

**To:** TA Board Tennis Seniors Trust

**From:** David Stobart

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**RE:** ITF Seniors Meeting, London, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**Comments:**

Following are the main items that were discussed and decisions taken at the above meeting:

- ..... The meeting was opened by the President, Francesco Ricci Bitti, who spoke about the major issues facing the ITF. He stressed the importance of seniors' tennis and the importance of trying to get more exposure for it. He also apologised for the absence of the new chairman as he was suffering from swine flu and was still in New York.
- ..... The budget for 2010 includes an increase in sanction fees for the world championships from \$19K to \$20K per week.
- ..... A country or region will be able to introduce one only national closed championship at a category 3 or new levels B1, 2 or 3. A B1 will carry as many points as a level one. One option is to change a level one to B1 or introduce a new event. The criteria for the grade will be reviewed each year.
- ..... It was confirmed that the use of White Badge Referees at all sanctioned tournaments will be delayed until 2011. We need to understand how many White Badge Referees we have and their location.
- ..... Penalty for late submission of information either before or after an event will be a monetary figure instead of the deduction of points. The amount can be quite large and is being done to ensure that particularly results are in on time as rankings are going to be published monthly next year and eventually weekly.
- ..... The ITF are hoping to introduce IPIN by January 2012 with a special introductory offer if you join between April and September 2011. If it was introduced January next year the fee would be US\$35.
- ..... For calculation of world rankings the best of four tournaments remain.
- ..... A lengthy discussion on seedings took place and it was agreed that for next year the following number of wild cards could be used whether they were ranked or not:
  - For draw size of 128 up to 4
  - For draw size of 64 up to 4
  - For draw size of 48 up to 3
  - For draw size of 32 up to 2
  - For draw size of 24 up to 2
  - For draw size of 16 up to 2
  - For draw size of 8 up to 2Justification for awarding their wild cards will need to be given. This subject will be reviewed again in 12-months.
- ..... The rules on clothing marking were totally deleted.
- ..... Changes were made to the requirement of having a physio on site.
- ..... The 50 and 55 year old age groups in Mexico next year will be played on clay.
- ..... The 2011 Championship locations are as follows:
  - Seniors Christchurch – 21/2/2011 to 5/3/2011
  - Super Seniors Turkey – 10/10/2011 to 24/10/2011 (only country to nominate)
- ..... Countries are interested in hosting the Seniors but not the Super Seniors (other than Turkey).

- ..... The number of teams seeded in the World Championships will increase e.g. for a cup with 16 teams, 8 teams will be seeded instead of 4.
- ..... No additional cups were approved for next year due to only a small number of countries prepared to submit teams. Will be reviewed again in 12 months.
- ..... The tie break rule of changing after one point and then every four points will be made compulsory for all ITF sanctioned events.

The next meeting will be on the 26/10/2011 in London. If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.