

The ITF Board of Directors gathered in Madrid for its final meeting of the year and the first full meeting of the newly elected Board. The Board received and approved within the Consent Agenda 2020 Regulations for various events and circuits including Davis Cup, World Tennis Tour, Juniors and Seniors Tennis. The Board also reviewed amendments to the wording of the ITF Constitution following changes approved by the 2019 AGM

### **Budget**

The Board received an explanation on the 2020 budget process. Income has risen significantly as has contractual and committed expenditure. The Board approved the budget of US\$135.5m Costs and US\$134.8m Revenue.

The current cycle of Strategic Initiative expenditure is completed for 2019 but 2020 also includes depreciation on capitalised projects and new expenditure on the World Tennis Tour Balanced Calendar and Public Relations approved in Paris 2019. Additionally \$1.4m is also included for the next phase of the World Tennis Number project

A conservative 3% Investment Portfolio return is again assumed, which gives rise to the total result being a drawdown from reserves of \$3.2m in 2020.

### **2020/2021 Strategy**

The Board was presented with the ITF Business Plan and Strategy for 2020/2021. The objective is to fully embed the reforms introduced in 2018/2019 and ensure their successful implementation. Four programmes of work were presented for 2020:

- *Digital transformation* – long-term project.
  - World Tennis Number – The Board heard an overview from the Finance Committee and expressed support of the project, its strategic aims and potential. The Board approved World Tennis Number investment to proceed with phase 2 project development – establish process and timeline
  - Video, photo archive and website
- *Governance*:
  - 3-year project with a year-long consultation process with member nations.
  - Project proposal in March 2020 to the Board to include but not limited to definition of RA / NA roles and responsibilities, constitution review, corporate structure, AGM election process and gender balance.
- *Event Focus*:
  - FC and DC world-class delivery
  - Juniors, World Tennis Tour, Seniors, Wheelchair, Beach
  - Olympic and Paralympics:
    - Tokyo 2020
    - YOG 2022 Senegal, platform for the development of tennis in Africa
- *Stakeholder Engagement*

The ITF's role is to ensure that tennis endures for future generations and, crucially, remains a truly global sport. The Board addressed the growing financial disparity between nations and the risk over time that tennis could polarise around few nations. Based on the 2019 global tennis data report, the ITF is identifying those countries where investment is most needed to provide national infrastructure and a pathway to facilitate the emergence of star players who will inspire more people to play and fuel growth of the game.

### **2020 Fed Cup update**

The Board were advised that operations for Budapest finals event in April 2020 are underway and on track.

### **Davis Cup by Rakuten Madrid Finals Update**

The Board received a report on preparations for the Davis Cup by Rakuten Madrid Finals. Players feedback with facilities like locker rooms, practice courts, medical, food and transport confirmed as world class. Tickets sales approaching 100 000 and several initiatives in place to build that number. Spanish matches and QF, SF and Final most popular. Media facilities and spectator services also of very high standard. Venue operations would be tested for first time on the Sunday with a full house expected for the kids day.

### **Hopman Cup update**

The Board were advised that the process for requesting proposals in the first phase of a new host city search closed on 15 November 2019 and has resulted in 8 expressions of interest. These proposals will be reviewed and reported to the Board.

### **Rules of Tennis**

The Board approved the recommendations of the Rules of Tennis Committee for various temporary variations to the Rules of Tennis.

### **Beach Tennis**

In Beach Tennis the Board reviewed and approved the 2020 regulations and also approved a recommendation from the Beach Tennis Committee to introduce a Sand Series as a new concept project within the ITF Beach Tennis Circuit. The Sand Series will consist of 4 annual International Beach Tennis events which are aimed at the becoming the part of the flagship events of the sport. The inaugural Sand Series will be communicated to nations in early 2020.

### **14 & Under Tennis – Strategic Proposal**

The Board noted increasing interest and involvement in junior activity on the part of other governing bodies and gave approval in principle for the further consolidation of 14U Regional Association activity under the ITF umbrella, subject to a detailed analysis.

### **Integrity/IRP Implementation**

The Board reviewed the progress to date of the implementation of IRP recommendations, which is supported by the independent Tennis Integrity Unit Supervisory Board. The Board reviewed potential costs associated with the discontinuance of data sales at \$15k events. Further discussions by the Supervisory Board in relation to those IRP recommendations that affect other International Governing Bodies will take place in January 2020.

### **Communications**

The Board received an update on the Communications strategy outlined to them at the end of 2018 and were informed that work is much more proactive and performance based. Going forward priorities have been set for 2020 which include increasing stakeholder communications; continue to build collaboration with National and Regional Associations and grow audience buy in across digital channels.

### **Membership**

The Board were advised of governance issues within two of the ITF member nations. The Board agreed steps that would be taken with both to help resolve the issues.

### **Committees 2020/2021**

The Board discussed the proposed composition of the committees for the next cycle. These will be formalised and announced in December 2019 for the start of the term on 1 January 2020.

Dave Haggerty  
**President**