

# **Technical Delegate Report on the 2005 Otto Bock Korea Open Table Tennis Championships held between October 20-23 in Seoul, Korea**

By Silas Chiang, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2005

## **Background**

The Otto Bock Korea Table Tennis Championships, a factor 20 tournament, is one of the events planned to take place in Asia and South Pacific in 2005. The first one was held in April in Hong Kong (a factor 10), the second being the Regional Championships held in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia in June, and the third one in Taipei in August ( a factor 30 event ).

The Championships is a factor 20 event and according to the Korean Table Tennis for the Disabled , this was also regarded as a test event for the Asian & Oceania regional Championships in 2007.

## **Competition Venue and Equipment**

The venue is NamYang Joo City Sports Centre, a sports complex, including a large games hall, a swimming pool and a football pitch. The Games hall is for the first time used as a table tennis competition venue. We managed to put 10 competition tables plus another 5 for practice use there. All playing courts are up to the required standard for wheelchair and standing play, and all tables met the requirement for wheelchair play and they are firm and strong, and not easy to move during play.

The 750 seats in the Games hall are all accessible to wheelchair users, though not many spectators throughout the period. Plenty rooms in the Games Hall for meetings, classification, umpires rest area and also rest and working place for referees and Technical Delegate. Some of the rooms are so good that they can be used for doping tests. All the facilities there are wheelchair accessible including all toilet facilities. The venue is even good for holding regional championships in 2007 if a separate area outside the Sports Centre could be identified for practice, and this should not be a problem as there is a huge outdoor football pitch in front.

## **Accommodation**

The Seoul Olympic Parktel is the official hotel of the Championships and except doors of toilets are narrow and needed to be taken down, which the hotel did, the function rooms, banquet hall are accessible to wheelchair users. As only 23 wheelchair players of TT3-5 from outside Korea stayed there, no problem had been

found. Toilets are accessible on the banquet floor.

### **Transportation**

The Hotel is about one hour by vehicle from the Incheon Airport, and venue is some 45 minutes from the Hotel by bus and some 25 minutes by car. The lobby area in the Hotel is spacious while the loading and unloading area in front of the Hotel was alright for all players and officials to board in the morning time. One 45-seater bus, two 25-seater small bus and a few vans were used to transport players and officials to and from the venue. They were all made accessible to wheelchair users.

### **Entry**

A total of 66 players from 9 nations/territories participated for the three Open events ( Women Wheelchair, Men Wheelchair and Standing), 4 Team events ( 6 teams in Women 3-5, 5 teams in Men 3-4, 6 teams in Men 5, and 4 teams in Men 6-10) together with 9 Singles events ( Women 1-3,4,5 and Men 3,4,5,6,7,8-10).

There were many last minutes withdrawals. Moreover, the Tajikistan TT10 player and his coach were refused entry to Korea because they could not satisfy the immigration officers that their purpose of entry was for table tennis competition. They did not bring rackets, playing suits and when asked they had no idea of the city of competition nor any simple knowledge of table tennis and what was worse, they brought more clothes than necessary. As there had been lots of people from the previous Russian states working illegal in Korea, the Immigration of Korea decided not to admit their entry to Korea. The Organizing Committee would refund entry fees to them.

Due to the last minute withdrawal of players from UBZ ( Men TT 2) and Germany ( Men TT 1) and Russia ( Men TT 10), all Men TT 1 and TT 2 events had to be cancelled, and so were all the events for Women standing classes.

When arranging seeding of players it was found that the two Korean names, Mr. Ki Young Kim and Mr. Gi Young Kim referred to the same player. There were a number of mis-spelling of Korean players names and the Korean Organization was asked to produce their identity to prove. Please refer to the attached for details.

Thailand first entered 5 Men players with 7 officials, they later withdrew all except a TT 6 player Rungroj Thainiyom and with 3 officials. On their request the Korean Organizer granted them a 50% discount on registration fee, ie. Euro 200 per person.

In the last minute they added one more officials and demanded for the same discount which was refused as the Organizer considered it too much to make such request. Thailand kept bargaining even after their arrival. As the Technical Delegate I asked not to grant such request as it was unreasonable. Throughout the competition, the Thai manager was not friendly and became very demanding on special transport and medical doctor as he claimed that his player was not feeling well. He refused to team up with players of other teams. This had caused some strong dislike to the Organizer. As the Asia representative I am considering send a letter to the Thai Sports Association for Disabled to inform them the incident. At a recent International Conference on Sport and Physical Education that took place in Bangkok I happened to meet one of the Thai delegates, Mr. Nopadol Jiraboondilok who is also responsible for Disabled sports in Thailand and I took him the story. I shall send him more details of the incident.

### **Classification**

Taking away the Tajikistan player a total of 20 players were required to undertake classification and except 3 from Hong Kong whose classification were done in the morning of the date the Open events started, all the Korean players were classified by Mr. Arthur Wilks with the assistance of a Korean doctor, Dr. In-Gyu HONG who had attended classification courses twice and helped in some previous competitions, in the afternoon of October 19. All classes were reconfirmed by Dr. Shahram Akrami on his arrival in the evening of October 19.

There were 3 changes of classes – Korean Men player Joon-Soo PARK from TT 10 to TT 7, Korea Female playere Sam-Sook HA from TT 10 to TT 9 and Korea Men Young-Sung KIM from TT 8 to TT 7.

We had been lucky that most of the players who required classification were Koreans and that Arthur together with Dr. Hong could help. It would be important that in future classifiers could be there in time for classification, otherwise the draw would not be possible and the whole schedule be delayed, in particular in low factor events where lots of new players may take part.

### **Competition & Umpires**

24 ITTF international umpires officiated in the Championships. Many of them had officiated before in Busan Fespic Games in 2002 and 2 of them are IPTTC Silver

umpires.

With 10 tables the competition schedule were as follows :-

Oct. 20	10:30	Opening Ceremony
Oct. 20	11:00 – 17:15	Open Men & Women
Oct. 21	09:30 – 17:30	Team Men & Women
Oct. 22	09:30 – 12:30	Team Men & Women
Oct. 22	12:30	Medal Ceremony for Team
Oct. 22	14:30 – 17:30	Singles Men & Women
Oct. 23	09:30 – 13:00	Singles Men & Women
Oct. 23	13:00	Medal Ceremony for Singles
Oct. 23	19:00	Farewell & Medal Ceremony for Open

March-in was organized for all sessions in the Championships, with names of players and umpires announced. Officials were punctual and matches were all started on time. In view of traffic condition transport was arranged well to ensure players at the venue in time for start every day.

The language problem usually occurred in non-English speaking nations in Asia was not found this time, as the Organizer had arranged some very good people who were not only good at English, but also with good knowledge in table tennis and computer and most important of all, enthusiastic in helping too. All the overseas officials were well supported.

This is one of the first commercial title sponsored event in IPTTC and the organizer has both cash and in kind support from the sponsor Otto Bock. They also had the Korean Disabled Veterans Organization (KDVO) sponsoring transport, Namyanju City Council sponsoring venue as well as staff and equipment from the Korean Disabled veterans Sports Council (KDVSC) and volunteers from Joongbu University and the Seoul Branch of KDVO.

### **Computer Programme Workshop**

With the generous support of Dr. Wu Chi-shih of Chinese Taipei, the Computer Programme workshop was conducted, with the introductory session at the time of the Draw for Open events held during the Team Managers Meeting on October 19. Another separate session was held in the evening of October 22. All team managers and coaches who took part in the draw for second stage of Singles attended the Workshop. It is hoped that we could benefit from the Programme for all our table

tennis tournaments. To show appreciation to Dr. Wu for his generosity and effort in the workshop a check to the amount of Euro 50. was presented to him as a token at the farewell dinner.

### **Recommendation**

1. To avoid those pretending to attend competition with the actual purpose other than competition;
2. To relate the information to all NPCs that they have to observe the regulation on team athlete/official ratio;
3. Classifiers should prepare to arrive in time for classification prior to the start of competition;
4. To look for ways of attracting more spectators;
5. The need of a Technical Manager and some designated officials for handling results;
6. To rectify the incorrect names of Korean Players. They are all supported by copies of their passports and details are as follows :

<b>Player ID</b>	<b>IPTTC Name</b>	<b>Passport Name</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Class</b>
1243	Hae Gon Lee	Hae Kon <b>Lee</b>	M	1
1255	Kyn Jeon Byeong	Byeong Kyu <b>Jeon</b>	M	2
1275	Young Il Jung	Young Ill <b>Jeyoung</b>	M	3
1278	Choi Yll Sang	Il Sang <b>Choi</b>	M	4
1279	Goo Young Song	Gu Young <b>Song</b>	M	4
2521	Ki Young Kim /	Ki Young <b>Kim</b>	M	5
1296	Gi Young Kim			

Grateful if Gael would rectify the correct names of the above Korean players and have their ranking pointed adjusted. The copies are attached for your record.

### **Record of Service/Training of IPTTC Officers**

I shall be grateful if the following be kept in the IPTTC service record for further referral when needed : -

1. Ms Cindy **Leung** She acted for the first time as a Deputy Technical Delegate after completed the TD Seminar in June.
2. Mr. **Leow** Lim Hai He acted for the third time in the Otto Bock Korea Open this time as Referee after he passed the IPTTC examination in 2004. He is an ITTF IR.
3. Dr. In-Gyu **Hong** He rendered service as a classifier (medical) in the Otto Bock

Korea Open.

4. Dr. **Wu** Chi-shih He conducted the first Computer Programme for Table Tennis during the Otto Bock Korean Open, and received for the first time a token appreciation of Euro 50 from the Organizer for use of his programme.
5. Ms Kil- Ja **Kim** Deputy Referee from Korea. She is ITTF IU and IPTTC Silver Umpire. Other Korean ITTF Umpires are on the attached.

**Pictures to be put on the IPTTC website**

1. A cheque of Euro 50 being presented to Dr. Wu Chi-shih from Mr. Jang Choon-bae, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee;
2. March-in of players and umpires during competition;
3. Umpires of the Championships
- 4.

**END**