



WORLD SQUASH
FEDERATION

Referees' Review June 2008



Editor: Rod Symington

Half-way through another calendar year, and it's time for another edition of the WSF *Referees' Review*.

This issue is of modest size – which reflects perhaps the modest number of assignments for WSF Referees in the first six months of this year. However, the second half of the year promises to be quite busy.

The chief feature of the past six months is the continued spread of the Three Referee System – to which most of the reports in this issues testify. While the System is now almost universally

acknowledged to be a great improvement, there is still a need for some further reflection and tinkering. Some questions that spring to mind are:

Should there be one approved system and only one – or should local “variations” be permitted? (For example, should there be a directive that hand-signals be visible or not visible?)

Since during a rally the two Side Referees are instructed to signal if a doubtful return is good or not, what is the function of the Marker (i.e. a fourth official) if there is one? Is the Marker nothing more than a score-keeper?

Do Three Referees mean the end of foot-faults? (If two Referees have to agree on marking calls, is it likely that two will call “Foot-fault” at the same time?)

What communication, if any, is to be allowed (or recommended) among the three officials?

These and other issues need to be settled before we can claim that the Three Referee System is truly mature.

It would be helpful if the outstanding issues received wide discussion, especially among those with the most experience in using the system.

Editorial

(Note: The opinions expressed in this Editorial are the responsibility of the Editor and in no way reflect the official position of the World Squash Federation.)

As the various reports in this issue make clear, the Three Referee System continues to make strides and has been fully accepted now on three continents. The PSA will soon be announcing that it is mandatory for all Super Series events, and in the not too distant future the system will become mandatory for *all* PSA events. In the meantime, in all the venues where the system has been utilized, the reactions have all been extremely positive.

While there are still a few wrinkles to be ironed out in the use of the system, there are also some serious consequences for the future of refereeing on the international scene. These consequences concern a) the conduct of assessments, b) the potential increase in WSF-accredited referees, and c) the possible creation of a new referee category.

The WSF is committed to improving refereeing on the international scene, and a major constituent of that project is the assessment of referees under the new CBTA Programme. The Three Referee System provides a challenge in this regard, because only the Central Referee can be assessed, as he or she is the only one of the team of three who carries out all the functions (e.g. time-keeping, injuries and bleeding, conduct) of the single referee. At most events, however, the Central Referee is not giving a visible signal (in fact, at some venues none of the referees' signals are visible). The result is that some referees (both WSF-appointees and potential candidates for International Referee) are officiating many matches, but are not being assessed. So how is the performance of the Central Referee to be assessed?

One day, no doubt, we will have an electronic system that records all the decisions of all the Referees, but until that day arrives, there is a simple solution: all three Referees must give a

visible hand-signal – and the Assessor can thus assess the Central Referee. (Yes, it takes a bit of juggling to control pencil, clipboard, microphone and give a hand-signal, but it is possible – especially if a microphone on a stand is provided.) Without assessments we cannot evaluate performance and we cannot help referees get better. Thus it must be mandatory that assessments be carried out where the Three Referee System is utilized.

The second dimension to the universal acceptance of the Three Referee System is that experience shows that the reduction in stress experienced by the Central Referee leads to a greatly improved performance, with the result that in almost every case the Central Referee passes the assessment. Does this mean that in future the number of successful assessments will be greater and thus the number of International Referees will increase? :Probably, yes.

So what happens if a referee who becomes an International Referee under the Three Referee System is suddenly thrown one day alone into the lion's den of Attila the Hun versus Conan the Barbarian? Will that Referee be able to handle the stress? Or should we consider creating a new category of referee who is accredited at the International Level, but only under the Three Referee System?

These are thorny issues that need considerable thought and discussion. At the moment we are in a transition period between the ego-fulfillment of the past and the co-operative team-work of the future. The sport of squash is already benefiting greatly from the Three Referee System: the next challenge is to solve the assessment and accreditation problems that it presents to us.

From the Director

by Graham Waters

The first half of 2008 has been relatively quiet as far as assignments for WSF Referees are concerned. It was a shame to see the Windy City Open cancelled as a result of the main sponsor's pulling out. I hope that John Flanigan, who works so hard to put on a super event in Chicago, can attract new sponsorship so that his event can reclaim its rightful place on the World Calendar. On the other hand, the traditionally busy 2nd half just got even busier with a request for 4 referees for the World University Championships in Cairo in August and a new PSA Super Series event announced for Abu Dhabi in December. Please refer to the accompanying chart to see the names of those who were assigned to events during the first half of 2008.

The 3 Referee System continues to have wide support from referees, players, promoters, and spectators alike. At the Canary Wharf Classic in March, the PSA was testing an electronic device to record the decisions of all 3 Referees. This will allow the individual decisions to remain confidential with only the consensus decision announced. I am anxiously awaiting a report from the PSA on the performance of this next step in the evolution of the 3 Referee System. The next step for the WSF will be to have a 4th device that will display the decisions of all 3 Referees to allow WSF Assessors to do their job properly.

The PSA is so happy with the 3 Referee System (with or without the electronic device) that they will shortly be announcing that it will be mandatory for all Super Series events, including all qualification matches! They also envision it becoming mandatory for *all* PSA events in the longer term. While WISPA are not yet ready to make the system mandatory, they too are fully supportive and welcome its use where feasible. Of course, this will result in the need for more referees assigned to each event. We have made sure that the PSA understands that and hope that they pass that requirement along to their promoters.

As reported in the last issue of the Referees' Review, the timing of the annual Referee appointment procedure has been changed. Letters to existing WSF Referees whose terms were expiring and to all member nations were sent out with a deadline for submission of May 30. This will allow the Review Board an opportunity to review the candidates at a time when there are very few major events on the PSA and WISPA calendars, and only the World Juniors on the WSF's. The new and renewed appointments will be announced by the beginning of September.

The CBTA Working Group has now produced the final documents from its very extensive review of the Assessment process. I want to express a huge thank you to the group's leader, John Small, and to its members, Chris Sinclair, Rod Symington, and Jennifer Birch-Jones for the countless hours of their time they have spent in completing this most formidable task.

In order to fully implement the new procedures, we will need to train all of our existing Assessors in the new methods. As members of the working group, Chris Sinclair and Rod Symington, both of whom are WSF Assessors, seemed ideally qualified to lead this initiative. As a first step they assessed each other at the Men's World Team Championships in Chennai last December. To their great relief, they discovered that they are very much on the same page in matters of what to look for and how to assess candidates. The WSF has named them both Senior Assessors, and they will be responsible for training and evaluating the rest of our current Assessors. They will be conducting short seminars at events where other Assessors are present in the near future, so look for a WSF Senior Assessor coming to an event near you!

As always, your comments and suggestions on any aspect of our program are always welcome. I look forward to catching up with many of you during the very busy 2nd half of the year.

Tournament of Champions (New York)

by John Massarella

New York in January is a fantastic place to be, even for a known sun worshipper such as I am. I arrived at JFK airport on a cold winter's day, and as prudently as ever took a shuttle bus, not a taxi to Grand Central station, even though I wasn't picking up the tab.

I was taken to the Radisson hotel where I was to share a room with Todd "the ticket man." Mike Riley was the TR, and he and I were entertained by John Nimick, Tournament Promoter, in some fine style at a restaurant in the Grand Central station on the first evening.

I was the WSF appointment, and Mike Riley had also gathered together a team of referees, which included USA-based, and visiting Canadian referees.

In the qualifying matches that were held at local clubs, I was able to help a member of the Canadian and US referees by assessing ten matches. Throughout the tournament they made me feel very welcome and worked enthusiastically, enjoying the opportunity to work in the Three Referee System.

Below the top six seeds the draw was a little weaker than in previous years, but nevertheless there were some very exciting matches much appreciated by the knowledgeable crowds, who supported the event in large numbers right from the first round.

Because meals were not provided in the hotel, this gave me a great opportunity to enjoy the many varied culinary delights that New York is famous for. I'm pleased to say that my expenses for meals were met without question.

The final three days when the matches didn't start until the evening provided me with a wonderful opportunity to explore New York. I did this from 9am until 4pm on each of the three days, taking three different bus tours, which I was very happy to negotiate for the price of one.

I pursued my first viewing of New York with great energy and drive. You name all the landmarks, I saw most of them.

After the final, my duties over, I was next in line for payment after the winner, Ramy Ashour. Hisham, his brother and guardian, had already left New York, so I was asked to perform an important duty: Ramy asked me if I would go to the bank with him the next morning as his minder. I can tell you his cheque was a little more than mine.

The squash, the fraternity, the venue, the city – they were all that I expected from such a great event – and more.

The Pace Heliopolis Closed

by Graham Waters (Canada)

Well, that's what the Pace Canadian Squash Classic came to be known as, with 5 of the last 8 being Egyptian (6 if you include Egyptian born Canadian champion Shahier Razik). There were 2 more Egyptians in the main draw, meaning practically half the draw was Egyptian. This was in large measure to some unfortunate scheduling as the Canadian Classic was in direct conflict with the British, Dutch and French National Championships.

I arrived in Toronto fresh from a very successful Bluenose Classic, a well organized and growing PSA event (\$30k this year) in my home town of Halifax. After checking into my room at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto's grand old hotel built in the golden days of rail travel, I contacted Mike Riley, the Tournament Referee to get my schedule for the next day's qualifying. Matches were to be played at 3 different area clubs, and I was to report to the Toronto Athletic Club for matches to be played there. The TAC is located on the 36th floor of a large downtown office building. I don't know if that makes it the "highest" squash club around, but we did not require the "altitude" ball I was told.

There were 9 aspiring Canadians in the qualifying draw, but only Shawn Delierre was successful in reaching the main round, where his

reward was to meet Wael El Hindi, the very talented 5th seeded Egyptian. Well, actually, he would have to meet an Egyptian seed in any case as all 4 successful qualifiers would. All met the same fate in the main draw – a brisk 3-0 defeat.

Mike Riley and I were the only WSF Referees present, but we were ably assisted by several Canadian National and Provincial Referees. With the qualifying matches and first round matches spread out at different clubs, we could not use the 3 Referee System until the 2nd round, when all matches were to be played on the glittering glass court in the John Bassett Theatre, located in Toronto's Convention Centre. This was only a short walk from the Royal York if you ventured outside, but with Toronto suffering through a period of very cold weather, we usually utilized the city's intricate underground network of tunnels and walkways, that link many office buildings and shopping centres, to arrive without stepping out into the Canadian Winter.

For the quarterfinals, we did use the 3 Referee System and everything went relatively smoothly. The John Bassett Theatre is a fantastic venue for spectators with the show court erected on the stage. However, it is less than ideal for the referees as the seats closest to the front are actually below the level of the stage. We found a compromise position a few rows back - it was still too low, but we managed. Of course, there were not many options as all seats had been sold for most sessions.

It was good to see Jonathon Power again in his dual roles of Honorary Player Liaison and TV commentator. He and John Nimick did a great job as the TV team, although the package shown on Canadian TV was only an hour of highlights. It's so annoying watching the score move to 2-all and then 3-all, and then all of a sudden it's 9-8.

It's always a pleasure to attend a John Nimick event, and this was no exception. Being in Toronto, it had the additional personal benefit of allowing me to visit with my daughter and granddaughter.

Here's hoping that next year's event can find a spot in the schedule without major conflicts and all of the top players can attend. I would love to

go back. Oh, yes, and Ramy soundly defeated a rather out of sorts Shabana to defend his Canadian Squash Classic title.

Kuwait Open 2008

by Damien Green (Australia)

I had the privilege to be invited to the 2008 Kuwait Open. The tournament took place at Kuwait Squash Federation's new venue, the Sheikh Salem Al Sabah International Squash Complex. This is a brand-new venue having eight glass back courts and one all glass main court with seating for almost one thousand people. It is a very impressive world-class Squash venue which will be the perfect venue for the 2009 World Championship.

As in previous years we were graciously hosted by Sheikha Fadia Al Sa'ad and the Kuwait Squash Federation team led by Major General Dr. Mahmoud Razouki. Special thanks go to Khalid Quassem for organising the travel for the refs, amongst a thousand other jobs he had to do. Thanks also to Robert Edwards for his support to the referees throughout the tournament.

World Referee Nasser Zahran was the tournament referee and the rest of the international team consisted of Ayaz Khan, who is currently coaching in Kuwait, Wendy Danzey and Dave Atkins from England, and myself from Australia. There were quite a number of local referees led by Mahmoud Al-Jazzaf, who were willing and able to officiate throughout the tournament.

Our accommodation was at the Movenpick Al Bida'a resort which was really fantastic.

The surprise for this tournament was that the three referee system was to be used for every match from the first round of qualifying right through to the final match. Obviously this required quite a number of referees and that is where the locals came to the fore. Personally, I still have reservations about the effectiveness of the three referee system in matches where the players are not always making every effort to

play the ball, as it is difficult for all three referees to set the same boundaries for the players. However, on whole it worked quite well.

As this is still a relatively new system, it is always bound to show up a couple of new situations that haven't been fully covered to date. Two that came up during this tournament were –

1. If the centre and the right referee do not agree on the score or the service box, who has the final say?
2. When the ball is found to be broken on serve, is it the centre referee only, or a combined decision to decide whether the ball possibly broke in the previous rally, or broke on serve?

As you would expect with a PSA Platinum event, the standard of Squash was fantastic, with a majority of the top thirty players in attendance. The stand-out match, in my opinion, was Lee Beachill battling out a marathon with Ramy Ashour in the quarterfinal, only to go down fighting in the fifth game. It was a great experience to be involved.

The final between Amr Shabana and Ramy Ashour probably didn't quite live up to the potential it held, with Amr winning in three, but if the third game tie break had gone the other way, who knows what might have happened.

All in all, the hospitality by everyone involved in Kuwait was second to none, and the company and advice provided by the other referees was much appreciated. If you ever get the opportunity to attend a tournament in Kuwait, then jump at the chance, it really is a fantastic experience.

An Asian Safari: or, Three Referees in the Orient

by Rod Symington (Canada)

Following the WSF Refereeing Conference and the Men's World Team Championships in Chennai (India) last December, I was invited to conduct advanced refereeing clinics and to assess the referees at some other events in Asia.

Kolkata, Kuwait, and Kuala Lumpur were on the agenda.

The Kolkata International (a PSA event) was held in February at the oldest squash club in the world: the Calcutta Racket Club, founded in 1793. The present structure has been considerably modernized and boasts a fine gallery court, along with other fine facilities.

The tournament, sponsored by the Indian Squash Rackets Association, was ably and efficiently run by the two club professionals, Dalip Tripathi and Gautam Das, both of whom are also very good referees.

Accommodation was provided in a hotel within walking distance of the Club (although I got lost for an hour the first time I tried to find my way there), and the daily walk to the Club through the crowded, noisy streets of Kolkata was an event almost as interesting as the squash.

The presence of Yogi Singh as Tournament Referee, assisted by five other Indian referees, led to the introduction of the Three Referee System from the Quarterfinals onwards. The Indian referees got used to the system in about ten minutes, and the matches proceeded without incident.

(There was an instructive episode in the first Quarterfinal. When in the first game a player wanted to "discuss" a decision made by the three referees and opened the door to do so, Yogi Singh said: "Conduct Warning for delay of game." All the other players were watching – and from that moment on there was no a single beep from any player for the rest of the event! This episode could serve as a salutary example for all referees using the Three Referee System.)

So successful was the system that every comment I heard was extremely positive. One knowledgeable spectator (himself the father of a professional player) said: "Why haven't we been using this system for the past twenty years?"

Mansur Zaman (Seeded #5) put on a brilliant display to win the Final over Ong Beng Hee (seeded #2), 3 games to 1.

The Asian Championships followed in Kuwait, and I was originally supposed to go there for a

repeat performance, but unfortunately at the very last minute the sponsors' financial problems forced the trip to be cancelled. Nevertheless, the success of the Three Referee System in Kolkata led to its being used in Kuwait for both the Individual and the Team events, thanks to the support shown for the system by International Referees Munir Shah and Yogi Singh – and again it was judged to have been a great success.

In March the Kuala Lumpur Open for both Men and Women was a major event in the squash calendar. The venue for this \$100,000 tournament was the Berjaya Times Square complex, a large shopping mall with adjacent hotel. This was the perfect venue, because in the middle of the mall there is wide-open space, just the right size for a glass court and seating. All around this space are gallerias where shoppers and passers-by could stop and look down on the action. For the Finals there were 300 spectators in the paid seats, and 200 more watching from the gallerias.

A squash tournament in Malaysia is *always* superbly organized and run, and this one was no exception. Tournament Referee Leslie Ponalpanam, along with the other tournament organizers, showed their broadmindedness in agreeing to use the Three Referee System from the Quarterfinals onwards. It also helped that Asian Director of Referees, Munir Shah, who was unable to attend because of business commitments, had strongly recommended its use.

The result, once again, was an unqualified success – so much so that the Tournament Chairman found it hard to believe that all the matches had proceeded without incident. The impeccable behaviour of the players made the organizers extremely happy, because the tournament enjoys the sponsorship of a major bank, and the Finals are broadcast live on television.

The Men's Final was won by Ong Beng Hee over his compatriot Muhammed Iskandar, 3 – 0; and the Women's champion was Nicol David who beat Natalie Grinham 3 – 0.

Postscript

A detour on the way back to Canada led me to Krefeld, Germany, for the German National Championships. The German National Referees, after some initial skepticism, were won over by Tournament Referee, Willi Eickworth, and agreed to use the Three Referee System from the Quarterfinals onwards. Its success can be measured by the fact that after seeing it in action for only one day, the German Squash Rackets Federation decided that it would be used for the Bundesliga Finals three weeks later.

This event, by the way, was one of the best squash tournaments I have ever attended. A superb MC (a rarity at a squash event), live video streaming of every match, splendid hospitality and organization, and an unforgettable closing ceremony on the show-court that ended with tinsel raining down on players and spectators alike – all in all a great experience.

So within three months in four cities beginning with the letter “K”, the Three Referee System was tried successfully and won over many supporters.

2008 European Team Championships (Amsterdam)

by Jack Flynn (Ireland)

This year's event took place in Amsterdam, with 29 men and 19 women teams participating. Tony Parker (England) and myself were WSF-appointed assessors, but unfortunately because of a family bereavement Tony had to cancel at a late stage. Dorothy Armstrong, Roy Gingell and John Massarella (all WSF Assessors) and Graham Horrex were there on behalf of the European Squash Federation and between us our objectives were to assess as many referees as possible, monitor the current International Referees and also identify those with the potential to progress within the discipline. Graham Horrex would be stepping down as Director of Refereeing, Europe at the end of the

tournament and his duties would be passed on to Dorothy and Roy.

I arrived in Schipol Airport, midday on Tuesday 29th where I met up with the usual suspects, George Tierney, Joss Garvey, Maureen Maitland and David Atkins en route to the accommodation at the Ibis Hotel, a short coach journey away. After check-in a visit to the city centre was hastily organised and the group took off to see the local sights – probably the only opportunity to do so in daylight. Back in the evening for a pre-tournament buffet followed by the referees' meeting and a chance to meet again with late arrivals, Dean Clayton, Jill Wood, Pete Blackmore and Jens Kragholm to mention just a few. 49 referees travelled from all over the continent to officiate and were welcomed by Tournament Director Ian Cherington and Tournament Referee Bill West who took charge of the briefing.

DAY 2 took a similar pattern, at the end of which qualifiers emerged for both men and women's 1/4 finals to be decided the following morning, with semi-finals in the afternoon, leaving the remainder to engage in play-offs for positions 9-29 and 9-19 respectively.

Finals day Saturday 3rd May saw England retain both titles beating France in the men's and Netherlands in the women's events. The presentation of prizes followed at which Graham Horrex received a special award for all his work for European Squash over many years. Afterwards it was a quick dash back to the Hotel to change, return to the complex where 6 barges took us on a 1 hour tour of the many canals en route to Amsterdam Harbour where a buffet was arranged at the floating Chinese Restaurant, the Sea Palace. Afterwards coaches were laid on to take those wishing to do so back to the hotel where the party continued until the small hours.

Teams and officials started very early on Sunday on their journeys home – some left before 5.00 am other chose to take late flights and enjoy a sunny day in Amsterdam. Goodbyes were exchanged with hopes of meeting again in Malmoe 2009. It was agreed by all that the Host Nation did a tremendous job in organising all aspects of the event and great credit is due to

them. Many thanks to SBN and in particular Ian Cherington for making it a great success.

The Dunlop British Open (Liverpool)

by Wendy Danzey (England)

I was invited to be Tournament Referee by the sponsor Paul Walters of iSport Marketing and was quite excited that it was to be held in Liverpool, my old stomping ground, 12 miles from my birth place Widnes, which was originally in Lancashire, later Cheshire and I hear it's now in Merseyside!

John Massarella and I had an amusing time checking in at the Jury's Inn after a very long hard day at the Liverpool Cricket Club. We had been given two rooms for referees that should have been extra large, unfortunately, the guy booking us in couldn't find them and could hardly speak a word of English, about all he could say was 'breakfast will be served from 6am to 10.30am'. We later found out that the hotel had only been open for two weeks and that was why it seemed to be 'Fawlty Towers' the second – we couldn't believe that this guy had been let loose to practise on us!

The following morning I found a very helpful receptionist with whom I toured the six floors of the hotel with searching for the two extra large rooms we had been promised, they became our dormitories, one for Jill Wood, Christine Bishop and myself and one for John, Roy, Dean and on the Saturday night Dave Atkins became the fourth inmate!

I knew we had a tough time ahead with a shortage of referees, using three different venues, though we never used more than two at any one time, it certainly proved to be a juggling act. All the referees worked relentlessly in temperatures at times exceeding 80 odd degrees! I did however go armed with various body sprays for my referees and one or two spectators were glad of a squirt too! (I also advised family and friends to take a holiday in the UK whilst the squash was on - good weather guaranteed if I'm refereeing at home in the summer months.)

The venues used were the Liverpool Cricket Club, the Northern Club Crosby and the glass court was erected in the new prestigious Liverpool Echo Arena, built at the revamped Albert Dock, especially for the celebrations for Liverpool 2008 European Capital of Culture.

Joss Garvey and Jill Wood helped me enormously with the Masters event, it was impossible for me to be at two venues, as I was also refereeing, allocating 18 referees for 400 matches over the seven days. Tony Parker and Dean Clayton also helped out for a day each with the Masters event at the Liverpool Cricket Club.

Jill Wood very kindly stepped in at very short notice to replace Mary Scott-Miller who was unable to travel to Liverpool after recently having had a new knee replacement. Jill arrived on the Wednesday evening prior to the Masters starting at the Northern Club on Thursday so she wouldn't be late; she was very worried about finding her way from the hotel and Dean loaned her his 'sat-nav', setting it up so all she had to do was click on the clubs address. Unfortunately, Jill clicked on the incorrect address and sped off along the M62 in the direction of London heading for Dean's daughters, her short 15 minute journey became a 60 minute nightmare!

Dave Walker and Clive Smith managed to have a night out at the Cavern Night Club, along with other haunts of the 'Beatles' – I would have loved to have gone back there too but sorry to say didn't make it, nor did I manage to sail over the River Mersey to New Brighton on either The Royal Iris or the Royal Daffodil – definitely next time!

Gosh, I nearly forgot about the squash, but I

must mention the men's final between David Palmer and James Willstrop, must have been one of the most exciting finals in the history of the British Open, with David Palmer winning 13-11 in the fifth game in 111 minutes. It was one of those matches it didn't seem fair for there to be a loser, it was played in excellent spirit by both players, they were an absolute credit to the game.

Just before the finals started I suddenly remembered that my sister Hilary had taken my advice and was on a two week holiday on the tip of the Llynn Peninsular, a very remote part of North Wales. So I suddenly had the brilliant idea to join her when the squash had finished for a few days walking, being a perfect way to relax after several weeks of refereeing and assessing.

I set off at nearly midnight a similar length journey to travelling home to Nottingham - I was totally wide awake after officiating as right ref in such a thrilling final. At about 2am I became aware that I had a vehicle right on my tail. I increased my speed, but was quite relieved when the blue lights started flashing! I stopped: "Madam, where are you going at this time of night by yourself?" I explained and he said: "You swerved; I'll have to breathalise you. There's nothing to worry about, but if the test is positive, I'll have to arrest you and you will spend the rest of night in a police cell." I said: "Well, I've had a drink, but if I swerved it was because you were driving up my b...side." He was a quite excited at this statement and maybe a little disappointed when the breath-test was totally negative.

I eventually arrived at Aberdaron at nearly 3am, and I had three days of perfect sunny weather, enjoying my favourite coastal walks (wearing my new red theme socks – from my Canadian friends) – sheer bliss!

WSF Referee Assignments – 1st half 2008
(A) – Assessor Assignment

Jan. 8-16	Tournament of Champions	New York	1	John Massarella
Feb. 10-16	Pace Canadian Classic	Toronto	1	Graham Waters
Feb. 23 – Mar. 1	Virginia Pro Championships	Richmond	1	Mike Riley
March 9-14	Canary Wharf	London	2	Jos Aarts, Jason Foster
April 21-27	Kuwait Open	Kuwait	5	Dave Atkins, Wendy Danzey, Damien Green, Ayaz Khan, NasserZahran
April 30 – May 3	European Team Championships (A)	Amsterdam	2	Dorothy Armstrong (A), Jack Flynn (A)
April 30 – May 3	Canadian Nationals (A)	Niagara-on-the-Lake	1	Wendy Danzey (A)
May 6-12	British Open	Liverpool	2	Dean Clayton, Roy Gingell
May 19-23	Super Series Finals	London	2	WendyDanzey, John Massarella
June 2-7	Seoul Open	Seoul	1	Mohammad Fayyaz

Assessing the Assessors

As noted elsewhere in this issue, the adoption of the CBTA Programme means that all WSF Assessors must be assessed in order to confirm that they are assessing according to the principles embodied in the Programme. Two Senior WSF Assessors have been named: Chris Sinclair (Australia) and Rod Symington (Canada). They will be responsible for a) conducting a Assessors' Seminar for current WSF Assessors, and, following the seminar, b) assessing those WSF Assessors. They will also be responsible for performing the same tasks when other

potential WSF Assessors are identified.

As of this date, two WSF Assessors, Graham Waters (Canada) and Wendy Danzey (England) have attended a seminar and were subsequently assessed and re-confirmed as WSF Assessors.

All WSF Assessors should have a copy of the WSF Assessor's Manual, which is available from the WSF. (The "Guidelines for WSF Assessors" – relating to the correct use of the Assessment Forms – are available on the WSF website.)

Envoi

My thanks to all the contributors to this issue. The next issue of the *Referees' Review* will be in

November 2008. All contributions should be sent to: symingto@uvic.ca.