

## **2005 Liebherr Swedish Open Championships November 17-20, 2005, Gothenburg, Sweden**

The flight from Hartford, CT to Gothenburg was approximately 16 hours. There was also a six hour time difference between Hartford and Gothenburg. Therefore, I left on Monday and arrived in Gothenburg on Tuesday morning. The tournament did not start until Thursday morning, November 17. I therefore did some sight seeing on Wednesday on my own.

Prior to departing, I received an email from the Referee which was seven pages long. It contained almost everything that we would need to know about the tournament. We had our umpires briefing on Wednesday evening at 8 pm. This is where we received our Accreditation and our schedule for the following day. We were also taken on a tour of the playing facilities as there were two playing halls. The main hall had 8 tables and the second hall had 22 tables.

The first day of the tournament (Thursday) were the qualification rounds. I was scheduled to umpire with my team umpire from Denmark, 5 matches and serve as a reserve for 2 matches in the main hall. In the early afternoon, we were all handed revised schedules for the day and we had an additional 2 matches in the second hall. We were then finished for the day. At the time we received our revised schedules, we also received our schedules for the following day. The second day of the tournament our team had only 3 matches for the entire day. We were lucky as they were scheduled consecutively. Some had a morning match, then an afternoon match and finally an evening match. By the time our shift ended on the Friday, we had received our schedules for Saturday. Our umpire team schedule for Saturday was one match at 1:15 pm and then at 7:45 pm. The 1:15 pm match was a men's doubles quarterfinal match which I assisted and the 7:45 pm match was a men's doubles semifinal match in which I was the umpire. In between the 2 matches, I took a break and did some sightseeing and shopping. On Sunday, the last day of the tournament, I was not scheduled for any matches. I therefore enjoyed watching the 4 semifinal matches along with all the finals.

The Referee and the organizing committee also arranged an umpire's tournament/party for all umpires on Friday evening. It was a fun evening for all who participated. I made it into the second round where I lost to the eventual winner.

All the venues flooring was covered with Taraflex mats, excellent lighting and seats for at least 5,000 in the main hall. In the secondary hall, there was seating for approximately 1,500 spectators. The main hall was across the street from the hotel, while the second hall was approximately a 5 minute walk from the hotel. The umpires had a break room, where coffee and sandwiches were available throughout the day. There was also a secondary room where we could keep our coats and bags. This room was secured and the only way we could enter was with a key. The umpires also had a mail slot where we received our schedules and any other information. In all there were approximately 18 IU's and 50 NU's. The NU's mostly worked the qualification rounds and the U21 events. The U21 event was held in the second hall, except for the semifinals and finals.

On Friday evening there was an opening celebration for a Festival of Lights. We were all invited to attend. There wasn't any cost involved as our badges for the tournament allowed us free access. I actually went in twice to enjoy the sights and sounds of a Swedish Christmas.

Overall, the tournament was very well run and organized, the umpires were treated very well and I had a great experience in Sweden. I would like to thank the selection committee for selecting me to represent the US at the Liebherr Swedish Open Championships.

Respectfully submitted,

Roman Tinyszyn, IU