

HISTORY CORNER

The original County Umpire test required the candidates to write out their answers in detail, rather than simply ticking one of several options. The following questions are from the first CU written test paper, published in the 1951/52 season. (*For the benefit of younger readers, at that time a game consisted of 21 points, the receiver was called the "striker-out" and the ball in service had to be struck within an imaginary extension of the side lines.*)

- 1 What restrictions are there on the type of racket used?
- 2 What options has the player winning the toss in a singles match?
- 3 A serves the first 5 services of the game and leads 3-2. He serves a 6th time and the umpire notices the error after B has made a good return but while the ball is still in play. What action must the umpire take?
- 4 What action must be taken by the umpire over a player who consecutively serves (a) 2 net cord services, (b) 3 net cord services?
- 5 In service the server stands outside the imaginary continuation of the side line and when the ball leaves the hand both hand and ball are outside this imaginary continuation. The ball is, however, thrown sideways so that at the moment of impact both bat and ball are behind the end line and within the imaginary continuation of the side line. Is this a good service? Give reasons.
- 6 (a) Both players have scored 20 points. How should the score be called?
(b) After this score, 4 more points are necessary to decide the game and the first 3 of these are all won by "ace" services (ie, services which the striker-out fails to return). What is the score after each of these points?
- 7 Under what circumstances (if any) would you allow a service in which the ball is released from the palm of a flat hand, with fingers straight and thumb free, by projecting it upwards slightly out of the vertical and then imparting heavy chop with the racket?



Beijing Hotel sign

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Ltd

Trading as Table Tennis England

TOC NEWS

No 26, October 2015

The Technical Officials Committee and its panels for 2014/15 are as follows:

Committee	Stuart Sherlock (Chairman), David Edwards, Margot Fraser, John Mackey, Amanda Robinson (Staff representative), Graham Rogerson, Steve Smith, Karen Tonge, 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
Tournament Management	Stuart Sherlock, John Mackey, Amanda Robinson
Tournament Organisers:	G Rogerson, A Robinson

ITTF RULE CHANGES

Once again there were no changes to the Laws at the ITTF AGM. The Board of Directors did, however, approve the following proposition from the German Association: *Players may receive advice any time except during rallies and between the end of practice and the start of a match; if any authorised person gives advice at other times 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.*

This proposition is due to come into effect until 1 October 2016 but may be modified before then. There were also some changes with respect to racket testing:

The racket control test shall be carried out after the match only where the player does not submit the racket for a before-match test.

Rackets that do not pass the racket control test before a match cannot be used but may be replaced by a second racket which may be tested immediately if time permits, but if not will be tested after the match; in the case where rackets do not pass a random racket control test after the match, the offending player will be liable to penalties.

And finally, the BoD agreed an addition to the Control of Misbehaviour regulations to cover offences which may not be serious enough to entail instant penalisation:

For less serious offences which do not justify disqualification the referee may decide to report such an offence to a Disciplinary Panel.

The ITTF Executive Committee will set up such a panel for competitions under its direct control, but it is not at present proposed for domestic competitions.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Weekend umpire training courses were held in various areas of the country and, as a result, 20 new County Umpires were qualified during the season. Another programme of courses is planned for the current season and the first was held in Wembley/Harrow in September. The panel will do its best to arrange and conduct courses wherever required, provided that the attendance will be sufficient to justify the costs. Anyone wishing to host such a course should contact Karen Tonge as early as possible.

Five CUs under the age of 19 have been nominated for a young officials' Talent Camp to be organised by the Youth Sport Trust at Loughborough University in December.

UMPIRE QUALIFICATION

There were 4 LU and 25 CU registrations during the season. At an examination held in London in May 2015 David Evans (Yorkshire) and Shawn Haskell (Devon) qualified as National Umpires. It is not too early for potential NU candidates to apply for the next examination, which will be held at the end of the season. Candidates should be CUs with at least 2 years' experience of umpiring at open tournaments and other events played under international regulations, and an application form is available from the TOC Secretary.

There was no International Umpire examination last season but the latest (July 2015) list of Blue Badge IUs shows that David Cochrane, Neil Curtis, David Edwards, John Mackey, Tom Purcell and Russell Sutcliffe hold this top international qualification.

REFEREE QUALIFICATION

David Adamson (Avon), Janie Kirby (Glos) and Matt Porter (Durham) completed their qualification as Tournament Referees but, as last season, there were no candidates for the NR examination. We need urgently to build up the number of NRs and any TR who has been active for at least 2 years since qualifying and who has refereed 4 or more tournaments of 2-star rating or the equivalent is invited to apply for the examination. It is proposed later in the season to hold a refresher course for qualified referees and it is hoped that this will encourage some experienced TRs to take the next step.

EXPENSES

The Marketing and Communications Department, to which the TOC is responsible, has issued a new set of guidelines on the reimbursement of expenses to umpires and other volunteers at national competitions. These include a car mileage allowance of 37p/mile for a single traveller and 45p/mile where a car is shared by two or more people. The allowance for dinner can now be up to £10.00, or up to £7.50 where lunch has not been provided by the organisers. Full details can be found on the website.

UNIFORM

Badges and ties have been re-designed to incorporate the Table Tennis England logo and supplies are on order. Availability and prices will be published on the website.

FOREIGN APPOINTMENTS

English match officials were appointed at the following overseas competitions:

UMPIRES

Belgian Open Championships, De Haan	Neil Curtis, David Gough, Harry Jutle, Tom Purcell, Alan Thomas
World Para Championships, Beijing	David Cochrane
European Team Championships, Lisbon	Lynda Reid
European Top 16 Cup, Baku	Neil Curtis
Qatar Open Championships, Doha	Neil Curtis
German Open Championships, Bremen	David Edwards, Alex Mercer
Belgian Open Championships, Spa	Neil Curtis, David Gough
Luxembourg Open Championships, Luxembourg,	Neil Curtis, David Gough, Harry Jutle, John Lawton, Russell Sutcliffe, Alan Thomas

Canadian Junior Open Championships, Toronto	Tom Purcell
Bayreuth PTT Championships, Bayreuth	Margot Fraser, Lynda Reid
European Games, Baku	Tom Purcell
European Youth Championships, Bratislava	Eric Pentland

REFEREES

Top 16 Cup, Baku	Stuart Sherlock
Bulgarian Open Championships, Panagyurishte	Stuart Sherlock
Lignano Masters Open Championships, Lignano	Steve Welch
Belgian Open Championships, Spa	Stuart Sherlock
Bayreuth Para Open Championships, Bayreuth	Karen Tonge
European Youth Championships, Bratislava	Karen Tonge

It was announced also that Stuart Sherlock would referee the 2016 Olympic Games table tennis competition in Rio and the test event to be held there in November 2015.

AFFILIATION

The Board has approved some changes to the Affiliation Regulations and, as a result, qualified match officials and tournament organisers will no longer be automatically affiliated as Associate Members. This means that unless you are affiliated as a Player Member you will not be affiliated, and you will not be covered by the Company's Public Liability Insurance. Note also that membership of an Affiliated Organisation, such as an Affiliated Club or Local League, does not confer individual affiliation. As you will know, affiliation as an Associate Member is now free but you need to apply as an individual, and all those who are not otherwise affiliated are strongly urged to do so.

OBITUARY

We learned with regret of the deaths of Ken Bridle CU, Brian Halliday CU, John Kingscott CU, Phil McClue CU, George Payne IU and Lesley Rate CU and our sympathies go to their families and friends.