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1991

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Skill Olympics Amsterdam 1991

**Report on the 31st International Youth Skill Olympics
29 June - 2 July 1991**

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The Skill Olympics are very much an arena for celebrating excellence - the competition is a display of practical skills at the highest level - skills which are at the heart of the quality of life all over the world. For the young people taking part, it's a chance for them to prove their worth and demonstrate their highly-honed skills. What's more, they have to perform under the sort of pressure and conditions that they are unlikely to experience during a normal week's work. They face stiff competition from other skilled trainees, all using their own particular techniques. For other youngsters visiting the competition, it's a chance to observe a wide range of skills in action, as well as to see what high standards can be achieved by other young people.

At another level, the Skill Olympics are an opportunity for countries to measure themselves against others. *Competition* is also the order of the day in world markets, we have to judge ourselves by our own competitiveness and international standards provide a yardstick. The formidable competition at the Skill Olympics from the Pacific Rim countries - particularly in the engineering and manufacturing trades - and their run of successes - gives us plenty of food for thought. Not only does it tell us that their teams are very thoroughly prepared but also that their standards are much higher than our own. We have to act on our experiences but raising skill levels takes time. We have taken some encouraging steps forward but there is a long road ahead.

In my first year as the Official UK Delegate for the Skill Olympics and as Chairman of UK Skills, I have been heartened by the enthusiasm shown by all involved in skill competitions - both nationally and internationally. I look forward to the continuing support for investment in high-quality training so that the UK will better its performance in future international events. UK Skills will also continue to promote the part played by skills competitions in the UK and the key importance of skills to the nation's prosperity.

John Cassels



Sir John Cassels
Chairman

PREFACE

The 1991 Skill Olympics were the first international event under the banner of UK Skills. As UK Skills was set up only 11 months before the competition, the selection and preparation of the team of competitors and experts was the number-one priority. UK Skills' Board and Technical Committee very much depended on a host of people's goodwill and experience. We are indebted to the considerable support and encouragement of the UK team's employers and families, national competition organisers, and many trade, industrial, training or other organisations, such as the Department of Employment, City and Guilds and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications. Their commitment was a major contribution towards helping UK Skills get under way and begin to achieve its aims to help promote world-class standards.

The Amsterdam event required a lot of hard work in many quarters, not least by the Netherlands as host country. The UK team of competitors, experts and team leaders showed considerable stamina throughout the preparation period and the competition itself. Once we were in Amsterdam, there was tremendous excitement amid all the heat, noise and energy generated in the vast halls of the RAI Centre. The most important thing was that we all enjoyed it. As a new organisation, too, we all learned a great deal and will be able to use the experience to prepare for the challenges of the 32nd Skill Olympics in 1993.

To all of you who helped us in any way during our first year, our most sincere thanks. I look forward to meeting many of you again this coming year, as well as new faces who will, I hope, become part of the overall team to Taiwan in 1993.



Patricia Snell

Patricia Snell
Chief Executive

INTRODUCTION

Background

The International Youth Skill Olympics began in the early 1950s and now take place every two years. The competition - for young people up to the age of 22 - is organised by the International Organisation for the Promotion of Vocational Training (IVTO) based in Switzerland. It is held in one of the member countries.

The 31st Skill Olympics were staged at the RAI International Exhibition and Congress Centre in Amsterdam from 29 June to 2 July 1991. Almost 450 competitors from 25 countries took part, making this the largest international event to date. More than 1400 people were directly involved in the preparation and administration of the competition which was organised by the Dutch '91 IBW foundation under the chairmanship of Mrs N J Ginjaar-Maas, previously Secretary of State for Vocational Training and a member of the Dutch Parliament. Some seven million Guilders (about £2.2 million) were spent on administration and 37.5 million Guilders (£12 million) on machinery, equipment and materials; 80% of the cost of equipping the workshops was met by industry.

During the four days of the competition there were about 75 000 visitors from the Netherlands and 2000 from other countries.

UK Skills entered a team of 29 competitors for 27 of the 34 official trades, for one official demonstration trade and for one unofficial demonstration trade (see page 2 for list of trades and page 5 for competitors). The UK team was the sixth largest to take part. These competitors were supported by 19 technical experts and two team leaders. Sir John Cassels CB, Chairman of UK Skills attended as the UK Official Delegate, Mr Jim Hammer CB, Technical Director of UK Skills, attended as the UK Technical Delegate and there were two UK Official Observers - Mr John Barnes, Secretary of UK Skills and Director-General of the City and Guilds of London Institute, and Miss Patricia Snell, UK Skills Chief Executive.

Successes

The UK team won three silver medals, four bronze medals (including the unofficial demonstration trade) and 10 Diplomas of Excellence, awarded to non-medal winning competitors whose overall mark reaches the agreed international standard of 500 points. Overall, the UK team was placed equal eighth in terms of medals gained. (See page 3 and tables for overall results).

Countries participating in the Skill Olympics

Australia	Korea
Austria	Liechtenstein
Bermuda	Luxembourg
Brazil	Macau
Canada	Netherlands
Finland	New Zealand
France	Norway
Germany	Portugal
Gibraltar	Republic of China (Taiwan)
Ireland	Spain
Isle of Man	Switzerland
Japan	United Kingdom
	United States

1991 Skill Olympics - official and demonstration trades

- 1 Fitting

2 Press Tool Making

3 Instrument Making

4

5 Engineering Drawing

6 Turning

7 Milling

8 Constructional Steelwork

9 Gas Welding

10 Electric Welding

11 Wood Pattern Making

12 Wall & Floor Tiling Demo

13 Autobody Repair

14 Sheet Metal Work

15 Plumbing

16 Industrial Electronics

17 Consumer Electronics

18 House Wiring

19 Industrial Wiring
- 20 Bricklaying

21 Stonemasonry

22 Painting and Decorating

23 Plastering

24 Cabinet Making

25 Joinery

26 Carpentry

27 Jewellery

28

29 Ladies' Hairdressing

30 Men's Hairdressing

31 Ladies' Dressmaking

32 CNC Machining

33 Automotive Mechanics

34 Cookery

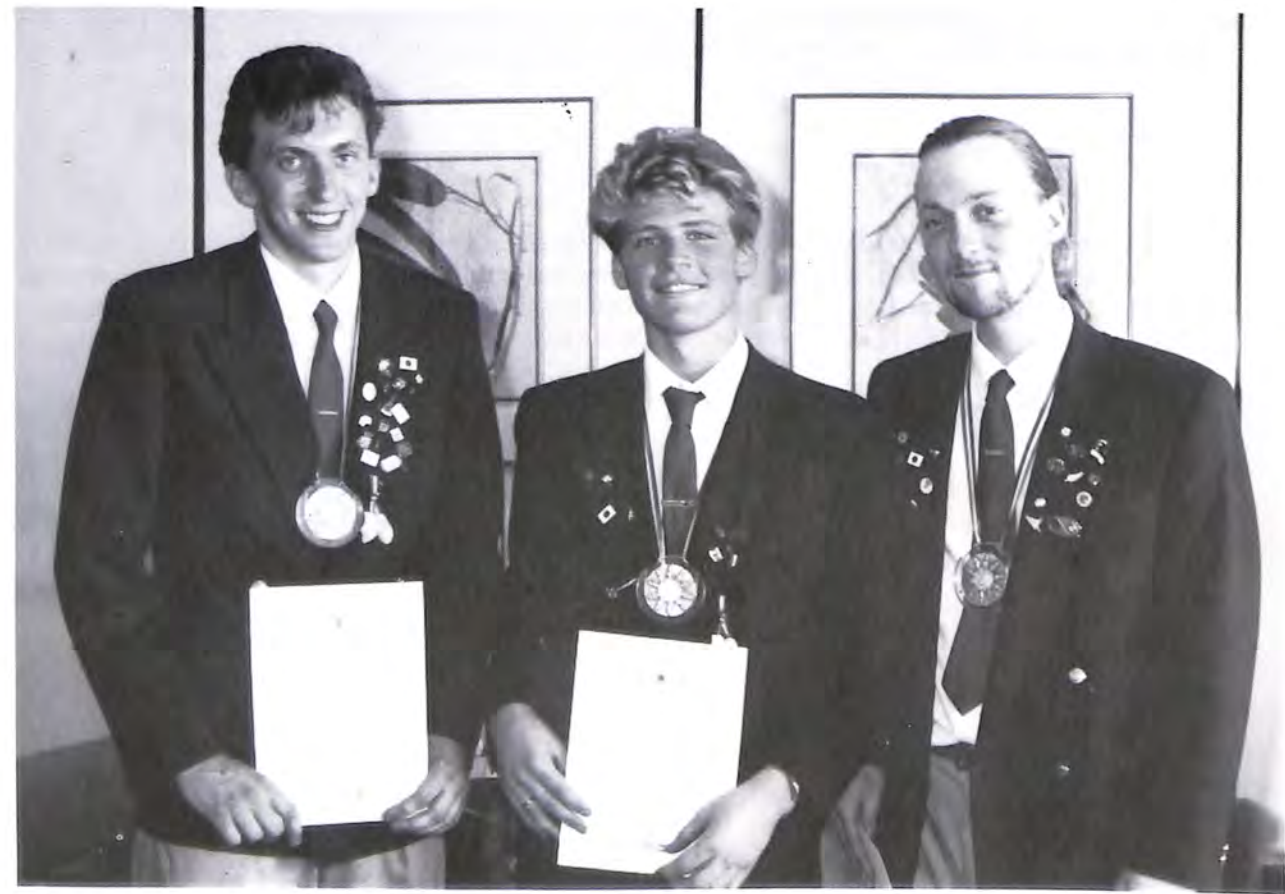
35 Waiting

36 Graphic Design

37 Agricultural Mechanics

38 CAD (official demonstration)

58 Refrigeration Engineering (unofficial demonstration)



1991 UK silver medallists Harvey Robbins (Automotive Mechanics), Jason Taylor (Men's Hairdressing) and Christopher Eaton (Jewellery)

1991 Skill Olympics - results: position by medals and average scores

Number of medals per country		Average score per country	
Taiwan	20	Austria	524
Korea	18	Taiwan	518
Germany	12	Korea	517
Austria	10	Germany	515
Netherlands	8	Switzerland	515
Japan	8	Liechtenstein	513
Switzerland	7	Japan	505
France	6	Australia	504
UK	6	Netherlands	504
Australia	5	Ireland	502
Ireland	3	France	499
Brazil	2	UK	497
Liechtenstein	2	Brazil	493
USA	2	USA	491
Finland	1	New Zealand	486
		Norway	485
		Luxembourg	484
		France	473
		Portugal	470
		Bermuda	464
		Spain	458
		Macau	452
		Isle of Man	440
		Gibraltar	433

SELECTION, PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Competitor selection

Generally, the winner of a national competition, usually following preliminary rounds, became the international competitor. In some cases, the national competition was used to shortlist three or more candidates, who were then interviewed as to their personal suitability, and possibly subjected to further tests, before the competitor was finally selected (see **1991 contributors** for list of national competitions and their organisers). For a few trades, limited competitions within a large single company or between a number of organisations were undertaken. The final selection of competitors by interview was intended to ensure that those chosen had a positive and robust attitude to the challenges of an international competition.

Competitor training

For each trade or skill in which there was a team member, a technical expert was appointed to draw up and oversee the competitor's training programme and to ensure that the entrant was adequately prepared for the rigours of the Skill Olympics. Experience has shown that, however competent they may be technically, competitors must have the right personality and mental outlook and be physically fit, if they are to succeed at an international level.

Training programmes aimed to cover the full extent of the relevant trade description, including the most up-to-date techniques and processes. Experts also have to give detailed attention to the competitor's toolkit; these generally consisted of a mixture of the competitors' personal tools and those loaned by employers and/or colleges.

The support of employers, colleges and families is obviously a vital element in the general preparation of competitors.

Funding

The funding arrangements, whether during the selection process, training or specifically for the international competition, vary from sector to sector. It is most encouraging to report that well over two-thirds of competitors and experts were fully supported by their employers, industry bodies or commercial sponsors throughout.

Briefing weekend

Thanks to the generosity of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), it was possible to bring together the competitors, the two team leaders, and all the technical experts for an intensive training programme at the CITB Training Centre, Bircham Newton, Norfolk, at the end of April. The weekend included a programme of activities, designed and supervised by CITB staff to develop a team spirit.

The former world-champion boxer, Barry McGuigan, was retained for part of the second day to participate in the events and to encourage the competitors by his presence. Two former medal winners from previous Skill Olympics also attended to help to motivate the team by outlining their experiences. It is crucial for competitors to understand that four competition days will be harder than four normal days' work and that they will need to be able to cope with the pressure of the public watching, plus hotter or more humid weather and different meals and mealtimes.

The technical experts had several training sessions on their roles from the Technical Director before joining the competitors for a series of sessions with two psychologists whose task was to provide the required mental basis for combating competition stress. Various administrative matters relating to the travel arrangements, the preparation and transport of toolkits and insurance were also covered. On the Friday evening, a number of Board members, national competition organisers and CITB staff attended a dinner given by UK Skills' Chairman for the UK team.

UK competitors 1991

No. Trade	Competitor	Home town	Employer
1 Fitting	Russell Dixon	Abingdon	Rover Group
2 Press Tool Making	Stephen Pieri	Oxford	Rover Group
6 Turning	Awtar Mall	Birmingham	Rover Group
7 Milling	Jaeson Caunce	Preston	British Aerospace plc
9 Gas Welding	Paul Hallworth	Stockport	How Engineering Services
10 Electric Welding	Paul Savage	Telford	Babcock Construction Ltd
11 Wood Pattern Making	Ian Reynolds	Gilligham	R&R Pattern & Model Makers
14 Sheet Metal Work	Mark Cole	Southampton	Aerostructures Hamble
15 Plumbing	Kevin Hector	Hinckley	Brown & Johnson
16 Industrial Electronics	Mandy Whorlow	Cardigan	Royal Aerospace Est
18 House Wiring	Martin Grech	Salford	N G Bailey & Co Ltd
19 Industrial Wiring	Noel McCracken	Cookstown, N Ireland	Mallon Bros Ltd
20 Bricklaying	Christopher Tilley	Norwich	Willmott Dixon (Anglia)
21 Stonemasonry	Steven Gravestock	Linlithgow, West Lothian	Capital Stone Company
22 Painting and Decorating	Jane Potter	Leeds	Alfred Bagnall & Sons (North) Ltd
23 Plastering	Eric Chaplin	Huddersfield	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
24 Cabinet Making	David Leach	Easingwold, N Yorks	self-employed
25 Joinery	Duncan Willmore	York	Robert Dent & Sons Ltd
26 Carpentry	James Taylor	Downpatrick	J K Rainey
27 Jewellery	Christopher Eaton	Richmond, Surrey	H A Jordan & Co Ltd
29 Ladies' Hairdressing	Helen McDougall	Pontypridd	Hairloom
30 Men's Hairdressing	Jason Taylor	Brighouse, West Yorks	Edward Taylor Ltd
32 CNC Machining	Dean Short	Coventry	PGM Ballscrews Ltd
33 Automotive Mechanics	Harvey Robbins	Oxford	Motorworld Garage
34 Cookery	Kevin Hyde	Broadway	Lygon Arms
35 Waiting	Ian Whitaker	London	QE2 Conference Centre
37 Agricultural Mechanics	Christopher Walters	Kidderminster	Murley Agricultural Supplies Ltd
38 CAD - official demonstration	Siân Millett	Bristol	British Aerospace plc (Dynamics)
58 Refrigeration - unofficial demonstration	Zak Davis	Lincoln	Hussmann Refrigeration Ltd



The UK team at the CITB Training Centre, Bircham Newton, with Barry McGuigan and Patricia Snell

Travel arrangements

A special group booking was negotiated with British Midland for the two main parties. The advance party of 19 experts, accompanied by the Technical Delegate and UK Skills Chief Executive, left Heathrow on Thursday 20 June. Before their departure on Wednesday 26 June, the competitors and the joint team leaders, Archie Sharkie and Martin Jones, assembled at UK Skills' offices in Portland Place for their official send-off by UK Skills Chairman, Sir John Cassels, and the Employment Minister, Mr Robert Jackson MP. A photocall was organised and each competitor was photographed with the Minister. Several national competition organisers also attended to wish their competitors well.

Accommodation

All competitors and team leaders were housed in the Casa 400 Hotel, some way away from the RAI Centre. Official and technical delegates, experts and observers were accommodated in the Novotel - where the UK contingent stayed - and Holiday Inn, both of which were very close to the Centre. Communications were, as a result, excellent.

Congress

A congress on the theme 'The quality of vocational training after 1992', held 25 - 27 June, was attended by delegates and experts from all over the world. The programme include lectures, workshops and industrial visits.

THE COMPETITION

Duration

The opening ceremony, at which the teams from 25 countries were introduced, took place on the evening of Friday 28 June. The actual competition ran from Saturday 29 June to Tuesday 2 July. The total time allowed was 22 hours but, in accordance with the competition rules, a one- or two-hour extension was permitted for some trades whose experts considered that the test project could not be completed by over half the competitors in the allotted time-scale.

Technical experts

The rules of the Skill Olympics permit a quota of experts of 60% in relation to the number of competitors entered by each country. The United Kingdom was therefore allowed 17 experts for its 28 entries for official trades, including the CAD demonstration. In addition to this allowance, the UK secured two extras by volunteering for two trades with insufficient experts, bringing the total to 19.

UK experts

The UK experts worked extremely well together, as well as with the team leaders and the Technical Director. Problems involving the Dutch organisers, the International Organisation or other technical delegates were, almost without exception, satisfactorily resolved as quickly as possible. Several experts commented on the desirability of being able to speak one of the three other official languages.

Two of UK Skills' sector panel chairmen were elected chief experts (for Waiting and CAD demonstration trade). Both they and the other panel chairman, who was expert for Automotive Mechanics, were fully committed to their own trades throughout the competition. Consequently, little time could be spent observing trades with no allocation for a UK expert. Obviously other countries were in a similar position.

Election of chief experts

Chief experts, who are elected at the competition by their fellow-members in each trade, play a crucial role in ensuring that the Skill Olympics are run strictly in accordance with the rules and that good practices are observed. Three UK experts were elected as chief experts (in Men's Hairdressing, Waiting and for the Computer-Aided Draughting (CAD) demonstration trade).

Project selection

Experts appointed for the international competition not only act as jury members but also have to submit a suitable test project. Drawings, materials lists, marking schemes and other instructions for competitors are considered by the jury panel for each trade. UK projects were well prepared, well presented and endorsed by the Technical Director before presentation. Two UK projects were selected in their entirety (Joinery and Jewellery) and UK contributions were included in a number of the merged projects.

In future, it is hoped that projects can be prepared by CAD, particularly in view of the intention gradually to develop an international CAD 'bank' of projects for future competitions. No practical progress was made at Amsterdam on this proposal for banking projects as the question of relevant hardware and software had not yet been resolved.

Marking schemes

Strong encouragement was given by the International Technical Committee to chief experts to develop the maximum *objective* as opposed to *subjective* marking criteria. A useful development was the devising of 'quasi-objective' indicators whereby qualitative judgements were broken down by awarding or withholding marks for specific types of defect or effects in different parts of the component or workpiece. Marking of intermediate outputs was generally encouraged. Alterations to the marking scheme attached to the trade description were only accepted by the Chairman of the Technical Committee if they came with the recommendation of all the experts and increased the objective factors. Projects are evaluated on the basis of the marking criteria and then converted by computer into a point system ranging between 400 and 600.

Workshop conditions, equipment and materials

The working conditions, equipment and materials were generally thought to have been excellently provided for. It was however felt that the three woodworking trades were perhaps too spread out making invigilation more difficult. On the other hand, Industrial Wiring and Cookery were far too close to the public causing distraction to the competitor and making invigilation difficult. The only significant problems in relation to equipment was the lack of 110 volt transformers for UK and other competitors in the Welding trades. Some materials were harder than or of a different thickness from that to which UK competitors were accustomed and this needs to be borne in mind in preparing for future competitions.

Safety

The Dutch workshop managers and organisers generally maintained a high standard of safety. There was good first-aid provision.

Invigilation

The Chairman of the International Technical Committee heavily emphasised to technical delegates and chief experts the importance of the ethos of the competition, of ensuring fairness and preventing unauthorised contact. There is now the very widespread use of video cameras with zoom lenses and although an attempt was made to control the use of close-up photography, this is impossible in practice. In addition to this, large numbers of employers, training officers, lecturers, parents, ex-competitors, observers and friends who are in close proximity make it extremely difficult to prevent unauthorised assistance. It is important that visitors, observers, employers, lecturers and others know the rules so that the competitors and experts are not put at risk of disqualification and the technical delegate's position is not undermined. Ultimately, the integrity of the competition relies on the sense of fair play, the vigilance of experts and chief experts and decisive action in cases of abuse.

Marking/judging

Assessment by judging panels began on the evening of 2 July, immediately following the close of the competition. Marking and judging continued until midnight on 3 July.

Performance of UK competitors

UK competitors gained three silver medals, (Jewellery, Men's Hairdressing and Automotive Mechanics), three bronze medals (House Wiring, Stonemasonry and Painting and Decorating) and 10 diplomas (Milling, Plumbing, Bricklaying, Plastering, Joinery, Carpentry, Ladies' Hairdressing, Cookery, Waiting and Agricultural Mechanics (see Table 2). Four of the diploma winners took fourth place. The competitors all got on well with their team-mates and other competitors and proved to be good ambassadors for the UK.

Most competitors referred to their participation as 'the experience of a life-time', the benefits of taking part in an international competition level being to enable them to deal better with pressure at work, as well as learning new techniques and working as a member of a team. On a personal front, the most commonly stated benefit was that it would help them to relate better to other people.

The most common weakness among the 1991 competitors was the failure to get started on the first day, not working fast and steadily enough during the competition and then having to hurry at the end, thereby making mistakes or allowing too little time to test the final assembly. Such comments were made in respect of at least 12 of the UK competitors, eight of whom failed to complete their projects. One, on the other hand, worked far too fast and paid far too little attention to quality and one felt that he had been disadvantaged by the time extension of one hour given on the second day. He had hurried because of the time set and thereby sacrificed some accuracy. Two competitors were working with materials which were harder than they were used to. One simply failed to work as he had been trained to, thereby losing time.

Visitors

To cope with requests for travel and accommodation outside the 'block' periods a travel agent with specialist knowledge of The Netherlands was designated as the UK Skills travel agent and all enquirers were advised to make contact with that firm. Many of the visitors to Amsterdam used this facility.

A good number of visitors advised UK Skills of their intention to visit the competition, giving, in most cases, the dates of their stay and their addresses. This allowed arrangements to be made to meet them during their stay.

The Employment Minister, Mr Robert Jackson, again demonstrated his support for the UK team by visiting Amsterdam on Monday 1 July. He was shown round the competition areas by Mr Archie Sharkie, Joint Team Leader, accompanied by UK Skills' Chairman, Technical Director, Official Observers, and Mr Derek Grover, Department of Employment representative on UK Skills' Board. The Minister had the opportunity to see most of the team hard at work on their test projects as well as seeing the strong competition from other countries.



Robert Jackson discusses the competition with Christopher Walters, Agricultural Mechanics competitor

Among other visitors who came for short periods were, in addition to three Board Members, the Chief Executive, CITB; the Director General and staff members from RTITB; the Chairman (and member of the National Training Task Force) of Willmott Dixon Ltd and the President and senior staff from the Electrical Contractors' Association; the Chairman and the Director of the Joint Industry Board for Plumbing; the Personnel Director of British Aerospace Dynamics and many employers of competitors.

UK Skills held a reception on the Saturday of the competition for the experts, the President of the IVTO, the International Committee, and those visitors in Amsterdam at the time which was a great success. A second reception was held on 2 July - the last day of the competition - for the competitors themselves and this provided a splendid opportunity to talk with them about their feelings while everything was fresh in their minds.

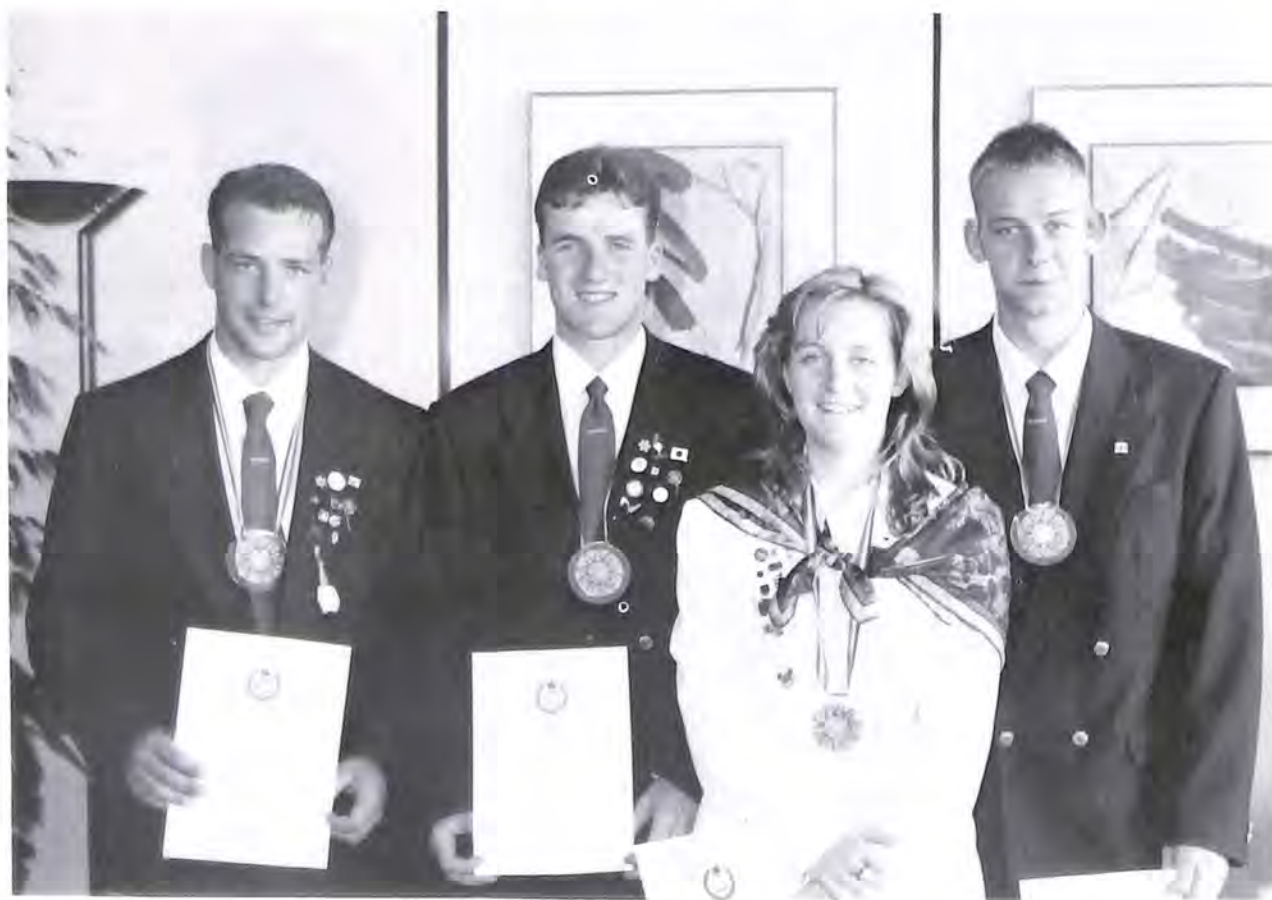
Technical Committee meetings and future developments

The International Technical Committee (comprising Technical Delegates from member countries) met on several occasions, both formally and informally, throughout the competition period. Discussions took place on the introduction of new technologies into the competition and a Review Committee was set up to look at the technical content of all trades, particularly those involving multiskilling. New technologies to be considered include information technology, electronic discharge machining (used in mould and die making) and mechatronics (electrical, hydraulics and pneumatics).

Closing ceremony, farewell party and departure

The closing ceremony, at which the results were announced and medals presented, was held on the evening of Friday 5 July. This was followed by a farewell party for all participants.

The team returned by two British Midland flights on Saturday 6 July.



Bronze medal winners Martin Grech (House Wiring), Steven Gravestock (Stonemasonry), Jane Potter (Painting and Decorating) and Zak Davis (Refrigeration Engineering)

CONCLUSIONS

Generally speaking, the overall result fairly reflected both the extent to which UK Skills had been able to build upon previous experience and establish its own criteria and expectations in the 11 months since it was established and the time in which competition organisers in the UK could arrange their final selection processes.

The selection, training and preparation of the team of competitors and experts are clearly the most vital contributory factors to success at the the Skill Olympics. Other most important lessons learned from the competition are that

- in the light of experience at Amsterdam, physical fitness should be given much greater prominence in future briefings and formal fitness programmes implemented - competitors must be fit to last the course
- in future, there should be more detailed and comprehensive briefings for experts, particularly on the role of jury members at the Skill Olympics
- competitors must spend sufficient time planning the sequence in which they are going to undertake the task(s) and where necessary marking up drawings, plans, etc.
- they must work from the outset at a reasonably fast pace while not, however, sacrificing quality
- they must be sufficiently confident in their use of measuring equipment, gauges, etc. not to recheck excessively
- they must be aware of the possibility of a time extension being given before the end of the second day, though not count on it
- the sequence of working and speed of working are vital components of the training process.

UK Skills will investigate and identify the reasons for the success rate of other countries and learn from their practices particularly in the preparation and training stages.

It is clear from the quality of the youngsters who went to Amsterdam that there is no shortage of potential talent among 22-year-olds in the UK but the aim of UK Skills must be that the very best are found and trained to the limits of their abilities to participate successfully in future international competitions.

Best of Nation Award

For each country, the competitor with the highest score is designated 'Best of Nation'. The UK winner of this title was Jason Taylor, who achieved a score of 534 (see **Marking schemes** above) in Men's Hairdressing.

The Hill Award

The Hill Award was donated by the Founder Chairman of Skill-UK (UK Skills' predecessor organisation), Mr Fred Hill MBE. Since 1988, it has been awarded on the recommendation of the team leaders to the competitor who was the most outstanding in terms of morale and who made the greatest contribution to the success and well-being of the UK team throughout the whole period of preparation and the international competition.

The 1991 winner was Miss Helen McDougall, competitor for Ladies' Hairdressing. Helen was an excellent all-round team member, showing great spirit and determination at the Skill Olympics, particularly after an accident when boiling water was spilt on her leg, from which she received second-degree burns. Helen went on to gain a Diploma of Excellence. Her perseverance during the competition was a splendid example to the UK team.

PUBLICITY, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND VIDEO

Publicity and public relations

Diane Trembath Public Relations undertook the publicity and public relations activities relating to the UK team. Press releases were issued to publicise the final selection of the UK team and briefing weekend (April), the official team send-off by the Employment Minister, Mr Robert Jackson MP (26 June) and the announcement of results (5 July).

News releases were targeted at national and regional media, including TV and radio, as well as trade and technical press, education, training and personnel press, selected youth press, independent careers writers, and UK Skills' network of contacts, including national competition organisers, government departments, trade and employer associations, training organisations, Training and Enterprise Councils, Local Enterprise Companies, and other bodies such as NCVQ, City and Guilds, CBI, TUC.

In addition, the Department of Employment alerted each TEC which had a competitor in its own area. The Department also issued its own press releases to publicise the Employment Minister's attendance at the team's send-off and the success of competitors who had been on Youth Training programmes. National competition organisers also publicised competitors within their industry sector.

When the team returned on 6 July, British Midland kindly gave use of their Diamond Service lounge where a photocall was organised for the competitors.

Articles and news items appearing in a number of publications (for example, *Employment News*, *Employment Gazette*, *Training & Development*, *Training Magazine*, *Transition*, *Insight*, *Electronics Weekly*, and City and Guilds' *Broadsheet*) elicited many enquiries for further information.

Other media coverage included an item on *Woman's Hour* (interview with the Chief Executive and Jane Potter, Painting and Decorating competitor), broadcast on 26 June.

An analysis showed overall approximately 125 items appeared in nearly 100 publications.

Video

Triton Television Ltd produced a video for UK Skills, including coverage of the Amsterdam event. Interviews were recorded with the Employment Minister (on his visit on 1 July), UK Skills' Chairman, Chief Executive, Technical Director and Joint Team Leader, and afterwards, with Sir Bryan Nicholson, Chairman of NCVQ. A 25-minute programme made for ITV - *World Skill Olympics* - was broadcast on HTV Wales and HTV West on 19 and 20 September, Scottish Television on 26 September, Grampian on 14 October and is being shown on London Weekend Television on 7 December.

1991 CONTRIBUTORS

UK Skills would like to thank all the companies, organisations and individuals who have given support towards sending the United Kingdom team to Amsterdam and to all those who have organised national competitions and selection tests.

(Names appear in alphabetical order.)

General support for UK Skills and the 1991 team

British Midland
City and Guilds of London Institute
Construction Industry Training Board
Department of Employment
Federation of Clothing Designers & Executives
Grand Metropolitan plc
National Council for Vocational Qualifications
Rover Group
Sainsbury Charitable Fund

Mechanical/Fabrication trades

Best of British Manufacturing Skills competition run by Machine Tool Technologies Association, Gauge and Tool Makers Association, Engineering Industry Training Board, Engineering Training Authority, National Council for Vocational Qualifications, Federation of British Hand Tool Manufacturers, Federation of British Engineers Tool Manufacturers, British Gear Association

Best of British Sheet Metal Work Competition run by Institute of Sheet Metal Engineering

ESAB Group (UK) Ltd

IBF National Patternmaking Craft Competition run by Institute of British Foundrymen, Engineering Industry Training Board, National Society of Master Patternmakers and South Staffordshire Training Association

MSF

UK Youth Gas Welding Championship run by BOC Ltd, C Brown & Sons (Steel) Ltd, Murex Welding Products Ltd

Rover Group

Building and building services trades

Construction Industry Training Board
Construction Industry Training Board (Northern Ireland)

JIB National Plumbing Competition run by Joint Industry Board for Plumbing Mechanical Engineering Services in England and Wales (National Association of Plumbing Heating and Mechanical Services Contractors; Electrical, Electronic Telecommunication and Plumbing Union; Building Employers Confederation)

Skill-Build run by National Joint Council for the Building Industry (Building Employers Confederation; Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union; General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union; National Federation of Roofing Contractors; Transport and General Workers Union; Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians)

contd./

Vehicles

Agricultural Engineering Competition run by Massey-Ferguson

Young Mechanic of the Year Competition run by Road Transport Industry Training Board

Electrical/Electronics trades

Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union

Royal Aerospace

Skill Electric competition run by Electrical Contractors Association and Legrand Electric Ltd

Hotel and catering trades

Hotel and Catering Training Company

Young Chef and Young Waiter of the Year competition run by Restaurateurs Association of Great Britain in conjunction with American Express and supported by Forte

Hairdressing

Aston and Fincher
Choppen (Hairdressing Suppliers) Ltd
Clynol Ltd
Gilmors
Goldwell

Hairdressing Festival run by Association of Hairdressing Teachers

Hairdressing Manufacturers' and Wholesalers' Association
Ogee Ltd
Options UK Ltd
Edward Taylor Ltd
Wella Great Britain

Other manufacturing trades

British Furniture Trade Joint Industrial Council

Goldsmiths' Company Skills Competition run by Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths

Design/Drawing

British Aerospace plc (Dynamics)

1991 Skill Olympics - Medals and diplomas per country

Table 1

Country	Total no. of medals	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Diploma
Australia	5		2	3	14
Austria	10	6	2	2	5
Bermuda					1
Brazil	2			2	5
Canada					
Finland	1			1	1
France	6	3	2	1	5
Germany	12	3	3	6	12
Gibraltar					
Ireland	3			3	10
Isle of Man					
Japan	8	3	2	3	6
Korea	18	13	2	3	6
Liechtenstein	2		1	1	6
Luxembourg					1
Macau					
Netherlands	8	3	3	2	10
New Zealand					4
Norway					4
Portugal					2
Taiwan	20	8	10	2	8
Spain					
Switzerland	7	3	3	1	9
United Kingdom	6		3	3	10
USA	2	1		1	4

1991 Skill Olympics - results by trade

Table 2

No.	Trade	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Diploma
1	Fitting	K	ROC	J	BR/D/IRL/A
2	Press Tool Making	K	J	A/D	AUS/ROC/BR/IRL
3*	Instrument Making	K/ROC	-	D/J	NL/BR
5*	Engineering Drawing	K	J	ROC	IRL/D/CH/BR
6	Turning	K	ROC	J	AUS/D/NZ/USA
7	Milling	ROC/J	-	K	BR/NL/F/UK
8*	Constru. Steel Work	K	ROC	AUS	J/CH
9	Gas Welding	ROC/K	-	IRL	D
10	Electric Welding	USA	K/ROC	-	D
11	Wood Pattern Making	ROC	CH	D	J/AUS
13*	Autobody Repair	NL	CH	AUS	USA/F/L
14	Sheetmetal Work	ROC/J	-	K	D/F
15	Plumbing	K/A/F	-	-	AUS/CH/IRL/NZ/J/ROC/UK
16	Indust. Electronics	J	D/K	-	ROC/USA/NL
17*	Consumer Electronics	NL	ROC	AUS	-
18	House Wiring	CH/K	-	BR/UK/FL	IRL/ROC/AUS/P/J
19	Industrial Wiring	D	ROC/CH	-	NZ/A/AUS/K/IRL/NL

Australia	AUS	Korea	K
Austria	A	Liechtenstein	FL
Bermuda	BM	Luxembourg	L
Brazil	BR	Macau	M
Canada	CAN	Netherlands	NL
Finland	FIN	New Zealand	NZ
France	F	Norway	N
Germany	D	Portugal	P
Gibraltar	GIB	Republic of China (Taiwan)	ROC
Ireland	IRL	Spain	E
Isle of Man	IOM	Switzerland	CH
Japan	J	United Kingdom	UK
		United States	USA

No.	Trade	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Diploma
20	Bricklaying	CH/NL	-	A/FIN/K	UK/F/AUS/D/IRL/ROC/FL/
21	Stonemasonry	F	ROC	UK	K/D/CH
22	Painting and Decorating	A	NL	D/UK	FL/ROC
23	Plastering	D	F	IRL	UK
24	Cabinet Making	ROC	D/A	-	CH/FL/AUS/K/F
25	Joinery	K	ROC/F	-	UK/IRL/CH/D/NL/A
26	Carpentry	F/K	-	CH	ROC/AUS/FL/NL/UK
27	Jewellery	K	UK/AUS	-	J/NL
29	Ladies' Hairdressing	A	ROC	NL	D/FL/UK/AUS/NZ/N
30	Men's Hairdressing	D	UK	NL	AUS/A/K
31*	Ladies' Dressmaking	ROC	A/NL	-	K/FIN/D/P/AUS
32	CNC Machining	A	D	ROC	NL/FL/CH/K/N
33	Automotive Mechanics	ROC	UK	D	AUS/J/USA/A/NL
34	Cookery	A	NL	D	IRL/CH/BM/N/AUS/UK/ROC
35	Waiting	A	AUS	IRL	UK/D/N/CH
37	Agricultural Mechanics	CH	FL	F	UK/NL/IRL
36*	Graphic Design	K	ROC	BR/USA	-
38	CAD Official Demonst.	AUS	USA	CAN	
58	Refrigeration Engin. Unofficial Demonst.	NL	F	UK	

* = no UK entry

1991 Skill Olympics - Position of UK competitors in official trades Table 3

Skill		Competitor	Results				Gold Medal	
No.	Title		Mark	Position	No. of entries	Award	Mark	Country
1	Fitting	R Dixon	484	9	14	-	556	Korea
2	Press Toolmaking	S Pieri	473	10	12	-	533	Korea
6	Turning	A Mall	479	12	15	-	557	Korea
7	Milling	J Caunce	500	6	11	Diploma	540	Taiwan
9	Gas Welding	P Hallworth	441	7	7	-	528	Taiwan
10	Electric Welding	P Savage	495	7	15	-	583	USA
11	Wood Pattern Making	I Reynolds	458	8	9	-	541	Taiwan
14	Sheet Metalwork	M Cole	478	8	10	-	538	Taiwan
15	Plumbing	K Hector	504	8	14	Diploma	525	Korea
16	Industrial Electronics	M Whorlow	443	13	13	-	558	Japan
18	House Wiring	M Grech	525	3	16	Bronze	528	Switzerland
19	Industrial Wiring	N McCracken	471	12	15	-	537	Germany
20	Bricklaying	C Tilley	512	6	16	Diploma	525	Switzerland
21	Stonemasonry	S Gravestock	519	3	10	Bronze	552	France
22	Painting and Decorating	J Potter	521	3	13	Bronze	560	Austria
23	Plastering	E Chaplin	518	4	8	Diploma	559	Germany
24	Cabinet Making	D Leach	472	12	15	-	552	Taiwan
25	Joinery	D Willmore	525	4	13	Diploma	535	Korea
26	Carpentry	J Taylor	505	8	12	Diploma	528	France
27	Jewellery	C Eaton	521	2	8	Silver	546	Korea
29	Ladies' Hairdressing	H McDougall	514	6	14	Diploma	547	Austria
30	Men's Hairdressing	J Taylor	534	2	10	Silver	537	Germany

cont./

Skill		Competitor	Results				Gold Medal	
No.	Title		Mark	Position	No. of entries	Award	Mark	Country
32	CNC Machining	D Short	465	11	13	-	555	Austria
33	Automotive Mechanics	H Robbins	527	2	13	Silver	546	Taiwan
34	Cookery	K Hyde	503	9	15	Diploma	542	Austria
35	Waiting	I Whitaker	520	4	13	Diploma	552	Austria
37	Agricultural Mechanics	C Walters	506	4	9	Diploma	543	Switzerland



Ten members of the team were awarded Diplomas of Excellence: Kevin Hyde, Christopher Walters, Ian Whitaker, Eric Chaplin, Christopher Tilley, Duncan Willmore, Helen McDougall, Kevin Hector, James Taylor and Jaeson Caunce.

Table 4

International Youth Skill Olympics - medals won by UK (Gold, Silver, Bronze) since 1979

Skill No	Trade	Venue and year						
		Cork Ireland 1979	Atlanta USA 1981	Linz Austria 1983	Osaka Japan 1985	Sydney Australia 1988	Birmingham UK 1989	Amsterdam Netherlands 1991
11	Wood Patternmaking						B	
15	Plumbing	B	S			B		
18	House Wiring					B	B	B
19	Industrial Wiring						B	
20	Bricklaying	S	S	G			S	
21	Stonemasonry			G		G		B
22	Painting and Decorating	S	S			B		B
23	Plastering		S	G		S		
25	Joinery	G	B			B		
27	Jewellery				S			S
29	Ladies' Hairdressing	B			G	S	S	
30	Men's Hairdressing	B				S	G	S
31	Ladies' Dressmaking					B	S	
33	Automotive Mechanics	S	S			G	S	S
37	Agricultural Mechanics						B	
58	Refrigeration Eng. Unofficial demo.							B
Total no of medals		7	6	3	2	10	9	7

UK SKILLS

Board membership 1990 - 91

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Director-General of the National Economic Development
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Mr Barney Gibbens OBE

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Chairman, SEMA Group plc

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Employment

Mr Jim Hammer CB
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Inspection; formerly Deputy Director-General of the Health &
Safety Executive

Mr John Owens

Director General, Building Employers Confederation

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Miss Patricia Snell
Mr Jonathan Freeman
Mrs Mary Scrutton
Mr Basil Henson
Miss Frances Wilson

Chief Executive
Administration and Communications Manager
Secretary
Project Manager (part-time)
Secretarial/Administrative Assistant (part-time)

Technical Committee

Mr Jim Hammer CB
Mr Brian Cave
Mr Barry Davis
Mr Dennis Knowles
Mr Alan Saxon
Mr Archie Sharkie
Mr Frank Wilson

Chairman (Technical Director)
Mechanical Sector Panel Chairman
Electrical/Electronics Sector Panel Chairman
Industrial Sector Panel Chairman
Services Sector Panel Chairman
Team Leader
Construction Sector Panel Chairman

Experts

Fitting	Mr Brian Goodenough*	Rover Group
Press Tool Making	Mr Roger Savage*	Consultant
Turning	Mr Ken Glassbrook	Harlow College
Milling	Mr John Larkman	Cincinnati Milacron Ltd
Gas Welding	Mr Eddie Oliphant*	Welding and Quality Assurance Consultant
Electric Welding	Mr Peter Want	Consultant Welding Engineer
Wood Patternmaking	Mr Dave Lakin*	Chesterfield College of Technology
Sheet Metal Work	Mr Ken Cooper	Training Consultant
Plumbing	Mr Laurie Croft*	JIB for Plumbing Mechanical Engineering Services
House Wiring	Mr Jim Mitchell	Stevenson College, Edinburgh
Industrial Wiring	Mr Jim Leech*	JT Ltd
Bricklaying	Mr Barrie Roe*	Peterborough Regional College
Stonemasonry	Mr Peter Ellis*	Mather and Ellis Ltd
Painting and Decorating	Mr Wilf Groutage*	South Fields College of FE, Leicester
Plastering	Mr Peter Hillman	Vauxhall College of Building
Cabinet Making	Mr Peter Legg*	Buckinghamshire College of HE
Joinery	Mr Bill Jefferies*	Brunel College of Technology
Carpentry	Mr Jim Nattress	Darlington College of Technology
Jewellery	Mr Mike Hambling*	Goldsmith
Ladies' Hairdressing	Mr Peter Vann*	Pontypridd Technical College
Men's Hairdressing	Mrs Christine Vokins*	Brunel College of Technology
CNC Machining	Mr Mike Portway*	Camtek Ltd
Automotive Mechanics	Mr Dennis Knowles*	Road Transport Industry Training Board
Cookery)		
Waiting)	Mr Alan Saxon*	Solihull College of Technology
Agricultural Mechanics	Mr John Pedley*	Evesham College
CAD demonstration	Mr Brian Cave*	formerly Engineering Industry Training Board

* = expert/jury member at Skill Olympics in Amsterdam

Team Leaders

Mr Archie Sharkie	North Glasgow College
Mr Martin Jones	Derby Tertiary College

