

# **COMMONWEALTH FENCING FEDERATION**

## **VETERANS FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**SINGAPORE 27TH – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

### **FINAL REPORT**

#### **Accommodation**

The overseas fencers stayed in a variety of hotels around Singapore but the official hotel was the Pan Pacific Hotel in Marina Square. This is a newly renovated hotel which was able to accommodate our fencers at a special rate for the championships. It was of an excellent standard with a shopping mall attached and close to many attractions and restaurants. This made it ideal for leisure time activities away from the fencing venue.

#### **Meetings**

All the meetings, Directoire Technique, Team Managers, Commonwealth Veterans Association and Referees were held at the Pan Pacific Hotel. The Singapore Administration had also set up here for the collection of entry and other fees, medical reports etc.

#### **Weapons Check**

The initial weapons check was held at the Pan Pacific Hotel before moving to the fencing venue on the first day of competition. A room at the hotel was also made available for training from the second day onwards.

#### **Transport**

All official transport to and from the venue as well as to the other formal events ran from the Pan Pacific Hotel.

#### **Venue**

The venue for the Championships was located at the Pasir Ris Sports and Recreation Centre, a new facility located approximately twenty five minutes drive from the city centre. The fencing hall was large and attractive with tiered seating and a floor area able to accommodate eleven pistes. There were the usual four coloured pistes with a finals piste in the centre and six others placed around such that there was plenty of room for the referees to operate. They were all of a good standard as was the technical equipment provided. When all the pistes were in use for the competition there was little room for warm ups and training but at most times and on most days there were pistes available that could be used. There were good rest rooms and showers and also a shop very close by for lunch and break periods. Sports drinks and water were made available to the athletes by the organisers at no cost.

## **Directoire Technique**

There was a separate operations room level with the top of the tiered seating with windows overlooking the main arena which was used by the Directoire Technique. We had an excellent view of all proceedings and a good P.A. System ensuring great communication between all parties. There was no WiFi in the D.T. Room but it was available to all who needed it in the MacDonaldis which was downstairs in the venue concourse. The computer work was expertly handled by Loo Zhao Rong and Tan Yuan Li so the competitions flowed, seemingly flawlessly, at most times. A bonus would have been a local member of the D.T. available all the timeo assist with the logistics of each round of competition. My thanks go to Andrew Ius who helped most efficiently in this area from the second day on. Occasionally the competitions did run a little behind schedule but time was invariably made up and all competitions finished earlier than was advertised.

## **Referees**

A referees area was designated just outside the D.T.'s office which was most efficient. The referees were provided with lunch every day and coffee was available in the D.T. Office. Most countries opted to pay the refereeing levy of \$100 (Singapore) per competition entry rather than provide their own referees. This is understandable for the nations travelling great distances but did mean that the referees came from a limited number of countries. There were two from England, three from Australia and the remainder, (seven), were supplied by the host nation and who were available on different days and at different times. This made referee assignments a difficult task at times and we must thank Tony Dapre, who took on the Refereeing Coordinator's job at the last minute, and who, with the full cooperation of the referees, accomplished trouble free officiating throughout the Championships. There was a lack of volunteer scorers and timekeepers, but the referees seemed to be able to cope well with using remote controls and filling in the paperwork.

## **Equipment Control**

The only flaw in the efficient running of the weapons check was that it was not on the same level as the main arena so the fencers had to go downstairs to have their weapons checked and for help with their equipment. This didn't seem to worry the fencers, but it would have been better to do the pre-checks before each final series next to the final piste. Unfortunately the lack of any power points in this area precluded this. All of the equipment at the pistes was of a high standard and there was little or no delay because of faulty equipment.

## **Marshalling**

The marshalling and protocol was only undertaken for the final series of bouts in each competition. Where time allowed the semi-finals and Gold medal matches were interleaved and took place on the finals piste. The competitors and referees in each final series were introduced with short biographical details for each competitor.

Age group finals were fenced off on the finals piste before the overall finals and these competitions were also formally announced.

## **Accreditation**

All fencers and other team officials received accreditation cards but there did not seem to be much, if any, control of entry to the venue or field of play. However this was not a problem as no incidents occurred to make security necessary.

## **Publicity**

The organising committee had publicised the event widely but t.v. coverage did not eventuate. There were several newspaper articles after the Singaporeans won bronze medals.

## **V.I.P.s**

The British High Commissioner, H.E. Antony Phillipson, invited all the entourages to a reception at the High Commission on the evening before the commencement of the Championships which was enjoyed by all. His Excellency also opened the Championships before the commencement of the final series on the first day of competition and awarded the medals at the end of the finals. Mr Max Geuter attended the championships as the observer for the F.I.E. And together with Ms. Helen Smith, the President of the CFF, undertook the other medal ceremonies

## **Transport**

Buses ran from the official hotel each day, two each morning and two after the finals. Several other buses also ran from the hotel to transport all the fencers, their partners and other officials to the reception on the first evening and to the dinner on the last evening. There was a problem with the second bus arriving late on the first day of competition with several referees on board so the time of that bus was brought forward. No other problems with transport arose during the Tournament.

## **Results**

Competition management and results were processed using the Engarde software with which there were no difficulties. The results were published on the official website and on Facebook each day so no paper or c.d. copies were needed by the delegations. Many thanks must go to Loo Zhao Rong, Tan Yuang Zi and Juilana Seow for all their efficient computer work during the Championships.

## **Additional Events**

Men's Epee Teams was the only event in which the option to enter extra teams in a friendly competition was taken up. This competition was just as exciting and seriously undertaken as the actual championships and those that entered enjoyed it immensely. There was also a Community Challenge Team competition where three teams representing some of the sponsors of the Championships competed in a mixed epee format. For fencers who had only been fencing for six weeks they showed great potential and a good time was had by all. Their coaches are to be commended.

## **Final Dinner**

The final dinner was held at The British Club on the last night of the Championships. It was an excellent venue giving us all a great view over Singapore. There were also a few monkeys there to amuse us. Apart from the excellent food and ambience of the Club the evening saw many speeches from the different delegations, all unanimous in their praise of the conduct of the Championships. The Scottish Team Manager spoke about 2014 and it was obvious that many of those present will be endeavouring to be present there. The stirring words of the New Zealand Team Manager about organising the 2016 Championships was greeted with cheers so hopefully that will come to fruition. The singing of the Welsh National Anthem, (in Welsh), the Australian National Anthem and England's Jerusalem were both enjoyable and emotional. Everyone agreed that much praise and thanks should be given to Francis Kwong who initiated the organisation of these Championships and we all hope that they will lead to an increase in both numbers and participation in Veteran fencing in Singapore.

## **Conclusion**

The Commonwealth Fencing Federation and the Veteran Fencing Association owe Fencing Singapore a debt of gratitude for the very professional and good hearted manner in which the Championships were organised. The Organising Committee, under the leadership of Ryan Quek, dealt with all matters outside the technicalities of the competition with both expertise and patience. Whether it was transport, per diems, drinks, VIP's or medal ceremonies, all organisational matters were undertaken in a most professional way.

The other members of the Directoire Technique, Loo Zhao, Juliana Seow, Tan Yuan Zi together with the D.T. assistant Andrew Ius ensured that each days competition ran smoothly and largely to the advertised times.

The referees, under the guidance of Tony Dapre, were most efficient and worked tirelessly throughout the tournament. The fact that the only comment for complaint we received during the entire Championships was about a misprint on the website shows both the high standard of the organisers and the good humour of the fencers who were definitely there to enjoy the whole experience. There were a few things missing that are usual at this standard of tournament such as, scorers, remote operators plus flags and anthems at medal ceremonies but no comments about these omissions reached me. I presume that they did not impact on the fencers enjoyment of the Championships in any way. The kind comments of the Team Managers and fencers at the end of the four days showed that everybody had a great time and all are looking forward to Scotland in 2014. My thanks to John Crouch who made sure I didn't forget any of the intricacies of Veteran's Championships throughout the event.

In conclusion this was a highly successful event and hopefully it will help to raise the profile of both Veteran and Open fencing in Singapore.

Denise Dapre  
Chair of Directoire Technique

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### **REFEREEING COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Circumstances leading up to the Tournament resulted in there being no Referee's Coordinator. I was therefore co-opted to carry out that function at the last minute as I was going to be in attendance.

The team of referees in attendance consisted of three from Australia, two from England and the balance was made up of referees from Singapore. All the other countries had chosen to pay the levy instead of supplying their quota of referees. This was not an ideal situation as the responsibility of trying to provide independent referees for all pools and matches was to prove quite difficult. We were however most fortunate in having available a team of the highest order. All bar a couple were FIE category "B" referees in either two or three weapons with many years of experience. The couple of local non FIE referees provided, (they were on the FIE's provisional list), proved to be perfectly competent and it is to the teams collective credit that the whole Tournament was completed without any form of complaint or appeal. Several favourable comments were passed on by various fencers, managers and interested spectators.

It was possible to provide independent referees in most cases and where it was necessary to put a referee on to adjudicate over his own country member I was able to chose bouts where the likely result was not in question and this proved acceptable to all concerned. For the Team Matches I was able to provide independent referees in all cases.

I would like to record my congratulations and personal thanks to all of the attendant referees for a job well done in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality.

Tony Dapre JP  
Referee's Coordinator.