

# Skill-UK

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## 29th INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SKILL OLYMPICS

Sydney, Australia - 1988

### Interim report to Council

The United Kingdom team of 26 competitors has every reason to be proud of their achievements in gaining TEN medals, the best result since 1970. Of the NINETEEN countries participating, the UK was placed FOURTH in terms of the number of medals awarded after Korea (21), Taiwan (19), and Australia (12). In addition SIX UK competitors were awarded a Diploma of Merit having achieved over 500 points on a 600 scale.

It is generally agreed that the additional efforts made to prepare the competitors for the arduous task of four days in competition, was, to a large extent, responsible for our improved status. These efforts included an intensive programme of pre-competition training devised and implemented by Skill-UK Experts, ITBs, and Employers, two residential week-ends and a series of interviews as part of the selection procedure. UK provided 17 full Jury Experts of which seven were elected Chief Experts. This fact plus the excellent standard of competition projects submitted by them, contributed largely to the quality of our participation.

The event commenced with the departure of our Experts on Friday 5 February for Sydney to prepare the technical aspects of the Competition. The team of Competitors and Officials left Heathrow on Thursday 11 February most of whom had spent the previous night at Fairmile Court Conference Centre, Cobham, Surrey. An official "Send Off" function was arranged at the Skyways Hotel when Patrick Nicholls MP., Under Secretary of State for Employment addressed the party and presented the team with Certificates of Participation. A period of FIVE days in Australia before the actual competition started on THURSDAY 18th enabled the Competitors to overcome any adverse travel problems. This period afforded the opportunity for Competitors to visit the site, check their tools and to be allocated work places etc., and on the Wednesday Evening to take part in the impressive opening ceremony when they were addressed by the Prime Minister of Australia, and Civic Officials.

The competition was accommodated in the new Exhibition Hall which forms part of a major new complex at Darling Harbour to be officially opened in May 1988 by Her Majesty the Queen. Although fully air-conditioned the temperature in the hall was 70 degrees and the weather outside the building was very hot. The event attracted a very large number of visitors on every day including parties of school children during the first two days. Three of our Competitors were affected by the heat one of whom was advised on medical grounds to withdraw (Plant Mechanic). It was to the credit of our team that no effort was spared in spite of the heat and competition pressure while under constant supervision to produce such excellent work. During the working days a representative from the British Consul was conducted around by the Chairman and also the BBC sent a correspondent and camera crew to film aspects of the competition for televising in the UK on Wednesday 24th February when the results were announced.

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While in Sydney, a series of meetings were arranged for the General Assembly, the International Technical Committee and the International Administration Committee which took place before and after the competition itself. Within the comprehensive agenda it was reported that Finland had been accepted as a member of the IYSO organisation and would compete for the first time in Birmingham in 1989. It was also agreed that the next International Technical Committee would meet in Birmingham in the Autumn. During the last meeting of the General Assembly our Chairman and CAO gave a report on the arrangements being made for the 30th IYSO in the UK and showed two video films one of the NEC and one entitled "The Heart of England".

One feature which proved to be a great source of encouragement to the Skill-UK party was the number of important visitors who spent the time and expense to visit the competition. These visitors included:

J Barnes	Director General of City & Guilds of London Institute
J Armstrong	Chairman of RTITB
C Hodgson	Director of Training - RTITB
T Clements	Deputy Chairman of CITB
M Fordy	Board Member of CITB and Chairman of the European Training Commission
D Shaw	Training Centre Manager - EITB
R Culver	" " " - EITB

In conclusion it was generally accepted that the UK participation had proved to be highly successful and considerable benefit derived by both Competitors and Experts. The team was highly respected for their competitive attitude and commendable behaviour as worthy ambassadors of their home country. Although some disappointment was expressed at the lack of medals in the engineering trades it will be seen from the attached table of results that in terms of points gained the standards achieved, on the whole were quite commendable and in each engineering skill marks were higher than those achieved in the 28th IYSO in Japan.

There is no doubt that the experience of competing in Australia should prove very valuable to those who will be involved in the organisation of the 30th IYSO in Birmingham in 1989.

W W Norris  
Director

March 1988