

**EASB Finals Weekend
Saturday 7th – Sunday 8th May, 2011
Referee Profile**

DEAN SPORTON – THE NEXT GENERATION OF REFS!

Liam Clark and Darryl Hill produced a great match in the English under 16 Final. The match ran seamlessly and was very entertaining for the audience that were watching. Of course a match runs well not just because of the superb snooker the players produce but also there's the referee who, ironically, if he isn't noticed has done a great job.

Dean Sporton from Chesterfield refereed this match and did a sterling job. He is part of the young, new generation of referees that are now coming through and so I thought it would be good to catch up with Dean after the match to get his take on the match and refereeing in general

Dean has been refereeing for some two and a half years already, mainly in local EASB events but this was his first final and he enjoyed every minute of it. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that not only does Dean know all there is to know about the rules of snooker but he is no stranger to holding a cue himself. Dean's highest break is only 8 short of a maximum at 139. He wanted to both play and referee in the World Snooker Q School but was unable to raise the required funds to enter this time around and didn't draw any luck in referee selection.

He is a genuinely nice guy with a great sense of humour. During the match he kept complete control over proceedings in a confident and professional manner. Dean represents the young and exciting breath of fresh air that's beginning to blow across the sport in general and there's no doubt that he has a great future in snooker – Who knows maybe he will be the Ian Botham (of sorts) of snooker and both play and referee. Whatever Dean does he clearly loves the game and has a great passion for it. We'll be seeing much more of him, I'm sure.

Terry Teeman
E.A.S.B. Media Officer