



***INTERNATIONAL TENNIS TABLE FEDERATION
PARA TABLE TENNIS***

TECHNICAL DELEGATE REPORT

Name of Tournament:

2nd French Open

Ranking Factor Applied for:

20

Name of Responsible Federation:

French Paralympic Federation

**Name of Chairman of Organising
Committee:**

Gilles de La Bourdonnaye

Dates of Play:

June 13 – 16, 2012

Name of Technical Delegate:

Francesco Nuzzo ITA

Report submitted to ITTF PTTD:

July, 2012

Airport: Nantes Atlantique International Airport – about 30 minutes drive to both Hotels.

Accreditation: It worked well. All delegations received a welcome bag which included general information, meals tickets, back numbers and a nice T-shirt.

Accommodation:

WESTOTEL****

34 rue de la Vriere
www.westotel.com

About 35-45 minutes to the venue by the official transport depending on traffic jam.

Of excellent quality and generally accessible.

In addition to the number of previewed accessible rooms some other rooms were modified taking down the bathroom doors, but for some lower classes players the conditions were not sufficient.



Hotel CAMPANILE***

16 boulevard Emile Gabory
www.campanile.com

About 20 minutes walking distance to the venue. Mainly used for standing players and for the Umpires.

The accommodation was net and the hotel was of a good standard.

Ancillary rooms were of good standard with the required equipment.

Wi-Fi was provided free in the hotels and reserved for officials and event organizers in the hall.

Meals:

Breakfast was served in the hotels in very good quality.

Lunch and Dinner were served in a dining area in the venue, large enough to cater more or less 200 persons. The quality of the meals and the service was good.

Transportation: Transport was provided from the hotels to the hall and vice versa with some big city busses suitable for the transport of the wheelchairs and small vans with a capacity of nine seats. The transport was regularly scheduled only before the morning session and in the evening after the closing session of the day. A regular shuttle wasn't organized during the day. A lot of comments were received from the teams about this issue.

Transport between the Nantes Airport and the hotels was well organized.



Venue:

COMPLEX SPORTIF MANGIN BEAULIEU

Floor: Parquet floor - very good

Lighting: Good

Spectator seats: Bleacher seats along the two sides of the hall (+/- 3000 seats). A special area was reserved for wheelchair spectators at one end of the hall.

Gluing area: Outside the hall

Competition management table:

In the field of play along the long side of the hall near the entrance used also by the deputy referee.

Officials' areas: T.D, Referee, secretary and computer staff used the same "open" room in a part off-centre of the venue and shared with the transport office room just divided by a panel.

- Classifiers room was just outside the venue in an annex
- Doctor and first aid was available all day long during the competition days
- Restroom equipped with mats and massage room with physiotherapist
- Dressing rooms for players and umpires
- Special area for the ball people was reserved in the spectators' seats
- Pigeon boxes in a lateral space of the venue halfway between the room used by the secretary and computer staff and the main entrance of the venue but misplaced from the main way to the hall
- Information board near the entry of the playing hall and in both hotel receptions

Accessible toilets: 9 big toilets in the venue accessible by wheelchair users and additional 5 usable also by classes 4-5.

Water was distributed in bottles during whole tournament upon voids return.



Equipment:

Tables: 20 tables. Cornilleau 640, blue accessible for wheelchairs areas and Cornilleau 740 for standing areas and 24 for practice.

Nets: Cornilleau blue

Balls: Butterfly *** competition - white

Scorers: Cornilleau and Tibhar

Surrounds: Cornilleau Blue

Umpire's tables: Cornilleau and Adidas

Towel boxes: Baskets on floor and Adidas boxes

Competition days:

12th June 2012	Classification
13th June 2012	Arrival day, continuation of Classification, Technical meeting, draw for singles and Umpire's briefing
14th June 2012	Singles events, draw for team event
15th June 2012	Team Events and award ceremony for the singles events
16th June 2012	Completion of Team Events, Medals ceremony for the team events and Farewell party at Banana Hangar.
17th June 2012	Departure of the delegations

Competition hours:

June 14	09.30 – 19.00
June 15	09.00 – 19.30
June 16	09.00 – 17.00

<u>Participants:</u>	Present nations:	28
	Participants:	
	Male	87
	Female	55
	Staff	73
	Participants total	215

<u>Officials:</u>	TD:	Nuzzo Francesco	ITA
	Referee:	Jacky Simon	FRA
	Deputy referees:	Isabelle Beumier	BEL
	Computer people:	Beatrice Alleaume	FRA
		Camille Noblet	FRA
	Classifier:	Puhovsky Maja Paar	CRO
		Romanov Romana	SRB

Umpires: 30 in total (IRAN - 2, NIG - 2, ENG - 1, GRE - 1, FRA - 24)

The organizers posted an Open Invitation on the ITTF website to invite the umpires. Despite this the number of foreign umpires was inadequate. For the first day of the competition there were 27 umpires but for the next days the organizers were able to find some more local officials. Only one umpire per table was appointed.

Ball people: No general issues. Ball people were present during the whole tournament, but sufficient only to have one person per table. A responsible person organized them well.

Meetings: The Technical meeting was held on 13th June at 7:00 p.m. in a room of the Westotel. The organizers gave the necessary information to the delegations. The draw for Singles was already done but not printed yet and was distributed immediately after the end of the meeting to participants. The draw for Team events was held on 14th June when all team lists were confirmed. The umpire's briefing took place on 13th June at 8.00 p.m. at the Campanile Hotel.

Classification: All new players and players who needed to have their classification reviewed were asked to arrive on 12th and as early as possible on 13th June and so they did. Two classifiers were responsible for classifying the players. A total of 21 classifications (17 male and 4 female) were done by 2 p.m. on 13th

Competition: In general the tournament was well prepared. A total of 261 Singles matches and 99 Team matches were played. A marching in procedure was implemented as in the major tournaments. Players and umpires were gathered in a Call Area near the entrance and after the fulfilment of pre-match procedures they marched accompanied by music into the playing field. It ran very well.



Due to the number of players only 16 and sometimes 18 of the 20 settled up tables were used. The schedule was good and no significant delays occurred. The matches were always ended at an acceptable time in the evening. All umpires were helpful and worked well. The score sheets were printed in the computer staff “open” room, brought by a volunteer to the competition management responsible and after the complete of the matches, back again to the computer staff room. No issues have been noted in this process.

Results:

The Results were posted at the information board near the entry of the playing hall and in both hotel receptions. The final results were sent to the ITTF PTTD webmaster, but not immediately after the event. As signalled later by the PTT webmaster a problem arose with the team results as the data were split up into two files, owing to a redraw of an event but the information embedded in the first file were not deleted.

The results were uploaded regularly to the ITTF website and information was sent to Ian Marshall as well as final results.

Final book results was copied on memory sticks and distributed to the delegations during the Farewell Party although the problem above with the results remained.

Definitively an efficient work had been done by the computer team and by the results secretary.

Information:

Generally good even if there was some delay in updating the results in pigeon boxes. Some comments have been made about this matter by a few teams. Very positive was the fact that all information and results were also publicised in a dedicated website which has been created for this occasion. Unfortunately it had a disadvantage. A mistake regarding the time schedule of a match created a little confusion. Another topic regards the fact that a correction in the draw was not followed up, and the information has not reached directly all the concerned persons. This also created resentment to a team leader.

Articles to ITTF Website:

Three articles and pictures have been sent to Ian Marshall and were published in the ITTF website during the competition.

About the preparation and the mobilization behind the organization of the tournament:

http://www.ittf.com/front_Page/ittf_full_story1.asp?ID=28262&Category=para&Competition_ID=&

About singles results and the ambassador of a young talented generation Mateo Boheas:

http://www.ittf.com/front_Page/ittf_full_story1.asp?ID=28282&Category=para&Competition_ID=&

About team results:

http://www.ittf.com/front_Page/ittf_full_story1.asp?ID=28312&Category=para&Competition_ID=&

Ceremonies:

No Opening Ceremony was held but a presentation made by the very professional broadcaster Mr. Bruno Simon introduced the first day of the competition.

Medals ceremony for the singles events was organized in the Hall immediately after completion of the second day of the tournament.

The Medals Ceremony for the team events was organized on the last day after completion of the tournament.

In the evening, all participants have been invited for a nice Farewell party at Banana Hangar near old Nantes harbour.



Organizing Committee:

Chairman:	Gilles de La Bourdonnaye
Tournament Director:	Dominique Cougnaud
Tournament secretary:	Martine Boliveau
Accommodation:	Marie-Andre Aurigny
Computer service:	Beatrice Alleaume

Evaluation:

Accommodations:	Very good even with some limitation for wheelchairs users
Transport:	Good
Meals:	Good
Venue:	Very good
Sport equipment:	Good, all ITTF approved
Light in the hall:	Good
Information:	Good, both on the information board and in the pigeon-boxes
Referee:	Good
Deputy Referee:	Good
Umpires:	Good
Computer person:	Good
Organization:	Very good organization with very welcoming people
Medal presentation:	Very Good

CONCLUSION

The 2nd French Open was a successful tournament. The presentation and the efficiency of the Organisers, the entire supporting functions are well appreciated, however a few areas could be improved and the organizers can make the tournament even better and this is the reason of the following considerations.

HOTELS

The distance from the hotel to the venue was a negative factor. Given that the hotel is a "Hobson's choice" this status must be balanced improving the general planning trying to smooth over the negative factors. Some adjustments need to be set in order to put things right as underlined below. More attention should also be given to the allocation of the rooms to the players because it's hard for lower-class athletes to use narrow toilettes and baths instead of showers.

TRANSPORTATION

The organizers should arrange during all competition and practice days a shuttle service between hotels and venue at regular hours more frequent in the morning and in the late afternoon.

A scheduled transportation must be previewed also for hotels considered close to the venue or where the umpires are accommodated (20 minutes on foot it's already a remarkable distance that in bad weather condition would not be acceptable).

The all day schedule must be publicised by posting it in the hotels and in the venue giving opportunities to those who want to return to the hotel to do so.

Many players, who have only one or two matches in the day, cannot be forced to stand all day in the venue because there are no scheduled transportation or because dinner is provided at the venue.

MEALS

In my eyes there was no problem with the quality of the meals but as was signalised by some team perhaps a more variety of food would be appreciated.

Anyway the solution to have the dinner in the venue should be reviewed, for the players is very stressing stay all day long in the venue waiting hours for the dinner if they have only one or two matches in the day and go forth and back to the hotel having such long way.

ORGANIZATION

Technical aspects

The solution of an open "space room" just divided by a panel and shared by more people was not satisfactory, this created disturbances to each other with consequent difficulties in working.

Even if there will be no alternative to open spaces the problem can be reduced by adopting solutions such as, installing panels to create reserved rooms so as to avoid duplication of people in the same space, who still generate bustle, making a quieter environment around your working place.

This is absolutely necessary for Td's and referee's working places.

Ball people

Would be better to have a few more so as to have in the necessary tables two persons.

QUESTIONNAIRE & COMMENT

A simple questionnaire was given to all participating teams in order to collect their views on all the aspects of the Tournament.

Almost all teams returned it but not all questions were answered by everyone and this is the reason why there are different totals number of answers per argument.

In general, teams were happy with the arrangements of the tournament and also the amount of entry fee of Euro 450 per person was considered acceptable.

Some comments were received on meals and accommodation and others on umpires as only one was appointed per match and most of them were non-English speakers.

The communication with Organizers was not very efficient because of non-English speaker people

The other comment that most teams made was the long distance between the Hotel and Venue and that was tiring for the players to stay all day in the hall.

However we can conclude that the French Open was in nearly all aspects a well organized tournament and a high standard competition though only factor 20.

I have no doubt that, with French determination and the incredible passion of all the volunteers to organize good tournaments, their future events would be one of the best by international standard.

The Questionnaire is attached to this Evaluation Report.

To conclude, I would like to congratulate with the Organizers, referees, umpires and volunteers, for the well organized ITTF PTTD Fa 20 Tournament 2012 in Nantes.

Francesco NUZZO – ITA
TD of the tournament