

The ITF Board of Directors gathered at the International Olympic Committee's Olympic House in Lausanne for its first meeting of the year. The President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, addressed the Board. He gave an overview of the new headquarters building highlighting that it is the most sustainable building ever built. He updated the Board on developments with the Olympic movement, governance, gender equality and integrity and recognised IOC board members David Haggerty and Camilo Perez along with IOC Athlete Commission members Mark Woodforde and Mary Pierce

ITF President David Haggerty opened the meeting acknowledging the unfortunate COVID-19 outbreak and the fact that this would have significant impact on the global economy, worldwide sports and the tennis calendar over the next few months. He reiterated decisions needed to be taken to protect the health of the players, officials, fans and national associations at this time. During the meeting there was an in-depth discussion to be had about the ITF COVID-19 Taskforce and ITF Business Continuity planning.

The Board meeting covered multiple strategic and operational matters. The Board received and approved within the Consent Agenda changes to the 2020 Junior Team Regulations, Terms of Reference for the WTT Men's and Women's Player Panels, the annual donation to the International Tennis Hall of Fame and approved the 2020 Brad Parks Award recipient, who will be announced in due course.

Finance

The Board was given an update from the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held earlier in the day including the session with the Auditors, PWC, who presented their findings of the 2019 Audit Results. The Board reviewed the Group Management Accounts, 2019 Financial Audit Results and ITF Financial Statements. The Management accounts results were Income of \$110.2 million which was \$0.7m favourable to budget. Expenses of \$107.9 million were \$1.4m favourable to budget, Strategic initiative spending of \$3.8 million was broadly in line with budget. The non-operating result, arising from Investment returns and taxation, was \$6.3 million favourable to budget at \$7.5m resulting in a total surplus of \$5.9 million for the ITF. After discussion and review, the Board approved the signing of the 2019 Financial Statements for the ITF Trust and ITF Licensing UK Ltd.

The Board received a review from the Investment Panel and despite outstanding results in 2019 were cautioned that already this year the markets have given back all that was gained in 2019 due to the reaction to COVID-19.

IRP

The Board reviewed the ITF implementation of the Independent Review Panel's recommendations which are progressing on time and within budget.

WADA Decision Russia

The Board was presented an overview of the WADA recommendations regarding Russia for their information. This case has been referred to CAS and it is estimated that it will be several months before any decision is taken. ITF will continue to monitor the situation.

ITF WTN Update

The ITF approved the ITF WTN Business Plan which was reviewed by Deloitte and committed the required funding for the next three years to ensure the success of this important tool for the ITF member nations to grow and retain participation in their countries. The Board also supported the recommendation to focus the project efforts on the speedy on-boarding of Nations.

Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

The Board was updated on the actions of the Stakeholder Engagement group and supportive of the efforts being made in this important area to increase and improve the quality and efficiency of communications and collaboration. The Board will be given a further update at the June meeting in Paris.

Davis Cup

Kosmos Tennis and the ITF Operations team presented the Board with feedback and results of the 2019 Davis Cup Finals and presented improvements that are planned for the 2020 Davis Cup Finals. Areas discussed included scheduling options and Davis Cup regulation changes recommended by the Davis Cup Committee and executives to ensure sessions would not go late into the night. The Board provided support, feedback and direction to the executives to follow-up on to ensure another successful event in Madrid in November.

The results of the 2020 Qualifiers round were discussed in advance of the Davis Cup Finals and World Group I and World Group II Draws that were scheduled later in the week.

Fed Cup

The Board decided, having received an update from the Hungarian government on their forthcoming decision to prohibit indoor mass participation events, to postpone the Fed Cup Finals in Budapest due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It was confirmed that once the approach and timing was agreed with the Hungarian government it should be announced immediately in order to give nations and players enough notice to be able to plan accordingly citing that this endemic could become a pandemic and that it would affect many sports events and the tennis calendar

The Board also directed the President and executive to look at postponing all ITF events from Juniors to WTT, Seniors, Wheelchair and Beach Tennis during this time.

Olympic Tennis Event

Kit McConnell, the IOC Sports Director gave a Tokyo 2020 Olympics presentation to the Board and the plans for a successful Olympic event as scheduled in July. Following his presentation, the Board received a further update from the ITF executive regarding the Olympic Tennis Event and plans for Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

International Relations

The Board was updated on the progress with governance issues with the Philippines and Venezuela that they had approved in the November 2019 meeting. The PHILTA matter has been referred to the Independent Tribunal and ITF is awaiting official notice of the election results in Venezuela.

Hopman Cup update

The Board were advised that the process for new host city bids had closed. The Board asked that the bid proposals be further clarified and the Board will review again in June.

Governance Review

In Executive Session, the Board had a thorough discussion of the Governance Taskforce and Constitutional Committee plans for the review of a variety of issues relating to ITF governance. The Board also reviewed the process and timeline for stakeholder consultation, which is a critical part of this review. The Board discussed in-depth the 1997 ITF AGM minutes and the strategic rationale to protect the assets of the ITF by incorporating the ITF Trust in the Bahamas. After discussion, the decision was taken not to make major changes to the structure or domicile of the ITF since the cost to review this with external experts and the time involved would be better spent in efforts towards other elements of the ITF mission. The Board asked the executive to put together a simple organigram that illustrates the structure of the ITF, with explanations, and include this in the 2019 Annual Report and post on the website for transparency and understanding. The Board agreed that the Taskforce should continue the project to review the roles of the Chairman, President and CEO, and determine whether other smaller measures could be put in place to assist with stakeholder understanding of ITF structure and transparency.

The Board also approved the elements of the project assigned to the Constitutional Committee, including consulting with the NAs and RAs. Further updates will be provided at the June and subsequent Board Meetings and the ambition is to bring these changes to the 2021 AGM for approval.

Dave Haggerty
President