

REFEREE QUALIFICATION

Simon Morgan (Herefordshire) qualified as a Tournament Referee during 2017/18, and Kim Mudge (Surrey) qualified in September 2018. Two provisional TRs are awaiting assessment before completing the assessment process.

If you are interested in becoming a referee then the test paper is available from the TOC Secretary.

UMPIRE QUALIFICATION

Level 1 (County) Umpires

There were 31 Level 1(County) Umpire registrations during the season; congratulations to each of them on their achievement. These new umpires had qualified through seminars of the new umpire programme; this is proving to be a very successful development in umpire training thanks to the hard work of the co-ordinator Karen Tonge and the team of tutors.

Level 2 (National) Umpires

At examinations held this year for the Level 2 (National) Umpire qualification both Johanna Outhwaite (Warwickshire) and Linda Roff (Essex) qualified as a National Umpire; congratulations to each of them on this significant achievement in their umpiring careers.

A third umpire has passed the written examination but is awaiting a practical assessment.

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.

Level 3 (International) Umpires

All three of the English umpires that sat the International Umpire exam in March were successful, and David Evans, Kim Mudge and Lester Smith are all now proudly wearing their IU badge.

Congratulations to each of them!!

Pre-exam Training

The TOC Secretary arranged pre-exam seminars to help the IU and NU candidates prepare for the exams and it is understood that the candidates found this helpful in their preparation. It is planned that similar seminars will be held in the future.

Changes to the Level 2 (National) Umpire examination

At the TOC meeting held in July the committee reviewed the examination process of written test paper, interview and practical assessment. Consideration was taken of the system adopted in many European countries whereby the process consists of a multiple-choice exam and practical assessment without the additional requirement of an interview. It was considered that the gaining of the Level 2 (National) umpire qualification in this country, by virtue of the interview, is more demanding than gaining the International Umpire qualification. It was decided to discontinue the interview as part of the Level 2 (National) umpire qualification.

OBITUARY

We regret to report the deaths during the season of Tony Chatwin IU and IR; John Freeman NR and IU; Jack Melnick IU; John Montgomery CU; Wilf Rhodes IU; Gill Smith NU and NR; Steve Welch IU and IR; Doug Young IU and IR. They will be sadly missed.

Table Tennis England

ToC NEWS

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The Technical Officials' Committee and its panels for 2018/19 are as follows:-

Committee: Stuart Sherlock (Chairman), David Edwards, Margot Fraser, Brian Jackson, Harry Jutle, Karen Tonge MBE, Tom Purcell (Board representative), Greg Yarnall (staff representative), John Mackey (Secretary)

Umpire Training & Development: Karen Tonge MBE (Co-ordinator), David Edwards, John Mackey
Umpire Review: David Edwards, John Mackey, Tom Purcell, Karen Tonge MBE
Umpire Selection: David Edwards (Secretary, domestic selections)
Vacant (Secretary, international selections), Lynda Reid

Referee Review: Stuart Sherlock, Brian Jackson, Karen Tonge MBE

Tournament Management: Stuart Sherlock, John Mackey, Carol Miles

Tournament Organisers: Stuart Sherlock, Carol Miles

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

The Code of Conduct for officials adopted by Table Tennis England is as published by the International Table Tennis Federation. The ITTF Code of Conduct is contained within Appendix D of the ITTF Handbook for Match Officials, and the following is the url for the Code:-

https://d3mjm6zw6cr45s.cloudfront.net/2016/09/HMO_15th_edition.pdf

All officials, especially whilst wearing uniform, are representatives of the Association and good conduct at an event is a responsibility we all have as ambassadors of our sport. It may be helpful to highlight a few aspects of the Code:-

MATCH OFFICIALS SHOULD

- a) Be in official uniform, whilst on duty, and maintain a good appearance and personal hygiene;
- b) Be available for duty when required. An umpire who is missing when required for a match creates difficulties for the referee team, and delays to the start of a match impact adversely on the players, coaches and spectators. A missing umpire often means that someone else has to officiate in the match and this is unfair on colleagues who thereby probably have their rest time shortened;
- c) Maintain strict impartiality and avoid any relationship with players or coaches that might cast doubt on that impartiality. If an umpire is engaged in very friendly conversation with a player or coach (and possibly a parent) then this could cast doubt in the mind of the other player/coach about the umpire's impartiality when making decisions during the match; once doubt has been created it is very difficult to dispel that doubt;

- d) Whenever possible avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity with persons under the age of 18 or with people who are vulnerable. There are usually plenty of people about at an event venue so the occasions when this might be possible are limited. This advice is for your own protection as well as for the young or vulnerable person.

MATCH OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT

- e) Discuss tournament incidents or other issues with players, spectators or the media. Sometimes a player, coach or parent wants to discuss an aspect of a match with the umpire once a match is over; do not enter into such discussions but refer them to the referee. It is important that the match scoresheet is returned to the control desk as quickly as possible because match scheduling is often tight and courtside discussions delay the tournament's progress.
- f) Accept gifts from players, coaches or teams; this could cast doubt on your impartiality;
- g) Consume alcoholic beverages, or take drugs or medications that could inhibit performance, before their match on the day they are to officiate;
- h) Publicly criticise other officials or otherwise bring the game into disrepute, including the use of social media. The official policy for the use of social media can be found at the following url:
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/safeguarding/social-media-guidelines/>

OFFICIALS' PORTAL AND GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) is legislation, introduced on 25 May 2018, designed to ensure that personal data held about individuals is safe and only used for purposes agreed to by an individual. Table Tennis England cannot now pass personal data to a Tournament Organiser to help them arrange an umpiring team for their competition, without the umpire having cleared this to happen via a GDPR authorisation. Similarly, personal data can only be legally held on a computer with the consent of the particular individual. Table Tennis England has to fully comply with GDPR within 12 months of the implementation date.

The Umpires' Portal was launched on 26 July and umpires are now able to record the events at which they have officiated, apply for future events and control their personal data held on the Portal.

The new TTE Coaching and Officials Portal is the answer to this GDPR issue. TOC and Table Tennis England are asking that all Officials sign up to this and give consent so that Tournament Organisers and other persons within Table Tennis England are able to contact you in the future.

So far of the 197 active umpires we have listed approximately 70% have signed up to the portal giving their consent. Obviously this needs to be much higher to keep things running smoothly. An email circulation, the last one potentially before all existing records will legally have to be deleted has been sent to all Officials on 19 October.

RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Table Tennis England Board has introduced a major focus on the recruitment, training and development of technical officials. The identified priorities are:

- a) Improvement in umpire diversity through recruitment of new umpires
- b) Develop an increased support model for umpires to progress through the career pathway
- c) Increase in the number of referees
- d) Event review of officiating needs

A team at Milton Keynes, in conjunction with TOC, has been established to lead the initiative. Greg Yarnall has the strategic overview, supported by Chris Newton (operational/strategic lead) and Aled Howell (course programme development support). Tom Purcell, as a member of the Board, will sit on the Technical Officials Committee to oversee the strategy. The Road to 2022 programme, a strategy linked to the hosting of the Commonwealth Games by Birmingham in that year, will be launched as part of the Young Ambassador programme.

FOREIGN APPOINTMENTS 2017/18

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

Bulgarian Open, Panagyurishte, 15-20.8.17	John Mackey, Tom Purcell
Czech Open, Olomouc, 22-27.8.17	John Mackey
Belgian PTT, St. Niklaas, 28-30.10.17	Derek Sidaway, Alan Thomas
Belgian Open, De Haan, 31.10-4.11.17	Neil Curtis, David Gough, Harry Jutle Derek Sidaway, Alan Thomas
Finlandia Open, Kisakalliontia, Finland, 7-10.12	Alex Mercer
German World Tour, Magdeburg, 7-12.11.17	Nico Caltabiano (withdrew after selection)
Hungarian World Tour, Budapest 16-21.1.18	Tom Purcell
Czech Junior and Cadet Open, Hodonin, 14-18.2.18	Derek Sidaway, Alan Thomas
Lignano PTT, 15-17.3.18	Lynda Reid
German Open, Bremen, 20-25.3.18	David Edwards
Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast, Australia, 4-15.4.18	Harry Jutle, John Mackey, Tom Purcell
Croatia Open, Zagreb 10-14.4.18	Derek Sidaway
Belgian Junior, Spa, 18-22.4.18	Lyndon Griffiths, Alan Thomas
World Team Championships, Halmstad, Sweden 29.4-6.5.18	Tom Purcell
World Veterans, Las Vegas, 18-24.6.18	Jim Bolton, Tim Fields (subsequently withdrew), Geoffrey Joseph

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.

