



Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Response of the WPA to various complaints and concerns expressed to it by a number of members concerning the National Singles Championships.**

The WPA set up and requested advice from a sub-committee of experienced members who were not part of the Executive Committee. The sub-committee made various recommendations. These have now been very carefully considered by the Executive Committee. While there will be individual responses to the individuals who contacted the WPA about the Championships, this is the expressed view of the Executive Committee on this subject, but of course subject to the determination, if appropriate, of any appeal(s).

**1. The National Singles 2016.**

This event was trailed earlier in the year as one of a number which would be used as qualifiers for international competitions, the most appropriate, in this case, being the then forthcoming European Singles Championships which were to be held in France on 4-6 November 2016, (Later moved to Sweden).

Although there has been some concern about the consistency of the WPA in using such an event as a qualifier, that is its policy.

On balance therefore the conclusion of the Executive Committee was that the National Singles Championships 2016 be treated as the qualifier for this year's European Singles Championships. In consequence the results of the WPA National Singles Championships stand.

The winners, one male and one female, would thus be eligible to be invited to represent Wales in 2016. Following WPA policy, if either player declined the invitation it would be then be offered to the runner up, but not lower down the finishing order.

**2. Qualification for the proposed World Championships of men and women singles, doubles and mixed doubles, to be held in Ghent in mid-April 2017 ("the Ghent Championships").**

This is a proposed new event. At the start of the National Singles Championships it was announced, for the first time, that the Singles Championships would also be used as the qualifier for the Ghent Championships. A number of objections have been raised to that decision by some members but it has also been supported by other members.



After taking the sub committee's advice, and after very careful deliberations, the conclusion of the Executive Committee was that the National Singles Championships 2016 event should **not** have been treated as the qualifier for the Ghent Championships.

In consequence, the results of the National Singles Championships 2016 do not provide qualification for the Ghent Championships.

The Executive Committee will now start considering the process required to qualify players for this event, and will arrange to stage an appropriate event or events.

WPA Executive Committee.



### **Additional information not being part of the decision:**

Players may be concerned at the timescales, but they should also be aware of the following. The WPA has not yet received an invitation to the Ghent Championships. It has expressed interest in taking part, but no invitation is expected until the end of this year or the start of next year, with teams being registered sometime in early 2017. It is not yet certain that this event will take place, because of cost and security implications such as those which affected the original venue in France of the European Singles Championships.

From many comments received by the WPA it is clear that players may not have appreciated the likely format of this World Championships, and the scoring structure, etc. There are various possible formats, but all of them appear to be based on the assumption that **each and every participant** is an **accomplished** Singles player, able to play singles to at least the European Championship standard. It is possible that it will be designed to reflect the organisers' likely desire to emphasise the singles aspect of the event.

The Director of Development will be further researching the precise requirements of the organisers, and their choice of format and scoring system, to try to ensure that our qualification process best meets those requirements. He will in due course publish information about that, and about the actual qualification date(s) which is (or are) likely to be early in 2017 once it is confirmed the event will take place.

WPA Executive Committee.