



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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It was also pleasing to report the Table Tennis England has received funding, of over four millions pounds, from Sport England, for the next two years.

The election of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer of Table Tennis England is upon us and it appears to be the old versus the new with a new comer from Sussex thrown in the middle.

What's your experience with the new plastic balls? Several times at my last event the two balls given out at the start were broken, resulting in my having to borrow one from the umpire on the next table. Like me they seem very fragile.

News about the new umpires' tie; I have seen designs of the suggested tie – two colours – red and blue with the three leopards and the TTE logo. I wonder if the Board will supply umpires with a free new tie as part of the re-branding?

One item of concern regarding the National Championships is that of changing the selection of umpires. Some umpires were only required for the two days, not three, after selection had taken place. I believe that this should have been known before selection.

In conclusion, on a positive note, following a question raised at National Council, the Board is to consider formal recognition of the Association as was promised by our late TT Chairman Andy Seward.

George Tyler
Chairman

ASSOCIATION OF ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS UMPIRES

The Association of English Table Tennis Umpires (AETTU) Is an independent, professional body representing its members as defined in its Constitution.

Not wishing to itemise the complete history of the Association suffice to state that it was formed at the request of umpires in 2004 who wanted an independent body to protect their welfare and safeguard their working conditions. Membership is open to all qualified umpires and now stands at 126 members. The membership also includes sixteen umpires from International Associations. The subscription for Full Members is £5 per annum.

The aims and objectives of the Association as outlined in its constitution are:

- to promote welfare of members
- to improve the working conditions of members
- to safeguard the interests of members
- to make representations on any matter involving the Association or its members
- to assist informally in the recruitment and retention of umpires who shall be trained and qualified by ETTA Ltd.
- to establish links with other national table tennis umpires associations

Management of the Association is controlled by an elected committee consisting of the officers together with five elected members, and any members who may be co-opted.

AETTU COMMITTEE			
President	Tony Chatwin	National Councillor	Honorary Life Member
Chairman	George Tyler	National Councillor	Vice President
Vice Chairman	Derek Sherratt	National Councillor	International Umpire
Treasurer	Steve Welch	International Referee	Vice President, Chair Tournaments Committee
Secretary	Tom Purcell	International Umpire	Board Member
Committee Member	Stan Clarke	National Councillor	Vice President
Committee Member	John Lawton	International Umpire	
Committee Member	Mike Payne	International Umpire	Vice President, Tournament Organiser
Committee Member	Lilian Payne	Tournament Umpire	
Committee Member	Jim Kenny	County Umpire	Tournament Organiser
Co-opted member	Hamish Jutle	National Councillor	International Umpire
Co-opted member	Trevor Vincent	County Umpire	
Co-opted member	John Stalker	County Umpire	

The committee meets regularly to discuss areas of concern highlighted by members such as welfare, duty of care and working conditions and have conveyed agreed issues to the Technical Officials Committee, some of which have been accepted and some not.

The Association produces a quarterly magazine for members containing articles on umpiring, events attended by members and reports on meetings. There is also an annual tournament for umpires with an evening dinner for players, members and guests.

The late Chairman, Andy Seward, promised recognition in his election manifesto, and later became a member of the Association. Former Chairman Alex Murdoch has also become a member to add further credibility to the Association. We believe that umpires have a right to form an independent, professional association, and if you believe that, then they have a right for that association to be recognised by their parent body. Umpires are dedicated to the sport of table tennis, are heavily involved in their own counties or leagues as players and/or administrators, are affiliated members of Table Tennis England and are volunteers, much needed by Table Tennis England.

It is the intention of the AETTU to work with Table Tennis England in the best interests of table tennis and I believe that official recognition is a way to cement a positive and fruitful relationship between umpires and Table Tennis England.

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**AETTU COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM
SUNDAY 31ST MAY 2015
12:00hrs BULKINGTON VILLAGE CENTRE**

Present: George Tyler (GT), Derek Sherratt (DS), Tom Purcell (TP), Stan Clarke (SC), Mike Payne (MP), Lilian Payne (LP), John Lawton (JL), Trevor Vincent (TV), Tony Chatwin (TC), John Stalker (JS)

1. **Apologies:** Tony Chatwin, Steve Welch, Harry Jutle, Jim Kenny

2. **Minutes from Last meeting 09/11/2014:**
The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.
Proposed: Mike Payne. Seconded; Lilian Payne. Carried

3. **Matters arising from Minutes of 09/11/2014**
Mike Payne referred to item 5 in the minutes which referred to travel costs for umpires travelling to tournaments. He informed the meeting that Richard Hudson, Chair of the JBL, will be closely looking at costs incurred by umpires travelling alone to tournaments when they could be travelling with colleagues and sharing costs. This may impact of selection.

Action 1. Secretary to write to TOC highlighting concerns about further changes to uniform without discussion with umpires. Completed. See item 8 on Agenda.

Action 2. Secretary to contact identified members about continued membership of AETTU. Secretary had contacted a number of members about continued membership of AETTU. Four members, mainly for health reasons, had stopped umpiring and no longer wished to continue membership. All the other members contacted wished to continue.

Action 3. Secretary to arrange date/venue for AETTU 2015 Competition. Completed. See item 11 on Agenda

Action 4. Secretary to write to Chair of TOC with recommendation re CUS. Completed.

Action 5. Article to be placed in Magazine and on website about umpire's equipment and uniform. Ongoing. Article for June Magazine

Action 6. Secretary to write to Competitions Department to highlight concerns about H&S conditions at tournaments. Ongoing

Action 7. List of County Umpire Secretaries to be entered in next Magazine with article about equipment and uniform. List of County Umpires in February magazine.

4. **Chairman's Report.**

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The election of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer of Table Tennis England is upon us and it appears to be the old versus the new with a new comer from Sussex thrown in the middle.

What's your experience with the new plastic balls? Several times at my last event the two balls given out at the start were broken, resulting in my having to borrow one from the umpire on the next table. Like me they seem very fragile.

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One item of concern regarding the National Championships, that of changing the selection of umpires. Some umpires were only required for the two days, not three, after selection had taken place. I believe that this should have been known before selection.

In conclusion, on a positive note, following a question raised at National Council, the Board is to consider formal recognition of the Association as was promised by our late TT Chairman Andy Seward.

Proposed: Mike Payne Seconded: Trevor Vincent Carried

5. **Secretary's report**

The Executive Officers of Table Tennis England are involved in an Election programme with two other parties also seeking election. One of the parties, led by Steve Pound from Sussex, is relatively unknown to the majority of umpires but the other party, led by Alex Murdoch, were the previous Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer of the ETTA. This is the same team which refused to support the recognition of the AETTU despite being in office for approximately 10 years. The current Officers, led by Sandra Deaton, appear supportive of the AETTU. The outcome of the election will be of great interest to members of the Association.

Members of the AETTU voiced concerns that the TOC was planning to change the umpire's uniform without discussing the subject with umpires. As a result of concerns raised by members the TOC has now reversed its decision. Senior Managers at TTE, as part of the re-branding programme, are also looking at ways of retaining the "3 leopards" as part of the umpires' uniform.

I am pleased to report that Trevor Vincent has agreed to take over the role of Editor for the AETTU magazine. I have been the editor since the resignation of Geoff Taylor and while I have enjoyed the role it's always good to have other people involved in separate roles. Please support Trevor by submitting articles and umpiring experiences.

Proposed: John Stalker Seconded: Derek Sherratt Carried

6. Treasurer's report

Secretary informed the meeting that the Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted an Income and Expenditure report which showed there was a balance of £2094.00

Proposed: Stan Clarke Seconded: Lilian Payne Carried

7. Correspondence

Secretary informed the meeting that a letter had been received from a member of the Association complaining about the support for umpires at the Senior National Championships in Redbridge. In particular the member complained about:

- Quality of refreshments
- Umpires Schedule

There was a general discussion on the subject and members of the Committee who had umpired at the tournament agreed that the quality of the refreshments was poor with cold, undercooked food, paper plates, plastic cutlery.

There was also a discussion of the umpires' schedule. The author of the letter complained that there were insufficient umpires to cover the event. Eighteen umpires had initially been selected for the event but after being selected they were told that only twelve umpires were required for the full three days and the remaining six umpires were only needed for two days. This should have been stipulated before the umpires volunteered. The member also complained that on the Friday he worked continually for five hours without a break and had to complain when he was allocated another match without a break. On the Saturday evening, even though the member was due to return home, he and a colleague were allocated a Final which wasn't due to start until 8pm. Because he had to drive approximately 200 miles to his home the member asked for B&B on the Saturday evening. This was refused and a dispute then took place with the Referee re accommodation.

Members were of the opinion that the umpires' rest room was too far from the referee's desk and as a result the Umpires' Controller did not have proper control of the umpires. There was also a discussion about the welfare of the member who would have had to drive 200 miles after a busy umpiring schedule.

After further discussion the following three actions were agreed:

- Action 1. Secretary to contact TTE re quality of refreshments at the Tournament**
Action 2. Secretary to contact TTE re umpires' schedule at the tournament
Action 3. Secretary to contact TTE re verbal dispute between member and tournament referee.

8. Uniform

Chair reminded the meeting that the Secretary had written to the Chair of TOC objecting to the planned change of the umpires' shirt from white to blue without discussing the change with umpires. Chair pointed out that the planned change would require all umpires to change their shirts to blue even though only about twelve IUs required blue shirts when they umpire at ITTF events. As a result of the observations from the AETTU the TOC had decided to withdraw its planned change. The Chair also pointed out that TTE as part of its re-branding programme was also looking at the possibility of re-introducing the "three leopards" badge to the umpire's blazer.

Secretary informed the meeting that TTE, as part of its re-branding programme, was also introducing a new tie and scarf. Secretary circulated pictures of possible designs for discussion. After further discussion the Committee recommended the blue tie/scarf with the TTE logo and the three leopards. However members recommended that the three leopards should be higher up the tie/scarf, nearer to the knot, and the leopards should be in silver or gold rather than a dark colour .

Action 4. Secretary to inform TTE for the preferred tie/scarf option from AETTU

9. Recognition

Chair advised the meeting that as a result of a question raised at the recent National Council meeting a report is to be submitted to the Board of TTE requesting recognition of the AETTU. The next Board meeting is 11/6/15.

Action 5. Chair to submit letter to the Board of TTE requesting recognition of the AETTU.

10. Magazine

Secretary advised that Trevor Vincent had taken over the role of Magazine Editor. All future articles to be forwarded to Trevor. Trevor advised that he hoped to circulate the next magazine within the next two weeks.

11. AETTU Tournament

Secretary advised meeting that the 2015 AETTU tournament will take place at Draycott TTC, Derbyshire on the weekend of 4-5/7/15. Plans for the tournament and accommodation are being arranged.

12. Annual General Meeting

After discussion it was agreed that the 2015 AGM would take place at 14:00 on Sunday 19th July 2015 at the Bulkington Village Centre. A Committee meeting would take place at 12:00 before the AGM.

13. AOB

a) Trevor Vincent raised the subject of the meal allowance claimed by volunteers. He pointed out that at the moment volunteers were allowed to claim up to £8.75 for an evening meal but could not claim for alcohol and now had to produce receipts for the cost of the meal. TV pointed out that he thought the legal/accounting definition of an allowance means that the person claiming is entitled to the full amount. There was a discussion on the subject and it was agreed that further enquiries would be made on the subject.

Action 5. Enquiries to be made with TTE re volunteers' meal allowance.

14 Next Meeting 12:00 Sunday 19th July 2015.

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UMPIRE'S QUESTION

In a singles match A serves first in the first game and B serves first in the second game. During the second match B receives a yellow card. At the end of the second game B hits the table with his bat and the umpire awards a penalty point. This upsets B and he swears at the umpire who then awards B a second penalty point.

Question: who serves first in the third game and what is the score?

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2015

The 2015 AGM of the Association will be held on Sunday 19th July 2015 at the Bulkington Village Centre, School Rd, Bulkington, Bedworth, Warwickshire CV12 9JB, commencing at 2:00pm. Directions to the venue will be provided on request to any member who has not retained the travel directions issued last year. Your Committee recognise the attendance difficulties related in the main to travel and hope members will make every possible effort to attend and build on the foundations laid at our inaugural AGM of a strong and thriving Association dedicated to improving the quality of work and working environment for TTE qualified umpires

FINAL AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of AGM 2014
4. Matters Arising.
5. Chairman's Report.
6. Secretary's Report.
7. Treasurer's Report.
8. Auditor's Report
9. Election of President
10. Election of Chairman.
11. Election of Vice Chairman.
12. Election of Treasurer.
13. Election of Secretary.
14. Election of Committee
15. Election of Auditor
16. Constitution
17. Recognition
18. Uniform
19. Magazine
20. Umpires' Tournament
21. Any other business.

Amendments to any item on the AGM agenda must be received by the Secretary in writing no later than seven days prior to the date of the meeting.

A reminder that your subscription (£5) is due for renewal from 1/7/15 for 2015-16 and you are asked to pass or send this to our treasurer Steve Welch or any other Committee member.

Tom Purcell

Hon. Secretary AETTU

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BRIEFINGS GONE?

When I began umpiring at major events the umpires' briefing was an important facet of the event. It was an opportunity for the referee to meet his umpires and set his tone for the event. The umpires would be reminded about procedure, have any changes in the rules explained be made aware of anti-behavior measures and be introduced to other helpers. There would be an opportunity for questions which would be answered by the referee.

It was expected that all umpires attend, light refreshments were available and the whole affair lasted about an hour. It was an excellent opportunity for new umpires to learn more, to find out what went on at major events and to meet other colleagues.

Having attended many such briefings, at home and abroad, all tended to follow this pattern. Not so today, when briefings appear to be contained in a printed sheet, no refreshments, and little scope for the referee to stamp his mark on the event. Questions are not so forthcoming from a printed sheet. Current briefings only last a short while, tend to be of little help to new umpires and remind me of a favourite phrase used by some referees to introduce briefings "I don't need to tell my grandmother how to suck eggs."

In conclusion I have attended briefings held in strange places; one I remember held in a lobby with the referee standing on the stairs and another held outside in the car park. In both cases someone had forgotten to book a room. But they were 'proper' briefings.

Umpire

How many times must we re-invent the

Some years ago, I recall a Senior Nationals with a very elaborate umpires' schedule. You did a couple of matches on one table then, as if by magic, appeared on a different table for the next match which often started before the previous one had finished. Of course it did not work. Detailed schedules work with lots of umpires and/or very relaxed timetables. We have tight schedules and not many more umpires than we have tables.

After the group stages, the only system that works in our world is the ladder. We all understand ladders. We can see where we are. The umpire controller knows what resources are available (or if they are drinking coffee) and knows all the individual umpires. The umpires know that they cannot wander too far away. When matches over-run it is not a problem for the umpires. If matches are put on different tables, it is not a problem. It is usually even possible for umpires to have lunch.

Why is it ever considered necessary to try to use any other system for our internal competitions? (Answers, please, from referees)

..... **ladder?**

Lynda Reid

CHANGES TO THE ITTF LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF TABLE TENNIS

Each year the ITTF has an AGM at the World Championships when National Associations can submit proposed changes to the Laws and Regulations. Some of the changes require at least 75% majority while some require a simple majority.

The ITTF 2015 AGM recently took place at the World Championships in Suzhou, China. A number of proposed changes to the ITTF Laws and Regulations were submitted for consideration. Item 4 was a strange proposal submitted by Brazil but item 6 is the change that will have most effect on the duties of an umpire.

The results of the proposed changes were as follows:

1. Proposed by the Executive Committee
To amend 1.20.5:

1.20.5 The implementation date of each change shall be specified; if there is no such specification, the change shall take effect from 1st January of the following year in which once a the decision is taken.

Effective date: Immediate (30 April 2015)

Passed: 85.85 % in favour

2. Proposed by the Athletes Commission
To amend 2.4.3:

2.4.3 A side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be covered with either ordinary pimped rubber, with pimples outwards having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 2.00mm, or sandwich rubber, with pimples inwards or outwards, having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 4.00mm 4.25mm.

Defeated; 30.93 % in favour

3. Proposed by the Athletes Commission
To insert new 2.9.1.6:

(2.9.1 The rally shall be a let:)

2.9.1.6 if the ball in play is broken in a way which could affect the outcome of the rally.

Defeated: 60.91 % in favour

4. Proposed by the Brazil Table Tennis Confederation
To amend the Table Tennis Laws (2.11, 2.12, 2.13) in order to change following principles:

- 1- The game shall be won by the player first scoring 4 points unless both players score 3 points when the game shall be won by the first play subsequently gaining a lead of 2 points.
- 2- The set shall be won by the player first scoring 2 or 3 games unless both players score 1 or 2 games, when the game shall be won by the first player subsequently gaining a lead of 2 games.
- 3- The match shall consist of any odd number of sets.
- 4- The right to choose the initial order of serving, receiving and ends shall be ecided by lot and the winner may choose to serve or to receive first or to start at a particular end. (no change)
- 5- Each player could serve only once.
- 6- Under no circumstances a player could serve twice consecutively.

Defeated: 16.19 % in favour

5. Proposed by the Rules Committee
To amend 3.4.4.2.2:

3.4.4.2.2 If a player or pair and an adviser or captain disagree whether a time-out is to be taken, the final decision shall be made by the player or pair in an individual event and by the captain in a team event.

Defeated

6. Proposed by the German Table Tennis Federation
To amend 3.5.1.3:

3.5.1.3 Players may receive advice only during the intervals between games or during other authorised suspension of play, and not 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. Between rallies persons who are authorised to be at the bench / field of play have the possibility to give verbal and visual coaching instructions.

**Passed with specified effect date and with request to Rules Comm. and URC.
Effective date: 1 October 2016**
