



Rod Symington, Editor

The *WSF Referees' Review* has been reborn!

In this issue you will find reports from several of the major events attended by WSF Referees during the past year. My thanks go out to all those colleagues who contributed so selflessly to this issue. Unfortunately, not every event could be covered, as some of our referees were too busy or shy to pick out the letters on their keyboard. I have deleted them from my Christmas card list...

Nevertheless, we hope that you will enjoy reading these accounts of how hard WSF Referees work (and how they enjoy their brief time off). In addition, this issue contains both advice on refereeing and some important information for all referees.

[Note: All opinions appearing in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not represent the official policy of the WSF.]

The new Rules are here (almost)!

The current Rules of Squash were issued in 2001. Since then only two changes have been made: the scoring system was changed to Point-a-rally to 11 points, and the word "board" was removed, so that "tin" refers to the entire structure along the bottom of the front wall.

Squash is a very complicated sport, and experts who have studied the rules of sports rank squash as one of the most difficult sports to codify in rules. The Interference Rule, for example, which is so necessary for a clean and fair match, is a very complicated concept, and to put that concept into words that everyone can understand is a major challenge.

For ten years a WSF Working Group led by Don Ball (South Africa) worked on simplifying the wording of the Rules to make them more "user-friendly". The task of the Working Group was carried forward by the new WSF Rules Commission, which in early 2012 invited Member Nations and other interested parties to respond to the draft new Rules, and then revised that draft in the light of the more than 100 proposals received.

After spending six months revising the original draft the Rules Commission has recommended to the WSF Board (and the Board has agreed) that the new Rules be approved at the WSF AGM in October. The new Rules will come into effect on 1st January 2014 and the good news is this: *The new Rules contain no conceptual changes.* So there is nothing new for players, referees, and spectators to learn.

The new Rules do simplify a few things: for example, on a serve every fault will, in future, be called "fault" (rather than the five possible calls at the moment). In addition, the recovery time for a "contributed injury" has been reduced from one hour to 15 minutes (with the possibility of a further 15 minutes, if needed); and the procedures for The Three-Referee System and for Video Reviews have been incorporated into the Rules as Appendices. And the best news of all: *There are no Guidelines!* It was the view both of the Working Group and the Rules Commission that the Rules themselves should be self-explanatory. As a result the new Rules contain 1500 fewer words than the current ones. Now people will have no excuse for not reading them... (RS)

Editorial

"All The World's A Stage..."



Referees do not walk around with a target on their back – but they might as well do so. From the moment you leave your hotel room to the moment you return and close the door behind you, you are being watched. Players, coaches, spectators, the whole world is watching. Your every action is being evaluated with a critical eye – with *hundreds* of critical eyes – all waiting to see if you do something that is not appropriate for a referee.

It is not just conduct, but also your appearance that is the focus of attention. A well-dressed referee will start with an advantage: he or she will look like a

professional and will be treated with the respect that a true professional deserves.

That is why it is important for all referees at an event to wear the official uniform for that event, and to be aware at all times – whether refereeing or not – that they are on stage, just like actors in the theatre, and that in everything they do, they will be judged as representatives of the entire refereeing community.

In one of the standard works on officiating, *The Psychology of Officiating* by Robert S. Weinberg and Peggy A. Richardson, the following paragraph appears under the heading "Integrity": "It is extremely important to protect your integrity both on and off the playing field. Although you are probably aware of your responsibilities while officiating, you should be equally concerned about maintaining others' respect for your integrity off the field."

The WSF Code of Conduct for Referees and Assessors underlines that message by requiring WSF officials to "at all times conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner", which includes, among other things, not discussing "any calls or decisions made by another Referee with anyone other than that Referee directly or with the Tournament Referee privately."

But a professional attitude also reveals itself in many small and practical ways. For example, here is some advice that I have received from various sources about how referees at an event should conduct themselves:

1. When refereeing (in The Three-Referee System) do not talk to spectators. Sit and face front wall.
2. Don't stand and stretch and yawn between games.
3. Do not chew gum.
4. When you are not actually refereeing, do not sit too close to the 3 Referees who are officiating, and do not talk to them.
5. Never ever criticise other referees to anyone – verbally or with actions.
6. Make sure your mobile phone is switched off and that it stays in your pocket whenever you are in the squash court area, whether you are refereeing or not.
7. Men should shave every day (unless they habitually have a beard or moustache).
8. Attend all functions, as invited, and always appear neatly and appropriately dressed.

Above all, it is important to remember that the referees at an event are a *team*; therefore any individual's conduct that may be criticised will reflect on all the members of that team. Teamwork also presupposes mutual encouragement and support, and if the refereeing team works together as professionals, it will bring both praise and increased

respect to all of them – and by extension to all referees.

(RS)

Cathay Pacific Sun Hung Kai Financial Hong Kong Open 2012

By Munir Shah, WSF Referee/Senior Assessor

The Hong Kong Open was inaugurated in 1985 and this was the 27th year of this very popular event on the professional squash circuit.

A total of 22 participants turned up for the referees' clinic conducted by Munir Shah, ASF Referees Director, at the Hong Kong Squash Centre on 24 November 2012. The main issues discussed during this session were the latest guidelines of The Three-Referee System, the video review system and general administrative matters. It is useful to have such a briefing before any major championship so that all the referees are on the same page.

You could not have asked for a more cosmopolitan group of dedicated referees officiating at the HK Open this year. Besides the 7 WSF Referees – Munir Shah (Singapore), Mike Collins (South Africa), Damien Green (Australia), Nathan Turnbull (Australia), Mohammad Fayyaz (Hong Kong), Anthony So (Hong Kong), Yogendra Singh (India) – there were 2 Regional Referees from India, 1 Regional Referee from Australia, 2 National Referees each from Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea and a half a dozen National Referees from Hong Kong to support the event.



Between the 3 WSF Assessors (Munir, Mike and Damien), a total of 17 assessments were carried out during the championship week.

The discussion on the use of the ASB console/system was deferred until 30 November 2012 when all the referees were given a briefing by PSA's Chief Operating Officer, Lee Beachhill. However, it was agreed that the system would not be used because the PSA did not want to run the risk of using the system until they were 100% confident that it was stable and robust.

This year's Hong Kong Open had been chosen as the inspection event for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to determine which of the shortlisted sports should win a place on the programme for the 2020 Olympiad. WSF/PSA/WSA sent a general note out to all players and referees to thank them for their contribution to the sports. Players were encouraged to play through any "distraction" during the semi-finals and final when

the championship moved from the Hong Kong Squash Centre to the Cultural Centre, right on the waterfront at Tsim Sha Tsui. The crowd were encouraged to "get involved" by cheering, even during the rallies. Referees were told to manage matches in the usual top-class manner but not to be too officious. This is the first time that I have seen a gallant effort by the 3 world bodies in communicating to both players and referees to be on their best behaviour.

Just when I thought that I have experienced all there is to refereeing, I had the privilege together with Mike Collins and Damien Green in witnessing a change of venue during the Men's semi-final match between James Willstrop (England) and Karim Darwish (Egypt), with the latter trailing 2-4 in the very first game. The misty rain at the harbour front promenade seeped through the gaps between the roof and the 4-sided glass show court and blanketed the floor with a thin layer of moisture, which caused play to be stopped because of slippery conditions. After a wait of 5 minutes and a quick check with the weatherman it was decided that the match would resume at the HK Squash Centre, the venue for the earlier rounds. The 3 of us were whisked away in a designated vehicle together with the 2 players and play recommenced about an hour a half later that night. The paying crowd at the Cultural Centre was so keen to watch top-class squash that most of them made their way to the squash centre and squeezed themselves into the smaller spectators' gallery.

Anthony So, the Tournament Referee, and his team, especially the local national referees Andrew Ho and Amos Yuen and WSF Referee Mohammad Fayyaz, were exemplary in their hospitality. All the referees were invited to the welcome reception at the Hong Kong Jockey Club on 26 November 2012, followed by a lovely dinner at Gold Coast Restaurant in the buzzing Wanchai district on 26 November 2012. Both the food and the beverages were fabulous.

Andrew Ho made sure that all the referees were picked up daily from the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Happy Valley and sent back safely after the squash matches were over. He went beyond the call of duty by organizing squash matches and simulated golf sessions amongst the referees at the prestigious Hong Kong Cricket Club, about 4 times during the week. Such hospitality was much appreciated.

The overseas referees were also invited to the closing dinner in order to give us a chance to interact with the IOC Board Member, Walter Sieber, who will be instrumental in recommending whether or not squash will be accepted into the Olympics. Nicol David, the women's champion and world No. 1, Ingrid Lofdahl-Bentzer, Chairperson of WSA, and HK Squash President, David Mui, graced this gathering at the Kowloon Cricket Club on 2 December 2012.

2012 Qatar World Championship Tournament Report

By Damien Green, WSF Referee

The 2012 Men's World Championship was held in the spectacular city of Doha in Qatar. Personally, I had not travelled to Doha since 2007 and the number of new buildings and developments that had gone up was incredible.



Six WSF referees were in attendance at this tournament. Roy Gingell was tournament ref with Nasser Zahran, Jamshed Gul, Anthony So, Peter Zobelein and myself, along with several local refs helping out in the early rounds. As with most tournaments in Doha, the venue was the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash complex, which is quite close to the middle of the city. Doha's major Tennis tournament was being run two weeks after the Squash tournament so there were plenty of massive banners around advertising the Tennis.

It is not too often that you get a contributed injury on the court that results in a player being given time to recover such that the next match goes on and then the previous match resumes after that. I have seen it a couple of times over a number of years. Well, the first *two* matches on day one of Qualifying on side by side courts both had this result. This was not a good omen for the rest of the tournament! The rest of Qualifying went quite well though, but as expected, there were a number of very tightly contested matches as players strived to get themselves into the main draw.

The tournament was very ably run by Alaaeldeen Allouba and Robert Edwards, and as always in Qatar the referees were treated very nicely indeed by the host Mr Ali Bin Ali.

The hotel we stayed in was quite a way from the courts but transport was readily available and the hotel was top class. I had the pleasure of sharing a room with Roy who talked a lot and kept me very entertained, but to be honest I really had no idea what he was saying most of the time.

Main draw matches started to move onto the Glass show court where the shot-making class of the

higher ranked players really started to show. In my opinion, the standout performer of this tournament was Mohammed El Shorbagy making it through to the final for the first time. His semi-final against James Willstrop was an absolute classic, and his and Ramy Ashour's ability to recover after long quarter and semi-final matches, to put up the performance they did in the final was incredible. One rally in particular nearing the end of the fourth game where there was diving and shots played between the legs was worth watching. Congratulations to Ramy for his win and return to world number 1.

At nearly every tournament a new refereeing situation comes up that you have not seen before. One from this tournament that stayed in my mind was this: a rally ends in a stroke to player A. Player B asks for a video review thinking it was a let. The video ref agrees with stroke to player A, therefore player B has lost his one review for that game. Immediately after the review, Player B queries a pick-up earlier in that same rally. The decision of the three Referees is yes let, as they are unsure if the pick-up was good. This means that the result of the rally is now "yes, let" rather than "stroke to player A." My question is this: if the decision that resulted in the video review is now not relevant -- as the result of the rally is determined by the earlier decision -- does Player B get his one review back again? I don't have an answer to this question but it is one to think about as I'm sure it will happen again in the future.

I would like to say thanks to Roy, Nasser, Jamshed, Anthony and Peter for their company throughout the tournament and also to all others who made us feel very welcome in Doha.



The Cayman World Open 2012

By **Graham Waters, WSF Referee**

The Cayman World Open will, no doubt, be remembered for Nicol David's brilliant performance on her way to her record 7th World Open title. However, there were a number of other highlights and lowlights to this professionally staged event on this scenic Caribbean island.

There were 4 WSF referees assigned to this event, torn from the harsh European and Canadian winters and thrust onto the beaches under the sun and gentle trade winds of Grand Cayman Island. We were all scheduled to arrive on December 12th, and indeed we did, but, alas, poor Thomas Wachter's suitcase did not! This was a source of great concern not only to Thomas, but also for his roommate, Marko

Podgoršek, who began to hear comments referring to "our shirts" and "our shorts"! The suitcase did eventually arrive 3 days later, but not before we had agreed to "relax" the referee's dress code for Thomas.

After the rigours of our travel and the exhausting afternoon on Seven Mile Beach on our day of arrival, we were rewarded with a day off! This was brought about by the fact that the WSA allows, for its World Open, a qualifying draw of 64 and 3 days of qualifying to reduce that field to 8 lucky survivors who would then be placed into the main draw of 32. Unfortunately for the organizers, and fortunately for us, there were only 31 entries in the qualifying, so the first day of scheduled matches was scrubbed, and the second day's schedule was reduced from 16 matches to 10 after visa problems claimed another victim, who had to withdraw. This allowed John Massarella and Marko to venture out on rented bicycles to explore the island.

The Caribbean Referees (Orson Simpson and Craig Archer from Barbados, Alwyn Callender from Guyana, and Karen Anderson from Jamaica) had joined our team, and participated in all of our arduous activities like breakfast around the pool, beach time, naps, and relaxing under the swaying palm trees.

Friday, and the first round of qualifying, came soon enough, and the referees sprang into action. Three days at the South Sound Squash Club took us through qualifying and the first main round, with no major surprises. Now the venue switched to Camana Bay where the glass court had been erected overlooking the lagoon and the modern condo/office complex behind. Well, of course, matches could not start before 7:00 p.m. as it would have to be dark to allow the players proper visibility. So, we were then forced into spending our days enjoying the beach, exploring the town of George Town (while dodging the passengers from the 4-6 cruise ships that visit daily), and the like.

The guys from Squash TV arrived for the quarter-finals and we were informed (at about 30 minutes before the first match time) that the Video Review System would be used. Some of us had used it before, but others hadn't, so we had a crash course/review on exactly how it worked. Thankfully, it all worked out, but it did scuttle our plans to conduct assessments on the last 7 matches.

When we had checked into the hotel upon arrival, we had been given coupons for a "free" Swim with the Dolphins. So, on finals day, Thomas, Marko, and I decided to take advantage of this opportunity.

However, it was not to be all play and no work, as we practiced giving strokes under The Three-Referee System.



Marko, Thomas, and Graham awarding a "stroke" in The Three-Referee System.

After the final match was over, the speeches made, the trophies presented, and the sponsors thanked, it was time to pack and get ready to go home for Christmas. Marko's itinerary took him through Toronto, and was on the same flight as I was. We, therefore, traveled to the airport together, and attempted to check in together. I received my boarding pass and stepped aside to wait for Marko. Minutes passed, 15, 20, 30. Finally, he told me to go through security as he was having a problem. For some reason, Air Canada was insisting that he required a visa to visit Canada, even though he was only going to be in transit in Toronto airport before connecting to a flight to Frankfurt. Now, Marko had checked into this before leaving home and was told by the Canadian authorities in Slovenia that a visa was not required. Furthermore, he had flown the same itinerary (in reverse) on the outgoing flights, passed through Toronto, and had encountered no problems. The ticket agent enlisted the help of a more senior employee to no avail. She then called for an even more senior manager, still without success. The computer would simply not allow them to bypass this "visa requirement" to issue a boarding pass.

Time was ticking away, and since I could not offer any assistance (I had already used up all my influence at the Canadian embassy), I had proceeded through security and was waiting near the gate, when a huffing and puffing, and much relieved, Marko tapped me on the shoulder and gave me the thumbs-up sign.

Well, we are all back home now, after the torture of 10 days in the Caribbean during the middle of winter at a squash tournament sponsored by Heineken and Appleton. Never again ☺

The 2013 Tournament of Champions, New York City

By Graham Waters, WSF Referee

New York, New York – so good they named it twice! This year's Tournament of Champions, brilliantly staged by John Nimick and his EventEngine team on

the glittering glass court in Grand Central Terminal certainly lived up to that old adage.

New York welcomed the 4 assigned WSF Referees (Wayne Smith, Mike Riley, John Massarella, and Graham Waters plus WSF Assessor Tony Parker) with quite balmy weather, but that was not to last.

Fortunately, with the qualifying matches spread out at 4 different clubs, we were ably assisted by several US and Canadian National Referees. Even with their help we could not use The Three-Referee System.

until the main round, when all matches were played in Grand Central. This was only a short walk from the tournament hotel, but New York decided to treat us to a very cold snap after a few days, so extra layers of clothing was the order of the day. This put a crimp into John's early morning running program, and he was forced inside to the hotel's fitness facility.

When the main round started, Grand Central Terminal became the focal point of the squash world as well as the crossroads of America, with over 400,000 estimated commuters passing through every day. I have been to several ToC events, and I always take some time to stand behind the front wall of the court and listen to some of the comments from those commuters who stop to watch for a few minutes before heading home to Yonkers or Scarsdale or White Plains or Harlem. Only in New York!



The Referee who came in from the cold!

Now we are in the shadow of the fabulous Chrysler Building, my favourite New York skyscraper, as we quickly walk between the hotel and Grand Central. I say the shadow, but I don't recall very many sunny days this time. The squash is getting tighter with each passing day, and most of the seeds are progressing as expected. Steven Coppinger has made a breakthrough to the quarter-finals by upsetting the 5th seed Peter Barker, but James Willstrop put an end to his run at that point. The final was a titanic battle between Greg Gaultier, the flamboyant Frenchman, and Ramy Ashour, the



outrageous Egyptian. At 5-2 in the 4th game, I witnessed the most spectacular rally I have ever seen, not the longest, but definitely the most spectacular. It ended with Ramy caressing the ball into the nick off a hard drive hit right at him. As the crowd roared its tumultuous approval, I overheard the *referees* requesting a video review – yes, it was that spectacular. The rally can be found on YouTube, but the video doesn't really do justice to what I saw on that day. Only in New York!

European Team Championships

By Mike Collins, WSF Referee/Senior Assessor

Since I first began refereeing I heard about how the European Team Championships was such a huge and amazing tournament, but as I was not from a participating country I never imagined that I would be able to experience it first-hand. However for this year's event I was appointed the WSF Assessor and so at last had the opportunity to attend. The Championships were held at the Frans Otten Squash complex in Amsterdam which has, I think, 20 courts on 2 levels in addition to a main glass match court. There was the largest field ever with 52 men's and women's teams which were divided into 3 divisions. As you can imagine, this required a large pool of Referees, very ably led by the Tournament Referee Jacques Wieland who was assisted in arranging the match allocations and assessments by Roy Gingell and John Massarella.



There were too many referees from many of the participating countries to mention all by name, although the WSF Referees present in addition to Roy and John were Wendy Danzey, Peter Zobelein and Ralph Harenberg. As everyone will have heard by now, the Championship was marred by the untimely and tragic death of Peter Zobelein, who after not feeling well the first 2 days collapsed at breakfast on 3rd May and although taken by an Ambulance Helicopter to hospital never recovered. Peter was liked by everyone and was passionate about squash, and we have lost an excellent referee and friend. All proceedings were suspended at the complex during the competition whilst a tribute to Peter was announced and a minute's silence held.

The Championships schedule was demanding and all the referees were required to officiate many matches a day in sometimes difficult circumstances sitting at floor level behind the glass walls trying to maintain good communication with the players, while their team members and coaches were screaming support. I have yet to witness a noisier encounter than Spain

playing Italy in an extremely hard-fought match with all the supporters, coaches and the players themselves often shouting at the same time! I was perched in the middle trying my level best to concentrate on my assessment. Between the 4 WSF Assessors present and with the assistance on occasion of the Regional Assessors there were many assessments at the various levels conducted and from this aspect alone I think the Championship was a great success.

The main event was obviously the A Division Men's and Women's Championships where England although stretched had too much depth for their opponents, France and Ireland in the finals. The Men won 8 - 6 on games with a count-back as the matches were 2-all, with Thierry Lincou rolling back the years to beat James Willstrop 3-0 in a wonderful performance which showcased all his skills. The Women won slightly more comfortably by 2-1 in matches.

The Championship was rounded off with a splendid dinner held at hotel where an assortment of food was on offer from spare-ribs to corn-on-the-cob to nachos, as well as the local fare. Although it had been an extremely busy and eventful week I was glad to have had the opportunity to attend.



Peter Zöbelein (1962-2013)



Most readers will already be aware of the untimely death of our colleague, Peter Zöbelein in Amsterdam at the European Team Championships in May, as reported above by Mike Collins. This obituary, written by the German Director of Referees, Willi Eickworth, has already appeared elsewhere:

From time to time Fate plays a terrible game with us – and we have no hope of winning. It is all the more

painful when one of our friends is involved. Peter Zöbelein was only 50 years old. Much too young an age at which to leave us.

We will miss his personality, his competence, and his humour. He had some sharp edges, but that was fine (after all, he was a lawyer). He always had an open ear for his refereeing colleagues, and he was always prepared to help others progress, as he pursued his own development. He had been an active member of the German Federation refereeing pool since 1995. His appointment as WSF-Referee testifies to his professional competence; his personal competence was never in question.

Those of us who had the pleasure of accompanying Peter over many years are sad and downcast. Not only in the German Federation does he leave a big hole, but his contributions to his State Federation in Bavaria and his involvement in the German Squash League reflect his commitment to our sport.

Apart from his work for squash Peter was also well versed in football and tennis and possessed extensive knowledge in those sports, too.

*We did not have a chance to say thank you,
Just to say it was great to meet you.
It was for us a pleasure, thank you very much!*

Wilhelm Eickworth
Chairman, R & R Committee
German Squash Rackets Association



Men's World Team Championships Mulhouse, France, June 9-15, 2013

By Chris Sinclair, WSF Referee/Senior Assessor

There were 31 teams and there were 31 referees - 6 WSF Referees, 25 others (from Belgium, Czech Republic, England, Netherlands, Egypt, Kuwait, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and 13 from France). There were 3 sessions per day, 6 courts per session, and 3 Referees to a court using The Three-Referee System. Referees officiated 2 Ties one day and on alternate days, one Tie.

All referees stayed at the Mercure Hotel, where both breakfast and free wi-fi were provided. The shuttle bus timetables were good and our travel-time to the

courts was about 15 minutes. Referees were given 2 black polo shirts which looked smart and they all dressed well throughout the event.



CHAMPIONNAT DU MONDE DE SQUASH MASCULIN PAR ÉQUIPE
Photo officielle des arbitres - Juin 2013 - Mulhouse

The Opening Ceremony was held in the beautiful Place de la Reunion at dusk, just a 10-minute walk from our Hotel. The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed a happy ceremony with traditional dancing and the introduction of the Teams.

In the Palais des Sports 3 glass courts had been erected side-by-side, which looked awesome. From outside the courts you could vaguely hear the CR microphones from the other courts, but the players said when they were on-court they could not hear other speakers. When France played, the atmosphere was fantastic – I have never experienced noise or atmosphere like that at a squash match. W-a-y up behind the back wall was full, and the spectators were a long way wide into courts on either side of the main court. Behind the front wall was just as full.

The second centre was Squash 3000, just a 10 minute bus ride away. There were 3 glass-back courts used there for the matches of lower-seeded teams.

Our ID gave us access to most items on the menu. The food at both centres was excellent – probably the best ever provided at a squash event. Although we did not get scheduled meal breaks, the staff provided our meals quickly.

The ASB Scoring System was available. We were sent information on this beforehand and referees were given instruction how to use it before the event started. The current ASB system would benefit from two improvements: the ability of the CR to input which service-box is to be used; a YL to appear if 3 different decisions are put in. Also, in an ideal world there would be a printout for the Assessor to know whether decisions were 3:0, 2:1, or 1:1:1!

Initially I thought that it would be a problem having just one dedicated Assessor at such a large event, and of course I was busy, but it was okay and not too many valid assessments on high-standard matches were missed. One obvious result of my being the only Assessor was that assessments were consistent as to standard of interpretation and conclusions!

In general, I felt that the refereeing standard could have been better, especially as this was the Men's World Team Championships. The referees were strong on backswing interference, in that they did not give cheap Strokes, but they needed more work on NLs for not enough effort to play the ball and for minimal interference. I did notice a slight improvement in this over the week.

On semi-final day, 4 WSFRs worked from 11 am to 1.30 am (as did I) and they were still performing well at the end. On Finals day the matches did not finish until 9.30 pm. All the referees were enthusiastic, prompt and tried their best, were good company and made me welcome. Everyone did really well with the hot conditions, long hours and odd meal times. I was busy, but I enjoyed it and it is clearly a necessity to have a WSF Senior Assessor at a Men's World Teams event. It was a long and tiring week, but the Men's World Team Championships are one of the highlights of any squash season. It was a pleasure to be a part of it this year.

The Three-Referee System: Role of the Central Referee

The new Rules of Squash will come into effect on 1st January 2014, and as part of those Rules the procedures for the use of The Three-Referee System have been revised and incorporated, following discussions with the PSA and the WSA.

All Referees (and Assessors) should be aware of the responsibilities of the Three Referees, in particular with respect to keeping the play flowing and preventing too many lets because of a player's failure to make every effort either to clear or to play the ball.

1. The Three Referees must work closely together as a team. Thus they need to

consult before the match begins about how they intend to communicate with each other during the match, if necessary.

2. The Central Referee must be ready to give advice to a player who does not make every effort to clear, or one who does not make every effort to play the ball. If the decision of the three referees is "let", but in the CR's opinion the player needs to make more effort, the CR must say so – as advice both to the player to make more effort and to the two Side Referees to be on the look-out for a lack of effort.
3. Between games the CR must consult with the SRs, if there are any issues that the three referees need to be aware of. Correspondingly, if a SR sees a problem during a game, that SR should alert the other two referees between games. All three Referees must be ready to consult with each other between games.

WSF Assessors will be watching carefully to ensure that these guidelines are followed, in order to foster consistency in the standards that are applied universally. (RS)

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the *WSF Referees' Review*.

The next issue of the *Review* is scheduled for Spring 2014.

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