

European Junior Championships 18 & under

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Patience required but no panic in Klosters

Marco Keller

The rain as the big winner on Day 1

Hans Markutt is relaxed as he walks around the site. Relaxed he is, despite of the fact that on this late monday morning the weather gives plenty of reason to worry. Matches got underway for a mere 30 minutes at 9.15 am, then the weather gods disagreed and sent down intense rain. No reason to panic for the tournament director: „I can't change the weather anyway.“

Rain delays are part of any outdoor tournament and also in the Prättigau patience is required on a regular basis. The European Junior Championships were staged seven times in Klosters

since making their comeback here and three times the final rounds had to be played elsewhere, once in Bad Ragaz and twice in Davos. Also 2014, when there was no outside play on four days including the final weekend. The additional logistical work was huge, amongst other things matches had to be played in Liechtenstein. The food was transported to Schaan in military boxes, transportation faced additional challenges as well as referee Kurt Gogg. He had to supply an Order of Play which assured that players hadn't to undertake a monumental journey between their singles and doubles sites.

This year, Klosters can count on the new and neat indoor facility with three courts. A clear alleviation, mainly for the second part of the week. Because



of the limited amount of matches - 12 on friday, 6 on saturday and 2 on sunday - a change of location will definitely no longer be necessary on those days.

„However, if there is permanent rain during the first three days, we can't get the whole program through here indoors“, Markutt says. Some doubles have been finished yesterday in the new site. However, for today and tomorrow there is no significant improvement of the meteorological situation foreseeable yet. In case of further rain some matches could be held in Bad Ragaz. As of thursday, the summer season should come back to the mountains. It is this medium term forecast that gives optimism to Markutt: „I think we can get through the week as planned.“ His smile is back, he has faced much bigger adversity.

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