

INTERIM REPORT ON
27TH IVTC - LINZ AUSTRIA

By B. JONES

Before looking at the information gained during this 27th IVTC, it would be well worth looking at the overall performance of our 12 competitors and experts. Considering that it was Australia's first competitive involvement in this well established international competition, it can be considered an extremely successful learning experience both for competitors and experts alike. Many were the comments that the Australian team were professionals and confident in their approach to the whole of the competition.

The results of our competitors when compared with other competitors within their particular trade category, showed seven to have gained above average marks with five less than average. However, it may be more useful to study the attached bar graphs of each trade which indicate not only the position of our competitor relative to the other countries competitors, but the total marks difference between the gold medalist and the Australian competitor. I am sure it will be agreed that this puts a different complexion upon the result.

No doubt the most significant point to emerge from this experience in Linz is the fact that our competitors in the precision skilled metal trades, i.e. Toolmaking, Turning and Fitting, did not perform to the high degree of accuracy and quality that most others displayed. A major factor to be considered in our future regional and national competitions, and a significant indicator for Australian training directions.

Summary of points to be considered for future Australian teams.

COMPETITORS

Pre-Competition - Definite need for more intensive training with particular reference to:

- (a) Quality of work finish
- (b) Accuracy of work, in particular basic measurements which carry the major marks.
- (c) Identification of basic measurements from drawings.
- (d) Efficient use of tools and equipment, i.e. layout on bench or machine.
- (e) A prepared routine for physical and mental fitness.
- (f) Where possible materials to be used in the international competition should be obtained to practice with.

Familiarisation with the standards when applied to the working and social environments. The 10 days in Ste-Croix was it appears a little long, though some acclimatization is certainly necessary and the benefit in settling down after the long flight from Australia goes without saying. It could have been improved on by the further development of (e) and perhaps a more determined plan for (d), i.e. exercises to be designed which incorporate the handling of the tools each day in a work simulated way to prevent muscle softening.

During Competition

A few of the competitors may have been upset by the toolkits taken by some nations, which at first glances would have appeared to give unfair advantage (infact we must pay greater attention to toolkits to prevent this effect). I would suggest that this was perhaps only a perceived advantage and once into the competition tended to disappear.

Major points to emerge during the competition were:

- (a) Obvious lack of stamina, especially during the second day (the day which seemed to present most problems for our competitors).
- (b) As the competition elapsed our competitors tended to compare their progress with other competitors progress, a dangerous action in trades which have many ways of approaching the same end result.
- (c) Our competitors need to be fully conversant with the international trade description with particular emphasis on the marking system.

All competitors performed extremely well in terms of keenness and attitude, only one had difficulty in carrying on to the end.

EXPERTS

Pre-Competiton

- (i) More intensive involvement with their own competitor - preparation of training programme to cover three months!
- (ii) Intensive face to face training expert/competitor for a minimum of two weeks with a minimum two months intensive training planned by the expert with a stand-in expert in the competitors home town or area.
- (iii) Design of toolkits taking into account information obtained during 27th IVTC.

- (iv) Project design to reflect the international trade description in light of the 27th IVTC experience.
- (v) Project to have minimum written information
(Some were far too long which worked against them
- Cooking in particular).

During Competition

- (i) The need to be extremely strong during the project selection sessions, rejecting any points which do not conform to (a) International Trades description
(b) Material lists nominated by host country
(c) Rejecting skills nominated which are not accepted modern practice.
- (ii) Vigilance of unacceptable practices, i.e. experts talking to their own competitor without another expert being present. Entry to competition area only permitted to authorised people.
- (iii) Insistence that the marking system measure all major dimensions and not accept selective marking which could disadvantage competitors.
- (iv) Insistence that the full marking criteria be shown to all competitors.
- (v) No future extensions of time should be agreed to (extensions are a disadvantage to competitors who plan their work well).
- (vi) There is a real advantage in experts attending more than one IVTC, however, we should push to have a rule accepted that prevents experts attending more than say three consecutive competitions.
- (vii) There is a direct correlation between experienced experts, project design and medal winners.

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- (1) Observer Experts (O.C's) allowed for the first time:
 - 6 - Australia
 - 2 - Japan
 - (a) All rights to attend jury meeting, though no voting or marking rights.
 - (b) Special permission for these O.C's to gain access to specified trades for the purpose of gaining information for future involvement.
- (2) Ruling that project information not previously sent to technical committee chairman cannot be considered - doubtful if this rule was adhered to!
- (3) Insistance that experts cannot communicate with their own competitors unless one other expert is present - not strictly adhered to in some juries.
- (4) Record number of competitors and experts in this competition 312 competitors 150 experts.
- (5) Venezuela competing for the first time, however, because they are not members of IVTC they cannot win medal this time.
- (6) Technical briefing of all experts was far from adequate. All experts assembled briefly, introduced to Fink and organising team by R. Gonthier and then delegated to their own trade areas. This comprised the total briefing for new experts and old hands alike. As a result new experts learned habits, bad and good, from old hands! The resultant confusion in the use of the 10 point marking system and general marking scheme was to be expected.
- (7) Maximum time allowed for the competition was set at 24.5 hours and it was expected that most juries would choose 22 hours to allow for extension of time if required.

- (8) Extension of forecast time would only be granted by the Chairman if:
 - (a) It was requested before 2/3 of the allocated time had elapsed.
 - (b) and it was evident that half of the competitors would not complete the project.
 - (9) New Technical delegate for the Netherlands Mr. Beuk replacing Mr. A. Segaar.
 - (10) Familiarisation period from 2 - 5 pm Monday with one hour prior to competition on Tuesday to study drawing instructions etc.
 - (11) The only demonstration trade to be allowed will be Waiting with 4 candidates taking part.
 - (12) Demonstrations approved for the 28th IVTC in Japan:
 - 1. Woodmachining
 - 2. Vehicle Smash Repair
 - 3. Agricultural Machinery
- any future trades must have trade descriptions in the 4 approved languages.
- (13) Unsuccessfullengthy discussions centred around the need to show complete marking sheets to competitors. However, not enough support from the old school ment that in most trades only main areas of marks were disclosed.
 - (14) Mr. Segaar (Netherlands Technical Expert) had previously put forward a number of changes to the rules of the IVTC, after quite some discussion no clear cut results were formed.

A sub-committee was formed to report back to the next Standing Commission on the points put forward.
Chairman - Dr. Beuk (NL) Dressel (D) Corcoron (EIR)
Clayton (U.K.) Jones (AUST.)

One proposal included in the Segaar document was to raise the age limit to 22 in the year of the competition. This was one proposal that was opposed by enough members to reject it.

My reasons for opposing any raising of the age limit are:

- (1) It would tend to move away from the original concept of a young artisans competition (many expressed that they did not see it as an apprentices competition!).
- (2) Australian industry would be more agreeable to releasing their employees if they were apprentices or only recently completed their indentures.
- (3) It would not suit Australia's (WSA) aims of lifting the standards of apprenticeship, if it were so far removed from apprenticeship age limits.
- (15) Security of workshops, drawings etc., was discussed at length again with no clear cut resolution.
- (16) 29th Competition - 1988 Australia, it was agreed that to all intents and purposes the rules will be as for a competition held in 1987, infact it is the 1987 competition held over until February 1988.
The ruling on age of competitors is therefore:-
"Born on or after the 1. 1.1966 will be eligible for the 28th IVTC to be held in Australia during 1988".
- (17) Future competitions will have a limited number of experts per trade - maximum of 5 in all trades but Automotive which can have a maximum of 7.

(18) Projects selected were:

1. Fitting - Taiwan
2. Toolmaking - Austria
3. Instrument Making - Japan
4. Watchmaking - Japan/Switzerland
5. Engineering Drawing - Germany/Korea/Leichtenstein
6. Turning - Germany/Korea
7. Milling - Spain
8. Constructional Steelwork - Portugal
9. Gas Welding - Japan/Korea/Austria
10. Electric Welding - Japan/Korea/Portugal/USA
11. Woodpatternmaking - Netherlands
13. Panelbeating - Japan
14. Sheetmetal Work - Japan
15. Plumbing - Austria
16. Industrial Electronics - Japan/Experts
17. Radio/TV Repair - Taiwan/Experts
18. Housewiring - Portugal
19. Industrial Wiring - Leichtenstein
20. Bricklaying - Australia/Switzerland
21. Stone Masonary - U.K.
22. Painting - Germany
23. Plaster Work - Germany/France/U.K./Ireland
24. Cabinetmaking - Germany
25. Joinery - France
26. Carpentry - U.K.
27. Jewellery - France
28. Tailoring - Austria
29. Ladies Hairdressing - Experts
30. Mens Hairdressing - Experts
31. Ladies Dressmaking - Austria
32. Auto Mechanics - France/U.K./Ireland/Portugal
34. Cookery - Experts

(19) Trades descriptions for Roofer, Commercial Artist are attached, plus a sample trade proposal for Automotive Mechanics.

- (20) The competitor from the Netherlands in Trade No. 22
- Painting was found to be three months over the age limit. Had I not protested that we apply the rules strictly, he would have been allowed to compete in the competition. It was perhaps a try on to have the age limit changed by precedence! Final result was that competitor would take part but not be considered for a place or awarded a medal.
- (21) Cookery trade in future competition:
(a) Marking should be done each day and discussed with technical delegate.
(b) Technical delegate should have only cookery to look after.
This was passed unanimously.
- (22) Election of President and Vice President of technical committee took place.
- President Gonthier was returned unanimously.
- Vice President was contested by Clayton (UK) and Kim (Korea) Result Clayton 9 to Kim 8
- (23) New trades for 28th Competition - Japan:
Trade No. 12 - Roofing
" " 35 - Waiting
" " 36 - Commercial Artist


B. JONES.

NEXT MEETING - September, 1984