

SPANISH OPEN-2017

This year Spanish Open was held from 15th until 18th of June in extremely warm Madrid. The pick-up from/to the airport worked excellent, and that is about only excellent thing in this tournament.

The hall (Arena Marques de Samaranch) was situated 8 km from the students dorm where the umpires were located, and due to chaotic traffic and the fact that none of the umpires were from Madrid, instead of 15 min drive, it was normally twice as long. Temperature in the hall was high, luckily, the humidity was low, and so even though the temperature in front of the hall was 48 degrees at one point, the hall was tolerable. Air condition was mostly non-existent, so we went through 6-10 bottles of water every day. We played on 5 courts (two of which had to be repaired at least 6 times on the first two days), which is definitely not enough for a tournament with this number of entries. Two line judges per court (each taking the back line and half of the long line), plus additional scorer, which left us with the long line on our side, not the best solution.



We were 18 umpires, 10 Spanish, and one from each of the following countries -Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Estonia, Scotland, Italy, Austria. The idea was to work in a rotation system, but since they have decided to look after country neutralities from the qualifications and there was 60% Spanish players, it ended up in a way that some of the umpires were up in the chair 5 times in row, while the locals were service judging. The organization in general was chaotic; everything was always done in the last minute.

The Referee was Siv Jønsson from Denmark, and the deputy Carmen Martinez from Spain. Siv was there for the assessment, and I can see her as a good referee in the future, but she needs much more experience. To be the referee on a tournament like this would be a huge challenge even to some much more experienced referees. About the deputy, nothing special to say.

The days were long, starting at 9:30 in the morning, transport at 8:15, and finishing from 22:20/23:30, which brings us to the main problem - no time for anything else. The situation was not much better on Saturday; we were in the hall all day, without any possibility to go back to the hotel until the last match was over. The lunch was in the small restaurant across

the hall, the food was good and the coffee as well. Snacks were served in the hall during the day. Dinner was a bit problematic since we always ended up late.

I had 27 duties, 16 up (including the WD final) and 11 down.

Beside the scene organization was not much better. Most of the foreign umpires didn't had the chance to go to the town, and there was no attempt from the organizer or the local umpires to try to organize some sightseeing, or some kind of meal in the evening, which makes Madrid one of the worst destinations to go to a tournament, since you are in a huge town that has so much to offer, and you have no opportunity to see anything.



Plaza de España



Las Ventas bullring

On a personal note, I had a lovely time since I have arrived 3 days earlier, so there was plenty of time for everything. The town itself is very alive, especially in the evening. I highly recommend the destination, the tournament, not so much.

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