

# EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF TOUCH

*Monthly newsletter for all touch players, referees and coaches*



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## WHAT'S COMING UP?

**17 March** - Celtic Nations Tournament, Nantes

**18 March** - Scottish Universities Touch Championships, Stirling

**14 April** - Brussels Men's and Women's Open Tournament, Brussels

**21 April** - Touch 'N Tulips, Amsterdam

**21 April** - Fojonco 2018, Modena

**28 April** - Barcelona International Touch, Barcelona

## FOREWORD

*By Ben Powell, EFT President*

Hi all, and welcome to the third edition of the EFT newsletter.

I hope you're all surviving the bitter cold!

This third edition is especially focused on a key part of our touch community, the referees.

Enjoy, and as always, email any ideas / suggestions / comments to [marketing@toucheurope.org](mailto:marketing@toucheurope.org).

Are you running a touch event that you want people to know about? Any affiliated club or national event can now be listed on the new EFT website! Just click the 'Add Event' link and your tournament can be edited with images and links - [www.toucheurope.org](http://www.toucheurope.org)





## LOOKING AHEAD.....

**By Ben Powell, EFT President**

As you may have seen, England Touch has just appointed its first ever fully paid executive position in the Association's history. Gregg Cropper, the new Chief Operating Officer at England Touch, is responsible for leading and strategically managing all business operations for what is Europe's largest national governing body for touch.

In line with my February resolution, the growing professionalization of our sport has led me to reflect on the opportunities that lie ahead of us. My recent visit to Shanghai to attend the FIT AGM was an excellent reminder of how the sport is growing, thanks to the work of the NTAs within Europe and at international level.

The growth of the JTC is another great example of how the sport is expanding. With increasing youth involvement, and schools programs operating in more European NTAs than before, the next generation of touch is looking strong.

At a competitive level, we have more teams signed up for this year's European Touch Championship than before – and with the permit tournaments kicking off last year – the opportunities for competitive touch across Europe are helping to raise the standards of play across Europe.

The level of touch across Europe would not be where it is, however, without the referees. A high standard of refereeing not only makes the game more enjoyable, but it can help improve the level of play and be a learning opportunity for everyone on the pitch.

That's why I'm particularly pleased to see the new referee commission in action, and all the work that is being done behind the scenes to establish the Referee Academy. In the same way that a greater focus on youth development has helped raise the standard of competitive touch across Europe, enabling more opportunities for young referees to develop will provide the necessary backbone to grow the sport at all levels.





## ALL EYES ON THE REFEREES!

....In case some of you may have missed it, the strength of the Referee Commission has not only been bolstered by a fantastic new Director – Peter Faassen De Heer (drop-off anyone?!) – but by a whole new team at the helm.

Supporting Peter in the valuable task of organising Europe's referee community are the following lovely people:

**Matt Reid** – Coaching development  
**Sarah Mason** – Communications  
**Sylvain Charras** – Website Development & Digital Platforms  
**Bronwyn Wake** – Euros Co-ordinator  
**Kevin Hobbs** – Youth Academy  
**Sebastien Chassande-Barrioz** – Event & Course Management  
**Matthew Boesen** – Course Development  
**Alice Watchorn** – Kit  
**Neil Fitzpatrick** – Presenter Development  
**Phil Holliday** - Special projects, assistance for developing nations



Having such a strong team moving forward will ensure that the growth and level of Europe's referees remains at the highest it can be. Establishing a community of referees is a significant part of that, and I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help grow the sport in this way.



# A REFEREE'S PERSPECTIVE

Alice Watchorn is in the hot seat this month, and provides a sneak preview of the new referee kit!

**Name:** Alice Watchorn

**Referee nickname:** Scooby

**Role in the referee commission:** kit bltch

**Your refereeing style in 5 words:** this is what I aspire to be.... whether or not I get there or not is another question.... approachable, fun, banter and outcomes based facilitator

**Your worst refereeing moment:** any time that requires me to ref in the cold and wet – touch is a summer sport and that's why I play

**Your best refereeing moment:** Calling one of Scotland's men's 45s players a princess at Euros 2016. He was probably old enough to be my dad

**What you love about being a referee:**

- The skort is the most underrated item of clothing and reffing allows me to wear it with a measure of dignity.
- White is my colour
- I ref because I'm never wrong
- I ref because I get to blow all my favourite players
- I ref because I get to express the fact I was bullied as a child by all the cool sporting kids. Revenge is sweet
- It's the only hobby where an ability to count to six is treated with the highest regard.
- I ref because coming from Norfolk I can keep the count on one hand
- I ref because it plays to my strengths as a banker of making numbers up
- I ref because I love cake and everyone knows refs run on cake

**Shhhhh.....!!! Sneak preview of the brand new referee kit...**





# COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT

Each month, the spotlight will be shed on a different EFT member country for national insights and to open up the world of touch.

**Who?** Touch Belgium

**President:** Jane Gimber

**Number of clubs:** 5



**Insight:** The focus of Touch Belgium over the last few years has been to establish regular tournaments, both social and competitive, to increase the number of playing opportunities available to all. There are now two social tournaments taking place in May to June, and October each year, as well as a three-part national championship, and three other regular tournaments – including our Men’s and Women’s Open International tournament (BMW).

This year, the BMW will take place on April 14th, and Touch Belgium is excited to welcome 14 teams to Belgium – with 8 teams taking place in both the Men’s and Women’s division. Ahead of the Euros, this is a great chance to play the teams that will be on the pitch in July!

This year for the first time, Touch Belgium is also entering into a strategic partnership to develop the sport in Flanders. This agreement will see new social playing opportunities being developed across the region, and support in terms of material and resources for clubs to help develop touch sections.

Touch Belgium has also focused significantly on referee development over the last couple of years. Eleven new Level 1 referees were awarded in 2017, with 1 more Level 2 and a Level 3 badge also being awarded. Touch Belgium now has a Referee Director who is qualified to award Level 1 badges, so the growth in referee numbers is expected to continue!

The team behind Touch Belgium is what makes today’s development possible – with Emmanuel Cordi as Secretary, Warren Kint as Treasurer, Phil Holliday as Referee Director, Penelope Spencer as Tournament Director, Matthew Bannon as Coaching Director, and Sam Verbois and Jehanne Delafontaine as Marketing and Social Media co-Directors - the team is in a very strong place to help further develop touch in Belgium.



# CAPTION COMPETITION!

*Send your entries to [marketing@toucheurope.org](mailto:marketing@toucheurope.org) by March 25th*



## INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

*Monthly updates published on the FIT website*

### RANKINGS

*As of October 2017*

| Mixed Open          | Men's Open          | Women's Open        |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Australia        | 1. Australia        | 1. Australia        |
| 2. New Zealand      | 2. New Zealand      | 2. New Zealand      |
| 3. Scotland         | 3. South Africa     | 3. South Africa     |
| 4. Papua New Guinea | 4. England          | 4. England          |
| 5. England          | 5. Papua New Guinea | 5. Japan            |
| 6. Samoa            | 6. Japan            | 6. Singapore        |
| 7. Japan            | 7. Fiji             | 7. France           |
| 8. South Africa     | 8. Cook Islands     | 8. Wales            |
| 9. Philippines      | 9. Wales            | 9. Papua New Guinea |
| 10. France          | 10. France          | 10. Scotland        |

### CONTACT

*If you want to contribute to the next edition of the EFT newsletter, pop us an email at:*

*[marketing@toucheurope.org](mailto:marketing@toucheurope.org)*