

## **Women's Forum – 28 January 2011**

### **Officiating**

- How/why I started umpiring
  - o My experiences – events and places I have been
  - o What officiating has done for me
  
- How to become an umpire
  - o Progression – local/county/national/international/blue badge
  - o Training courses – National Umpires and Referees Committee
  
- Officials
  - o Umpire/referee/tournament organiser

Margot Fraser

International blue badge umpire

## **How/why I started umpiring**

A table tennis work colleague who was an umpire and thought I looked bored when I played said I should become an umpire. To stop her nagging I qualified as a county umpire and probably became the most nervous umpire in the country. The World Championships in England in 1997 was my carrot to progress to national umpire and the rest 'just followed'! World Championships (England and Germany) and Commonwealth Games (England and Australia) have been my highlights with World Junior Championships (USA), World Schools, European Disabled and numerous other events (junior and senior) in Europe requiring my passport to be dusted.

I am no longer the quiet mouse that my umpiring colleagues deny remembering. My first yellow card was the hardest but very necessary and although not very frequent the red and yellow cards get shown easily when required! Umpiring has also led me onto a number of ETTA committees which are also no place for that once quiet mouse!

## **How to become an umpire**

A number of county umpire courses have recently been arranged with details on the ETTA website. County umpire test papers which can be done at home with the rules are available here today. Practical assessments will be arranged following successful completion of the test paper or will be done in conjunction with a course.

The local umpire qualification is the first rung of the umpiring ladder but is not recognised for open tournaments (those with ranking points) as it only covers the laws and not the regulations.

Our highest qualification is national umpire and progression is then on to international level which is the same qualification internationally. International umpires then have the opportunity to progress to blue badge which is the current requirement for umpiring at Commonwealth Games and Olympics.

## **Officials**

Umpires, of course, are not the only officials in table tennis.

A referee must be a county umpire before qualifying as a referee. The progression here is tournament referee, national referee and international referee.

Tournament organisers are also a very important role in staging any event and again there are training courses and a progression structure. Contact the Events Department for more information.

For all officiating roles women are the equal of the men and are treated no differently. At the recent Men's World Cup the final was umpired by a woman and the assistant umpire was also a woman!