

Umpire's Report

Event:	Western Australian International
IBF Ranking:	A Grade
Dates of Play:	23 – 25 July 2004
Country / City / Hall:	Australia / Perth / Kingsway Stadium
Referee:	Jane Wheatley
Deputy Referee(s):	Don Stockins
Date of Report:	22 August 2004
Umpire's Name:	Mike Wright
Umpire's Qualification:	NZ Grade 1
Umpire's Signature:	

Pre-Tournament Planning & Preparation

I decided to attend this tournament in December 2003 when I received the draft calendar for 2004 from Bob Lindberg for inclusion on the Court Officials web site. I noted that one of Australia's three annual International events was in Perth, and since my sister lives in Perth and would provide accommodation, I chose this event over the other two. Having attended the Singapore Open in 2003, I had previously decided to try and attend at least one International event outside of New Zealand every year in order to boost my experience for eventual assessment for IBF Accreditation – this was it!

I spoke to Viva Stanford about whom to approach to make enquiries about participating. She suggested that I initially contact Greg Vellacott (IBF Certificated umpire who lives in Perth). I did this, and he put me on to Gae Gaffney, President of The Badminton Association of Western Australia (BAWA), and organiser of the event. Gae indicated that they would be thrilled to have me.

I booked my plane tickets on 5 April 2004 in order to obtain the "cheap seats"!

Travel

I flew to Perth on Air New Zealand, direct from Auckland, on 21 July 2004.

I returned from Perth on Air New Zealand, direct to Auckland, on 28 July 2004.

I paid for the plane tickets myself. My sister transported me from / to the airport, so I had no additional travel costs.

Accommodation

I stayed with my sister, who conveniently lives only 10 minutes from the Kingsway Stadium!

Transport

On the evening before the tournament started, I drove myself to the Kingsway Stadium in order to look at the venue and to meet the Referee and Deputy Referee.

During the tournament, I was transported to / from the Kingsway Stadium by my sister, except for at the end of the first day of play, when Greg Vellacott dropped me off.

Matches Officiated

Date	Event	Round	Duty	Result	Notes
23 July	Men's Singles	Round of 32	Umpire	KAWAGUCHI Keishi (JPN) beat THO Gary (AUS)	
23 July	Men's Singles	Round of 32	Service Judge	BELLINGHAM Geoff (NZL) beat SHINKAI Yusuke (JPN)	1.
23 July	Men's Singles	Round of 16	Umpire	KAWAGUCHI Keishi (JPN) beat KIDD Nicholas (ENG)	
23 July	Women's Singles	Round of 16	Umpire	VEERAN Renuga (AUS) beat HINDLEY Rachel (NZL)	
23 July	Mixed Doubles	Round of 16	Umpire	COOPER Craig & GORDON Rebecca (NZL) beat SMITH Ross & COOPER Leisha (AUS)	
23 July	Mixed Doubles	Round of 16	Service Judge	VEERAN Raj & VEERAN Renuga (AUS) beat COOPER Boyd & LUCAS Kelly (AUS)	2.
24 July	Men's Singles	Quarterfinal	Umpire	AYOB Sairul Amar (MAS) beat BELLINGHAM Geoff (NZL)	
24 July	Men's Doubles	Quarterfinal	Umpire	BREHAUT Ashley & DENNEY Travis (AUS) beat MOODY John & MOFFAT James (NZL)	
24 July	Men's Doubles	Quarterfinal	Umpire	MATSUMOTO Toru & KAWAGUCHI Keishi (JPN) beat VEERAN Raj & GOMEZ Stuart (AUS)	
24 July	Mixed Doubles	Quarterfinal	Service Judge	SHIMIZU Hiroshi & TAI Miyuji (JPN) beat BREHAUT Ashley & CRABTREE Jane (AUS)	3.

Date	Event	Round	Duty	Result	Notes
24 July	Men's Singles	Semifinal	Umpire	SMITH Andrew (ENG) beat SHIMIZU Hiroshi (JPN)	
24 July	Men's Doubles	Semifinal	Service Judge	SHINKAI Yusuki & KAWAMAE Naoki (JPN) beat BREHAUT Ashley & DENNEY Travis (AUS)	
24 July	Mixed Doubles	Semifinal	Umpire	BREHAUT Stuart & LUIZ Tania (AUS) beat COOPER Craig & GORDON Rebecca (NZL)	4.
25 July	Men's Doubles	Final	Service Judge	SHINKAI Yusuki & KAWAMAE Naoki (JPN) beat MATSUMOTO Toru & KAWAGUCHI Keishi (JPN)	
25 July	Mixed Doubles	Final	Umpire	DENNEY Travis & WILSON-SMITH Kate (AUS) beat BREHAUT Stuart & LUIZ Tania (AUS)	

Notes on the Matches

1. Service Judge requested by the Umpire part way through the game because he suspected Yusuke Shinkai was fault serving.
2. Service Judge requested by a player (Boyd Cooper) because he thought that the opposition were fault serving. Actually, the Veeran's were serving perfectly, and I nearly service faulted *Boyd* a couple of times!
3. Service Judge requested by the Umpire part way through the game so that he could watch the Japanese for receiver faults.
4. The New Zealand pair probably threw this match away! They lost a tight first game and then came back to easily win the second. The third game was again tight. Craig and Rebecca had a couple of match points (leading 14-11 at one stage), only to let the opposition level the score at 14-14. At 13-14, Stuart served to the far front corner, and Craig left it. There was no doubt in my mind that the shuttle hit the line so I called the score 14-all, and asked Craig and Rebecca if they wanted to set. Craig was visibly upset at having the call go against him, and he said something like "We shouldn't have to set" in an ugly manner! I considered issuing a yellow card for this reaction, but decided that, in the heat of the game, I'd let it go.

Other Notes & Comments

The Venue - Kingsway Stadium is a wonderful badminton centre! It was built about 7 years ago as a netball arena, with four netball courts. A couple of years later, the Netball Association could not pay their debts and had to sell the hall – BAWA bought it. Two of the netball courts were changed into 10 badminton courts, in two rows of 5 courts. The other two netball courts have been converted to multi-sport courts, and during the tournament they were used by a variety of sports.

The facility is very clean and in pristine condition. The courts were always kept immaculate. Hot drinks were provided to all volunteers (set up in a crèche in the building), and meal tickets were provided for lunch and dinner on the Friday and Saturday and lunch on the Sunday. There is a canteen in the building that was producing very good meals!

The Courts - Only 4 of the courts were used for matches, with a fifth being used by the players to warm up on. On the Saturday, there was another (local) tournament being run on the other 5 courts. Although these courts are behind the courts being used for this tournament, the presence of players on those courts did not seem to affect play in the main tournament.

Plate Rounds - I was surprised to learn early on in the tournament that they were not running any Plate rounds. I queried this and was told that they never have Plate rounds in Australian International tournaments. (This was confirmed to me when I was talking with Julie Carrel after my return – she said that New Zealand is fairly unique in offering Plate rounds in tournaments.)

Referee's Meeting - Each day started with a meeting of the Court Officials in an upstairs conference room, during which time Jane Wheatley and Don Stockins advised the umpires in the usual manner.

Umpires - There were only a very few qualified umpires at the tournament: Greg Vellacott (IBF Certificated), Kelly Hoare (Oceania Certificated), Peter Cooper (father of Boyd Cooper and a previous Australian champion for many years, but I am not sure what his umpiring qualifications are), a couple of other local umpires who were not present all the time (qualifications unknown) and myself (NZ Grade 1). Having said that, because the draw was not particularly large, because eight players (from Ghana, Egypt, Mauritius and Russia) didn't turn up and because they did not have any Plate rounds the small pool of umpires was not a problem.

Qualified umpires wore their official uniforms – Greg wore his IBF uniform, Kelly and Peter wore their Australian uniform and I wore my New Zealand uniform.

Line Judges - In addition to the umpires, the two line judges who came to the Oceania Champs at Waitakere (Ray and Bruce) were there. There were a minimum of two line judges for every game – if volunteer line judges were not available, players were required to provide their own. Overall, the quality of the line judging was very good.

Conclusion

Overall a very well run and enjoyable tournament! I was made to feel most welcome by the President of BAWA, the Referee and Deputy Referee and the other umpires, and was invited back when they next hold an International tournament in Perth. They will no doubt see me there again in the future!