

BEHAVIOUR

The last newsletter drew attention to the need for umpires to prevent young players being subjected to undue pressure from coaches and parents, and there have been fewer instances of this sort reported in the past season. However, there have been occasions on which young players have been subjected to aggressive remarks and even threats from an opponent. Most of them will simply ignore or laugh at such behaviour but a few can, for various reasons, be seriously disturbed by it. Umpires have a duty of care and should act to stop such conduct as soon as it arises; if it persists, the referee should be informed. Remember also that at all ETTA competitions there is an official responsible for child welfare and he or she should be involved wherever there is any risk of harm to a youngster.

OBITUARY

Sadly, in the past year we have lost John Hardcastle NU, for many years the Yorks CU Secretary; Ron Georgeson CU (Lancs); Brian Webb IU (Bucks); Rod Hullah CU (Yorks) and Mike Lewis CU, the Avon CU Secretary. Our sympathies go to their families and friends.

APOLOGY

I am sorry that pressure of other matters, associated mainly with the revision of the ETTA's Constitution to meet the requirements of the Government fund-providers, have delayed the preparation of this news letter. Fortunately there were no substantial rule changes to report so I hope the delay has not caused any difficulties. Normal service will be resumed in September 2014 and for now I wish all ETTA technical officials a Happy New Year.



New NU practical test set-up - the umpire has to control three matches simultaneously.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Ltd

TOC NEWS

No 24, December 2013

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME . . .

Following the 2013 ETTA elections, the new Board decided to revise the committee structure. As a result, the responsibilities of the former NURC were expanded to cover the training and qualification of tournament organisers as well as that of umpires and referees and the committee was renamed the **Technical Officials Committee (TOC)**. The committee and its specialist panels are now constituted as follows:

Committee	Stuart Sherlock (Chairman), David Edwards, Margot Fraser, Diccon Gray, John Mackey, Graham Rogerson, Steve Smith, Mick Strode, Karen Tonge & Colin Clemett (Secretary)
Umpire Training & Development	Karen Tonge (Co-ordinator), David Edwards, John Mackey, Tom Purcell, Mick Strode
Umpire Review	David Edwards, John Mackey, Tom Purcell, George Tyler
Umpire Selection	David Edwards (Secretary, domestic selections), Margot Fraser (Secretary, Int'l selections), Lynda Reid
Referee Appointment & Review	Stuart Sherlock, Mick Strode (National competitions) Tony Chatwin, Colin Clemett (International invitations)
TO Training & Selection	Graham Rogerson, Diccon Gray, Stuart Sherlock

ITTF LAW CHANGES 2013

The only Law change made was an amendment to define the order of play for a doubles pair consisting of a standing player and a wheelchair player and the new wording is:

2.8.3 In doubles, when at least one player of a pair is in a wheelchair due to a physical disability, the server shall first make a service, the receiver shall then make a return but thereafter either player of the disabled pair may make returns. However, no part of a player's wheelchair nor a foot of a standing player of this pair shall protrude beyond the imaginary extension of the centre line of the table. If it does, the umpire shall award the point to the opposing pair.

Obviously it will be very difficult for an umpire to judge whether a player's foot or part of a wheelchair crosses an imaginary line on the floor which is directly below an imaginary extension of a line on the table, but it is to be hoped that the Law will be interpreted in accordance with its intention, which is to prevent the standing player making all returns after the initial return of service.

TRAINING

The training programme continued with successful umpire courses in Morpeth, Basingstoke, Sheffield and Brighton. A first training course for tournament referees was held in London, where there was also a refresher course for qualified umpires. The success of the training programme is shown by the fact that in the past three seasons, 92 of the 109 CUs registered came as a direct result of NURC training courses. The future schedule includes the possibility of a basic course held inside a prison - no jokes about a captive audience, please.

QUALIFICATIONS

Congratulations to Lyndon Griffiths (Kent) and Joshua Reynolds (Yorkshire), who were successful at the National Umpires examination held in June, and to Diane Webb (Sussex) who qualified as a Tournament Referee. The next NU examination will be held towards the end of the season and any CUs interested should apply as soon as possible to the NURC Secretary. Candidates must normally have had 2 years' experience of umpiring at events played under the ITTF Regulations for International Competitions since qualifying as a CU; as a guide, this should include at least 6 open tournaments. However, those with exceptional qualifying experience may be accepted earlier at the discretion of the committee.

At international level, the ITTF requirement for Blue Badge IUs to officiate at a specified number of assessed international competitions in order to maintain the qualification meant that several of our Blue Badge holders were removed from the list; we hope that this will be only temporary and that they will have early opportunities to earn reinstatement. However, we were glad to learn that one had been added to the list when Russell Sutcliffe completed his qualification at the Paris World Championships.

The ITTF Young Umpires Project, was a "fast-track" scheme, associated with the 2014 Youth Olympic Games, to enable selected National Umpires aged between 18 and 26 to progress to IU standard by means of an on-line training course followed by an examination. Those who passed the examination would be qualified as IUs with effect from June 2014 and would be eligible for selection as umpires at the qualifying competition for the Youth Olympics and at the Games. There were 50 nominations from 30 Associations, including Alex Mercer and Joshua Reynolds from the ETTA, and it is pleasing to report that both were successful. Joshua has since been invited to officiate at the Youth Olympics qualifying tournament in Portugal in January 2014.

SPORTS OFFICIALS UK (SOUK)

This organisation, at which the ETTA is represented by Karen Tonge, was set up to support and represent officials of a range of sports in the UK, and to promote the exchange of information and advice on matters such as training and mentoring. This year it inaugurated a series of what will be annual awards in six categories. We nominated candidates in all categories and we were very gratified when four of our nominees were short-listed for the titles. We were even more delighted when Tony Chatwin won the Life-Time Achievement

award and Joshua Reynolds was named Young Match Official of the Year, with Karen Tonge runner-up for Commitment to Officiating Development and Tom Purcell runner-up for Performance Official of the Year.

INTERNATIONAL UMPIRES 2012-13

The following umpires were selected for tournaments overseas:

Flanders Open Championships, Antwerp	Eric Pentland
European Championships, Herning	David Brown, David Cochrane Neil Curtis, John Mackey, Mick Strode
German Open Championships, Bremen	David Brown
Austrian Open Championships, Wels	John Mackey, Derek Sherratt, Russell Sutcliffe
Qatar Open Championships Qatar	Russell Sutcliffe
ITTF PTT International Tournament, Lignano	Eric Pentland, Lynda Reid
World Individual Championships, Paris	Russell Sutcliffe
ITTF PTT Bayreuth Open Championships	Eric Pentland
European Youth Championships, Ostrava	Eric Pentland

REFEREES 2012-13

The following served as referees for international competitions:

European Youth Championships, Ostrava	Stuart Sherlock (Referee)
2012 Olympic Games, London	Stuart Sherlock (Deputy)
2012 Paralympic Games, London	Steve Welch (Deputy)
Austrian Open Championships, Wels	Stuart Sherlock (Deputy)
Men's World Cup, Liverpool	Karen Tonge (Deputy)
Czech PTT Championships	Stuart Sherlock (Referee)
Special Olympics, Bath	Tim Harris (Referee) Les Smith (Deputy)

REFEREES 2013-14

The following appointments have been made:

Junior/Cadet National Championships, Preston	Steve Welch (Referee) David Cochrane (Deputy)
Senior National Championships, Sheffield	Brian Jackson (Referee) Karen Tonge (Deputy)
Under 11-14 National Championships, Doncaster	David Cochrane (Referee) TBA (Deputy)
Cadet 6-Nations Championships, Lilleshall	Steve Smith (Referee)
Youth Olympics Qualification & Global Junior Circuit Finals, Vilanova de Gaia, Portugal	Stuart Sherlock (Referee)
Commonwealth Games, Glasgow	Stuart Sherlock (Referee)