



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Things are quiet at the moment but as you will see from the minutes of the last meeting we are seeking representation on TOC, not as a member, but as a representative of the Association. This would mean we would be able to put forward the views of the Association, but not necessarily be bound by decisions made by TOC.

Congratulations to members who have been selected for overseas events. From my experiences these trips have always been enjoyable, and meeting with foreign umpires has always been both educational and uplifting.

I saw this in our NURC Newsletter dated 1999:

OVERHEARD IN EINDHOVEN

An International Umpire (not English) on being reminded that score indicators should not be reset immediately a game has ended. "Of course I know what we're supposed to do, but I don't agree with it!"

Sometimes you see something completely divorced from table tennis yet could almost have been written for it. How about this for umpires?

"If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you;

If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,

And make allowances for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired of waiting;

Or being hated don't give way to hating,

And yet don't look too good nor talk too wise.

Rudyard Kipling

Regards to all

George Tyler - Chairman

**AETTU COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM
SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2018
12:00hrs BULKINGTON VILLAGE CENTRE**

Present: George Tyler (GT), Tom Purcell (TP), Trevor Vincent (TV), Mike Payne (MP), Lillian Payne (LP), Stan Clarke (SC), Brian Freer (BF) Brian Watkins (BW), Jim Kenny (JK), John Stalker (JS)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and one minute's silence was held for Wilf Rhodes (IU) who has died since the last meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Tony Chatwin, Lester Smith, Steve Welch

2. **Minutes from the meeting on 25th June 2017**

The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Trevor Vincent Seconded: Brian Freer Carried

3. **Matter Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the members present. Secretary reported on three actions from the minutes.

Action 1. Secretary to contact TTE re dates/venues for refresher training - Completed

Completed. TP informed the meeting that he had contacted TTE and that refresher training was being arranged for umpires. The training would be held on a regional basis but venues and dates had not yet been arranged. A number of umpires had been trained as mentors/trainers and they would be used to carry out the training. There was also a discussion about training for umpires who were due to take the NU and IU examinations. JS informed the meeting that he had taken the NU examination and failed. Before the first exam he had no contact with mentors or trainers. Other members of the meeting agreed that many umpires who take the NU examination are not fully prepared for the examination because they do not understand the knowledge requirements for taking the examination and interview. TP advised the meeting that he had spoken with John Mackey, the new TOC Secretary, and had been advised that TOC were planning to hold mentoring/advisory meetings for umpires who due to take the NU and IU examinations

Action 2. Secretary to contact TOC re selection process - Completed

TP advised the meeting that he had been in contact with the Secretary of TOC asking for clarity in the process(s). The Secretary had replied to the enquiry giving a general response about selection and how many selections were made based on pre-tournament requirements e.g. BB or NU but did not clarify how selections were made, in normal circumstances when more than the number required applied for a tournament compared to the number of previous tournaments attended by each umpire.

There was a general discussion on this subject and members agreed that there needed to be further clarity on this subject.

Secretary to pursue this subject with TOC. Action ongoing

Action 3. AETTU to request review of TOC, its policies and procedures - Ongoing

TP advised the meeting that the Independent Review Panel (IRP) is currently carrying out a review of the TTE organisation including its committees. TP stated that he had spoken to the IRP in his role as Board member and also his role as Secretary of the AETTU. The initial stages of the IRP would deal with elections, governance communication and the National Council. The second stage would deal with other issues including committees. TP suggested that we should wait until the IRP had reported to the Board in March and NC in April 2018. This was agreed by the meeting.

Action 4. Secretary to report AETTU concerns about lack of Referees at BL matches to the Board and TOC. - Ongoing

TP advised that he reported AETTU concerns to the Board and that Susie Hughes, Board member on BL, had made enquiries with Chris Dangerfield, Chair of the BL about the lack of referees. The BL reported difficulties in getting referees and umpires for tournaments. The meeting agreed that many umpires do not like umpiring PBL matches because of the misbehaviour from players. The meeting accepted that there may be difficulties in getting a referee for some tournaments but believed that there should always be a separate person (experienced umpire) acting as referee. **Secretary to report findings to Board and TOC.**

Action 5. Geoff Taylor to establish cost of AETTU ties from local supplier. - Ongoing

Action 6. Secretary to contact Amanda Robinson at TTE to clarify expenses policy - Completed.

TP informed the meeting that as a result of auditors' recommendations all expenses paid for TTE tournaments and meetings would be paid by bank transfer. Organisers in local tournaments may pay by cheque or bank transfer. Some members of the meeting agreed with bank transfer payments and others did not like the system.

4. Chairman's Report:

Welcome to one and all. As usual I have no wish to report on matters which are covered in the Secretary's report. As he and I have already discussed them. My report, as usual, will be mainly concerned with issues which have arisen since the last meeting and issues which I find may not be in the interest of umpires.

I noticed in the last TOC newsletter that County and National Umpire qualification was to be replaced by level 1 and level 2. I also noticed that there is a charge of £35 and no doubt a charge for Level 2 will be introduced at a later date. I realise that L1 and L2 is to bring table tennis officials in line with other sports associations. But to charge volunteers to qualify and give up their time to officiate is, to me, unreasonable. How did this come about?

I note from recent requests for umpires that there seems to be a shortage as I have been told that many newly qualified umpires have appeared - how has this come about?

Another issue to be discussed later is the circulation of the AETTU magazine.

Finally the issue of representation on TOC (and how it is appointed and by whom) will be related by the Secretary. I would like the Committee to agree a suitable course of

action to clarify this. Perhaps the answer may be the new Governance Rules outlined by TTE.

SC agreed that it was wrong that volunteers should be charged to become Level 1 umpires. TP advised the meeting that there were a large number of volunteers who qualified as CU/L1 umpires but never started umpiring and by doing so had wasted the time of instructors. The meeting suggested that new L1 umpires who umpired in a minimum of 3 or four tournaments should have their initial payment re-funded.

Action 1: Secretary to liaise with TOC Trainer (Karen Tonge) re cost of taking L1 course.

Proposed: Stan Clarke Seconded; Mike Payne Carried

5. Secretary's report

It has been seven months since our last meeting and during that time some major events have taken place within TTE. The organisation nearly lost its funding from Sport England because a small but powerful group of National Councillors objected to the new Governance Codes required of all sporting bodies receiving funding from SE. It required an EGM before the Codes were approved.

Arising out of the EGM is an Independent Review Panel which is carrying out a root and branch review of the organisation. The IRP is due to report its initial findings to the Board in March and to National Councillors at their April meeting. TOC has refused to allow a representative of the AETTU to join its committee and this will be discussed fully in the main agenda. I have spoken with the IRP as a Board member but also as Secretary of the AETTU and highlighted issues affecting the Association.

The Treasurer is unable to attend the meeting and a report has not been received however, since the last meeting five new members have joined the AETTU. Other issues will be discussed as part of the main agenda.

Proposed. Brian Freer Seconded. Lilian Payne Carried

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer is recovering from an operation and is unable to attend the meeting. A report has not been received however, since the last meeting five new members have joined the AETTU.

7. Correspondence

a) Refreshments. An email had been received from Mike Payne raising concerns about the lack of refreshments for umpires who finished umpiring on a Sunday afternoon and then had a long journey home. Often umpires had not eaten since about 1pm and may not get home until about 7pm or later. It was agreed by the meeting that the majority of tournaments do not supply refreshments as a tournament ends but usually the organisers try to release umpires early who have the furthers to travel.

JS informed the meeting that if it has an long journey home from a tournament he usually buys something to eat and submits a claim to TTE which is subsequently paid. TP advised the meeting that the TTE guidance from 2015, re claiming expenses, allows for an umpire and other volunteers to claim a meal allowance when returning home from an event

provided they had prior agreement from the organiser and the claim was submitted within seven days with a receipt. Members were not aware of this condition and agreed it was important that if umpires had a long and possibly later journey home then they must inform the organiser that they may be submitting a claim for refreshments.

Action 2. Secretary to prepare briefing for umpires on this subject

b) Derek Sidaway had submitted an email requesting the AETTU review the TTE mileage allowance in view of the recent price increases for fuel. TP advised the meeting that the current TTE allowance for fuel was established about 2014 when a litre of petrol/diesel was approximately 130p/137p. Currently, depending on where you live, the current cost of fuel is approximately 122p/127p per litre. After further discussion it was agreed that there was no point in pushing this issue with TTE.

c) TP advised the meeting that the ITTF had issued a new policy on the selection of umpires for World Tour events. In future the events would be circulated 12 months in advance and umpires would have to apply. Umpires would be selected for three stages of each WT event: Qualification, Main Draw and semi-finals/finals. NUs and IUs will only be selected for the first two stages but BB umpires may be selected for each of the stages. Selection for BB umpires for the final stage will be dependent on their previous BB evaluations. There was a general discussion on this subject and it was agreed that the ITTF was looking at creating an "elite" group of BB umpires who would be selected for the final stages of WT events and that many IUs and BB umpires will not travel to an events for part of an event. TP stated that at the moment this policy only applied to World Tour events but it may spread to other ITTF and major TT events. Details of the new policy can be found on the ITTF website at <https://www.ittf.com/2018/01/29/invitation-umpire-seamaster-2018-ittf-world-tour-tournaments/>

d) Insurance Cover

TP reminded the meeting about the insurance cover supplied by TTE when umpires were working as umpires including travel to and from events and also insurance cover when attending overseas tournaments. An IU had recently made an insurance claim after receiving medical treatment while attending an overseas event and was surprised when he had to pay an excess fee as part of the claim. He claimed that this excess fee had not been made clear in the Insurance documentation. The umpire had complained to TTE about this fact.

TP reminded the meeting that when TTE introduced the insurance cover a few years ago it had stated that umpires over the age of 80yrs were not covered by the insurance. This had been challenged by the AETTU and TP stated that TTE had spoken to the Insurance company and he thought the statement about age had been revised to state that umpires over 80yrs would receive a reducing amount of cover dependent on the age of the umpire over 80yrs. TP stated that he had seen a current insurance declaration from the insurance company and it's still stated that umpires over the age of 80yrs were not covered by the TTE insurance cover. After a discussion by the meeting it was agreed that TP would seek clarity from TTE on this subject.

Action 3. Secretary to clarify age restriction on TTE insurance cover for umpires.

8. TOC

TP advised the meeting that as a result of an action from a previous meeting he had contacted Stuart Sherlock (SS), as chair of TOC, and requested that a representative from the AETTU be appointed to TOC to represent the AETTU and its members. This had been discussed at a TOC meeting in March 2017 and the request had been declined. The minutes recorded that an AETTU representative on TOC "would not be beneficial to the work of the committee". Minutes from the TOC meeting showed that SS was supposed to contact the AETTU and advise us of this decision. This had not happened before TP had followed up the action. On 21/11/17 TP had contacted SS for clarity over the TOC decision and he replied that he thought that there was sufficient AETTU representation on TOC. TP pointed out that the AETTU members on TOC were his choice as TOC members and although they were members of the AETTU they did not represent the AETTU. SS had also reported that he believed there would be "conflict of interest" if there was an AETTU representative. TP had asked SS to clarify what he meant by "conflict of interest" but to date SS had not replied.

The meeting agreed that the responses from SS were unsatisfactory and needed clarifying. The meeting also agreed that the aims and objectives of the AETTU and TOC should be the same - to support and improve umpiring and the fact that the AETTU sometimes did not agree with TOC should not mean that there was a "conflict of interest" or that an AETTU representative on TOC "would not be beneficial to the work of the committee".

Action 3: Secretary to continue pursuing AETTU representative on TOC

9. Magazine

TV informed the meeting that he was in the process of preparing the next magazine but could do with more articles. He also voiced concerns about the circulation of the magazine solely on the AETTU website as approved at the 2017 AGM. He stated that many umpires didn't access the site and most preferred to have direct access to the magazine. TP informed the meeting that the AGM decision was to circulate the magazine via the website rather than send out hard copies in the post. The Chair suggested that this should continue but also an e-copy of the magazine could be circulated via email to members. A hard copy of the magazine should also be circulated to members who did not have an email address or who preferred a hard copy. After further discussion the meeting agreed with the Chair's recommendation.

10. AETTU Tournament

Secretary advised the meeting that the 2018 tournament had been provisionally booked for the weekend of 21-22nd July 2018 at Draycott TTC. Earlier dates had been considered but they were suitable. After further discussion it was also agreed that the 2018 AGM would take place during that weekend.

11. AOB

a) Independent Review Panel

TP reminded the meeting that as a result of the 2017 TTE AGM/EGM and Independent Review was taking place into the structure and governance of TTE. All members were entitled to send comments/observations to the IRP and the IR was due to report to the Board at its March meeting and also the National Council at its April meeting. TP informed the meeting that he had spoken to the IRP in his

role as a Board member and also in his role as an umpire and reported his concerns about a number of issues that were discussed at the AETTU.

b) Umpires' Portal

TP informed the meeting that TTE were currently planning to have an umpires' portal on the TTE website similar to one already in place for coaches. The portal would hold a record of umpires details, qualifications, tournaments attended and other relevant data. The portal could only be accessed by umpires using their TTE ID. It would be up to each umpire to maintain their record of tournaments and one of the benefits would be to allow TTE/TOC to maintain a record of active umpires. A number of umpires had tested the portal and made recommendations for improvement.

The meeting was generally in favour of the portal but agreed that accuracy of the tournaments record was dependent on umpires using the portal and maintaining their records.

Further details about the portal will be circulated by TTE in the near future.

13. Date of next meeting. TBA

HERE IS THE LATEST ON OUR THEME OF WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

This is designed to invoke interaction from all umpires at whatever level new, inexperienced or senior.

THIS SECTION tries to explore real situations that all umpires encounter for which we seek clarification from colleagues both senior and qualified through this your magazine and this feature.

Here we go with this editions WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Player X misses a "smash" and the ball goes high and out of court. Player Y suggests that ball has cracked and both players are claiming a "let."

The Umpire is not convinced and inspects the ball on its return to court and was unable to see anything wrong with the ball.

Umpire accordingly awards a point to player Y as a "let" could only apply if ball was damaged and unsuitable for play.

The ball in question is available for inspection on request.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

TREVOR VINCENT.

STEVE WELCH – FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

Steve Welch and I were friends. We met and worked together at a Cliffedale Chandlers 1 star tournament and it is through table tennis that I grew to respect and like him.

His table tennis career as a match official really got started in 1996 when he qualified as a county umpire. A year later he became a national referee, in 2000 a national umpire, 2002 international umpire and 2005 an international referee. I believe that rising through the ranks in 9 years deserves admiration.

Steve told me that he and Margaret went as spectators to the world championships in 1997, held in Manchester. He was impressed and this probably inspired him to emulate the efforts of the match officials there. World championships, Olympic Games, paras and Commonwealth games - Steve was there.



A glittering career interrupted by illness, which he overcame and continued to serve. Committee work and seminars on many different aspects of the game were part of his phenomenal workload. You would wonder how he found time to support local events, but he did. He and Cliffedale started a series of Junior 1 star tournaments to get the young playing in competition on 9 and peaking at 14 tables. These events were so successful that other 1 stars sprang up around the country. On Steve's suggestion the club upgraded to 2 star, holding 4 tournaments in a season playing on 15-18 tables. Juniors and cadets flocked from as far as Scotland and Wales to take advantage of the opportunity to play in a well run event. Success prompted competition and now the calendar is littered with 2 star junior tournaments. The Club will still run tournaments due to the organisational skills of our young members passed to them from Steve and Margaret.

Whatever the level, Umpires could feel safe in that any disputes would be dealt with by Steve that did not undermine their authority. His reputation as a tough but fair referee may have contributed to my not witnessing many altercations. He watched the play all the time anticipating and ready to react to any problems. He expected his umpires to apply the laws but not in an officious manner. If a quiet word did not work then they needed to take stronger action which he would back to the hilt. He could afford to leave the control desk, to observe matches close up, because he had, in Margaret, a great assistant. Steve did not suffer fools gladly. He could be short with anyone that interrupted his thoughts when wrestling with a difficult decision. You learnt to read the signs without him displaying a "do not disturb" sign.

Steve was very good to me by transporting us to venues, but he could get lost albeit in an unfamiliar phone box. He was a safe driver but not always in the right direction.

I went up in his estimation when I navigated from one side of Birmingham to the other without getting lost.

Steve stood for truth, justice and integrity, that is why I valued his friendship. He was honest, caring and generous. He will be missed.

Farewell Steve your shift is done. It is up to us now to continue the task in your memory.

Peter May

Gentleman Referee Doug Young Passes Away

The loveliest of men and one of our top class referees, Doug Young, passed away on 10th February 2018 in Worcester.

Doug, who was born on 30th May 1934 in Luton, was involved with table tennis for very many years at local, county, national and international level. He was well loved and respected by those who came across him for his quiet charm and gentle sense of humour as much as his professionalism as an official.

Worcester and Worcestershire are synonymous with Doug. He held many roles in the Worcester League including President, Fixtures Secretary (for over 30 years) and Secretary for both Division 1 and Division 2. At county level Doug was Worcestershire's Chairman 1994-2016, Umpires Secretary 1972-2007 and National Councillor 1995-2013. He only gave up his roles in 2016 when his health began to fail as he felt that he would not be able to properly fulfil his duties.

Doug served on several ETTA Committees and took an active part in meetings. He was County Championships Chairman 1987-96, Trade Committee Member 2007-13, National Championships Committee Member 2000-10, National Umpires and Referees Committee Member (Qualification Panel) 1980-1997 and Umpires Review Panel Member 1994-97.

Doug's achievements were honoured by the ETTA when he was made a Vice-President in 1994 and then he became a well deserved Honorary Life Member in 2004. An award which Doug accepted with his usual humility and grace.

As well as the strong connections with his county Doug was a first class umpire and referee. He gained his County Umpires badge in 1962 and then went on to become a National Umpire in 1970 and an International Umpire in 1975. Some of the major events Doug umpired at included the World Championships, Tokyo, in 1983 where Doug umpired the Women's Team Final in front of 11,000 spectators, two European Championships; 1972 in Rotterdam, umpiring the first match in the Women's Team finals and 1988 in Paris, two Commonwealth Championships in Cardiff, 1973 and Isle of Man, 1985. Doug umpired at numerous other internationals at home and abroad as well as many National Championships in all age groups and many other domestic tournaments. The BBC programme



1991, Stoke Mandeville. Doug, fourth from the right.

“Top Table” which was recorded in Birmingham and then shown over an eight week period was another series of matches in which Doug umpired.

Doug was a prominent referee who first became a Tournament Referee in 1972, a National Referee a year later before gaining the status of International Referee in 1992. He was appointed the Referee at the Commonwealth Championships in Nairobi in 1991 and relayed the story of chasing his luggage across the country when it was lost at the airport. In 1988 and 1990 Doug was the Referee at the English Opens and also refereed seven National Championships between 1979 and 1992. As Deputy Referee, Doug officiated at the World Championships in Gothenburg in 1993, the European Championships in Birmingham in 1994 and two English Open Championships in 1986 and 1992. A remarkable record. Doug was most proud of being named by John Wright, the world renowned and possibly the best referee ever, as his successor and the only Deputy John would leave in charge to have a break for lunch.

The funeral service took place at Worcester Crematorium, Tintern Avenue, Worcester WR3 8HA on Monday 12th March 2018 at 3.15pm. It was well represented by umpires and officials from TTE..

Diane Webb
27th February 2018.

Obituary: Tony Chatwin, a ‘rock’ of table tennis

Tony Chatwin, President of the AETTU and one of the longest-serving and most dedicated servants of table tennis in England, has died at the age of 84 after a long illness.

Tony spent a lifetime involved in the sport after taking it up in 1952, becoming one of the country’s most respected officials and administrators at every level from local to international.

He began his career in Derbyshire, representing the county at Senior and Veteran level, but it was after qualifying as a National Umpire in 1966 that his lifetime of service started to take on a broader dimension.

He was in the first group of National Referees in 1971, qualified as an International Umpire in 1973 when the qualification was first introduced, and was the third English official to be appointed an International Referee, in 1992.

He was appointed to a number of prestigious tournaments, including Deputy Referee when England hosted the World Championships in both 1977 and 1997.

As Referee, he took charge of the World Student Games in 1981, European Top 12 (1983), English Open (1992), US Open (1992) Commonwealth Championships (1985) and National Championships in 1970.



Further appointments as Deputy Referee came at multiple English Opens; as an umpire he officiated at the 1969 World Championships in Munich, European Championships in Rotterdam (1972), 1976 (Prague) and Moscow (1984) and the Commonwealth Championships in Cardiff in 1973, not to mention several international matches and Open tournaments at home and abroad.

But it was not just as an official that Tony served the sport – he was also an administrator who played a key role in so many areas of the sport at every level.

Nationally, he was ETTA Deputy Chairman from 1997-2003, served as Vice-Chairman of Competitions and was National Councillor for Derbyshire from 2006 to 2015, having been Deputy National Councillor from 2004-6.

He was part of various committees, including Development, Tournaments, Trade, Disciplinary and Honours, as well as the Appeals Board, and was National Elections Scrutineer.

He was a member of the National Umpire and Referees Committee from 1970 to 1994 and Chairman from 1994 to 1997, also serving on the Referees International Selection Panel. He was also President of the Association of English Table Tennis Umpires and national representative of the England branch of the Swaythling Club International.

Internationally, Tony was Deputy Chairman of the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) Umpires and Referees Committee and sat on the ITTF Technical Committee. He was also a tutor/trainer for the ITTF Blue Badge Scheme, attending a number of World Championships as a result. For the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation, he was on the Classification & Technical Committee.

Tony's contribution to the sport was recognised with a number of honours and awards, including becoming a Vice-President of the ETTA in 1985 and an Honorary Life Member in 1995.

He was presented with the Ivor Montagu Award in 1993, the Malcolm Scott Award in 1996 and the Keith Ponting President's Memorial Trophy in 2017, the latter presented for exceptionally long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England.

Tony is survived by his wife Pat, who is herself a Vice-President of Table Tennis England.

Diane Webb

A GLIMPSE OF GUERNSEY

Having been selected to umpire at the first Home Internationals for all age groups Lyndon Griffiths and I waited patiently for information about the trip. After some prompting we were told the date and time to meet at Gatwick and when we were returning. Eventually information about the flight and the carrier was forthcoming, but no contact details in case of a travel emergency.

Fortunately every one of the 18 strong party made the flight and 30 minutes later we landed on the island. The scenic drive to the hotel in three 7 seater vehicles was spoilt by the fact that it was dark but it would have been interesting to see how many of the passengers would have been buried by the luggage precariously hanging over the rear seats as we travelled along the narrow lanes. The hotel was comfortable, the food good and the company of fellow umpires of an evening made for a pleasant stay.

Squeezing 18 tables into the Guernsey Table Tennis Centre made umpiring a little difficult due to the close proximity of the nets. This had no effect on the English umpires as their schedule consisted of matches of little or no significance to the outcome of the team event. It was not until the final of the junior boy's, between two Scots lads that the English big hammers were used for cracking anything but walnuts.

Apart from the take off in a strong cross wind the return journey was uneventful. A window seat enabled me to see places I had holidayed on the Isle of Wight and the south coast. This was as much site seeing as could be managed. I was proud to have been part of a team representing their association so well, in results and behaviour.

Not quite time to hang up my net gauge yet. The highlight of my trip was meeting Otilia Badescu who I umpired in 1994 against Jie Schopp, a memorable match which I might be persuaded to tell you about later.

Peter May – IU

Paddy's in jail. The Guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet. "What the heck are you doing?" he asks. "Hanging myself", Paddy replies. "It should be around your neck", says the Guard. "I know I tried that" says Paddy, "but I couldn't breathe."

Reilly went to trial for armed robbery. The jury foreman came out and announced, 'Not guilty.' 'That's grand!' shouted Reilly. 'Does that mean I can keep the money?'

George Carlin's Views on Aging

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions. 'How old are you?' 'I'm four and a half!' You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead. 'How old are you?' 'I'm gonna be 16!' You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life! You **become** 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony. **YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!**

But then you **turn** 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He **TURNED**; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed? You **BECOME** 21, you **TURN** 30, then you're **PUSHING** 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you **REACH** 50, and your dreams are gone.... **But! Wait!!** ! You **MAKE** it to 60. You didn't think you would!

So you **BECOME** 21, **TURN** 30, **PUSH** 40, **REACH** 50, and make it to 60. You've built up so much speed that you **HIT** 70! After that, it's a day-by-day thing; you **HIT** Wednesday! You **get into** your 80's, and every day is a complete cycle; you **HIT** lunch; you **TURN** 4:30; you **REACH** bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; 'I **Was** **JUST** 92.' Then a strange thing happens.. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. 'I'm 100 and a half!' May you all make it to a 100 and a half!!

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

- 1. Throw out nonessential numbers.** This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them.
- 2 Keep only cheerful friends.** The grouches pull you down.
- 3. Keep learning.** Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever, even ham radio. Never let the brain idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.' And the devils family name is **Alzheimer's**.
- 4. Enjoy** the simple things.
- 5. Laugh** often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath
- 6. The tears happen.** Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person, who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be **ALIVE** while you are alive.
- 7. Surround yourself** with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
- 8. Cherish your health:** If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
- 9. Don't take guilt trips.** Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country, but **NOT** to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity. AND, ALWAYS REMEMBER: Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally used up and worn out, shouting 'Man, what a ride!'

TIME KEEPING

In the August 2017 AETTU Magazine an article was included relating to time keeping and the role of the Timekeeper and asked the question “So what does the time keeper do? The letter of the law, or the spirit of the law?”

The article gave a scenario where it described a player who was obviously playing slowly but not quite enough to be penalised for slow play. The time was getting close to “Expedite” and rather than introduce this procedure the timekeeper kept stopping the watch while the player slowly retrieved the ball from the back of the court. This allowed the game to finish just before expedite. The article asked the question- tongue in cheek? So what does the time keeper do? The letter of the law or the spirit of the law?

The answer is obvious. Umpires must always comply with the letter of the law otherwise referees, players and coaches would be justified in making a complaint. I’m aware that players and coaches sometimes make a complaint even when umpires do comply with the Laws and Regulations but at least on these occasions the Referees can confirm that the Laws are being followed.

The Time keeper is the person responsible for timing a match and usually stops the watch when the players are towelling every six points or retrieving the ball when it goes out of court but Section 18.3.1 of the Handbook for Match Officials 2014 states – “Retrieving the ball while still in the playing area is not a reason to stop the timer.”

The umpire is the person who decides if a player is wasting time and has a number of actions he/she can take i.e. warning, yellow card etc.

Compliance with the table tennis Laws and Regulations is an important function that should be carried out by **ALL** umpires. It allows for a fair and consistent game of table tennis.

Tom Purcell

Mentoring of Umpires and Referees

What is mentoring?

The Technical Officials' Committee (TOC) seek to provide ongoing training to all technical officials to enable them to develop their skills so that they are able to attain the highest standards of officiating possible for themselves. Mentors are appointed through the TOC to provide support, guidance and encouragement to umpires and referees to help them become better in all aspects of their role and to help them develop skills that will enable them to deal in a professional manner with others that they come into contact with through our sport.

Who is able to benefit from mentoring?

All technical officials are able to benefit from mentoring. It is of particular benefit to newly-qualified umpires and to those who return to officiating after a significant time away.

What happens during mentoring?

Mentoring may take place at a single tournament, or a series of tournaments, or through telephone/email/face-to-face contact, or indeed through a combination of all or some these methods .

During mentoring the mentor will endeavour to provide help and guidance about the role of a technical official, the rules and regulations, match procedures, dealing with misbehaviour and anything else that helps to build confidence and professionalism in officiating. A mentor **will** observe matches in progress and provide feedback; this is not a matter of 'pass' or 'fail' but merely one method by which the mentor is able to help build the skills and confidence of the person being mentored.

What about confidentiality?

All aspects of a persons' progress through the mentoring process is confidential and will not be discussed with anyone else except for other members of the TOC who have a professional need to be aware of such matters.

Requesting help via the mentoring programme

If you feel that a period of mentoring could benefit you then please contact any member of the TOC or contact John Mackey via email address john.mackey1@btinternet.com.

HOME COUNTRIES INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Home Countries International Championship held its inaugural event from 10th to 11th November staged in Guernsey. Peter May and I were privileged to be selected as the two English umpires for the event.

As it was to be my first time in Guernsey, I was not even sure whether I needed to apply for the usual umpires' "overseas" travel insurance but following some research by Table Tennis England ("TTE"), I was advised that no insurance declaration was required. The travel arrangements were made by TTE and comprised a flight from Gatwick airport on the Guernsey national airline, Aurigny, on the Thursday for both umpires, 3 coaches and 13 players (in the 3 age categories - seniors, juniors and cadets)

I duly met up with the England squad at Gatwick and we had a very good flight which took only about 35 minutes. We were met at the airport by representatives of the Guernsey TTA and were transported to a nice hotel, the Peninsula Hotel, to check in. The minibus journey was interesting in that I had not realised how narrow and twisty the roads in Guernsey were and it took a surprising twenty five minutes to get to the hotel. Unfortunately it was dark by the time we arrived in Guernsey so we were unable to see much of the landscape on route to the hotel.

The tournament team event started on the Friday morning and was to be played over 7 sessions as there "were teams from England, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Ireland, Jersey, Scotland and Wales. The venue was pleasant enough, although perhaps a little small for the 18 tables used resulting in rather narrower courts than is ideal and somewhat cramped with umpires' tables very close to the playing tables.

The standard of play varied greatly with both the Isle of Man and Jersey utilising 8 guest players from Guernsey in some of the cadet and junior matches. As English umpires we were not permitted to umpire matches involving English players but nevertheless we were kept very busy, having a team match allocated to us during each of the 7 sessions. Matches finished reasonably early giving us plenty of time to get back to the hotel to socialise and have dinner with the umpires, coaches and players from all the other countries.

On the final day, a singles event was held and it enabled the number of tables to be reduced during the course of the morning thereby increasing the court sizes. England players were very successful, picking up 4 gold and 2 silver medals in the team events and 4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze in the individual events. The tournament finished on time enabling us to get back to the airport for our afternoon return flight to Gatwick. The flight was also on time and all went smoothly. As I live only 40 minutes from Gatwick, I was home by 5pm - can't be bad!!

In conclusion, it was an enjoyable experience and one I would recommend to other umpires. Understand it is intended currently that the event be held every 2 years with each country hosting the tournament on a rolling basis.

Lyndon Griffiths - IU

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