

4th IPC Asia & South Pacific (Fespic) Table Tennis Championships Technical Delegate's Evaluation Report

To: Ms Stephanie Neothern, IPC
Ms Alison Burchell, IPTTC Secretary-General
Mr. Jiri Danek, IPTTC Tournament Officer
Mr. Manabu Aso, Secretary-General of Fespic Federation

c.c. Mr. Mr. Jia Yong, CDPF
Mr. Mr. Xu Feng Jian, Executive Director of Shanghai Disabled Persons'
Federation

From : Silas Chiang, Technical Delegate

On: 29th October, 2003

**Re: Evaluation Report of the Technical Delegate on the
4th IPC Asia & South Pacific (Fespic) Table Tennis Championships held in
Shanghai, China between 17th-23rd October, 2003**

Background

With the support of the China Disabled Persons Federation (CDPF), Shanghai was offered the opportunity to host the 4th Fespic table Tennis Championships. A TD Inspection was conducted one year ago in July, 2002, and subsequently a contract, an agreement as well as other supporting documents were signed between parties concerned. This is the first time that such formal documents were officially entered. For the Championships to be endorsed by IPC, the recognized name of IPC East Asia (later changed to Asia) & South Pacific Table Tennis Championships was used, and for easy reference the name of 4th Fespic Table Tennis Championships was also used for the event.

It was known that the Championships would qualify all individual class champions for the Athens Paralympic Games in 2004.

Seminars

As required for regional championships seminars for Classification, Umpires and Technical Delegate were to be organized. Information in this regard was sent out and due to the insufficient entries in these seminars, only umpire seminar was conducted

and examination was also conducted for a total of 29 participants. 23 taking the Chinese paper, 2 in Korean and 4 in English. Miss Cindy Leung was appointed the lecturer as well as the examiner with myself as monitor. The papers are being marked and Cindy would inform the IPTTC Technical Officer of the results when finished.

It was a pity to find out that we should have some 7 entries for the Classification seminar and not 2-3 as was informed. It turned out that only Mr. Aurther Wilks of Australia took the seminar and practical under the supervision of Dr. Aart Kruimer, the Chief Classifier and Mr. Nico Verspeelt, the Technical Classifier of IPTTC.

Key Officials and Guests

Dr. Kazuo Hatada, the President of the Fespic Federation, Mr. Christian Lillieroos the IPTTC Chairman and myself as the IPC/APC Representative together with Mr. Wang Zhi-Jun, the Vice-Chairman of the China Disabled Persons Federation and Mr. Wang Shi-Kuan, the Chairman of the Shanghai Disabled Sports Association as well as many other local senior government officials attended the Opening Ceremony on 18th October.

As for the Championships, we had Aart, Nico, Dr. Sheng Wu and Dr. Wang Gand as classifiers; Mr. Fan Hong and 2 others for doping control; Ms Cindy Leung of Hong Kong as Referee, Ms Shi Gui-Lan (China), Mr. Chan Kin-Foo (Malaysia) and Jiang Lei (China) as Deputy Referees; Myself as the Technical Delegate. Altogether we had 37 international and national umpires for the event and they all attended the seminar and many took the examination.

Classification of Players

We had classified a total of 31 players and 20 of which were players from China. Including the learner classifier Mr. Wilks, the team had observed the players during the entire period of competition. It was worth to note that there were some 7 changes in standing classes due to the new system being adopted recently.

Accommodation, Transportation and Meals

All key officials were accommodated in Royalton Hotel, just next to the Shanghai International Gymnastics Centre, the venue for the Championships. Most of the teams stayed in Shanghai Mayfair Hotel which was not the hotel originally proposed. The Hotel was some 10 minutes away by bus, but was found not quite accessible to wheelchair users when entering wash rooms. The door frames were later taken down and some other improvements were made that all wheelchair bound people could use those wash room facilities in a normal manner.

Meals were reported to be good. In view of the long session of competition some buffet style lunch was provided in the big meeting room of the Gymnastic Centre for all players who were late to have lunch in hotel.

There were 5 buses, with 4 designed for carrying wheelchairs, 5 vans and many cars for senior officials and guests. They were found to be sufficient and well organized.

Competition

With 103 players from 6 member nations/territories from the region we had arranged 7 sessions in 4 days for competitions including Open, Team and Class events. Medal Presentations were held after each event and nation/territories flags and anthems were risen and played. March-in ceremonies were also arranged for the first match in each session of competition and also for all the final matches. The venue was vamped and the 2 lifts, one big and one small, were well organized so that wheelchair players would not have to wait too long to get up to the competition arena or get down afterwards. Tables for wheelchair were found not up to the requirement of IPTTC regulations and they were all replaced with good ones before the competition started. Due to insufficient entries in some team events, teams were combined and they became non medal event and as such, no medals were presented to the leading teams. A total of 12 class champions were qualified for Athens next year. Please refer to the attached for the list of champions. (Attachment I)

In general, the competitions were conducted in good order and smooth. There were only a few disagreements between umpires and players/coaches during the 4-day competition.

It was worth to mention that the organizer had installed a CCTV for each of the playing tables and one could watch all the matches in the TD Room or the Technical Officials' Room. This system was not expensive and if uploaded to the internet in time, anybody could view the matches when entered the web page of the organizer. There seemed to have some potentials for marketing or advertisement for our future

world championships.

Doping Control Tests

A total of 10 tests were conducted amount the Open and Individual champions by the Doping Control Committee of the Championships headed by Mr. SHEN Xunzhang. The four Open champions were selected while the other 8 were randomly picked for the test. Please refer to the attached file for the name list of players being tested. The results will be sent to the IPC Doping Manager once completed. (Attachment II)

IPTTC Awards and Visas for the Athens

For the first time IPTTC had offered 5 awards to the Championships, namely the Best Coach, the Best Umpire and one each for the Best Male and Female Players. One award was to present to the Shanghai Organizer as to show our appreciation. In order to be seen fair in the selection of the award recipients, we asked each of the 6 teams to nominate their coach for the Best Coach Award and one of them would be selected to base on the performance of their players together with other elements like sportsmanship etc. As for the Players, we decided to award to one of the Open champions pending also their performance in the team and class events to be held later during the Championships. Eventually, we awarded the Best Coach Award to a Chinese coach Mr. YUAN Feng, the Best Umpire Award to a Malaysian umpire Mr. Mohammad Ariff. For the Best players, the awards went to a Korean wheelchair male player UM Tae-Hyung and to the Chinese standing female player LEI Li-Na. In order to highlight the 12 champions who were qualified for the Athens Paralympic Games we had designed 12 visas and presented them during the Closing Ceremony in front of all the guests and media. A group picture was taken and this could be a good opportunity for some publicity.

General Assembly

It had become a custom that a general assembly for all member nations/territories to be organized during the regional championships. The IPC Asia & South Pacific Table Tennis General Assembly was thus held on 17 October, with Mr. Christian Lillieroos, the IPTTC Chairman as well as Mr. Nico Verspeelt who was there to explain the Selection Criteria for Athens and Dr. Aart Kruimer to brief members on the

classification issue. Another issue that needed to be dealt being that Mr. Hong-Jae LEE, the current Fespics Representative (or the IPC Asia and South Pacific) had tendered his designation and an election would have to be conducted.

The mandate forms and nomination forms were sent out and received according to the IPC rules. The Agenda was drafted with the advice of IPTTC and sent to members before the General Assembly. A simplified agenda was adopted by members before the start of the meeting. The General Assembly went on smoothly with Mr. LEE chairing. For the election of the Fespics Representative, there were two nominations, one from Chinese Taipei Mr. Chang Chao-Shen and the other being Mr. Silas Chiang of Hong Kong. The IPTTC Chairman was asked to take over the election and a secret ballot took place. Mr. Silas Chiang was declared duly elected for the rest of the term up to 2005. Mr. Chiang then took the chair and continued with the rest of the items in the Agenda.

The General Assembly also confirmed the appointment of the Fespics Table Tennis Committee, as :-

Chairman	-	Mr. Silas CHIANG, Fespics Representative
Vice-Chairmen-		Ms SHI Gui-Lan, China
		Mr. JANG Choon-Bae, Korea
Technical Officer	-	Mr. YUAN Feng, China
Medical Officer	-	Dr. CHENG Shun-Ping, Taipei
Development Officer	-	Mr. CHAN Kin-Foo, Malaysia
INAS-FID Representative	-	Ms Hotimo MINAWA, Japan

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 19 October where objects and future programs of the Committee were discussed and identified. The next meeting would probably be held in Malaysia in April, 2004 when Malaysia would propose to organize seminars for classification, umpires and technical delegates during a Cities Invitational Games where table tennis would be one of the sports.

Conclusion

The Championships in general was a high standard one in all aspects, in particular when CCTV was introduced to each playing table, and the IPTTC Awards to Best Coach/Umpire/Players and Visas were presented to the 12 Class Champions at the Closing Ceremony. There were however a few areas where improvements could be made in future and they are :-

1. Communication with the Organizer must be closely maintained. This time, the communication with the Shanghai Organizer prior to the Championships was found difficult and resulted in some confusions in the arrangement of air tickets for officials from overseas as well as the cancellation of the classification seminar; The reason for this being that China had just had their national games for the disabled in September and also their 7-day national day holidays before the event;
2. There was no photograph on the players/officials ID cards. This made the umpires difficult to identify the players and also not easy for the doping officers to keep track of the players required to take the test;
3. No player's number in the draw/start list had also made those who were unable to read either Chinese or English names very difficult to identify players. Classifiers had the same problem when they observed players in playing condition during competition.
4. Team players/officials showed little respect to the guests in that they talked while the guests were giving speeches. We should brief all team managers in future before the start of the competitions.

As the Technical Delegate I am happy to report to IPC, IPTTC and Fespics Federation that the Championships were successfully completed. I would like to thank all the Chinese Officials, both in Beijing and Shanghai, for their great effort; all the other medical, technical and administrative officers at IPC and IPTTC for their assistance and co-operation. Also a special thank to Nico for his innovative ideas in some issues. This is being another great experience to me.

**Prepared by Silas Chiang, Technical Delegate of the Championships
29th October, 2003**