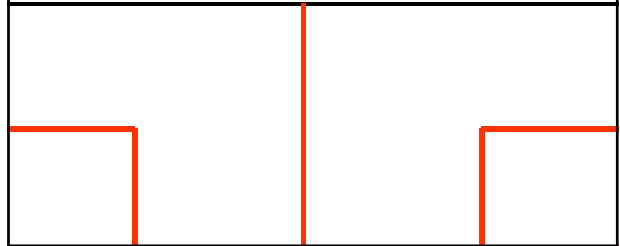




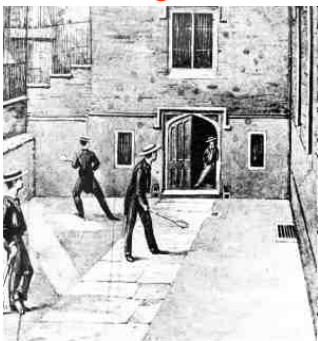
**Referees' Conference
Odense, Denmark
September 25 - 26, 2009**



The 3-Referee System



Background



Boys at Harrow School are depicted playing squash in an outdoor court about 1900.

Background

- North American “hardball” squash
- The Referee’s decision or a Marker’s call could be appealed by either player
- The “line judges” were consulted in turn
- If either judge agreed with the Referee, the decision was “sustained”
- If both judges disagreed with the Referee, the decision was “overruled”

WSF Trials

- 3-Referee System tested 1991-1993
 - 1992 Women's World Championships - Vancouver
- Results:
 - there was often a delay in play as inexperienced referees stumbled with the cumbersome mechanics of the system
 - Emotional ebb and flow (roller coaster)
 - Players learned to abuse the system – they appealed because they were permitted
 - when the first Side Referee disagreed with the Central Referee, the Side Referee with the "worst" view gave the deciding vote
- System abandoned

2-Referee System

- Referee & Appeals Referee
- Player could appeal the Referee's decision to the Appeals Referee, who made the final decision
- Advantage of fewer people required
- Problem of different standards



- 2-Referee System abandoned



November 2006

- all-time low in “bad” decisions and player-referee relationship
- position of referee
- “Something had to be done”

John Hancock Hall - Boston



January, 2007

- Meeting with Alex Gough and Graham Ryding – PSA Board members
- Redesigned 3-Referee System
- PSA Board endorsed an experiment and proposed a trial in Chicago at the Windy City Open (to be held the following week)
- Agreement required from John Flanigan – the Tournament Director and Promoter

Redesigned 3-Referee System

- All 3 Referees must signal simultaneously and independently
- Decisions would be given using:
 - Cards
 - Electronic System
 - Hand Signals

Decision Cards



Hand Signals - No Let



Hand Signals - Stroke



Hand Signals - Yes, Let



Hand Signals - Ball was Good



Hand Signals - Ball Not Good



- Down
- Not Up
- Fault
- **Out !**

Majority Decision



- Players Meeting with TD and WSF Referees
- Players voted and were anxious to try it
- Brave decision by John Flanigan to support it
- System used from 2nd round on
- Player used as a Side Referee



- Overall “better” decisions
- “Safety Net” to eliminate the “howler”
- Initial awkward “fumbling” with mechanics
- No delay in play!
- Very few altercations with players
- Promoter and main sponsor “happy” with the results, not to mention “very relieved”.



TOC - February, 2007

- Referees all in the same row – some distance apart
- Only 2 WSF Referees – US National Referees used but no players



Findings

- General consensus was that there were fewer “wrong” decisions than with Referee/Marker
- Differing experience level of referees evident as some situations (blocking) not penalised consistently



March, 2007

- Same Referee positioning as Chicago – “triangular formation”
- Confirmation from players, spectators, and referees that “the system worked”

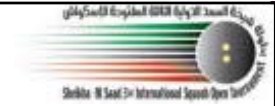


April, 2007

- Purpose built “referee stand” – 15ft. Behind court
- Side Referees placed on side wall
- Spectators (behind referee stand) could not see hand signals



Findings



- 5 WSF Referees present but scheduling required the use of players as Side Referees at times
- Problem recruiting players
- Again, there proved to be fewer “wrong” decisions



April, 2007

- Both a PSA and WISPA event, using as many as 4 courts simultaneously
- 6 WSF Referees present, but couldn't use 3-Referee System until quarter finals when all matches played on the glass court
- Two differences:
 - Use of dedicated Marker
 - Side Referees signaling when no Marker call



Findings

- Crossing the flight – Side Referee on opposite side of the court sometimes gave a different decision
- Difficult for Central Referee to set a “standard”, particularly on problem areas such as blocking, fishing, playing the body



How to develop guidelines for the implementation of the 3-Referee System

Alex Gough – by now the COO of the PSA
 Andrew Shelley – the Chief Executive of WISPA
 Graham Waters & Rod Symington – R&R Committee of the WSF

Negotiation and agreement and a joint release of the Implementation Guidelines



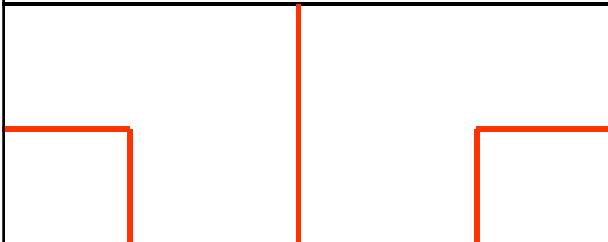
3-Referee System

Is now mandatory at:

- PSA Super Series events
 - Including all qualifying matches
- WISPA matches played on all-glass courts
- WSF World Team Championships (Men & Women) from the quarter-final stage on



The 3-Referee System – is it perfect?



The 3-Referee System

- Work in progress
- Does the system need to be improved?
- How do we do it?

Gaps

Suspension of Play – Rule 7

Fallen Object – Rule 7

Ball Hitting Player – Rule 9

Further Attempts - Rule 10

Replacement of Ball – Rule 14

Issues

Should the Central Referee offer the player a brief explanation of a decision on request?

Should the Central Referee and the Side Referees consult among themselves before a match and/or during a match?

Possible use of headsets (as in other sports). If so, who can say what to whom and when?

Issues

- Should Side Referees alert the Central Referee to unfair tactics or misconduct on court (if missed by Central Referee)?
- Should the Referees be allowed a moment of reflection when the appeal comes and not have to signal immediately?
- Should the signals be visible to the players or not? All the Referees? Just the Side Referees?

Issues

- Marker non-call overrule
- Assessments
 - Central Referee
 - Side Referees