



Stockholm

WORLD
SQUASH

WSF

- ◆ Why me?
- ◆ Young dynamic referee !! Yet inexpensive!!
- 1. Restructured Scottish system
- 2. Knowledge of systems in Australia, Canada, USA, England, Europe, Central America
- 3. The Ambassador Programme - needs of developing nations eg Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia



Aim of presentation

- ◆ How to increase the pool of referees in a country
- ◆ **Recommendations/structures/ideas come from**
 1. Good practice around the world
 2. The Scottish system
 3. Personal input

Message to self

Don't

- ◆ Talk too fast
- ◆ Be too general or vague
- ◆ Include too much detail and data



Do

- ◆ Let attendees know that these notes are available

Keep it simple 1

Slide 5, lists the essential components (in my view)



Keep it simple 2

1. National association
2. Referee development officer
3. Budget
4. Referees' committee
5. Refereeing convenor
6. Programme for appointment, development and progression ie a refereeing pathway
7. Database and website
8. Initiatives
9. Resources

Keep it simple 3

- ◆ Briefly
- ◆ Each of the above
- ◆ Explain



The national association

1. Organising body for squash
 2. Paid staff including a CEO with a good salary
 3. A budget from ?? Government, Sports Council etc
 4. Stated aims, objectives, targets, quality assurance etc
 5. It's the big one – but must recognise its responsibility to refereeing in the sport
 6. Squash Canada, Squash Australia, Scottish Squash etc
- ◆ Not got it – create it

The refereeing development officer

1. Paid post, good salary
2. A committed individual
3. An enthusiast
4. A player of the sport/a lover of the sport
5. Proactive, dynamic, communication skills



- ◆ **This person promotes the refereeing side within the organisation. May have other duties. Appointing the right person is crucial.**

The refereeing committee

1. To advise on refereeing matters
 2. 4-5 persons, mostly volunteers
 3. Includes development officer
 4. Experienced/representative referees
 5. Representation seen to be fair by squash community
 6. A refereeing convenor
 7. Qualities of convenor as before
- ◆ **Not got one – create one**



A refereeing pathway

1. Recruitment
2. Qualifying courses
3. Tutors/assessors
4. Criteria for grading and quality assurance
5. Opportunities for internal assessment – national leagues and competitions
6. Opportunities for external assessment – European teams, Asian Games, bringing in an assessor



◆ **Help – next three slides**

Returning to grading

1. Criteria for National grade is established by WSF – ensures consistency worldwide
2. Country only needs to organise preparatory grading structure
3. Most countries have 2 stages leading to National
 - ◆ Scotland : Grade 3 – Grade 2 – National
 - ◆ Canada : Grade C – Grade B – Grade A (National)
 - ◆ Australia : Club – State - National
 - ◆ **Make it realistic but EASY to get to the first stage**

Scotland's grade 3

1. Attend introductory refereeing course – 4 hours
 2. Sit test paper – 25 questions, pass rate 75%
 3. Be successfully observed by assessor in a match with a minimum of 10 key decisions
 4. GRADE 3
 5. Progress via logbook/assessments
 6. Once National grade, referee can assess at Grades 2/3
- ◆ **Not got a course? – have this one**

Initiatives/opportunities

- ◆ Introduction to the rules course for players
- ◆ League requires each team to have one qualified referee – points awarded
- ◆ 80 players through course, 5 progressing refereeing
- ◆ Hosting major events eg Commonwealth Games, European teams, World Masters, Asian Games – provides long term opportunities
- ◆ **Australia 2006 example : 3 WSFRs, 4 Regionals**

Recruitment – how to get referees

- ◆ Constant on going publicity - e-mails – website – club fliers

Targetting

- ◆ Players
- ◆ Parents – the squash family
- ◆ Occupations eg teachers, policemen
- ◆ **Individual approaches – use existing enthusiasts**



The budget



- ◆ Money is essential
- ◆ Many demands
- ◆ Travel and subsistence – needs of different countries
- ◆ Individual opportunities abroad
- ◆ Seminars with invited speakers
- ◆ **Help - opportunities for sponsorship**



Website/database



1. Direct and indirect messages – “refereeing is important”
2. Well structured
3. Regularly updated
4. Established referees recognised – database and resources
5. Invites and incentives for new referees eg details of courses upcoming, easy entry to “How do I become a ref?”
6. Frequent initiatives eg e newsletter, tournament reports, “Rule of the month”, “a funny thing happened in my match.....”, Q and A sessions online eg “Ask the ref.”



Resources



1. WSF website
2. Other national associations
3. Sharing – want that introductory course?...
4. Home grown resources

A Magic Wand

1. Plenty money
2. More suitable competitions for assessment
3. More valid assessments ie enough decisions per match
4. More assessors
5. Younger referees coming on board
6. Hold on to the enthusiast



In summary

- ◆ Thank you for listening
- ◆ If you learned nothing new – great – you have a good system in place – but keep working at it
- ◆ If this has helped – fine – any more info – contact me via the WSF or at ianallanach@aol.com