



The English Association  
of Snooker and Billiards

## Ron Hope

Ron who is probably the longest serving Tutor/Examiner of the EASB and previously the B&SCC and the most respected, has succumbed to the affliction that affect us all as we advance in years and has tendered his resignation as an active Referee.

I have managed to persuade Ron to stay on for 2010 in his capacity as a Tutor and as a mentor for the individual that will be groomed to take his place.

It all began for Ron in 1970 when he passed his "Grade C" Snooker and his upgrade to "B" was published in the 1972 June edition (page 16) of "World Snooker" (the forerunner to "Snooker Scene").

In September 1977, together with Keith Barrowcliffe, he formed the "North West Billiards and Snooker Association" with 15 members with an annual subscription of 25p. At the AGM in 1986 there were 46 present with 14 apologies, today there are 18 members with only 10 active.

He was appointed a National Coach on 06/11/1977. During the 80's & 90's he spent many weekends in Stoke Mandeville coaching wheelchair Snooker players and was selected as the Technical Delegate in Seoul, South Korea for the 1988 "8<sup>th</sup> Paralympics Games". He trained 8 Referees and 12 Markers (none of whom had previously witnessed a frame of Snooker) and is proud that the Gold medallist (Mick Langley) and the Bronze medallist (Maurice Job) were both products of his coaching clinics. Between 1983 & 1993 he was one of 6 coaches at the Ray Reardon Coaching week in Prestatyn.

Ron became an Examiner of Snooker and Billiards on 22/03/1985 and was reclassified as a PES Examiner in 1987 (when the new scheme was introduced, which is the system now in operation throughout the world) and was one of the eight Examiners who ran the Lilleshall Examiner PES courses in November that year, under the guidance of Bernard Franks.

During 2010, Ron completed his 301<sup>st</sup> & 302<sup>nd</sup> examinations when he passed Wayne Holbrook and Peter Stanyer for their Billiards Class 3 certificates. He also mentored Steve Starkie (302) and Bob Williams (303) for their upgrade and appointments to Snooker Examiner, it is hoped that Ron will also be able to mentor Bob for his appointment to Billiards Examiner during 2011.

In 1985, together with Arthur Raison, he instituted the "Len Oldham Referees Rules Quiz" and was lucky enough to captain the winning team on three separate occasions.

Ron and his wife Kathleen (most of us know her as Kay) have celebrated 64 years of marriage this year and are an inspiration to us all.

Ron was also the "Official Stroke Recorder" for Steve Davis's 147 in the "Lada Classic" on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1982. This unique document, which is signed by Steve Davis; John Spencer; Jim Thorpe; Stan Brooks (Chairman of the B&SCC who verified the template of the table); and Ron himself, is being offered for sale with all of Ron's lifetime of Snooker & Billiards memorabilia through the EASB (which Ron wants to sell as a 'job lot'), however, we may well separate this document and auction it on EBAY - ANY OFFERS?

I am sure that everyone involved in Snooker and Billiards would like to join me in wishing Ron & Kay, many years of happy retirement –

**Ron you have earned it!**

If anyone has any messages to pass on to Ron & Kay, or wishes to contact them) please email them to me at [d.lewis@englishsnooker.com](mailto:d.lewis@englishsnooker.com) and I will pass on your details and messages to them.

Dan Lewis

EASB Director for Referees

## YOUNGEST EASB REFEREE



Chris Coumbe from Plympton, seen on the left receiving his certificate from Jeff Fox (on the left) and John Wilde (on the right), became the youngest qualified class 3 referee when he undertook both his Billiards and Snooker examinations in September this year.

Chris who started playing around 5 years ago and now plays in EASB billiards tournaments and also snooker and billiards tournaments in Plymouth and recently represented England in the 2010 Home Internationals in the Junior Billiards B team.

I play regularly in the local leagues in the Plymouth area and have become interested in refereeing.

During the summer I took my Class 3 refereeing exams in both snooker and billiards and successfully passed both, hopefully in the future I can progress to Class 2 and beyond and hopefully become more involved with refereeing as well as playing. I really enjoy refereeing and it is a great way to be involved said Chris.

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my congratulations to Chris said Dan Lewis director of referees, this shows that age is no limit to becoming a referee and with the new Junior Membership category at just £10.00 for an affiliate and £15.00 for full Junior membership we are hopeful of attracting more young people to become referees.

## NEW YOUNGEST REFEREE



Julian Roper, seen in the middle with Paul Bannister on the left and David Fisher on the right, is 16 years old and passed his Class 3 snooker exam on the 17th Dec 2010 and by so doing qualifies by 1 month as the EASB's youngest Referee, additionally passing the exam does have a certain uniqueness as Julian suffers from Autism.

Julian's interest in the game started when his Grandad, seeing that he was stragling with his arithmetic, took him to play snooker, not only did his arithmetic improve but it also sparked off a deep interest in the game.

It was whilst having a game at the Players' Lounge, he and his parents approached the Sheffield and District Association Snooker League chairman Paul Bannister, who is also an Examiner, to ask if he would coach him, with the aim to take a snooker referees exam. Paul, ever keen to encourage youngsters, set up a course for Julian with him successfully passing. Julian is now earmarked to referee in Junior Ranking competitions which Sheffield run, to gain experience.