

PERSISTENT MISBEHAVIOUR

In team events, warnings and penalty points for misbehavior are automatically carried over from each individual match to later matches but there is no such provision for individual events. Thus a player can be warned or penalised several times in the same event without any increase in the penalty, and some players have acquired 5 or 6 warnings in the same tournament. Persistent misbehavior in a single match would lead eventually to the umpire reporting the matter to the Referee, but if the offences occur in different matches this does not happen. Therefore, a referee who becomes aware that a player has received, say, 3 yellow cards in a tournament should formally warn the player that he risks more severe disciplinary action if he continues to misbehave and treat any subsequent offence as though it had been reported by an umpire.

NURC PUBLICATIONS

The Handbook for Umpires has been published. It is supplied free to new CUs on registration and to umpires active on the "tournament circuit" and can be bought by others at a cost of £1.50, post free. We shall shortly be buying a new stock of Umpire's Record Books for those who wish to record their umpiring activities. These will be free to NU/IUs and to those active at tournaments, and will be on sale to others for £1.00.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Service Law 1926

The service shall be delivered by the server projecting or dropping the ball by hand into the air. The ball shall then be struck so that it touch first the server's court and then, passing directly over or around the net, touch the striker-out's court. At the moment of the impact of the racket on the ball in service, both shall be behind the end line of the server's court and between an imaginary continuation of the side lines.

Where did it all go wrong?

CONTACTS

Comments, questions or suggestions on any aspect of umpiring or refereeing are always welcome and members of the committee can be contacted by email at the following addresses:

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ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Ltd

NURC NEWS

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COMMITTEE 2010-11

There are several changes to the composition of the committee and its specialist panels for this season. Roger Vardon has retired from the committee, on which he has served since 2000, and is replaced by Karen Tonge, returning after an absence of 6 years. The Umpire Review Panel, re-titled to reflect a wider responsibility, has been enlarged with the addition of Andy Seward and Tom Purcell and a new panel has been created to oversee umpire training and development. The new structure is as follows:

NURC:	Stuart Sherlock (Chairman), David Edwards, Margot Fraser, John Mackey, Mick Strode, Karen Tonge MBE & Colin Clemett (Secretary)
Umpire Review & Mentoring:	David Edwards, John Mackey, Andy Seward, Tom Purcell & George Tyler
Umpire Selection:	Margot Fraser (Secy, foreign events), Alan Harwood, David Edwards (Secy, home events) & Roger Vardon
Umpire Training & Development:	David Edwards, John Mackey, Tom Purcell, Mick Strode & Karen Tonge
Referee Review:	Stuart Sherlock & Mick Strode
Referee Selection:	(foreign events only) Tony Chatwin & Colin Clemett

ITTF RULE CHANGES 2010

Two changes to the Laws were agreed at the ITTF AGM in May. First, a point is no longer scored for an accidental double hit, such as when the ball touches the racket hand and the racket, and if this happens the umpire should take no action. Second, the expedite system cannot be introduced in a game for any reason if a total of at least 18 points have been scored - ie if the score has reached 9-9 or 10-8. The ETTA AGM in July adopted two of the Regulations for International Competitions as part of the ETTA Approved Laws, which apply to all competitive table tennis in England, including League matches. Racket coverings must be of a brand and type currently authorised by the ITTF and a racket cannot be changed during an individual match unless it is accidentally damaged so badly that it cannot be used. In a change to the ITTF Regulations for International Competitions, players in a team event may receive advice only from persons authorised to be in the playing area, and the umpire is responsible for ensuring that only those duly authorised are allowed there. Obviously this can be applied only to competitions whose regulations specify the number and perhaps the functions of those allowed on the "team bench".

UMPIRE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

With the support of the AETTU an "umpire refresher" seminar was held in Bulkington at the end of August and this was attended by some 45 umpires. The proceedings were opened by the ETTA Chairman and members of the committee spoke on various topics, including recent rule changes and their effect. As so often on these occasions, the lively and lengthy discussions that ensued meant that it was not possible to cover all the scheduled topics in the time available, but comments from some of those attending suggest that this was a worthwhile venture. It is hoped to conduct further training seminars in various ETTA Regions during the season and we are prepared to provide speakers and training material free for any local seminars that Counties or Regions wish to organise, subject to there being enough people attending to justify the cost. Anyone interested should contact Karen Tonge.

NATIONAL UMPIRES

At the National Umpire examination held in Grantham in May 2010, Ken Eliot and Alex Mercer, both of Lincolnshire, qualified as NUs 234 and 235 respectively. We plan to hold a National Umpire examination towards the end of the season and CU Secretaries are invited to submit nominations as soon as possible so that we can arrange for practical assessment at one of the national championships. Again, we should like also to know of any LUs or CUs who may not yet be ready for the NU examination but who wish to progress their umpiring careers by officiating at competitions outside their own locality; their names and addresses should be sent to David Edwards.

INTERNATIONAL UMPIRES

Congratulations to Neil Curtis (Sussex), who this year became the 170th English umpire to achieve the IU qualification and to Stan Clarke and Derek Sherratt, both of whom attained Blue Badge status.

INTERNATIONAL UMPIRE SELECTIONS

The following umpires were selected to officiate at competitions abroad:

European Mini Championships, Schiltigheim	Lynda Reid
UK School Games, Newport, Wales	Brian Gibbs, John Hardcastle, Peter May, Nick Osland, George Tyler, Ken Eliot, Bob Evans, Alex Mercer, Alan Thomas
European Championships, Stuttgart	David Cochrane, Peter May
German PTT Open Championships	Tom Purcell, Lynda Reid
PTT Tournaments, Lignano	Eric Pentland, Lynda Reid,
Junior 6-Nations Championships, Largs	David Brown, Alex Mercer, Graham Rollinson, Bob Williamson
ISF World Schools Championships, Brno	Margot Fraser, John Hardcastle
Luxembourg Open Championships	David Edwards, Derek Sherratt
German Junior Championships, Seligenstadt	Bill Moran
Spanish Youth Championships, Platja D'Aro	Stan Clarke, Bill Moran, Lynda Reid
World Team Championships, Moscow	Peter May
European Championships, Ostrava	Lynda Reid

REFEREE QUALIFICATION

Steve Smith (Buckinghamshire) and Jim Kenny (Yorkshire) have qualified as Tournament Referees 128 and 129 respectively. The shortage of National Referees has meant a growing work-load for those currently active and to ease the situation, pending the qualification of new NRs, it is proposed to relax the requirement for the referee of a 3-star tournament to be qualified to this level. TRs of whose competence the committee is satisfied will be allowed to act as Referees of such tournaments where no NR is available. A National Referee exam will be held later in the season and any TRs who believe they have sufficient experience and ability to progress to this level are invited to apply.

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

The following referees have been appointed by the National Championships Committee for the 2009/10 National Championships:

	<u>Referee</u>	<u>Deputy Referee</u>
Senior	Mick Strobe	Aubrey Drapkin
Junior/Cadet	Karen Tonge	Steve Smith
U10-14	To be appointed in October	

Karen Tonge was a Deputy Referee at the Junior World Circuit tournament in Taiyuan, China; Stuart Sherlock was appointed a Deputy Referee at the Japan Open in Kobe and the 2010 Commonwealth Games in India and a Referee at the Men's World Cup in Magdeburg, Germany; Steve Welch was a Deputy Referee at the China Open in Suzhou and has been appointed Referee of the 2011 Paralympics International Championships to be held in Sheffield in 2011.

OLYMPIC GAMES 2012

Under a policy adopted last year by the ITTF, the Referee of future Olympic and World Championships must be from an Association other than that of the host country, which may provide a Deputy Referee. It was subsequently announced that Stuart Sherlock will be a Deputy Referee at the 2012 Olympics and that Steve Welch will fulfil the same function at the Paralympics. It has been confirmed also that Great Britain, comprising the Home Countries, will be allocated a total of 4 umpires at the Olympics competition and 18 at the Paralympics. Olympics umpires will have to be holders of the Blue Badge, but there will be no such restriction for the Paralympics. As the opportunity to umpire will obviously be limited, it is suggested that anyone who wishes to be part of the 2012 Olympics organisation consider registering as a volunteer.

WHEELCHAIR PLAYERS

A few wheelchair players who take part in League matches have reported that their opponents (and umpires) sometimes refuse to observe the requirements for wheelchair play, on the grounds that these apply only to competitions which are specifically for disabled players. This is, of course, not true. Since 2005 the Laws have incorporated these requirements and they apply to all competitive play. In particular, in singles, if the receiver is in a wheelchair and the ball in service bounces on the receiver's court and then passes over a sideline, the rally is a let; the server cannot score a point by serving wide.