

FOREIGN APPOINTMENTS 2015/16

English match officials were on duty at the following overseas competitions:

Czech Open, Olomouc, 26-30.8.15	David Gough, John Mackey
Euro Mini Champs, Schiltigheim, 28-30.8.15	Lynda Reid
Austrian Open, Wels, 2-6.9.	Joshua Reynolds
Belgian World Tour, De Haan, 8-12.9.15	Neil Curtis, David Gough, Harry Jutle, Alan Thomas
Euro PTT Open, Vejle, 12-17.10.15	Lynda Reid, Eric Pentland, Alan Thomas
Euro Youth Top 10, Busau, 16-18.10.15	Brian Jackson
Polish Open, Warsaw, 21-25.10.15	Alex Mercer
Belgian PTT Open, Sint Niklaas, 31.10-2.11.15	David Gough, Eric Pentland, Alan Thomas
Swedish Open, Stockholm, 11-15.11.16	Alex Mercer, Tom Purcell
Olympic test event, Rio de Janeiro, 18-21.11.15	David Edwards
Portuguese Youth Championships, Loule, 18-22.11.15	Alan Thomas
German Open, Berlin, 27-31.1.16	Neil Curtis, David Edwards
European Top 16, Gondomar, 5-7.2.16	Neil Curtis
Lignano PTT Internationals, Lignano, 15-20.2.16	Harry Jutle
World Team Championships, Kuala Lumpur, 28.2.16	Tom Purcell
Luxembourg Open, Luxembourg, 28-31.3.16	Harry Jutle, John Mackey, Alan Thomas
European Olympic Qualification, Halmstad, 12-16.4.16	Neil Curtis
Belgian Junior/Cadet Open, Spa, 20-24.4.16	David Gough, Alan Thomas
Slovenia Open, Lasko, 4-7.5.16	David Cochrane, Lynda Reid, Alan Thomas
World Veterans Championships, Alicante, 23-29.5.16	Harry Jutle, Eric Pentland
European Youth Championships, Zagreb, 8-17.7.16	Alan Thomas
Olympics 2016, Rio de Janeiro, 6-17.8.16 (Referee)	Stuart Sherlock

International Umpires applying for overseas appointments are reminded that they are expected also to give reasonable support to home competitions. The selectors will take account of the number of domestic events an applicant has applied for and, if selected, officiated at, in the current or immediately previous seasons.

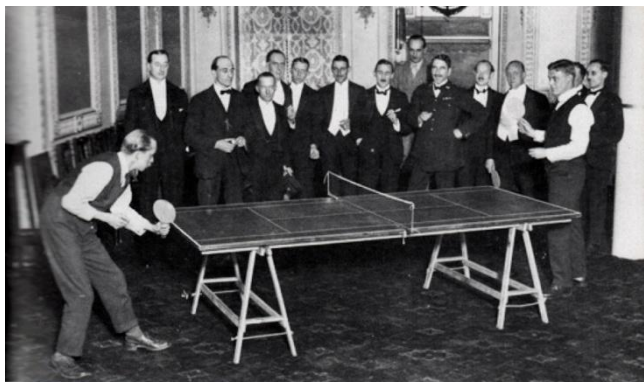


Table tennis from the early 1900s. Note the "tennis court" markings on the table.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Ltd

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TOC NEWS

No 27, October 2016

The Technical Officials Committee and its panels for 2016/17 are as follows:

Committee	Stuart Sherlock (Chairman), David Edwards, Margot Fraser, Brian Jackson, John Mackey, Amanda Robinson, Steve Smith, Karen Tonge MBE, Greg Yarnall, Colin Clemett (Secretary)
Umpire Training & Development	Karen Tonge (Co-ordinator), David Edwards, John Mackey
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 Review	Stuart Sherlock, Steve Smith, Karen Tonge, Steve Welch
Tournament Management	Stuart Sherlock, John Mackey, Amanda Robinson

ITTF RULE CHANGES

As in the previous season there were no changes to the Laws at this year's ITTF AGM. Among the amendments to the Regulations for International Competitions the one that has attracted the most attention was to the advice regulations. The ITTF announcement of the change quotes only the paragraph which has been amended and this seems to have given the misleading impression that it is a stand-alone regulation, but it is actually part of a set and is not really complete on its own. The full regulations now read as follows, with the amended paragraph underlined:

- 3.5.1 *Advice*
- 3.5.1.1 *In a team event, players may receive advice from anyone authorised to be at the playing area.*
- 3.5.1.2 *In an individual event, a player or pair may receive advice only from one person, designated beforehand to the umpire, except that where the players of a doubles pair are from different Associations each may designate an adviser, but with regard to 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 these two advisers shall be treated as a unit; if an unauthorised person gives advice the umpire shall hold up a red card and send him or her away from the playing area.*
- 3.5.1.3 *Players may receive advice at any time except during rallies, provided play is not thereby delayed; if any authorised person gives advice illegally the umpire shall hold up a yellow card to warn him or her that any further such offence will result in his or her dismissal from the playing area.*

- 3.5.1.4 *After a warning has been given, if in the same team match or the same match of an individual event anyone again gives advice illegally, the umpire shall hold up a red card and send him or her away from the playing area, whether or not he or she was the person warned.*
- 3.5.1.5 *In a team match the dismissed adviser shall not be allowed to return, except when required to play, and he or she shall not be replaced by another adviser until the team match has ended; in an individual event he or she shall not be allowed to return until the individual match has ended.*
- 3.5.1.6 *If the dismissed adviser refuses to leave, or returns before the end of the match, the umpire shall suspend play and report to the referee.*
- 3.5.1.7 *These regulations shall apply only to advice on play and shall not prevent a player or captain, as appropriate, from making a legitimate appeal nor hinder a consultation with an interpreter or Association representative on the explanation of a juridical decision.*

Although this is not a major change, it does go some way to simplifying regulations which have become increasingly difficult to apply consistently. In effect, the offence has become delaying play rather than just the giving of advice at particular times. An umpire does not now have to decide whether, during the intervals between rallies, signals made by a coach or remarks in a language he or she does not understand constitute advice or are just encouragement provided play is not held up. These regulations apply, of course, only to competitions conducted under the International Regulations, such as BL, CC and open tournaments; the Laws, which govern competitions such as Leagues, place no restrictions on advice during a match.

Another amendment concerned racket coverings:

3.2.1.3 *Any ordinary pimped rubber or sandwich rubber covering the racket shall be currently authorised by the ITTF and shall be attached to the blade so that the ITTF logo, the ITTF number (when present), the supplier and brand names are clearly visible nearest the handle.*

This means that a player using a racket penholder-style cannot use unauthorised pimped or sandwich rubber on the non-striking side of the racket but is still free to use any other type of covering or none, and it is hard to see the purpose of this change.

The status of attachments to the net assembly such as small microphones or cameras, referred to as 'technical equipment', has now been defined:

3.2.3.9 *Technical equipment on the net assembly shall be considered part of it.*

This simply formalises what had been generally assumed - ie that the ball in play touching these items was the same as its touching any other part of the net assembly.

Finally, the regulation concerning advertising on nets was modified to:

3.2.5.7 *There may be 2 advertisements on nets on each side of the table which shall be clearly different from the colour of the ball in use and shall not be within 3cm of the tape along the top edge; advertisements placed on parts of the net within the vertical extensions of the side lines of the table shall not obscure visibility through the mesh.*

OTHER ITTF NEWS

Perhaps more significant than the regulation amendments made at the AGM were some changes introduced by the Umpires & Referees Committee (URC). Umpires at major international competitions are now required to use a system of hand signals to explain their reasons for faulting a service. There are 7 such signals, covering 'ball not thrown high enough', 'palm not open', 'ball resting on fingers', 'ball below playing surface', 'ball struck over playing surface', 'ball not thrown vertically' and 'ball hidden from receiver'. The purpose is, of course, to overcome possible misunderstand where umpire and player do not speak the same language. Details of these signals and an explanatory video can be found on the TOC website.

The URC is proposing also to make substantial changes to the uniform for match officials at international competitions. Full details are not yet available but it is known that the traditional blazer and tie will be replaced by an open-neck sports shirt. The new uniforms are to be used at the forthcoming World Cup Competitions for men and women and a final decision will be made when the reactions of players and spectators to the changes have been assessed.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATION

During the season umpire training courses were held in Harlow and Grantham and largely as a result of these courses 34 new County Umpires were registered. It is planned to hold further courses during 2016/17 but the programme is temporarily on hold while the course is being reviewed and updated.

Kim Mudge and Lester Smith qualified as National Umpires at an examination held in June. Candidates for this examination should normally have had at least two years' experience of umpiring at competitions held under the ITTF Regulations for International Competitions, such as open tournaments and BL/CC Weekends, but those with exceptional experience may be accepted earlier. The examination is usually held at the end of the season but applications can be made at any time; the application form is available from the TOC Secretary.

Nico Caltabiano, Lyndon Griffiths and Derek Sidaway all passed the 2016 International Umpire examination, bringing the total of English umpires who have attained this qualification to 180. Nico had another success when he completed his qualification as a Tournament Referee and Dave Goulden also joined the TR list. A refresher course for qualified referees is being held in October and it is hoped later to arrange training courses for those wishing to take the TR test.

OBITUARY

We regret to report the deaths during the season of Ron Douglas CU (Durham), Neil Houghton CU (South Yorkshire), Selwyn Pachter TU (Middlesex), Len Pilditch IU (Middlesex), Chris Purkis CU (Essex), Derek Sherratt IU (Staffordshire), and Liz Wilson IU (Shropshire). They will be sadly missed.