



Three umpires get Commonwealth call-up

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English umpires Harry Jutle, John Mackey and Tom Purcell have been selected to officiate at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

The trio will head to the Gold Coast for the Games, which begin on April 5 next year.

All three are used to umpiring on the world stage, with Jutle having recently umpired the men's team final between Germany and Portugal at the European Championships.

It will be his second Commonwealth Games, having officiated at Glasgow 2014, shortly after qualifying as an International Umpire.

He said:

I'm really excited. At Glasgow, being a new one, I wasn't really involved that much but this time I'd expect to umpire a lot more.

Mackey has officiated at Olympics, World Championships and Commonwealth Games among others, including the women's team final at London 2012 and the women's doubles final at Glasgow 2014.

On his selection to umpire at Gold Coast, he said:

I'm very excited about it. It's the one continent I've never been to, apart from Antarctica, so it will be nice to have that on my little list of countries.

It's quite an honour to be selected and even though I've achieved a lot in the sport already, it doesn't lessen the impact for me, or the pride I feel at representing England.

Purcell scaled the heights of officialdom when he umpired the men's singles final at London 2012.

He said:

The fact they've chosen three of us for Gold Coast shows English umpires are considered to be quality umpires.

The Commonwealths in Manchester in 2002 was my first major tournament and doing the men's final at the London 2012 Olympics was the pinnacle.

To be chosen for major international tournaments is always a very good achievement because there are so many who apply for it.

Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford have already been named in the England team for the Games, with the rest of the squad due to be named in the coming months.

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