

INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPICTABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE

TECHNICAL DELEGATE

EVALUATION REPORT

Name of Tournament :	ISMWSF World Wheelchair Games 2003
Ranking Factor Applied for :	30
Responsible Federation :	ISMWSF
Chairman of Organising Committee :	Mr. Neil Blanchfield
Dates of Play :	28 October - 1 November 2003
Name of Technical Delegate :	Steven Lee
Report submitted to IPC and IPTTC :	10th November 2003

Christchurch, the largest city in the South Island of New Zealand with a population of over 300,000 is a city of many interests and a great tourist attraction with its markets and festivals, the splendid old and new buildings, the seasons, the gardens and most of all the people and their lifestyles.

The city is very sports-oriented. In the last 5 years it has hosted the IPC World Disabled Swimming Championships, the 1999 World Netball Championships, the 1999 World Wheelchair Games, the 2002 FINA Swimming Championships and the 8th World Firefighters Games in 2002.

World Wheelchair Games held on 25 October to 1 November 2003. Table Tennis is one of the events. Other sporting events include, Archery, Athletics-Track & Field, Badminton, Cue sports, Fencing, Cycling, Lawn Bowls, Power lifting, Rugby, Shooting and Swimming.

1-Accommodation

The Organising Committee used four major hotels accommodation for this event. All are situated in the city with two of them next to each other. It takes about 20 minutes to go from the airport to the city. There is no traffic jam problem in Christchurch.

The Heritage Hotel – Headquarter Hotel

Millennium Hotel

Grand Hotels International

Copthorne Hotel

All four hotels have rooms specially tailored for the disabled people. Other rooms have enough space for wheelchair access. Toilet facilities are adequate for the disabled people. The restaurant is located on ground floor or 1st Floor with easy access.

2-Venue

It is located at Table Tennis Canterbury Stadium. The stadium is medium size and can accommodate 15 tables. The stadium was built about 2 years ago. The original concrete floor was replaced by wooden floor. The original lighting has been improved to an average of 700 lux.

There is a tournament control room with photocopier, computer, PA system, plus two rooms for meeting and resting.

There are disabled facilities in the change room and washroom but the space is limited. The Organising Committee provides 2 additional portable disabled washrooms outside the stadium. There is a mini restaurant with tables and chairs within the stadium.

There is a spectator stand on one side of the stadium.

Floor:	Wooden floor colour in red special, very good for wheelchairs players
Lighting:	700 lux, suitable, without daylight
Spectator seats:	about 100 for the participants and spectators for wheelchairs – directly on the area
Official's room:	2
Practising tables:	5
Toilet:	2 and additional 2 portable disabled washrooms

During the tournament, lunches will be served in stadium.

Water and tea were available in the hall for free.

3-Equipment

- (all ITTF approved)
- 8 Tables – Stigar Elite Roller
- Balls – Donic (3*) white
- Surroundings and Score boards

There were 8 tables for competition, 5 tables for practice.

The tournament organiser was planning to alter the table to comply with IPTTC regulations. The legs of the table should be 40cm from the endline of the table. However the manufacturers feel that this is not safe enough so the tables stay the same. After several checkings, the distance was measured at 35.5cm. Although still not complying with IPTTC regulations, it is nevertheless safer. Every representative of participating teams accepted this. However the organizing unit should have complied with the relevant regulations regarding the standards set for tables in future tournaments.

4-Competition Days

- Sunday 26th October – Monday 27th October: Arrival, classifications
- Tuesday 28th: Open Singles and Open Doubles
- Wednesday 29 October and Thursday 30th October: Team event
- Friday 31st and Saturday 1 November: Single event
- Saturday evening: Closing dinner

Except for one day's team events, there were no evening matches.

The opening ceremony was held in the morning of 27 October 2003. Every team gathered at the Cathedral Square and paraded through to Victoria Square, led by the music band. The Opening ceremony then commenced.

The Guests of honor were as follows:
Mr. Philip Craven - IPC President

Mr. Paul de Pace - ISMWSF President
Mr. Garry Moore – Mayor of Christchurch

Mr. Philip Craven, IPC President was present in the first day of table tennis competition.

5-Number of Participants

A total of eleven countries participated. - Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Croatia, Japan, Hong Kong, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Puerto Rico and Russia.

Men's wheelchair players: 33

Women's wheelchair players: 17

With a total of 50 players.

7 players from Brazil, 2 from Mongolia and 2 from Bangladesh entered but did not arrive.

The number of participants was less than expected in this tournament. It may be due to the long travel distance involved or the number of participants in other sports for some countries.

6-Transport

The tournament organiser arranged for coach transport for the players every 30-45 minutes. As the route is for all the sporting venues and not specifically for table tennis, it is sometimes difficult to control the timing. Many players have to wait for the transport. This was re-arranged later on. Two rounds of transport were organised for the players to go back to their accommodation at the end of the competition every day.

7-Officials

Classifiers: Rafael Martinez Cayere (PUR)

Hilary Beeton (RSA)

Arthur Wilks (AUS)

Referee: David Jackson (NZL)

Deputy referee: Maurie Poole (AUS)

Umpire In charge: Averil Roberts (NZL)

Sport Manager: Chris Ford (NZL)

There were a total of 16 umpires from Christchurch. Amongst them, 4 are National umpires, the other 12 being regional umpires. There were also 9 umpires from other nations; 6 from Japan (IU), and 3 from Australia (National Umpire).

8-Meetings

Team Manager's meeting was held at 4pm on 27th October. As most of the matters have been arranged and prior notices were given to all the participating nations, the meeting finished soon with a short briefing from TD and the referee regarding matters that need to be attended to and changes to the player's list in the team events.

9-Draws

The draw was made according to rules and regulations of ITTF & IPTTC by the referee.

10-Classification

Three IPTTC classifiers were responsible for classifying players. They were very efficient. A total of 11 players were required to be classified, commencing on 27th October from 12pm to 5pm.

11-Education

An umpire's seminar was well conducted by Mr. Maurie Poole (IR, AUS) and Ms Averil Roberts (IU, NZL, Secretary of TTNZ Umpires Committee) in this competition. They performed well. There were 12 umpires taking the umpire test after the seminar.

12-Results

The referee was competent in computers. All the schedules and results were generated by the computer which was very quick and efficient. At the end of the competition every day, the results were sent to the Games Centre for distribution as well as posted on the official web site. Other information was given at the venue to the teams. At the end of the tournament, the referee has already sent all the results to the IPTTC Ranking Officer according to the IPTTC format which was very efficient.

The results for the whole tournament were ready before departure of the teams.

13-Other Staff

Because other volunteers were needed for other sports, the number of volunteers at the table tennis playing venue is inadequate. Balls boys/girls were only available in the morning. Other volunteers and reserve umpires were needed to do the task in the afternoon.

In addition, Ms Nanette White (Table Tennis Canterbury) assisted in arranging for the score sheets.

14- Other Matter

The tournament progressed smoothly throughout in great atmosphere. Amongst some of the players from Kenya, Puerto Rico and Malaysia are first-timers who benefited from the experience.

The closing dinner was held on the night of 1 November 2003 at Scenic Circle Tennis Centre from 6pm to 10pm. All the players and main officials were invited to attend. The atmosphere was good. Everyone was enjoying the night with the delicious meals and live band.

Overall, the tournament was successful.

Steven W.H. Lee
IPTTC Technical Delegate