

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Being rather sceptical about the introduction of the World Championships of Ping Pong I surprised myself by finding it enjoyable, exciting and extremely entertaining. The only possible downsides being the hype and exuberance of the spectators, and the low profile of the technical officials. In most sports the officials are seen to be an important factor in its presentation. If, as I think, this event is to become a regular feature then this should be addressed.

The result of the ETTA election is now known and the Association welcomes the new Chairman elect, Andy Seward and his team. In his manifesto Andy states that he is prepared to recognize and co-operate with the AETTU! Recognition at last?

In conjunction with members I attend many events and overall am disappointed with the condition of the scoring machines provided. It is often a struggle to operate them while maintaining control of the score and the match. I know of one umpire who carries tape and scissors with which to repair the scoring machine when it becomes difficult to use. Should the umpire have to do this?

To conclude on a sad note and pay my tribute to one of our late ever-present members, John Hardcastle. John could always be seen and heard. He was kind, willing and honest; often blunt in his comments but always willing to help. He will be sadly missed.

GEORGE TYLER

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last magazine notice was given of the ETTA elections in which Andy Seward, Richard Scruton and Keith Thomas were challenging the current post holders for Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer of the ETTA. Since the AETTU was formed in 2004 attempts have been made to have the ETTA formally recognise the Association. This hasn't happened because a number of the current establishment see the Association as "reds under the bed" looking to cause trouble and challenging the establishment.

Even though the ETTA did not formally recognise the AETTU it still corresponded with the Association and worked with it in the recruitment, training and retention of umpires. Time has shown that the AETTU is not trying to disrupt the use of umpires but it does act as an independent association looking after the welfare of umpires and is willing to work with the ETTA.

Andy Seward has just been elected as the new Chairman elect of the ETTA. In his manifesto he stated that he would recognise and co-operate with the AETTU to incentivise and encourage further qualification of umpires and referees. I welcome this pledge and the AETTU looks forward to working with the new establishment.

Tom Purcell

Hon. Secretary

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**MINUTES FROM AETTU COMMITTEE MEETING
SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY 2013
12:00hrs BULKINGTON VILLAGE CENTRE**

Present: George Tyler (GT), Derek Sherratt (DS), Tom Purcell (TP) Stan Clarke (SC), John Lawton (JL), Mike Payne (MP), Lillian Payne (LP)

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair reminded the Committee about the untimely death of our friend and colleague John Hardcastle. A minute's silence was held for John. After the minute's silence there was a general discussion about John, his umpiring and his friendship.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Jim Kenny, Barry Granger, Steve Welch

2. **MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 19/8/2012**

Minutes were accepted as a true copy.

Proposed: D. Sherratt. Seconded: John Lawton. Carried

3. **MATTERS ARISING.**

- a) NURC response to selection for ESTTA events circulated to members by Magazine
- b) Subject of Badges on dark blue blazers, for ETТА umpires, to be discussed at 2012 AGM. Subject was discussed at AGM and action recommended to discuss subject with NURC. – Ongoing
- c) Tony Chatwin to be nominated to AGM as President of AETTU – AGM accepted recommendation. TC accepted nomination,

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed the meeting that we had lost a very good friend and umpire with the recent death of John Hardcastle. His services to table tennis will be greatly missed. Chair thanked TP for taking on the role of Editor for magazine and the support that had been given to him. Chair had concerns about the Ping Pong competition that was taking place in London. He had fears that the competition would be divisive to the game of table tennis and if not handled properly by the ITTF and ETТА it could cause a split similar to cricket with the 20/20 tournaments. However, the Chair reported that he had watched some of the Ping Pong on the television and had enjoyed the table tennis. Chair advised the meeting that he would welcome ideas from members on how the Association should proceed during 2013-14. Chair also reminded the meeting that there was soon to be an election for the Chair and Vice Chair of the ETТА. Andy Seward in his manifesto had stated that he would recognise the AETTU and wanted to work with the Association. This subject would be discussed later as an agenda item.

Proposed: Mike Payne Seconded: Lillian Payne Carried

5. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Secretary informed the meeting that the Association had been running smoothly since the last meeting. However, two issues needed further discussion; Abuse on social network sites and a replacement Editor for the AETTU magazine.

Secretary had written to the Chair of the ETТА, on behalf of members, highlighting concerns about abuse of an umpire, at the Olympics, on Social Network sites, by persons who were members of the ETТА. Secretary had asked the ETТА what they were doing about advising members about the correct use of such sites and about the lack of policy on the subject from the ETТА. After a number of requests the Chair of the ETТА did reply to say that the subject was being discussed by ETТА with a view to preparing a policy.

The question re a new editor for the magazine will be discussed later in the Agenda.

Proposed: Derek Sherratt Seconded: John Lawton Carried.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting because of other commitments however he did submit a statement of income and expenditure for meeting. There was a general discussion about with I&E and it was agreed to discuss it in further detail when the Treasurer was present.

Stan Clarke pointed out to the meeting that apart from the first year, when the Association was formed in 2004, annual membership fees for the AETTU had remained at £5. Since then there had been an increase in costs in preparing the magazine and in particular postal costs. SC suggested a small increase in membership costs. There a general discussion on the subject and it was agreed to discuss it further when the Treasurer was present,

Proposed: Stan Clarke Seconded: Derek Sherratt Carried

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Secretary of ETTA

Alex Murdock acknowledging receipt of correspondence from AETTU on the subject of misuse of Social Network sites. Advises the Association that that the ETTA office was instructed to ensure that inflammatory statements were not included on the ETTA website and the ETTA are looking at an overall policy relating to Social Networks.

b) Tony Chatwin

Correspondence from Tony Chatwin accepting his nomination as President of the AETTU and looking forward to working with the Association.

c) Derek Sherratt

Correspondence from DS on the subject of the recent advice given by NURC on the subject of abuse of cadet and or junior players by coaches or parents. DS advised that a recent tournament umpires were also advised to watch out for abuse from spectators towards players. He suggested that clarity was needed about where the responsibility lies with the umpires and what are the boundaries?

There was a general discussion on the subject and it was agreed that although the advice in the recent NURC Newsletter highlighted potential abuse by parents and/or coaches, umpires should also be aware of potential abuse by spectators and /or opposition team members.

8. ETTA ELECTIONS

Chair informed the meeting that there was soon to be an election for the Chair and Vice Chair of the ETTA. Alex Murdock was standing for re-election and Andy Seward was standing in opposition as Chair of the ETTA with Richard Scruton as Vice Chair. Among a number of items in his manifesto Andy Seward had stated *"that he would recognise and cooperate with the umpires association, AETTU, to incentivise and encourage further qualification of umpires and referees"*. There was a general discussion on the subject and it was agreed by the meeting that the AETTU wished to remain as an independent association separate from the ETTA. However, many members wished for the AETTU to be formally recognised by the ETTA.

Action 1. Secretary to contact Andy Seward to clarify what he meant by "recognition of the AETTU".

9. MAGAZINE

Secretary informed the meeting that the person who was taking over as editor of the AETTU Magazine had withdrawn their offer and was taking a break from TT. As a consequence the Secretary had prepared the December magazine which had recently been circulated. The editor's vacancy had been circulated to members but to date no other person had offered their services. Members agreed to look for a suitable candidate to become editor of the magazine. The next magazines would be circulated in March, June and September. Articles for the magazine to be sent to the Secretary by the 1/3/13, 1/6/13 and 1/9/13.

Action 2. Secretary to canvas members about method of circulating magazine. – Electronic or hard copy.

10. TOURNAMENT

After a brief discussion it was agreed to hold the 2013 AETTU Umpires' competition at Draycott TTC, Derbyshire on 22-3/6/13 or 6-7/7/13 subject to club availability on those dates. Tournament events to be discussed at next meeting.

Action 3. Secretary to contact Brian Savage re use of Draycott TTC for umpires completion 2013.

11. AOB

a) Umpires Training

John Lawton raised the subject of umpires' training. He pointed out that the ETTA had arranged one training day at Halton a few months earlier but there had been not further information about training dates and venues. Secretary advised the meeting that the NURC were planning to hold another training date in the SE early in the New Year.

Action 4. Secretary to contact NURC to establish training dates and venues.

b) **Membership of AETTU Committee**

Stan Clarke reminded the meeting that he had decided to stand down from umpiring ETТА and International tournaments but he would continue umpiring at disabled, schools and university tournaments, if selected. He offered to stand down from the Committee but after discussion it was agreed that SC would stay as a committee member.

c) **CRB Checks**

Mike Payne informed the meeting that changes were to be made to the vetting procedures required for persons involved in sport. It had been suggested that only one CRB check would be required for all sports rather than individual checks for each sport. There was a general discussion on this subject.

Action5. Secretary to write to ETТА for clarity on the CRB vetting process

Meeting finished at 16:00 hrs.

John Hardcastle's Funeral

John's funeral took place on the afternoon of Thursday 27th December 2012 at South Amsall Church, Doncaster. The church was packed with family, friends and colleagues from all areas of John's life. Approximately 20 umpires, wearing blue blazers, attended the funeral. After the service I spoke with members of John's family and was asked to pass on the family's thanks to all the umpires who had attended the funeral or who had passed on their condolences to the family.

John was a very popular friend and colleague and he will be missed.

ETТА and Umpiring

I have expressed concerns to the Chief Executive of the ETТА about the participation of ETТА members in the World Championships of Ping Pong which was neither an ETТА nor an ITTF event. The three significant issues were: the apparent failure to follow the Rules of the ETТА Ltd; the use of information proprietary to the ETТА; the lack of payment for those officiating. The Rules of the ETТА Ltd are quite detailed on what an Affiliated Member Must and Must Not do – which are summarised in Annex 2 of the Company Rules.

In addition, regardless of whether the event was fully legitimate and affiliated members were taking part with the correct permissions, the officials should have been paid for their services. Since this was a commercial event, the Officials including Umpires were not 'volunteers' for the ETТА and should have received remuneration commensurate with their expertise.

My submission is being considered by the ETТА and I shall provide the full response when it is available.

Russell Sutcliffe

Electronic Scoring

I first used electronic scoring at the World Championships in 2011 and there were one or two bugs which made me nervous with the system, but overall I liked the ease of scoring which it provided and the way it displayed scores all over the arena.

The software Visual LiveScore was developed by Visual Reality and their website is www.tournamentsoftware.com

I recently used the same scoring system at the Austrian Open. The application is much more robust and the only problems that I was aware of occurred when people disconnected power supplies to

monitors! The joy of not having to prop up time out and yellow cards by the score board or fiddle with several stop watches make the benefits clear. I consider that this technology is an investment that should be made by any competition manager intent on providing a 21st century Table Tennis tournament.

Russell Sutcliffe

JOHN AND GEORGE - A YORKSHIRE COMBO

How do you start to describe George Turton and John Hardcastle, a pair of solid Yorkshire men of the old school, brought up on roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, hard graft with good old fashioned wives to keep them on the straight and narrow.



It is some years now since George passed away after a long illness, but my memories of the terrible twosome lingers long in my almost senile brain.

I don't remember when I first met the two; I certainly have memories of them both at the East Yorkshire Junior tournaments and in Blackpool at the Norbreck Castle, back in the good old days of 21 up and smaller balls. They inevitably brought their wives to tournaments and they proved to be anything but straight laced, both ladies having a great sense of humour and not averse to the odd double entendre.

As for the guys, they were the two most friendly umpires on the circuit, inevitably they greeted me with a warm smile, a bone crushing handshake and what I think was "Hey up me owd friend, ow is thee". They were great workers at tournaments and seldom complained at their workload.

But more than that, they spent much of their time together away from table tennis. They regularly spent short breaks way with their wives and seemed to love their annual Turkey and Tinsel trips each Christmas time.

Great guys who were very well respected by the players and fellow umpires, down to earth working class men who loved sport and lived life to the full. I doubt we will ever see their like again and I for one mourn their passing.

R.I.P. my friends.

Stan Clarke

Agitos, Tossers and Perfect Snoring

Whilst at the Paralympics the performance of umpires in bed was a significant area of discussion. Several people moved from bed to bed in an attempt to find a better roommate.

The cause of all this activity, and the resultant sleep deprivation, was not the availability of free condoms, but the level and range of snoring occurring in the Olympic accommodation.

Snoring has been measured up to levels of 69dB – equivalent to the loudness of a pneumatic drill! This simple measure does not do justice to the variety of sounds produced during these nocturnal emissions.

Two points arise for consideration: How do you classify snoring and its impact? How can the ETTA arrange rooming to satisfy the sleeping requirements of the umpires?

There is no established classification or reporting about snoring equivalent to the Beaufort Scale for wind speed. Various anecdotal measures have been observed over the years – the most interesting being the Hardcastle Scale. None have been widely adopted. Research at the Paralympics has given rise to a potentially robust and useful scale although more work is needed to validate it and extend it to incorporate the effect of the variety of sounds produced during snoring.

This new measure – the Curtis Scale – ranks snorers on a scale from 1 to 10 with 10 being the loudest. It also ranks non-snorers on a scale from -1 to -3 based on the number of walls they need to separate them from a snorer. There is a rare person who exists with a score of zero. For some reason this non-snorer can share a room with a person who snores!

The benefit of the Curtis Scale is that it allows those allocating rooms to minimise the inconvenience arising from snoring. When the values from the scale for the two umpires sharing a room are multiplied together a Snore Score is produced. If the Snore Score is negative the sharing is not allowed. In general, any positive Snore Score is permitted. However an exception should be made when a Snore Score of 25 or more occurs. These scores need to be avoided to reduce the likelihood of causing structural damage to the accommodation!

Whilst this work is in its early stages, the scope for improving the amenity of umpires is evident and should lead to reductions to the ETTA registration fee.

The Deacon

Health and Safety Snore Evaluator

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UMPIRES' COMPETITION 2013

The 2013 AETTU table tennis competition will take place at Draycot Table Tennis Club, Derbyshire over the weekend of 22-23rd June 2013. The 2012 competition was held at the same venue with accommodation and the Saturday evening dinner taking place at the Midland Hotel, Derby. Last year 30 members took part in the competition and a number of partners and colleagues joined the competitors for dinner on the Saturday evening.

The purpose of the weekend is for members to enjoy a few game of table tennis, a bit of competition and an enjoyable social weekend. Even if you don't play table tennis come along and have a social weekend with colleagues.

The competition is open to all members no matter what their standard of play. Further details about the event will be circulated nearer the time.

This is the only competition where each game is guaranteed to be umpired by a qualified umpire

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY. 22-23rd June 2013

PING PONG OBSERVATIONS

Having been invited to Umpire at the World Ping Pong Championships that were held at the Alexander Palace w/e 5th 6th Jan, which I enjoyed immensely, we were well accommodated with food and accommodation as well as our uniform. was, to be honest, unaware of the skills that people possessed in playing with hard bats. When I started playing it was with a square Barna Bat with just pimples out and no sponge but these bats were something different. But Umpiring at this event was both good to umpire as well as to watch.

I thought it might be a good idea to ask for a couple of these bats, to take back to where I coach table tennis, just to give my students a different incite to table tennis. So I asked the organizer Sharon Tokley if this would be possible and she said she would send me a couple of bat. Sure enough 2 weeks later two new hard tats arrived covered in black sandpaper, as used at the Championships.

I took them along and introduced them to students that I coach, both junior & adult. Strange not one person had ever played with such a bat and they soon found it a lot different to play with than the bats that we use today.

These two bats created much interest and have been used by some 30 players. I don't think that we will be producing any champions but it is nice to bring a new dimension into the game that we all love (Table Tennis).

Best Regards

Alan White.

World Championships of Ping Pong Alexandra Palace 5-6th January 2013

This event was the brainchild of Barry Hearn and his Matchroom team who wanted to promote table tennis and give the players the opportunity to play for big money and to make it exciting for spectators and the television audience.

The first trial event took place in Las Vegas in 2011 and was such a success that Barry wanted to bring it to London.

The idea was that all the players would play with sandpaper rackets which were handed to them by the umpire at the start of the match. The players were allowed to choose balls but very few took the opportunity.

The Referee was Mick Strode, his Deputy was Isabelle Beumier from Belgium and the Umpires' manager was Diane Webb.

Fourteen umpires were required for the Saturday and six for the Sunday.

The hotel was a couple of miles away from Alexandra Palace but there was very little accommodation available on Friday or Sunday but everyone was accommodated on Saturday night. The rooms were quite basic and the bar closed at 10.45pm and there was only parking for about seven cars. There was plenty of secure parking at Alexandra Palace, so most people left their cars there and either shared cars, walked or booked taxis back to the hotel.

Because of the unusual schedule, breakfast was provided at 10.00am at the venue and a cooked dinner at 4.30pm between the sessions. However, a good supply of sandwiches was provided at 10.00pm back at the hotel. The food was very good, especially on the Sunday when a full roast dinner was served.

There was an umpires' room and the mileage rate of 35p per mile was paid out in cash. The umpires who were not required to officiate on the Sunday were allowed to stay and spectate if they wished with their accreditation.

The organisation provided everyone with a black Matchroom sweat shirt and a fleece and everybody was required to wear black trousers.

There were 64 players divided into 8 groups playing best of 3 games up to 11. The top 2 in each group progressed to the knockout stage.

There was 1 television table and 7 outer courts for the group matches on Saturday afternoon from 12.00 to 3.45pm and 2 tables for the last 16 matches from 6.00pm to 8.45pm. On the Sunday only 1 table was used and the Final only was the best of 5 games.

An orange ball was used throughout except for the double pointer when the ball was substituted for a white one. Each player was allowed to play his double pointer once during a match but only when he was due to serve next and not after he had scored 9 points. If the server won the double pointer, he was awarded two points but still retained his second serve in the sequence. Therefore, if he was 8-6 up and won the double pointer, the score would be 10-6 and he would still have one serve to come.

A green card held aloft by the umpire signified that the next point would be the double pointer.

Electronic scoring machines were used via a laptop, which were connected to large screens. A training session was arranged before play began to get used to the system.

The standard of play was quite high considering that most players had not had much time to practise with the equipment.

All the matches were umpired by one umpire except for the show court, which had an assistant umpire. Only the umpire had a manual score machine on the television court, which was outside the court to maximise space.

It was a very enjoyable event considering the amount of controversy that surrounded it. The ITTF sanctioned the event and the ETTA allowed it to happen although there was no ETTA involvement and the event was not publicised on their website. As a result, many umpires were sceptical and did not apply for the event; possible thinking that they would be disenfranchised and some said that everyone was breaking ETTA rules simply by taking part. Others said that there should have been a fee as it was a commercial venture.

However Barry Hearn was delighted by the viewing figures which were four times better than expected and the event will definitely take place again next year.

David Edwards

FLASHING THE CARD

The introduction of yellow cards some years ago optimistically heralded better behaviour from players. In some cases this happened, but unfortunately with no punishment following the yellow card, it appeared to become some kind of prize. One conversation heard between two players went as follows: "How many cards did you get this week-end? Only 4, I got 7".

Having moved on to the current punishment system the receiving of yellow cards takes on more significance – with periodic suspension the outcome. Consequently umpires should discriminate more carefully on the giving of yellow cards and only experience will help in this. There were complaints that some umpires gave cards freely, others only gave them for the most serious of offences and some not at all and with many new umpires appearing perhaps more guidance should be available. With the disappearance of umpire briefings (not the paper version) there is no longer an opportunity for the referee to give guidance, and there have been complaints from players, coaches and spectators of inconsistency in the giving and non-giving of yellow cards.

Consistency is the key word, but how do we get consistency from umpires of varying experience? It is up to the umpire to decide whether to have a quiet word or use the yellow card and often a quiet word can calm the player and prevent further digression. However, offences such as spitting, throwing the bat violently, kicking the barrier in temper, hitting the ball out of court in temper and swearing deserves a yellow card, as should ignoring quiet words. 'Flashing the card' for minor offences may well result in suspension for a player for thoughtlessness rather than bad behaviour. Umpires always have decisions to make, many of which allow no discretion, however when giving yellow cards an element of common sense can help the situation.

Concerned Flasher



ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

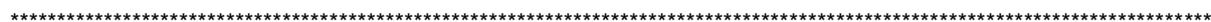
DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKING GUIDELINES

The following advice has been received from the ETTA with regard to the vetting procedure adopted by the ETTA

With immediate effect we are taking referees, umpires and tournament organisers out of CRB (it is now DBS) checking as they do not meet the criteria necessary under the new Protection of Freedoms Act.

If you wish to see further information about the new ETTA vetting policy details can be found on the ETTA website.

January 2013



Mind over Matter

Occasionally, despite all my efforts to avoid the situation, I am instructed to take control of a match involving older players. They are mostly men and are called veterans. These are not veterans in the usual sense, after all most of us are over 40 years of age. No, the players I'm referring to are those who can be seen at virtually every event in which they can legally enter. They will appear at the Ambridge1 Star or the Wetherfield Restricted Open, you name it and the same faces appear again and again.

They are of course dedicated players of no mean talent and without them table tennis would be the poorer. Umpiring matches involving them can be rather pleasant, longish rallies with perhaps contrasting styles make a refreshing change from our usual fare. The matches however can sometimes throw up different challenges to the umpire. These may even be apparent before play actually starts.

Punctuality seems to be a foreign word to this breed, or maybe it is that they are under the impression that the referee's carefully prepared schedule does not actually apply to them. In the days when I was making my way along the umpire's learning curve I made the mistake of regularly umpiring the veterans own Open Events. On reaching my allotted court and attempting to get play under way at the group stage, it was quite common to be greeted with " Bert is still having his dinner so I'm going to play Sid first and if he is not....." I came to the conclusion that I was regarded mainly as a form of window dressing, hence my enforced absence from such events began. I am not alone in this view.

However getting back to the plot.....we are in the court and the contestants are arriving.

First and foremost however there is some housekeeping to take care of. Many players, particularly at the more undisciplined events, arrive on court loaded up as if they are going to establish a Base Camp prior to their assault on Everest. Having removed their oxygen supplies and tents, one can begin.

Having established a creditable order of play, the first hurdle is the inspection of the rackets. In order to do so one is usually handed the racket by the player. I say usually, but I have known cases where player 'A' having carefully removed the said article from a container and several layers of wrapping in the manner of a curator at the British Museum preparing a valuable specimen for carbon dating, is reluctant to part with his bat. On being convinced that inspection is essential, the racket is gingerly handed over with precise instructions as to where one may hold it. By contrast, player 'B' opens a Sainsbury's bag and places his bat on the table whilst he continues binding his leg.

Now for the easy bit. In nine cases out of ten you can forget your Schedule of Racket Coverings. Close observation of the rubbers will indicate to you that 'Houston! We have a problem!' Unless you have packed your microscope you will almost certainly be unable to certify with any degree of accuracy the origins, pedigree or validity of the coverings. In extreme cases one side may resemble a pizza takeaway whilst the other side is like the surface of the moon "I've played with this rubber since XV11" Is the common protest. "check with the Referee" he adds, sensing that you are a bit suspicious. "In fact this is the same bat that I used when I had two match points against John Hilton in X1 V; remember? It was in Oldham"

The toss brings its own whimsy. "I'll have this end and he can serve" and we all fall about laughing, as if this was the first time we had heard this seriously intended remark. It is curious however that these players do actually consider the choice of ends paramount to their chance of success. Eventually they start to knock up, and you become aware of just how friendly they are to one another and seem to have a very close relationship. "Is your brother still playing?" goes the patter. "No gave up five years ago after that business with the traffic warden, he is now running a farm for disabled chickens somewhere in Wales" Your son still in South Africa? " Yes" he replies, "But now that his passport has been returned by the Authorities he might come home" This chumminess continues even when one of them wins a rally with an outrageous piece of luck. The ensuing apology would do credit to one of David Cameron's attempt to placate a nation for some event deep in history.

Play continues for some time in this rather light hearted vein. Umpiring is easy and I have time to ponder, who is the attractive blonde at the court edge holding the towel and water? Surely his wife had red hair and walked with aid of a stick. An argument then ensues whereby each player said it was the other player's point a la the Beijing incident involving Samsonov and Persson. This is beginning to sound like something by Hans Christian Anderson or..... wait for it,.....could be Edgar Allan Poe?

Now! it is not at all clear when the change actually starts. Psychologist are perhaps better qualified to proffer advice, but at some point there is a slight perception that all is not well between our two adversaries. It could be that this is no contest, one of them is getting hammered or more likely, the

contest is too close to call. "I cannot see the ball in his hand Ref" might start it off. "Will you ask him to throw the ball up please" is another favourite. Suddenly you have crossed the Rubican and if you are not alert to the danger, internecine warfare can break out. Throw in a couple of questionable 'ball in the court' calls, and you are there, WW3!

Now having once been described as the worst ***** umpire in the country, which I considered a little unfair. A candidate perhaps; but 'worst?' I thought therefore that I would pass on some really helpful advice to my colleagues. My four volume* treatise will be published next year.

- . *Volume 4 will concentrate almost entirely on the work of Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) on the subject of Psychoanalysis.

Derek Sherratt
