bullet point in Page 17 – to replace the second 'IOC' with 'IPC'
  - To correct the date of the AGM in the header to read as 20 May 2017.

**There being no objections, the minutes with the corrections were unanimously approved.**

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#### 3. COUNCIL REPORT

**3.1 To receive the Report of Council and its Committees, and other reports for the year ending 31 December 2016.**

**3.1.1 Events Committee – Chair Peter Tarcala reported:**

Key highlights of activities and progress;

- 2017 had recorded many firsts in the major events department;
  - **The TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup** was hosted for the first time in Gold Coast, Australia. It was a very competently delivered event with excellent competition including surprise winners Korea.

The Championships featured the successful implementation of BWF commercial partnerships.

- **TOTAL BWF World Championships** was hosted by the city of Glasgow for the second time (previously in 1997). This was the first World Championships in partnership with BWF's new commercial agency Infront and the second with title sponsors TOTAL and YONEX.

The Championships witnessed two memorable marathon matches with an 83-minute women's doubles and 110 minutes women's singles final and saw the emergence of two new Champions – Viktor Axelsen (DEN) and Nozomi Okuhara (JPN).

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



- **Manorama BWF World Senior Championships** took place in Cochin, India with 663 players and 847 entries in 40 events and the Championships resulted in a wide medal spread.
- **Blibli.Com YONEX-SUNRISE BWF World Jr Championships in Yogyakarta** set a new record for individual entry with 64 Member Associations taking part in the individual championships for the Eye Level Cups. A total of 44 Member Associations from all five continents took part in the team championships for the Suhandinata Cup. The BWF had provided an available grant of \$149,000 to support participation at the Championships, which had benefitted 37 teams.

A two-day development coaching clinic and cultural education programme was organized by the BWF for the players and officials.

There was live television broadcast for the team and individual semifinals and finals.

China dominated the mixed team event and ultimately won the Team Championships for the Suhandinata Cup. In the individual events, the medals were shared by Indonesia, Thailand, Korea and Japan.

- **MetLife BWF World Superseries** – the last year of the MetLife BWF World Superseries came to a fitting end in Dubai. The Dubai World Superseries Finals was given a spectacular farewell by the city of Dubai which hosted the finals for the fourth time and it delivered the event in style.

A total of \$6.725 million in prize money was distributed across 12 tournaments including an additional \$1million for the finals.

The total prize money for the 13 BWF Grand Prix Gold tournaments was \$1.67 million and for the 5 Grand Prix tournaments, the combined prize money was \$325,000.

- **Technical Official and Education Resources** – assessment, training and development to enhance the quality of skills and knowledge of technical officials at the international level was the key focus in 2017. Level 1 educational resources would be made available to Member Associations and CCs in the coming months.
- **Introduction of Semi-professional Technical Officials Workforce** - the recruitment of semi-professional referees had progressed well and the final selections and implementations would take place in 2018.

The application and evaluation process for semi-professional umpires would start in 2018 and would be implemented in 2020.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



The successful implementation of a new 360-degree appraisal programme for referees began in 2017 and would continue into 2018.

**There were no questions to the report of the Events Committee.**

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#### **3.1.2 Athletes' Commission – Chair Koen Ridder reported:**

- Elections for the Athletes' Commission were held in May 2017 where four new members were elected – PV Sindhu, Kirsty Gilmour, Marc Zwiebler and Akvile Stapusaityte. In June, Koen Ridder was elected as the Chair and Marc Zwiebler the Vice Chair by the Commission.
- Moving forward, the goal of the Commission was to be more visible to serve the athletes better. Recognizing that the language barrier to accessing information had always been an issue, the plan was to launch an English language course in cooperation with Rosetta Stone, so that in time, players could learn to interact better with the media.
- An Athletes Forum had been planned before the start of the competition with two guest speakers who would enlighten the athletes on how to 1) improve their presentation and profile through various digital platform and 2) focus on career pathways after their professional playing career has ended.
- The Athletes' Commission sought to engage the athletes in more discussions and dialogue to get their feedback on the proposed changes to the scoring system and the new service height rule.
- Koen Ridder attended the 8<sup>th</sup> IOC Athletes' Forum in Lausanne in November where he was elected to join the IOC Steering Committee on the Charter of Athletes Rights and Responsibilities.
- The Athletes' Commission urged each CC to set up a Continental Athletes Commission to get more detailed information from all parts of the world.

**There were no questions to the report of the Athletes Commission Chair.**

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#### **3.1.3 Para-Badminton Committee – Chair Paul Kurzo reported:**

Key highlights of activities and progress;

- 2017 was a very productive year with significant outcomes for Para badminton.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



- The key focuses of the Para Badminton Committee and Commission were;
  - To promote Para badminton globally and to provide advice on the integration of Para badminton at all levels.
  - To review and recommend changes to regulations and laws to Council.
  - To monitor planning and delivery of Para badminton competitions and the calendar of events.
- In 2017, there were significant increases in the number of international tournaments with 9 Para badminton tournaments successfully organized in four continents.

Thailand, Japan, USA and Uganda organized their first ever BWF sanctioned Para badminton tournaments. A total of 227 new athletes were classified and entered their first international competition in 2017.

The overall standard of tournament organization had improved to deliver better tournament experiences for the athletes and teams.

- The Japan Para badminton international in Tokyo attracted 175 athletes from 26 countries which was the largest Para-Badminton international ever hosted.
- In November, Korea Badminton Association for the Disabled in cooperation with Ulsan City hosted the BWF Para badminton World Championships, the largest to-date with a total of 264 athletes from 41 countries across 5 continents.

During the Championships, Richard Perot was re-elected as chair of the Para badminton Athletes' Commission for a second 4-year term. The other members elected were Raul Eduardo Anguiano Araujo (GUA), Anand Kumar (IND), Vello Rafiu Oyebanji (NGR) and Daniel Chan (HGK).

- The BWF had initiated a number of activities to encourage more female participation at Para badminton tournaments through a participation grant to support international classification and participation for new female players. Scholarships were also awarded to players and coaches across the five CCs through the IPC IF Sports Grants.
- In partnership with Badminton Europe and Badminton Ireland, a new coaching module entitled "Coaching players with disability" had been developed and incorporated in the BWF level 1 coaching manual.



## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand

- During the Para badminton World Championships, many development and technical activities including coaching workshops were organized and attended by 51 coaches from 30 countries.
- The BWF received support from the Agitos Foundation for the Agitos Legacy Project in Peru where 52 new athletes were classified and 10 coaches and national administrators from 8 countries were trained.
- In September, the IPC announced that the (Para) badminton competition for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games would consist of 14 medal events with a maximum of 90 athletes. The classification period would commence in January 2019.
- In 2019, the first combined BWF World Championships and BWF Para badminton World Championships would be hosted in the city of Basel.
- The bid for the inclusion of Para badminton in the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris was underway. The BWF secretariat would be seeking information on Para badminton activities from Member Associations and their support was much needed to ensure the success of the bid.
- In closing, Paul Kurzo thanked members of the Para badminton Committee and Commission and staff members in the events and development departments for their support.

#### **Questions raised by the floor:**

- Anil Kaul of Canada applauded the effort in promoting Para badminton. He said that they were informed that each continent was allocated \$40k to support the development of Para badminton events. For Pan Am, this meant that each Member Association would receive \$1,700. He remarked that for a country that was keen to develop and host Para badminton events, this was just not sufficient and asked about the option to apply for more funding and support from BWF.
- Francisco Javier Orozco from Mexico said that many participants of Para badminton events were wheelchair players and asked if the BWF had any projects for equipment support for Para badminton particularly wheelchairs.
- Derek Batchelor of England said that he was glad that the BWF was working on the inclusion of Para badminton in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and would like to encourage the BWF and all Commonwealth countries to make a strong bid for the inclusion of Para badminton in the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- Zibhino Rodrigues of Equatorial Guinea supported the proposal from Badminton Canada as the budget allocated to the members in Africa was also insufficient and would also be keen to know if additional resources were available.
- Moneoang Leshota of Lesotho said that a number of children with hearing disability were very interested in badminton and was told that

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



this was not included as a category in Para badminton. She asked if there was any consideration for this kind of disability to be included in Para badminton.

- Gonzalo Castillo Guzman of Peru who is also the Vice-President of the Paralympic Committee of Peru shared the concern of Canada regarding funding for Para badminton.

He said that a female short stature (SS 6 Sport Class) was not included in the Parapan American Games hosted in Lima in 2019. He added that there was a talented Canadian champion who also won the second placing in the BWF Para badminton World Championships who was not able to compete in the Parapan American Games in Lima in 2019 because her class was not offered. He had written to the BWF to enquire about this twice but had not received any answer.

- In reply to the questions from the floor, Thomas Lund said that different grants were provided to the CCs and there were specific grants for the development of Para badminton. On top of which, there were significant development grants which covered a range of different activities within the continent and this would be reviewed by the BWF based on the remarks heard.

He added that there was no formal bid process for the inclusion of new sports in the Commonwealth Games. The BWF had made several attempts to have Para badminton included in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and Gold Coast and were told that there were very limited number spots for Para athletes and Para sports in the Commonwealth Games programme. The situation was still very unclear but the BWF would continue to pursue the cause and hope that Badminton England and other Commonwealth countries would lend their voice to support the effort.

- Paul Kurzo added that the views of the delegates had been heard and the Council would look into the requests for additional support in the next budget review.

With regards to the request for equipment support, Paul Kurzo said that the Para badminton Committee had made contact with Agitos Foundation, an arm of the IPC to secure cheaper wheelchairs and he encouraged the members to discuss their needs with the BWF.

He added that it was on the agenda of the Council meeting to discuss the inclusion of Para badminton in the Commonwealth Games.

He clarified that sports for those with hearing disability was handled by another organization, the Deaflympics which was not integrated into the BWF system, although that organization who hosts a Summer Deaflympic Games every four year, did engage BWF umpires and referees in their world games and tournaments.

Paul Kurzo said that he had discussed with Peru regarding their issues and clarified that the reason for not integrating female Para badminton

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



players in that Sport Class in the Parapan American Games was due to the small number of short stature players in Pan Am and the decision had been made by the IPC more than one year ago.

Thomas Lund said that he had no knowledge about the letter from Badminton Peru and would look into it.

- Derek Batchelor of England clarified that his point was not about what the BWF was expected to do but more to encourage member countries of the Commonwealth present to get in touch with the Commonwealth Games governing body in their countries to put pressure on the Commonwealth Games Federation as the decision would be made in as early as August.

**There were no further questions to the Para-Badminton Committee report.**

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#### **3.1.4 Development & Sport for all - Chair David Cabello reported:**

- David Cabello said that the BWF continued to make great strides in the mission to develop badminton globally. The Development & Sport for all Committee continued to work closely with the five CCs to bring educational tools and resources accessible to all Member Associations.

The BWF Shuttle Time Schools Badminton Programme continued to expand with more than 130 Member Associations having implemented the programme, which translated to more than 70% of the BWF membership now implementing the programme. The Shuttle Time resources were available in more than 20 languages.

Key highlights of activities and progress;

- The BWF received the prestigious Peace and Sport Federation of the Year award for the Shuttle Time Connect project which was implemented in partnership with Sports Matters, Badminton Australia, the Australian Government and Badminton Nepal.
- Level 1 and Level 2 coach education courses were available in 6 and 4 languages respectively. The Level 3 resources would be ready to be piloted in the following month. This would enable Member Associations to apply for the recognition of their own coaching system along the BWF coaching pathways.
- The World Coaching Conference held in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF World Championships in Glasgow was the largest to-date and the event was streamed to the BWF YouTube channel for the first time.
- The BWF would be leading the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Racket Sport Science in cooperation with the International Tennis Federation,

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand

International Table Tennis Federation and the Mahidol University of Bangkok. The event would be hosted by the Badminton Association of Thailand.

- Following requests from members, the BWF conducted the first itinerant coach programme in cooperation with Badminton Association of Ghana.
- Building on the success of the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship programme for the Rio 2016 Games, twenty-four badminton players received scholarships for Tokyo 2020.
- In relation to Sports Science, the BWF continued to provide research grants for badminton related projects and in 2017, ten research projects received financial support.
- Gender equality in all aspects of the sport remained a key focus of the BWF and scholarships had been provided to 67 women to gain additional knowledge and experience across different areas. Women from 60 countries had been supported.
- In an effort to make badminton more accessible, the BWF continued working to develop a synthetic outdoor shuttle and an outdoor version of badminton. This innovation was targeted to be launched in 2019.
- In partnership with the United Nations, the BWF concluded an 18-month *Badminton for All* project in the African region with the goal to engage children with physical and intellectual disability in badminton.
- Moving forward, the BWF would invest an additional \$6 million over the next 6 years in a new CC HR (human resources) capacity building project to support the growth and capacity of the Continental Confederations to provide a higher level of support and service to the Member Associations.

In closing, David Cabello thanked the Council and Committee members and development team who had worked and supported development of badminton.

#### Questions from the floor:

- Devender Singh of India complimented the development initiatives undertaken by the BWF. He remarked that the BWF had accumulated \$40 million in reserves and was happy to note that development grant has been increased from \$3 million to \$6 million. He suggested that as an NGO, the bulk of resources should be focused on development of the sport by setting up regional sports hubs and Centres of Excellence which could cater for groups at the sub regional level.
- Adrian Christy of England asked if more information on timing and testing and when equipment for outdoor badminton would be made available to members.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



- David Cabello responded that the BWF Council had always been looking into new initiatives for increased funding for the development of the sport and the CC HR capacity building was one of the efforts to support the CCs for further improvement.

He added that Badminton Europe opened a Centre of Excellence last September and this pilot project had proven successful in providing training opportunities for members to develop more talented players and coaches in particular.

On outdoor badminton, he explained that a prototype had been developed and this was much better than the synthetic shuttles in the market. Testing had been carried out under different environmental conditions but more work needed to be done to develop the format of outdoor badminton.

A report would be presented to the BWF Council in November with recommendations for the launching, hopefully in 2019.

- Alejandro Horacia Almada of Argentina said that many good things were said about Shuttle Times being key to development of badminton especially in the developing countries and complimented David Cabello and his team.
- David Cabello responded that Shuttle Time was one of the key development projects if not the most important particularly for the less developed and developing countries. He thanked Argentina Badminton Federation for the good job in developing and promoting the sport in anticipation of the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires.
- Ndondo Francis of Burundi expressed gratitude for the Shuttle Time projects which had been implemented in schools in all provinces in Burundi. They have introduced badminton at the university level and asked for support in terms of additional resources and expertise. He added that Burundi hoped to host schools' championships.
- David Cabello congratulated Burundi for developing the sport in Burundi and to introduce badminton at the University level in line with the objectives of the BWF. He added that members could approach the BWF development team for content resources and if they needed any support to engage the universities in their country. The BWF had also helped Physical Education teachers to include badminton knowledge in their curriculum.
- Raimundo Lizama Baltra of Chile supported the introduction of badminton at the university level adding that more was not necessarily better. In Chile, they have worked with both Shuttle Time and Level 1 Coach Education courses but these took a lot of time. Therefore, they have changed their focus onto Shuttle Time University courses and now they have seven universities certified to teach and where the teachers were required to pass a course including badminton. They expected another seven more to be certified in 2019.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



He encouraged developing countries to work with universities as a more efficient way to create more growth with the same effort.

- David Cabello said that Pan Am was a good example of how badminton had developed quite rapidly and the members know what was best to make use of all the development resources to suit their needs. He added that many countries had introduced badminton knowledge in their university's curriculum.

**There were no further questions to the Development Committee report.**

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\***Updated roll call** – Thomas Lund informed the AGM that as at 11.00 am, the number of registered Member Associations had increased to 130 countries with a total of 252 votes. He would provide further updates if there are more late comers.

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#### **3.1.5 IOC IR – Vice Chair Robbert de Kock reported on behalf of Anton Subowo:**

Key highlights of activities and progress;

- Robbert de Kock said that the position of badminton in various commissions in the Olympic and Paralympic movement had strengthened year by year. He was happy to announce that BWF Council member Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul was elected as an IOC member in September 2017, Koen Ridder was elected to join the IOC Charter of Athletes Rights Steering Committee and Saina Nehwal had been appointed a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission in December 2016.

He added that Etienne Thobois was appointed as the CEO of the Organizing Committee for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and BWF Secretary General Thomas Lund was co-opted as a member of IPACS (International Partnership Against Corruption in Sports).

Currently, there were five IOC members related to badminton – Sir Craig Reedie, Li Lingwei, Dagmawit Girmay Berhane, Poul-Erik Høyer and Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul.

- Other Olympic representatives included;
  - Member Associations who were involved in their respective National Olympic Committees (NOC).
  - Representatives of official Olympic recognized organizations.
  - BWF staff.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



- The BWF was very well represented in the following multi-sports games organizations;
  - Poul-Erik Høyer was a board member of the International Master's Games Association.
  - Geraldine Brown – Co Vice-President of the Commonwealth Games Association of Australia.
  - David Cabello – Technical Delegate of the 29<sup>th</sup> Summer Universiade in Taipei.
- **Other BWF Representations** – BWF representatives actively participated in major IOC and international meetings and conferences.
- **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games** – the Committee continued to work closely with the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee to host Member Association Presidents, partners and key stakeholders with good hospitality, increased sports experience and also to create a legacy for badminton and Para badminton, which would be debuting in the Tokyo Paralympics.
- **Strategic Partnerships** – The IOC and International Committee continued to pursue opportunities with various organizations that would realize BWF's vision of making badminton a global sport accessible to all.
- **Awards** – BWF was honoured with two external awards in 2017 - the Peace and Sport 'Federation of the Year Award' and the SPIA Asia Award for 'Best International Organization Operating in Asia'.

Robbert de Kock acknowledged the contributions and support of the Committee members particularly President Poul-Erik Høyer and other IOC members, BWF staff and Member Associations.

**There were no questions to the IOC International Relations Report.**

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#### **3.1.6 Marketing Committee Report – Chair Etienne Thobois reported:**

Key highlights of activities and progress;

- 2017 was a transition year in the Marketing Department with the signing of the largest sponsorship relationship with HSBC, a milestone as HSBC was a major player in sport sponsorship. The partnership was a solid testimony of the popularity of badminton worldwide.
- The third and fourth TOTAL title sponsored major events were successfully delivered.
- With the conclusion of the last BWF World Superseries finals in Dubai, the BWF had entered a new cycle when the HSBC BWF World Tour kicked off in January 2018.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand

- In the fourth and last year of the contract with IMG Media & Production, a record of 655 hours of live coverage of BWF badminton events was delivered to over 600 million households. A total of 208 episodes of weekly *Badminton Unlimited* magazine show were produced and aired to its diverse international audiences.
- From the marketing perspective, change was important to improve the popularity and attractiveness of the sport.
- BWF's relationship with ESG and MetLife ended in 2017 and their contribution through the partnership years were acknowledged.
- In 2017, Infront Sports & Media began their management of the relationship with TOTAL Oil as the title sponsor of the BWF Major Events. From 2018, Infront will handle all commercial and media rights for all the BWF Major Events and World Tour and they have been instrumental in securing the HSBC relationships ensuring significant revenues and contributing to the financial stability of the BWF in the next few years.
- It was acknowledged that digital strategy was a key to development and Nielsen Sports delivered both Broadcast Analysis and Media Evaluation Reports for all BWF major events which was a major tool for BWF partners and hosts to understand the value of their products and to enhance the outcomes for future events.
- All CCs received their marketing grants against effectively developed and executed marketing plans.

Etienne Thobois thanked the Deputy Chair of the Marketing Committee, key BWF staff and Member Associations for their contributions in promoting the badminton brand.

**There were no questions to the Marketing report.**

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#### **3.1.7 Communications & Media Committee Report – Chair Nigel Skelt reported:**

Key highlights of activities and progress;

- The global announcement of the new HSBC BWF World Tour was a significant milestone for the BWF.
- The BWF had many institutional communications partnerships which it had continued to foster.

The BWF continued to maintain strong communication initiatives with the sports institutional world including the IOC, Peace and Sport (the White Card initiative), and through online magazines and newsletters ('Around



## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



the Rings' and 'Inside the Games') and through BWF's quarterly e-newsletter, ShuttleWorld.

- It was evident that the digital platform had become increasingly important and the BWF World Tour website launched in 2018 had gained significant attention.

Facebook, Twitter and YouTube continued to be the focus of BWF's social media thrust. The BWF YouTube channel generated in excess of 1.45 billion minutes of content viewed.

- Shankai Sports which manages all social media in China had effectively delivered specific China-focused content to Chinese fans.
- The Communications & Media Committee continued its global focus on star creation and the BWF had invested heavily to develop a cutting-edge digital strategy to enhance badminton's fan engagement experience all year round.
- The BWF had clearly identified the 'missing generation' of fans and this must change, and Nigel Skelt challenged members to do their part to engage the missing generation.

In closing, Nigel Skelt thanked members of the Communications & Media Committee and all staff concerned for their support and contributions.

**There were no questions to the Communications & Media report.**

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#### **3.1.8 Administration Committee – Chair Vishu Tolan reported:**

Key highlights of activities and progress;

- The BWF moved its headquarters to a new premise in June 2017 and an invitation was extended to all members to visit the office and meet the staff when they were in Malaysia.
- The BWF membership continued to grow with the admission of two new Members – Burkina Faso (Africa) and Bolivia (Pan Am). Associate Member Saudi Arabia became a full Member of the BWF.
- Good governance and integrity of badminton remained key priority areas. The BWF Constitution Working Group and Ethics Commission continued its work on reviewing various rules and regulations related to governance, ethics and judicial processes. One of the main outcomes was the incorporation of all ethics related clauses from across BWF regulations into the amended Code of Ethics. The second outcome was the inclusion of an external and independent expertise into the judicial system.
- The electronic version of the restructured BWF Statute was published on the BWF website in January 2018. It was expected that this, including

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



Laws of Badminton and Technical Rules and Regulations, would be available for download to mobile apps by the end of August.

- The BWF Integrity Unit continued to focus on anti-doping and anti-match fixing through education and the "I am Badminton" awareness campaign.

The first match fixing case involving two Malaysian players was recently concluded with career ending bans for the players concerned. Member Associations were urged to review their governance framework to include a code of ethics and judicial process to protect the integrity of the sport.

- The BWF Player of the Year Awards 2017 were presented at the Dubai World Superseries Finals in December and various BWF awards were presented to deserving individuals who had contributed to the sport.

Congratulations were recorded for all the awardees.

In conclusion, Vishu Tolan thanked members of the Administration Committee and the staff for making the BWF one of the top sporting federations.

**There were no questions to the Administration report.**

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#### **3.1.9 Finance Committee – Dato' Lim Teong Kiat reported:**

Key highlights of activities and progress;

- Lim Teong Kiat reported that 2017 had been a successful year for the BWF with higher than expected revenues resulting in a surplus of \$3 million against a budgeted deficit of \$4 million.

He said that the BWF would be investing significantly in the CC and an allocation of the reserves of \$6 million over the next 6 years was budgeted for the CC HR capacity building projects.

Besides, an additional \$2.7 million has been allocated for the BWF digital strategy over the next four years taking the total to \$4 million.

- Total income for the year was \$23 million taking the accumulated reserves to \$37 million.

Lim Teong Kiat thanked the Committee Chairs who had been very prudent in their spending and the BWF had built up strong reserves and was financially very sound.

Questions from the floor:

- Anne Smillie of Scotland congratulated the BWF for the increased income. She had two requests, the first was a consideration to re-introduce grants to assist members to participate in the BWF Thomas

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand

& Uber Cup Finals and the BWF Sudirman Cup and secondly to look into financial support for hosts of major events to ensure that the sport was presented in the best possible way.

- Nishanta Dayan from Sri Lanka asked if there was any policy to monitor the distribution and usage of the \$6 million grants by the CCs.

Secondly, he asked about what other projects were defined under the Kang Young Joong Fund.

- Thomas Lund said that the request for grants to participate in the Thomas & Uber Cup and Sudirman Cup had been noted and would be taken back to the Council for consideration.

On financial support for hosting of major BWF events, he said that the BWF Council was working on a review of the hosting models and a different framework to help the hosts through a collaborative and direct approach. He said that more information would be communicated when the review was concluded.

With regards to the CC grants, he said that the BWF had regular ongoing discussions with the CC to ensure that every cent could be utilized and looking into ways to identify projects that could help the Member Associations better.

He added that there were no specific projects for the utilization of the Kang Young Joong fund except that which was decided by the former President and that was to provide scholarships to World Junior Championship winners.

- Nynette Sass from Samoa said that the Chair of Development & Sport for All Committee mentioned in his report that more than 60 women received scholarships from the BWF but she noticed that the number of female representations at the AGM was dismally small. She asked if there were any strategy to increase the engagement of women.
- Nahom Gebrekidian from Eritrea asked if there were other means of incomes besides equipment sponsorships and if the BWF had any policies for CC grants to be shared equally among Member Associations.
- Thomas Lund said that the BWF had always advocated for higher representation of women in Council, Committees and Commissions. However, it was not always easy for the BWF to identify talented women who had the opportunity be a part of these bodies. Therefore, a grant system was approved to help the CCs to work with the Member Associations and to support participation of women in sports related conferences.
- On the question of sponsorship, Thomas Lund said that the BWF did not engage directly with one equipment sponsor as many members have their own sponsorship arrangements with equipment companies.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



However, the BWF did help to secure better pricing and free equipment for specific projects.

With regards to the CC grants, he said that there were different types of grants available to the members through the CCs who were better connected to the Member Associations.

- Mohan Wijesinghe from Sri Lanka suggested that a fund could be allocated to the CCs and Member Associations to promote education on gender equality with a target to achieve a 25% minimum of women on CCs and the BWF Council within the next five years.
- Thomas Lund said the suggestion was noted and he would bring it back to the Women in Sport Commission and Council on the right approach forward.

**There were no further questions to the Finance report.**

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#### **3.2 To adopt the Financial Statements, duly audited, for the year ending 31 December 2017**

- Lim Teong Kiat said that the financial statements had been tabled in the Annual Report and asked for it to be adopted.

**There were no objections, the financial statements were unanimously adopted by the AGM.**

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#### **3.3 To receive the 2018 budget and the provisional budget for 2019**

- Lim Teong Kiat said that the budgeted income for 2018 and forecast for 2019 had been tabled.

**There being no comments to the 2018 budget and provisional budget for 2019.**

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## **4. Proposals by BWF Council**

### **4.1 To approve amendments to the Laws of Badminton – Clauses 7 & 8**

- Poul-Erik Høyer said that the proposals could be found under Item 4 on page 92 of the Annual Report. He added that Clause 7 dealt with the scoring system and Clause 8 with consequences related to the change in scoring system.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



Poul-Erik Høyer invited Gregory Verpoorten to present the proposal on behalf of the Council.

- Gregory Verpoorten said that as Clauses 7 and 8 were inter-related, both proposals would be voted on simultaneously.

He added that Clause 7 related to the proposed new scoring system that had been presented at the Member's Forum on the previous day.

Gregory Verpoorten made a comment that much was presented at the Members' Forum the day before and in the material sent to the membership.

He opened the floor to the AGM. Views from the floor;

- Adrian Christy of England proposed to take the voting for this motion through a secret ballot to allow delegates to cast their votes confidentially.
- Anil Kaul of Canada seconded the proposal by Badminton England for a secret ballot and secondly asked for confirmation that the proposal would require a 2/3 majority.
- Devender Singh of India said that such a radical proposal should be conducted on a pilot basis and testing done in the last 2 years was limited to the lower level tournaments. He added that the broadcast perspective was only one aspect but the players were central to the game and enhancing fan experience would be another critical parameter and this would be compromised by the proposed 5 x 11 scoring system.

From the feedback received, there was strong evidence from players and coaches rejecting the change. Badminton India strongly opposed the proposal.

- Florent Chayet of France said that if the proposal was adopted by the AGM, the French Badminton Association (FFBaD) would implement it as early as December to have a homogenous season.

It was argued that top ranking players were against the change but the FFBaD felt that the rule change would not affect their ranking. The new rules will make uneven games shorter, and the equal matches will last probably as long as it was now and this would not in any way diminish the excitement for fans.

FFBaD supported the change.

- Ng Chin Chai from Malaysia expressed that Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) was for change and innovation for the better. With the present scoring system, badminton was one of the most exciting sports and widely watched. The argument for the change had not been proven and the changes would not necessarily bring the desired

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



results of making the game more exciting for fans. He added that the experimental laws were tested only at lower level tournaments and not participated in by top ranked players. On the contrary, the service height proposal was tested at high level tournaments.

It was noted that although there was a mandate for Council to revert to the old rule for agenda item 4.5, the same was not provided for such a big change.

In BAM's view, with due consideration of the Tokyo 2020 Games qualification period coming up, top players should be given the opportunity to test the system and time to adjust before imposing the change.

- Kensuke Tanaka from Japan agreed with BAM that the new scoring system should not be imposed prior to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games as this would affect the game and to consider the impact on the host city.
- Richard Vaughan of Wales said that the proposal had been discussed in the last two AGMs and today the AGM heard of increased funding from all sponsors. Evidently, there was correlation between grassroots development and income from television rights and sponsorship. He disagreed with the perception that change would be advantageous for some players and opined that the scoring system needed to be changed as the games were getting too long.

He added that Infront Sports & Media had given their expert opinion that change would be positive. He urged the members to consider the expert opinion. He was encouraged by the BWF's pledge to reinvest into development.

- The delegate from Ukraine said that the proposal was a very important aspect of the game and should be supported and BWF should not delay it any longer.
- Bo Jensen of Denmark said that they had experimented on the proposed scoring system in their national league a few years back and had reservations. They were not convinced that it would necessary lead to shorter matches and more peaks. They had asked for better management of the games through better education of the Technical Officials to improve conduct of play.

In a sport that had become more and more professional, a firm and consistent enforcement of the existing rules will have better impact on shorter matches.

Having heard the presentations on the proposal, Badminton Denmark were however convinced of the commitment of the BWF to enhance fan experience and improve the quality of the broadcast product and strongly recommended that the proposal was accepted.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand

- Bambang Roedyanto of Indonesia said that the proposal on the fixed service height at 1.15m was still not being applied consistently and argued that instead of changing the scoring system, the focus should be on adjusting the service height and ensuring consistency in applying the rules. He said that it was too risky to change the scoring system ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Games. He added that Badminton Indonesia had conducted a survey where 89% of the respondents rejected the proposal and it was noted that each game lasted at the most only 15 to 20 minutes. He urged the AGM to reject the proposal.
- Francis Orbih of Nigeria said that the BWF was about to vote upon a very critical issue.

In the presentations at the Member's Forum, the members heard about embracing changes. However, all changes came with risks and not all changes turned out to be for the better.

It was heard that many players were not supportive of the change and likewise for majority of the African players. The players who owned the game should be given the chance to vote.

The argument that a shorter game would be more exciting and attract better sponsorship and funding was not convincing enough to sacrifice the beauty of the game and identity of the sport.

Badminton Nigeria was not in favor of the change and urged the AGM not to make a decision it would later regret.

- Assogba Aubin of Benin said that the evolution of sports led to success and the change would be an advantage for the developing countries. He commended the BWF for being brave to go ahead with the proposal. The analysis that was done had been positive and Benin was in favor of this change.
- Han Woo Goo of Korea fully supported the views of members who were not in favor of changing the current scoring system.
- Martin Kranitz of Germany said that many views were heard, some in favor and some not and there were some suggestions to wait until after the Tokyo 2020 Games. He opined that in another four years, the AGM would probably still be debating over the same issue and then it could be too late for Paris 2024. He supported the proposal to be implemented with immediate effect.
- Chan Yi-Chien of Chinese Taipei supported the arguments of Japan, Malaysia, Korea and India against the implementation of the scoring system and this was also the sentiments of the Chinese Taipei players.
- Donald Mauricio from Guatemala said that they had talked to both the coaches and athletes and all supported the view that it was not a good time to implement this change. He said that the BWF should look at the interests of the athletes and not on regional interest nor on economic motivation. Guatemala was not in favor of the proposal.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



- Andrej Pohar of Slovenia said that twelve years ago, the BWF decided on a big change which took the BWF to where it is today.

If the BWF had stood still, it would lose to other sports in the ever-changing landscape. It was said that many players were against the change but there were also many others who were for it.

It was argued that it would be too risky to implement the change ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Games but it would be another 3-4 years before it could be re-considered again and then it might be too late.

In order to keep the pace and the interest in the game, Badminton Slovenia supported the proposal that it was the right time to change.

- Wajid Ali Chaudhry of Pakistan said that all badminton players were anxiously waiting for a decision that would change the game. He added that it was not just for the TV and the media but about the players and the beauty of the game which would be destroyed by the change.
- Zenmmouchi Moncef of Algeria said that many of the opinions heard were about themselves and their country and not for the game or for the players. He said that change was good for the development of badminton in general and with increased sponsorship, there would be more development. He added that the BWF cannot just look into the interests of the top players but that of emerging players and the game had become too boring with the same players.
- Dr. Mya Lay Sein of Myanmar said that the scoring system was like a bible for badminton and this had been debated countless times since the days of the IBF.

She said that the new scoring system resulted in a significant increase in the number of shots and the number of services and the players would need to play more aggressively which was the essence of the game. The players had to be physiologically and psychologically prepared.

She ended by saying that the BWF was going to show the world the beauty of badminton and its sustainability.

- Gregory Verpoorten said that as custodian of the game, the views of the delegates were vital for the development of the game and the future of badminton.

In response, he said that the proposal was not something that emerged overnight but had been deliberated on for years. It had been well thought through and tested and the Council strongly believed that the time was right now.

It was argued that it was too close to the Olympic Games but there would always be another Olympic Games. There were many valid reasons that



## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



supported the move which was very bold and very brave and there was more risk in not doing anything than making the wrong decision.

He said that "sportainment" was always evolving and he stressed that it was not just about financial interests but about how the game would look in the future. The change in the scoring system would not affect the position of the top players.

- Thomas Lund said that testing had been done in leagues which were involving top players. Broadcasters, stakeholders and media from big countries have confirmed their support for the change and their stand was supported by fan views.

As a former player, he supported any change which was for the players. The change proposed today had taken the views of the players and with due regards for their welfare in the long run.

He stressed that the BWF had done due diligence for the proposal.

- Poul-Erik Høyer said that when he decided to run for the BWF Presidency position five years ago, he made it his mission to review the scoring system. He started playing badminton at the age of five and he lived and breathed badminton and had analyzed the proposal from every aspect.

As a former player, he understood the importance of being in a comfort zone. The players were at the heart of the game but sometimes a decision had to be made for the betterment of the sport. He believed that this would be an advantage for the players.

From the spectator's standpoint, there were times when he felt that the game with 21x3 points was too lengthy and stretching the fans interest. He wanted to retain the intensity and excitement for the game. The BWF held its AGM once a year and in every four years there would be the Olympic Games and the Olympic Qualification period, therefore finding the right time and place was never easy. However, he felt strongly that the moment was right for the change to be made. He went on to say that many opinions were expressed from the heart and he would respect the outcome.

He called for the voting to be carried out through a secret ballot.

- Thomas Lund said that as Item 4.2 to 4.6 were related to Item 4.1, these would be voted on after the results of the proposal to change the Laws of Badminton Clause 7 & 8 were announced.

The secret ballot took place.

Thomas Lund said that the total of 252 votes were cast and 168 votes would be required for a 2/3 majority.

The results were - **129 voted in favour** of changing the scoring format while **123 voted against**. Therefore, the motion was not carried.



- Gregory Verpoorten said that the proposal concerning Clause 16 which was in direct relation to the change of the scoring system would be therefore be withdrawn.
- 

#### **4.2 To approve amendments to the Laws of Badminton - Continuous Play, Misconduct & Penalties**

- Gregory Verpoorten said that the proposed change to include the word 'or inappropriate' to Clause 16.6.3 and was considered important by the Technical Officials' Committee. The proposal would require a 2/3 majority.

***There being no questions or objections, the proposed amendment to Clause 16.6.3 of the Laws of Badminton was unanimously approved.***

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#### **4.3 To approve BWF Statutes – Section 4.1.4 – Alternative Laws of Badminton**

- This proposal was withdrawn without a vote being called as the motion for the scoring system was not carried.
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#### **4.4 To approve BWF Statues – Section 4.1.9 – Time-Outs and Advice**

- This proposal was withdrawn without a vote being called as the motion for the scoring system was not carried.
- 

#### **4.5 Laws of Badminton – Clause 9 - Service**

- Gregory Verpoorten said that the proposal would require a 2/3 majority and voting would be carried out through a secret ballot.

The proposal included a mandate to the BWF Council to conduct further tests on the service height and to make small amendments to the change before the start of the Olympic Qualifying period.

- Adrian Christy of England requested the BWF to give a commitment to invest in proper technology for the measurement of the service height if the proposal was approved by the AGM.
- Jurgen Leicher of Namibia asked about the application of the rule for wheelchair badminton players who could possibly be just 1.2m tall.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



- Bambang Roedyanto of Indonesia urged the BWF to look into training for umpires particularly those for the Super 100 and 200 tournaments where many are local umpires who had not been trained so well so far and there was a danger of a lack of consistency of judgments.
- In response, Thomas Lund said that since the proposal was raised at the last AGM, it had been tested with conventional tools. The Hawkeye technology has been quite technical but costly and it would not be cost effective if not used by the members. He said that the Council would certainly look further into it.

He added that the same service height rule would apply for wheelchair badminton and short stature players as currently written in the Laws of Badminton – with no change to that proposed.

He continued that training of umpires was big task for the BWF, CCs and Member Associations as it would create a more stable and consistent level of umpiring. BWF had invested in training at the CC level but this has yet to be implemented at the member's level.

The votes were cast and the results were: **177 voted in favor** of the new service height proposal while **45 voted against**.

***The motion to amend Clause 9 of the Laws of Badminton was carried.***

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#### 4.6 Alternative Laws of Badminton – Service Law

- Gregory Verpoorten said that with the approval of the new service rule, the old law would still be available for those who want to use it especially for those tournaments without the technology means.

***There being no objections, the proposed Alternative Service Laws was unanimously approved.***

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#### 4.7 To approve the amendments to the Constitution as presented in Annexure B

- Vishu Tolan explained that the rationale for the proposal was to enhance the content of the constitution, to reduce repetitions and add clarity to the clauses.

He said that some changes were more substantive while others were superficial and added that the all the amendments presented in Annexure B would be voted on once.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



The main changes which are more substantive were highlighted:

1. Clause 1 – **Legal Personality** – with the new International Status (IO) granted by the Malaysian government, the BWF needed to ensure that this aspect was well defined in the constitution.
2. Clause 3.7 and 4.2 – **Integrity** – As the BWF had established an independent Judicial Experts Group and an independent Referral Officer, there was a need to ensure that these were reflected in the Constitution.
3. Clause 4.6 – **Ethics** – The wording was in line with the IOC Code of Ethics.
4. Clause 15.20 – **Voting Rights** – to include the equivalent of World Tour Events for the calculation of voting strength in this Assessment Period.
5. Clause 18.4 – **Refinement** – It was approved at the last AGM that staff members of Continental Confederation cannot serve as Council Members or Officers and this wording is more specific to reflect that decision.
6. Clause 19.13 **Council Roles & Responsibilities** – provision for the signing of legal documents.

Questions from the floor:

- Derek Batchelor of England suggested the following amendments;
  1. Clause 1 – To include the word 'defend' to the penultimate line of paragraph 3 so it reads 'to institute and defend legal proceedings'.
  2. Clause 4.6 – to change the word 'to affect' in the line 2 to 'that affects'
  3. Clause 9.4 – line 3 should read as automatically becomes~~s~~ (without s) and members should read member.
  4. Clause 15.12 – line 2 in penultimate paragraph should make cross reference to Clause 15.11 and not 15.12.
  5. The first Clause 15.21 – should be 15.20
  6. Clause 17.1 – line 3 – the Council shall consist~~s~~(without s)
- Thomas Lund remarked that any comments and feedback on editorial changes including spelling errors and typographical errors would be accepted but not material changes that would affect the meaning and intent of the proposal.

He said that the suggestion to add the word defend to Clause 1 was a change that would require a simple majority vote from the AGM.

***There being no objections to the proposed editorial changes as suggested by Badminton England, it was approved by the AGM.***

***There being no objections, the proposed amendments to the Constitution in its entirety were unanimously approved by the AGM.***



**4.8 Approval of Amendments to the Constitution – Clause 35**

Vishu Tolan presented to the AGM proposed amendments to Clause 35 of Laws of Badminton as presented in Annexure B.

The rationale of the proposed amendments was explained as a provision to allow Council to amend any of the sub-sections to the Laws (formerly Appendix) which was in line with the authority already given to Council in the constitution to amend Recommendations to Technical Officials, to Appendix 4, Appendix 6 and Appendix 7, Index to the Laws of Badminton.

A vote was carried out for the proposal which required a unanimous decision.

***There being no objections, the proposed amendments relating to Clause 35 of the Constitution were unanimously approved.***

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**5. Proposal by German Badminton Association**

The German Badminton Association proposed to include the Athletes' Commission Chair as a member of the Federation's Executive Committee.

- Martin Kranitz, of the German Badminton Association presented the rationale that athletes were the center of the sport and the Chair of the Athletes' Commission as the elected representative of the global badminton player community and a Council member, should have a full voting position in the Federation's Executive Board.
- Anil Kaul of Canada remarked that since there was an Athletes' Commission for abled bodied players, there should also be one for Para badminton players and this should be amended.

The suggestion was seconded by Derek Batchelor of England.

- Thomas Lund clarified that the Chair of the Athletes' Commission was already sitting in Council and the proposal was for the inclusion to the Executive Board. However, as the Chair of the Para badminton Athletes' Commission was not part of the Council structure, it cannot be included in the proposal.

***There being no questions or objections, the proposal was unanimously approved.***

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



#### 6. Subscription

To consider Council's proposal that the unit of subscription for the year 2019 should be set at US\$200 per unit (unchanged).

**The proposal was unanimously approved by the AGM.**

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#### 7. Auditors

Council proposed that the services of BDO Malaysia be secured as the BWF auditor for 2018.

**The proposal was unanimously approved by the AGM.**

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#### 8. Any Other Business

##### 8.1 Presentations from future events host;

- **Tokyo 2020 Progress Report** – Olympic and Paralympic Games – Shigeru Kondoh, Sports Manager for badminton in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games presented an update on the competition and training schedule for Badminton and Para badminton.

The Daihatsu Japan Open 2020 would be the test event for the Olympic Games whilst the test event for the Paralympics has yet to be decided.

The Olympic Games Opening Ceremony would be on 24 July ending with the Closing Ceremony on 11 August and the Paralympic Games would be staged from 25 August to 6 September.

- **Paralympic Games 2020** - Richard Perot, Chair of Para badminton Athletes' Commission presented an overview of the Para badminton preparations and run-down to the programme of the Paralympic Games and number of allocations given by the IPC.

He added that the Para badminton community was very excited with this great progress to their sport and he thanked the BWF and the Para badminton Commission for their effort and contribution.

He urged the members to approach their respective National Paralympic Committees to work with them to support Para badminton and to organize Para badminton tournaments. He said that we needed to prove to the IPC that we are worthy of a spot in the Paris 2024 Games.



- **World Junior Championships 2018** - Anil Kaul, President of Badminton Canada said that on behalf of the Organizing Committee, he looked forward to welcoming teams and members to the event to be held in the city of Markham – a part of Toronto, Ontario where badminton is the number one sport.

He added that hosting the Championships was part of a long-term strategy to develop badminton in North America and the Pan Am region. He thanked BWF and the funding partners for their generous support and for this opportunity for hosting over 600 players and entourage members.

A domestic and international coaching conference in partnership with the BWF, Badminton Canada and Coaching Association of Canada would be held in conjunction with the Championships.

- **World Championships and World Para-Badminton Championships 2019** – Robbert de Kock, on behalf of Swiss Badminton said that the preparations were well on track 2 years ahead.

He said that Basel was very easy to reach and served by both domestic and international airlines and he looked forward to welcoming the badminton family to this beautiful city of tourism, sports and culture.

- 8.2 Guy Armand Beninga Balcilia of Central Africa said that his government was very encouraged by the development of sport in the country and he had been requested to recommend a name from the sporting community to be the recipient of the title of the Officer of the National Order of Gratitude of Central Africa. He recommended the name of President Poul-Erik Høyer and the government has made the decision to confer the title to Poul-Erik Høyer. The certificate was a tribute to his contribution to the development of badminton and supported by the entire badminton family.

It was an honor for him to present the certificate on behalf of the government of Central Africa.

- 8.3 Richard Vaughan of Wales said that the motion for the scoring system was not carried but he requested the Council to look into the proposal again post Tokyo. On another note, he requested Council to look into the integration of the able-bodied Athletes' Commission and the Para badminton Athletes Commission for better efficiency.

- 8.4 Francis Javier Orozco of Mexico said that at the Pan Am AGM last year, the members had expressed their concern regarding the points system of the BWF. Pan Am Continental Championships were getting lower points compared to that of Europe and Asia and as a result, players had to compete more to get the necessary qualifying points for World Championships and Olympic Games. The AGM delegates at the Pan Am AGM requested the BWF Council to analyze the situation so that more athletes from Pan Am could be part of the Olympic Games.

## Annexure A

### MINUTES of the 79<sup>th</sup> BWF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand



- 8.5 Derek Batchelor of England requested that delegates from Commonwealth countries attend a short meeting immediately following the adjournment of the AGM.
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#### 9. NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting was announced to be held in May 2019 in Nanning in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup

The exact date will be announced to the membership latest by 30 September 2018 as per the BWF constitution.

In closing, Poul-Erik Høyer once again thanked the Badminton Association of Thailand for hosting the Annual General Meeting and the TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals and for the gift for each delegate of a cookbook of Thai cuisine.

He also thanked the delegates for their valuable input and contribution.

There being no other matters, the meeting was adjourned at 17:15.

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**Poul-Erik Høyer**  
**President**

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**Date**