

TECHNICAL DELEGATE

EVALUATION REPORT

Name of Tournament / Championships : **Dublin International Tournament**

Ranking Factor Applied for : **20**

Responsible Federation : **Irish Wheelchair Association
Eileen O'MAHONY**

Chairman of Organising Committee : **Clare O'NEILL**

Dates of Play : **15-17 June 2001**

Name of Technical Delegate : **Vincent BOURY**

Report submitted to IPC and ITTC the : **30th June 2001**

Version of Report : **1.0**

1-Accommodation

Tournament wheelchairs only: 82 players, 15 countries

2 main different Hotels:

- Bewleys Hotel for most of players and staffs (up to 1 hour from the venue)
- Jery's Hotel for Austrian team and officials (15 min. from the venue)

Accommodations were OK.

Remark:

- during working days, Dublin traffic can be very heavy.

2-Venue

- The competition was held in the sport hall of Irish Wheelchair Association.
- 16 tables, sometimes accessible for wheelchairs (remark 1)
- No training tables available during the competition.
- All areas were almost closed (remark 2).
- When the sun was shining, it was very difficult to play on some of the tables (remark 3).

- There were 6 accessible toilets in the hall, a very important point for tournaments with players in a wheelchair

- Lunches were organised close to the hall during the competition:
 - Hot dishes and diner and for Sunday lunch.
 - Other lunches were cold
 - Water, coffee, tea, etc. were available in the hall for free

3-Equipment

- (all ITTF approved)
- 16 Tables
- Balls (3*)
- Surroundings Score boards

4-Competition Days

- Thursday 14th: Arrival, classifications
- Friday 15th : Open event
- Friday 15th and Saturday 16th : team event
- Sunday 17th : Single event
- Sunday evening : Medal Ceremony

5-Number of Participants

Players: 82

6-Transport

- Transport from airport/station to accomodation: good and quite punctual
- Transport between accomodations and venue : Very efficient, and organised.
- One huge bus and some less big buses.
- Taxis when required

7-Officials

- classifiers: Nico VERSPEELT
- Referee: Pat CONNELLY
- Deputy referee: Martin HANNON
- They were highly helped by Clare O'NEILL, John BRIDGEMAN, Mary HUGHES

8-Meetings

- Because of some delayed matches and the fact that people were dependant on transportation, we did not find some time enough to organise any official meeting.
- But all organisers and myself tried to fix all problems during the tournament, and I notified some remarks or critics at the end of the report.

9-Draws

- The schedule for all tables was prepared before.
- We discussed about what kind of draw and system to be used by phone and when I was in Dublin.
- Again, the lack of clear rules did not help at all !
- As a result, for team and single events, the 'final rule' applied was: "no more than 5 in a group" (remark 4). From the current rules that can be found, it is possible for organisers.
- Note: since the Paralympic games, we try to apply as often as possible some groups with a maximum of 4, for team and singles.
- I wish there could be some strong recommendations (maybe a new regulation?) for organizers not to prepare the draws before all players and teams have been confirmed. I have never seen any competition without some players not coming, some teams changes, and so on...

10-Classification

- planned: classification for 3 players
- cancelled because of personnal reasons for classifier. From my experience and checking with other experienced guys, they seemed to play in the correct class.

11-Results

- All results were daily updated, and all countries got the results at the end of the competition, before leaving. Web expect to publish all results online, but we had to deal with some 'last changes' that were manually updated. Only the open results were published on the web daily.
- We checked with Clare the version and way of using the last official form for results dedicated to Gael MARZIOU, ranking Officer.
- Gael received all results and published them less than 15 days later.

12-Other Staff

- The staff was enough, still more organised than previous years
- Ball Boys: They were 50 during the whole competition.

13-New !

- We elected the POT2001 'player of the tournament'.
- <http://ireland.june2001.free.fr/pot2001.htm>
2 winners: Cristina Hofmann and Tommy Uhraug
- A system for ball-boys was used so that they were owning a paper signed by umpires for each match, when picking up the balls. A good way to know if they worked well, and to motivate them for a high score: more than 35 matches for 2 of them, who were awarded too.
- WEB SITE: more informations, and more 'funny things', like the Alf's gallery: the work of Adrian DONOGHUE who did some great pictures
<http://ireland.june2001.free.fr/photos.htm>

14-Any Other Matter

Well, that was the third time I was TD in Dublin, where I really like to cooperate. Much less stressing and exhausting this time compared to last time. The good point is that some huge efforts have been done by organizers regarding all the problems we talked about from previous time. But some problems are still here –not only thinking about organizers !-, and I try to describe some of them hereunder:

Remark 1

- There were 6 different types of tables.
 - Some were accessible (no bar) but could not be used by players playing very high.
 - Some were having bars.
 - Some were not in a good state, and had to be repaired or changed during the tournament.
- Finally, there was no table 100% accessible.
- IWA bought 6 new tables, having some bars, hopfully far from the end of the players. Instaed of buying these "not fully accessible tables", it would have been much better for them and for players to buy directly some better tables. But where to find the information about some "ITTC approved tables"?

- I suggest that ITTC publish a list of 'approved tables'. For example, I know that JOOLA Olympic, or CORNILLEAU 440 are OK. Who knows some others?

Remark 2

- There was a lack of separating materials to close all areas. This was already mentioned previous times to organizers, and the same problem encountered this time, because expected closing material was used for some other games at the same date.
- An excuse not good enough to avoid players having troubles when playing.
- Furthermore, the playing areas were very small:
 - The sport hall surface is : 33*14 meters
 - There was a main alley (3 meters wide) and some side alleys (2 meters wide each).
 - As a result, all playing areas were only 5*3.75 meters. And sometimes, because of a lack or move of separating materials, the areas were getting smaller.
 - When thinking to the case of 2 doubles for team event, 2 ball-boys and an umpire in a wheelchair, the areas were sometimes very crowded, and most of players criticised that point.
- Well, playing conditions were not good, but that was the deal because organisers were brave enough to approve all entries, instead of refusing some players.
- The same problem, again...

2 good news:

- next year, the venue will be entirely renovated, because Ireland is welcoming the "special Olympics", for the first time in a non-US-country.
- Organizers are investigating on Limerick Campus, where are some great accommodations, close to the venue, and the sport hall is much bigger.

Remark 3

Unfortunately, when present the sunshine was really disturbing the players on most of tables. Some players even tried to play with sun-glasses or a cap ! Regardless the funny scenes at this moment, it should be improved for next year, blinding the windows with black plastic for example.

Remark 4

Again, I encountered many problems to apply what 'are supposed to be ITTC rules'. I won't discuss again here about all the details, because I did already many times in some reports and in some mails (for example, check previous reports).

In summary, it was impossible to apply some rules we voted previously, because related information was not clearly reliable (impossible to find some regulations we talked about during hours in some previous meetings, 'suggestions' instead of rules in some minutes, etc.)

Furthermore, as far as roles and responsibilities for TDs and organizers are not defined, I had no power to apply any decision...

It is clearly a problem from ITTC which is still unable to be clarify these points, even after years of some critics (from me and some other people) on that subjects. Maybe this year some progress will be done, all my fingers are crossed...

Remark 5

I was extremely disappointed when realizing all different point of views for rules about "touching, moving, or using the table".

Nobody (and me neither!) could find some ITTC rules about:

- “touching the table before touching the ball, or after touching the ball”,
- “touching the table with the playing hand”,
- “moving the table after a point was finished (a smatch after on a high ball, close to the net for example)”
- and so on...

Since years, I heard about some rules related to these problems which are specific to players in a wheelchair, and nothing can be found about that.

I heard many critics about this fuzzy situation, and for me it has to be clarified during next ITTC meeting in Francfort.

I think that ITTC will have to make some new regulations for players in wheelchair.

Waiting for that time, I had to decide what rules to apply in Dublin, in accordance with Pat CONNELLY as Referee for the tournament.

Well, to fix the problems encountered by some players and coaches not having the same point of views, I looked on ITTF rules (nothing found in ITTC area).

We decided as explained in the attached document *ITTF_rules_DUBLIN.doc*. Please have a look on it. It could be a start to improve the rules on these subjects.

2 other subjects I was asked –once more- about:

- jeans are allowed or not ?
- streps or belts that help to a better balance ?

All for now, and do not forget to have a look at this site:

<http://ireland.june2001.free.fr>

sportively yours,

Vincent Boury
ITTC Technical Delegate