

To: TA Board and TSA Board
CC: B Osborne

Subject: ITF Seniors Committee Meeting, London, 25/11/11

Following are the main items discussed and decisions taken.

The meeting was opened by Francesco Ricci Bitti who welcomed the new member Stefan Tzvetkov, President of Bulgarian Tennis Federation, and Gilbert Ng, General Manager of the Singapore Tennis Association, as an observer. He welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked Gilbert for the great job he and Singapore did in running the Youth Olympics.

Francesco highlighted the success of the Davis Cup and mentioned that the upcoming final had sold 25,000 seats for each of the three days and that the tie between Switzerland and USA next year had sold out in 50 minutes. He also mentioned the logistic difficulty with the tennis at next year's Olympics especially in regards to security.

He also mentioned the withdrawal of funding from the ATP for the development fund and the increased funding coming from the Grand Slams to compensate. The ITF have agreed to recognise outstanding achievements by a Senior and the inaugural winner is Lorne Main from Canada and this will be presented at the awards night in Paris during the French Open. This will not be awarded yearly but to players who win 10 world team cups and 10 world individual singles titles.

The budget for next year has been increased by \$80k to recognise the introduction of mixed doubles at the world championships and an increase in hospitality money. Even with the projected income from the IPIN, Seniors will continue to run at a loss which is a recognition of the importance of Seniors (the ITF next year have at this time \$US3.4m sponsorship not sold).

The ITF will not introduce a heat rule until the technical committee have conducted a thorough investigation and obtained evidence based information and this will take four years to complete. However we can continue to implement the rules we currently have.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding foot faults and it was agreed that all umpires including the roving umpires will be instructed to police this rule, signs will be posted advising players of this and captains will be advised at their meetings.

An overview for Seniors Tennis was given by the office which covered the last 11 years and was very informative in that it showed just how far Seniors Tennis has come in this time and how professionally run it now is (this is available if Tennis Seniors Aust would like a copy).

Closed National Championships will be upgraded from a Gr 3 to Gr 2 and you will not need an IPIN to play in these but to obtain world ranking points you will need to have one. I believe that we need to look closely at introducing one of these in Aust, particularly if some tournaments in the future are not going to ask for ITF sanctioning.

New circuit regulations have been released with an updated code of conduct and imposition of penalties for breaches of this code. From 2013 it is hoped that all tournaments will have a closing date for entries at 19 days and the 33 day option will be dropped.

The 2013 championships are to be held in the following locations

Seniors Turkey 18-31 March 2013

Super Seniors 9-22 September 2013 over two venues in Austria and the Czech

Republic.

One hundred and seventy two teams have entered for the seniors in San Diego in February and they will be played over seven venues for the teams and four venues for the individuals.

The final item was a discussion on what we thought should be the strategic direction for the Seniors and in particular with regards to the World Championships which haven't seen much growth for ten years. Items discussed included:

- Is the aim to get the most number of teams possible and from the figures presented to do this the Championships should be held in either the US or Europe because as soon as you come South the number of teams and players drop dramatically.
- Do we want to concentrate of getting so many teams from each region e.g. China, Russia, South America etc.
- How do we get more women players.

Any comments from Tennis Seniors Aust would be appreciated particularly in regard to the location of the championships.

Next year's meeting will be on the 9/11/12 in London – the earlier date is because the end of years Masters has been brought forward.