

# OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

We couldn't let this issue go without mentioning the serious incidents in the final matches of the Women's Doubles group stage of the Olympic Games badminton event on 31 July 2012. It will most likely live in the memory of all technical officials present at Wembley Arena or in front of a TV around the world. Those who did not see it as it happened will probably have had the opportunity later as in many countries it was shown on the news. Certainly badminton hit the headlines all over the world with the unprecedented case of four Women's Doubles pairs not trying their best to win their matches.

You will also no doubt be aware of the subsequent disqualifications by the Disciplinary Panel who followed a swift process in full accordance with the BWF Rulebook. An Appeals Board also upheld this decision. BWF immediately reacted to the world with a press conference.

Sadly, no sport is immune from potential controversy. While it would surely have been better if this regrettable incident had not taken place, BWF and badminton demonstrated in front of the Olympic movement and the eyes of the world, that the federation had the ability to handle the incidents effectively and quickly, generally to the satisfaction of all our stakeholders.

BWF is currently following up on these incidents together with other aspects of the London Olympic Games, based on reports from all parties involved. A preliminary discussion was held in the Events Working Group early October 2012, preparing a series of recommendations to the Events Committee and Council, and the full picture of the outcome was discussed at the Council session in Bangkok at the end of November 2012. We will brief you re. the outcome in the next issue of Coctales.

At this stage, however, a few conclusions can be drawn with respect to how to handle such incidents of misconduct on court. Law 16.6.4 applies:

"A player shall not... be guilty of misconduct not otherwise covered by the Laws of Badminton." And a breach shall be handled by using the yellow and red cards according to Law 16.7, as for other incidents of misconduct.

It is then up to the referee to decide on any disqualification, on the spot. Referees now have a precedent that can be referred to when it comes to disqualification for not using one's best effort and bringing the game into disrepute, as described in the Players Code of Conduct.

Perhaps the most difficult or challenging job that a referee would have to face is to disqualify a player or pair. Let's hope that a situation like we saw at the Olympic Games never happens again.



**TORSTEN  
BERG**  
REFEREE, LONDON  
OLYMPIC GAMES

However, we have to be prepared and act quickly as hindsight is a wonderful thing.

#### TO REFERESH

- An umpire must issue a yellow card if they believe that a player or pair is not using their best effort.
- Equally if a referee believes that an umpire should issue a yellow card, they are able to go onto court and suggest that the umpire starts issuing cards.
- The referee can also go onto court and issue a black card, even if an umpire has not issued a yellow or red card.

#### REFEREES TO NOTE: REFEREE REPORTS

- Please make sure you use the latest Referee Report, you can get this from the BWF website. Do not use one that has been sat on your computer for a while as it might be out of date.
- Please complete each section of the Referee Report and if any cards had been issued, it is important to explain what they were issued for. BWF also want to know if there were any problems with players clothing so that these issues can be chased up.

#### CODE OF CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS IN RELATION TO BETTING, WAGERING AND IRREGULAR MATCH RESULTS

The BWF will shortly be issuing the above code. It is important that you all read and understand the document.

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the second issue of Coctales. Thank you to those who have sent in contributions for this newsletter.

We would very much like to hear from you on any items and in this issue there are lots of discussion points that I hope you would like to comment on, so please get in touch on [Vanessa@freesoft.co.uk](mailto:Vanessa@freesoft.co.uk).

Since the last issue we have had the most important event on the BWF's calendar the Olympic Games. We hope that any officials who were lucky enough to attend had a great time and enjoyed the wonderful buzz of the City of London. There have of course been many other events going on and the BWF have recently had a productive Events Working Group meeting and a Referees' Fast Track Workshop. We will bring you news from the meetings over the course of the next few newsletters.

Meanwhile, enjoy the read.

**VANESSA FREEMAN**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



## UMPIRE PROFILE MIKE WALKER

I have been asked to write a "brief personal profile". I will warn you now: it is impossible for a lawyer to be "brief" about anything! I am 53 years old, born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. I obtained a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of British Columbia following which I worked with the Canadian Forces as a Personnel Administration Officer for 9 years and the Reserves for another 8 years. I left the military to go to law school at the University of Alberta and, following graduation in 1995, I moved to Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada where I have practiced ever since. My fields of practice are corporate law, commercial law, conveyancing (ie buying, selling and financing land and buildings), wills and estates.

I enjoy living in Nanaimo, which is a city of 85,000 located on a large island near Vancouver, British Columbia. It is one of the warmer parts of Canada in the winter (it's better than the minus 30 celsius in Edmonton and the 4 meters of snow each year in Goose Bay). Janice and I have been married since 1984 and we have a 17 year old daughter (Darby). I enjoy badminton, golf, squash, tennis, chess, bridge, reading and travelling.

I have been umpiring since 1988 and my first international tournament was the Victoria Commonwealth Games in 1994. I was BWF accredited in 1998 (it was called "IBF" at the time) and certificated in 2002. My favourite matches: umpiring the first men's singles match of the Thomas Cup semi-final tie between Indonesia and Denmark in Jakarta (the enthusiasm of the crowd was incredible!) and the Bronze Medal match at the 2004 Olympics in Athens (the level of play was spectacular). I have been fortunate to have participated in many major matches at many prestigious tournaments at many exotic locations all over the world. I look forward to the challenge of becoming a BWF assessor commencing in 2013.



## CORMAC BRESLIN

- 26 OCTOBER 1960 – 9 AUGUST 2012

Sadly we have lost a great friend in badminton - Cormac Breslin. I'm sure many of you will have very fond memories of Cormac. Ian Spear one of Cormac's closest friends has kindly written the following for us:

Many of you are aware of the passing of Cormac, after his courageous and at times agonising, four-year battle with cancer. He started his umpiring career in 1991, after which in 1997 became a Badminton Europe Certificated Umpire. Five years later Cormac passed his BWF accreditation in Eindhoven then four years after that, in Madrid he obtained BWF Certification. To all of you that knew him, we have all certainly lost not only a good umpire, but a good friend. He was a genial gentleman known for his big heart and generous nature, always on hand to give advice to up and coming umpires. On a lighter side he loved to play practical jokes and had a great sense of humour, so when we were at tournaments together you always knew it was going to be fun. It was a privilege to have shared time with him and although it was too little time, it was always quality time. He was dedicated to his family and a true friend, I for one will miss him very much, but am thankful to have so many great memories. Rest in Peace my friend.

# FAST TRACK WORKSHOP FOR REFEREES

## BY TORSTEN BERG

In an attempt to recruit new blood into international refereeing, the BWF Court Officials Commission held a workshop in Kuala Lumpur on 5 and 6 October 2012. The aim of the workshop was to provide experienced BWF umpires and others with a similar background, a shortcut into the ranks of BWF referees.

Twenty-four candidates from all five Continental Confederations took up the challenge and enjoyed two busy days of lessons and discussions led by the Events Committee Chairman Paisan Rangsitpho and COC Chairman Torsten Berg – who both have BWF Certificated Referee backgrounds. Charlotte Ackerman and Chua Soo Hock, as well as BWF senior staff Stuart Borrie and Darren Parks and the Events department staff all contributed to the fun.

At the end of the workshop a written test was taken and the outcome determined whether the candidate had made it to the next stage to continue in the fast lane towards accreditation, or whether they keep their place on the continental scene for more experience. Those who passed the written test would either be invited to serve as a deputy with an experienced referee if they needed further practical experience or, go directly to a practical test – refereeing a BWF level 3 or 4 event – for possible accreditation.

### THE LUCK OF GEOGRAPHY BY IAN WILLIAMSON (AUSTRALIA), EX BWF ACCREDITED REFEREE, CURRENT OCEANIA CERTIFICATED REFEREE AND CHAIRMAN, OCEANIA EVENTS COMMITTEE

Being based in the Oceania region certainly has its disadvantages when one is required to travel away from the area, but there are certain benefits arising from being located in the area.

Imagine being able to travel to such exotic locations as New Caledonia and Fiji in less than 3 hours! Even better is a flight to Tahiti – the pearl capital of the Pacific – taking only 5 hours!

Over the past 10 years, I am fortunate to have been appointed as Referee at International Tournaments on all three islands on more than one occasion.

#### TAHITI

The most exotic of these islands – Tahiti – is the largest island in Windward group in Polynesia and was originally formed by volcanic activity and now consists mostly of high mountains surrounded by coral reefs. The island is almost two round islands connected by a small isthmus and the Tahitians know the islands as Tahiti-Nui (big Tahiti) and Tahiti-iti (small Tahiti). In early times, the island was visited by many explorers – British, French, Spanish – but the indigenous people kept control until the 1840's when it became a French protectorate and subsequently was ceded to France in 1880. In 1946, the whole of French Polynesia became an overseas territory of France and all citizens were granted French citizenship. It is now an "overseas country" but still retains its French links and citizenship. There are many interesting places to visit on Tahiti if one is lucky enough to be appointed to officiate there and has time to extend the visit by a few days.

One of the most interesting places is the Paul Gauguin Museum at Papeari. Gauguin lived in Tahiti in 1890 and painted many Tahitian subjects – a number of which are still in the museum. There is an ethnographic museum at Punaauia close to Papeete and in Papeete itself is a pearl museum – the only one of its kind in the world – where pearls from many parts of the world are on display. The central item is the biggest Tahitian black pearl in the world.

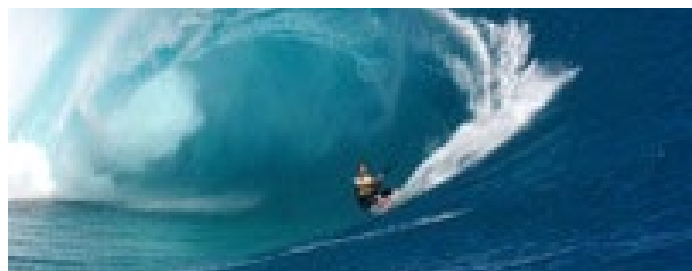
#### PAPEETE

The locals say it is the world's best surfing spot – Teahupoo – situated on the south-western corner of Tahiti-iti. Teahupoo attracts all the world's best surfers once a year when they attempt to master the huge waves, some of which have been measured at 20m (70 feet). This is an offshore surfing spot, but the village is easily reached from Papeete by car. The waves can be clearly seen from the beach-front. A drive around both islands visiting the villages and black sand beaches can be achieved in a day.



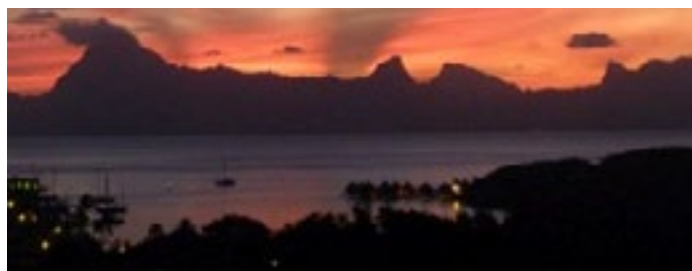
#### TEAHUPOO

Tahiti Badminton is well organised when it comes to helping visiting players, coaches and officials make the most of their visit. Opportunities are arranged to take day trips to the close island of Moorea and Tetiaroa Atoll – either before or after the tournament. On both of these trips, there is sufficient time to go snorkelling, swimming, lie on the beach in the sun and have a meal of beautiful local fruits de mer (seafood).



#### MOOREA

Then, of course we come to the main reason for visiting the island – badminton. International badminton in Tahiti is a relative newcomer to the island's sporting scene, but it is growing in stature on each occasion. The first, small, international tournament was held in 2009, followed by a much larger event in 2011. In 2012, because the tournament was close to the end of the Olympic qualifying period an impressive 88 players from 25 countries entered, despite the lowly 'International Challenge' ranking of the event. Tahiti officials have been trained with assistance from FFBA and Badminton Oceania and are now quite experienced in all aspects of organising and running international events. The organising committee is also adept at generating interest from outside the badminton playing fraternity. For example, in 2011, during a session break, staff and family members of sponsors were invited to participate in a "sponsors' tournament." It was quite a revelation to see so many people of all ages come onto the courts and enjoy trying to replicate the type of play they had witnessed before the break. It was a great initiative which resulted in increased numbers playing at the clubs on the island. The tournament is played at the gymnasium of University of French Polynesia, situated high on a hill at Punaauia overlooking the sea towards Moorea – as fantastic photo opportunity towards evening!



This picture is Looking towards Moorea from University gymnasium.

An opening ceremony featuring Tahitian music and dancers, befitting the exotic location, sets the scene for a relaxed tournament, but one which has seen the quality of players in attendance increase. One suspects this is due to the opportunity to experience something completely new, as well as to the players' "grapevine".

Accommodation is available in a range of styles – from hotels to self-catering apartments and even shared housing. The organisers can arrange to meet most requirements to enable players to enjoy their stay in "paradise."





Referee with President and Miss Tahiti 2012 (centre)



Trophies for the event are usually much sought after due to their style and use of local materials. Medals for the 2012 event were made from local pearl shells and mounted on local timber.

Even the referee sometimes receives a 'trophy'. In 2012, it was the opportunity to be photographed with Miss Tahiti 2012 who attended the final session to present trophies to some of the winners.

Does all of this sound enticing? Well, for those who might like to have the experience – they will have to get past the Oceania referee queue first!

## WOMEN IN SPORT

At a seminar in May this year, Isabelle Jobard, BWF's Certificated Referee made a presentation at the Women in Sport Forum about women Technical Officials. Some of the key points follow and we hope that you find it interesting reading - not only the women, but also the men.



Isabelle Jobard

Isabelle has had a lot of personal experience in umpiring and refereeing and has also trained and assessed umpires and referees. Isabelle has officiated in more than 30 countries in Europe, been to Asia at least 20 times, 10 in Africa and a few times in Oceania and Pan America. During her Refereeing career, Isabelle has also officiated at seven World Championships, 14 Super Series, Sudirman Cup, Thomas & Uber Cups and the Olympic Games in Athens and Beijing. Isabelle is therefore one of our most experienced lady referees.



Isabelle in Malaysia



Isabelle in Europe



Isabelle in Africa

### ISABELLE'S FINDINGS FOLLOW:

Men and women compete together in Mixed Doubles and prize money is the same for male and female players, but men and women players representation is not equal.

From a members' survey in 2010 with 121 countries the following statistics for active players was found:

	Total Registered Active Players	Women Players percentage	minimum	maximum
<b>AFRICA</b>	16 000	42 %		
<b>ASIA</b>	2 600 000	47 %	22 % (INA)	60 % (JPN)
<b>EUROPE</b>	700 000	37 %	32 % (BUL)	50 % (SCO)
<b>PAN AM</b>	130 000	36 %	37 % (CAN)	52 % (USA)
<b>OCEANIA</b>	11 000	46 %		

Globally, the proportion of female players was about 42%.

So what is the gender parity among Technical Officials? Is the proportion of women around 42%?

- There is no difference between the male and female umpires in terms of physical tests.
- Umpires and referees play an important role in the delivery of tournaments at all levels.
- It could be cultural, but for some reason men seem to be more attracted by these management positions than women.

Isabelle highlighted that there are at least seven grades from the start to the elite level shown below:



#### International Technical Officials

Year	ITO's	Total Number	Number of Women	Percentage
2000	Certificated Referees	6	0	0 %
	Accredited Referees	34	3	9 %
	Certificated Umpires	40	5	12 %
	Accredited Umpires	51	13	25 %

The above shows only 16% of women

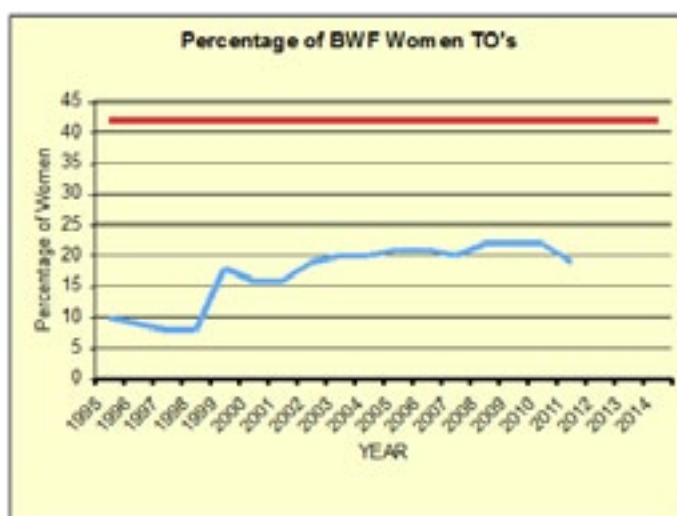
Year	ITO's	Total Number	Number of Women	Percentage
2011	Certificated Referees	9	3	33 %
	Accredited Referees	25	3	12 %
	Referee As-sessors	8	2	25 %
	Certificated Umpires	51	13	25 %
	Accredited Umpires	42	10	24 %
	Umpire As-sessors	6	1	17 %

The above shows only 23% of women.

The overall percentages of women umpires and referees within each body follows:



The following graph shows the percentage of women among BWF's umpires and referees from 1995 to 2012, in comparison to the 42% of women players indicated with the red line:



In Badminton Europe the picture looks like:

Technical Officials		
	Umpires	Referees
Male	77 %	75 %
Female	23 %	25 %
Total	120	24

## STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE

The above is clearly not good enough in today's quest for equality. So what can be done to achieve gender parity? Well Isabelle believes that efforts are needed at all levels, but must focus and start at the lowest level, such as local and national level. There needs to be a push from member associations to recruit more women as it seems from the figures that few women have a natural aspiration to become an umpire or referee. This could be down to many reasons, perhaps a lack of self-confidence, but women have the same competency as men. Isabelle would like to see mentoring programs drawn up to develop, motivate and encourage women. Use images of women umpires as role models and target and head hunt talented women.



At continental and BWF levels, targets should be set for women at the international level. An attractive environment must be created to encourage more women. Male chauvinism must not be tolerated and women should be given the same opportunities for upgrading and the same exposure in tournaments. Thought should also be given to women who are trying to juggle bringing up families as well and see how this can be adapted to work within these boundaries. Fairness must be ensured for annual Technical Official appointments.

*Thank you Isabelle for these interesting observations. Perhaps you can let us know how your Member Association or Continental Confederation are trying to deal with this subject, if indeed they are. What do you think is holding women back? It is very important however, for badminton's image that equality, not only with players, is echoed within every area of the game.*

## TORSTEN BERG REFEREE AT THE LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC TOURNAMENT REPORTS ON THE LINE JUDGES:

The London Olympic Games became by all standards an exceptionally well prepared and presented event, both for TV and for the spectators, and the badminton competition in Wembley Arena was a fine example of just that. Eighty Line Judges took part of which 20 were BWF International Line Judges and 60 were British. Everyone served equally well and to the full satisfaction of the refereeing team. There was good cooperation between Umpires and Line Judges and there were very few overrulings. The Line Judges - under the experienced direction of Margaret and Abby Kumar - contributed nicely also to the presentation of the event, looking smart in their uniform and coming in and out of court discreetly and well coordinated. As Referee, I spoke at several occasions to the Line Judges to compliment them for their good work and keeping up the Olympic spirit of mutual assistance and international cooperation and finally to hand over a Certificate and Medal as a token of appreciation from the IOC and BWF.

At the last meeting, I took pleasure in announcing that BWF will enlarge the pool of BWF International Line Judges from 50 to 100, based on the same criteria as applied when the first group was selected two years ago. The new recruitment is expected to happen with effect from 2013. Once again, it was a pleasure to work with the Line Judges appointed to a BWF major event. The standard and integrity is high, and line judging on this level is a very valuable contribution to a well presented and fair badminton competition.

## LONDON OLYMPICS 2012: THROUGH THE EYES OF BWF LINE JUDGES

BY NETTY OOMS, BWF LINE JUDGE, THE NETHERLANDS AND TOM WILMSHURST, BWF LINE JUDGE, USA

All the line judges went crazy when they got the opportunity to attend the 2012 Olympics in London. Twenty BWF line judges were invited, ten from Europe and ten from the other continents. The remaining 60 line judges were British.

The hotel was walking distance from the badminton venue which was very convenient. However, we were an hour train ride from the Olympic Park, Athletes Village and many other sporting venues. The free transportation pass was a great idea and made getting around easy and painless.

Meeting each other in the hotel lobby was a real party. We found old friends and made new ones. The task of getting our Olympic clothing was well organised. The one-hour bus ride and tour of the city to the Olympic clothing pick up site was exciting. The following day we got a tour of the venue and met some of the volunteers and organisers. We quickly became familiar with the arena, security procedures and then had several rehearsals. LOCOG provided us with a nice lounge, although it was a bit small. The lounge was also a bit noisy and away from the actual play, however, we could stay and watch matches on a TV screen between matches.

The Opening Ceremony was fantastic, especially for the people who had never been to the Olympics before. It was very emotional and everyone had a wonderful and exciting time at the Olympic Park.

The badminton tournament started on 28 July and ended with finals on 5 August. The overall event was very positive and fun. The hotel was great with nice rooms and good hot meals in the morning. However, the food at the venue was disappointing (no hot meals for lunch or dinner) along with the constant changing of procedures. All the BWF line judges worked well with the local line judges. We did however feel that we were not appreciated for our international experience and dedication. BWF line judges work very hard to become BWF officials and we would like our status to be recognised by local organisers.

I have lots of compliments for Abby Kumar and Margaret Redfern who were the line judges managers. They had a tough job but handled it well. In future we think that having one person in charge would make everything easier to handle as there had been many last minute changes. It was a very good thing they were so patient!! We would like to give a big round of applause for Abby and Margaret.

Overall, everyone had the time of their lives in London. A great event, a very nice place to be and lots to see and do. Monday 6 August came too quickly and most people went home again with overwhelming experiences of a great Olympic experience.

Thank you London! And thank you for giving us the opportunity to be part of it all!





# CONGRATS FOR JOB WELL DONE.

THE FOLLOWING TECHNICAL OFFICIALS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESSFUL STAGING OF BADMINTON AT THE LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES.

Torsten Berg (DEN)	Christian Johansen (DEN)	Zhao Xiamao (CHN)
Dennis Li (HKG)	Ian Spear (ENG)	Apinder Sabharwal (IND)
Charlotte Ackerman (USA)	Wolfgang Lund (FRA)	Toi Tsutomu (JPN)
Jane Wheatley (AUS)	Mark Speight (GER)	Unang Sukardja (INA)
Dr. Martin Fahlstrom (SWE)	Carol Ur Fhearghail (IRL)	Wong Wai Shun (HKG)
Dr. Carmen Jahja (INA)	Lars Rifve (SWE)	Diraj Gooneardry (MRI)
Girish Natu (IND)	Ivo Kassel (SUI)	Kelvin Martin (BAR)
Robbie Grindlay (ENG)	Jitirut Thanuakarat (THA)	Lynn Maund (USA)
Jane Hancock (ENG)	Shon Hee Joo (KOR)	David Turner (AUS)
Sven Serre (BEL)	Yau Lin Na (MAS)	Richard Bramley (NZL)
Michaela Bencova (CZE)	Grace Cheah (SIN)	

ABDULLAH Ziz (MAR)	DAVIS Martyn (GBR)	KGABOETSILE Emmanuel (BOT)	ROBINSON David (GBR)
ADAMS Simon (GER)	DAVISON Gail (AUS)	KOLAR Jan (CZE)	ROWLATT Kate (GBR)
ALDARABI Amjad (JOR)	DODDS David (GBR)	LAUWERIJSEN Antonetta (NED)	RYAN Vicky (GBR)
ALEXANDER Libby (GBR)	EDWARDS Paul (GBR)	LEWCOCK Gerry (GBR)	SADIKOT Rizvan (GBR)
ALLAHVERDI Bahman (GBR)	ELIAS Andrew (GBR)	LORENZO Bernardino (GBR)	SHAH Ajay (GBR)
ATKINS Anthony (GBR)	FOY Fiona (GBR)	MARSHALL Ian (GBR)	SHEPHERD David (GBR)
BARKLEY Peter (GBR)	GANESON Ponnusamy (GBR)	McNAB Barry (GBR)	SHORTHOUSE Alyson (GBR)
BAXTER Andrew (GBR)	GAULD Jim (GBR)	MESTON Francois (FRA)	SIMS Christine (GBR)
BENTON Suzanne (GBR)	GEMMELL Davina (GBR)	MITCHELL Horace (GBR)	SRIH Harbans (GBR)
BREEN Edward (GBR)	GOADBY Pete (GBR)	MOBSBY Sue (GBR)	STEWART Caroline (GBR)
BRIGHTON Stuart (GBR)	GODFREY Martin (GBR)	MORDEN Anne (GBR)	SULEMAN Yunus (GBR)
BROSULA M.A. Judith (PHI)	GODFREY Tony (GBR)	MORDEN Doug (GBR)	THOMSON Billy (GBR)
BULCOCK Neil (GBR)	GOUVEIA Sonia (GBR)	MORRIS Deverell (GBR)	TOWNSEND Nicola (GBR)
BYAKUNO Yuko (JPN)	GRIFFIN Mark (GBR)	MUGRIDGE Owen (GBR)	URQUHART Stephen (GBR)
CHUNG Gloria (BAR)	GUY David (GBR)	MURPHY John (GBR)	van de VELDE Hildegard (BEL)
CODERA Dominic (GBR)	HOANG Thi Thu Ha (VIE)	NUALKAW Sommat (THA)	van DEURSEN Ben (NED)
COLLINS Stuart (GBR)	HYUNG Ku Am (KOR)	PEARCE Pamela (GBR)	WALSH John (GBR)
CROPPER Sue (GBR)	JACKSON Richard (GBR)	PITCHER Greg (NZL)	WATHANASIN Sak (GBR)
CSANDA Lajos (HUN)	JEFFRIES Daniel (GBR)	POWELL Chris (GBR)	WILLIAMSON Laura (GBR)
CUMMINS Melissa (GBR)	KERR Elizabeth (GBR)	RIIS Ole (DEN)	WILMSHURST Tom (USA)

## 'MOPPING UP THE SPOTLIGHT'

As a Field of Play Attendant I worked in the mopping team run by Fern Gilders. Initially, I wasn't amused but took the job on in order to be part of the Olympic event.

Travelling home by train, tired and late one evening a guy greeted me with: "I saw you on court – what a great job you have!"

The next evening a couple asked me how I managed to land such a super job on centre stage!

Now I have a different slant on the occupation. There was a near disaster though. An exciting rally ended with the shuttle landing fractionally out of the back line – my arms started their outward trajectory and my mouth was just about to announce "OUT" when I remembered I wasn't a line judge just a court attendant – old habits die hard!

**BY ANNE SPENCER – ENGLAND**

## PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR AS A BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIAL

### Take care when speaking to the media or when commenting on Facebook or Twitter

Whilst we are all amateur Technical Officials, we endeavour to do a professional job on court and courtside and we are generally considered by players and officials to do just that.

However, incidents in other sports - and to some extent also in badminton – have lead me to raise the question of the professional behaviour of Technical Officials outside the court, in particular regarding the media. The development of modern media such as Facebook and Twitter only makes the question more pertinent.

Firstly, it goes without saying that we all have freedom of speech. It is a fundamental human right that no one can take away.

Secondly, as Technical Officials we accept to follow BWF's Constitution and Regulations, including the Code of Conduct for Coaches, Team Officials and Technical Officials. We must not bring the game into disrepute, and we cannot bet on any match in an event in which we officiate - no problem.

Thirdly, and the reason why I am writing this article, is we have in my opinion to be very careful when we speak to the press. We must also refrain from commenting on a badminton event or comment on fellow officials, players or any team officials on Facebook, Twitter or other modern social media medium.

A loose remark even if it is in haste, perhaps even meant as a joke, may be read - and misread - by the world and can never be erased. For example, if you comment on a player (or a coach), next time you umpire or officiate them, they will remember the remark. He or she will have reason to think that you may be biased!

Line judges rarely meet the so-called gentlemen of the press. Umpires and referees sometimes do. My advice would be to try to avoid commenting, or refer the matter to the Press Secretary of the tournament as they will be a professional who is trained to answer any questions. Or, if there are no qualified persons available, perhaps leave it to the referee. Referees, too need to be very careful and if they do need to comment ensure that the statement is based on facts and regulations.

I understand it is tempting for an umpire or a referee to share experiences with colleagues using Facebook, but it is also a way to expose yourself to the world. Be professional. Take care - or perhaps better, think twice or just don't do it!



## 2013 REFEREE APPOINTMENTS FOR BWF, SUPER SERIES, GOLD GRAND PRIX AND GRAND PRIX EVENTS

DATE 2013	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	REFEREE	DEPUTY
8-13 Jan	Korea Open	Seoul	Ernest Robinson	Nahathai Sornprachum, Cho Won Kyu
15 - 20 Jan	Malaysia Open	Kuala Lumpur	Jane Wheatley	Anthony Linggian
26 Feb - 3 Mar	German Open	Mulheim an der Ruhr	Juniarto Suhandinata	Carsten Koch
5 - 10 Mar	All England	Birmingham	Isabelle Jobard	Michael Nemec
12 - 17 Mar	Swiss Open	Basel	Mojmír Hnilica	Pencho Stoynov
26 - 31 Mar	New Zealand Open	Auckland	Ajith Wijayasinghe	Lynne Nixey
2 - 7 Apr	Australian Open	Melbourne	Nahathai Sornprachum	Jane Wheatley
23 - 28 Apr	India Open	Delhi	Ernest Robinson	Chau Yat Kwong
30 Apr - 5 May	Malaysia Open GPG	TBC	Junichiro Yamada	A. A. Pahlavan
20 - 26 May	Sudirman Cup	Kuala Lumpur	Dennis Li	Lynne Nixey, Ronny De Voss, T. M. Poonambalum
4 - 9 June	Thailand Open	Bangkok	Carsten Koch	Phillip Lee
11 - 16 Jun	Indonesia Open	Jakarta	Torsten Berg	Gretha Prinsloo
18 - 23 Jun	Singapore Open	Singapore	Charlotte Ackerman	Nils Petter Johansen
25 - 30 Jun	Russian Open	Vladivostok	Ivanka Pokorni	New candidate
9 - 14 Jul	US Open	Los Angeles	Ronny de Vos	Junichiro Yamada
16 - 21 Jul	Canada Open	Richmond	Pencho Stoynov	Federico Valdez
4 - 11 Aug	World Championships	Guangzhou	Juniarto Suhandinata	Carsten Koch, Junichiro Yamada, Gretha Prinsloo
20 - 25 Aug	Macau Open	Macau	Chau Yat Kwong	Yves Côte
27 Aug - 1 Sep	Vietnam Open	Ho Chi Minh	*Ben Domingo	Torsten Berg
3 - 8 Sep	Chinese Taipei Open	Taipei	Nahathai Sornprachum	Cho Won Kyu
9 - 15 Sep	World Senior Championships	Ankara	Charlotte Ackerman	Pencho Stoynov
10 - 15 Sep	China Masters	Changzhou	Jane Wheatley	Nils Petter Johansen
17 - 22 Sep	Japan Open	Tokyo	Juniarto Suhandinata	Hideo Takahashi
24 - 29 Sep	Indonesia Open	Kalimantan	Michael Nemec	New candidate
8 - 13 Oct	Dutch Open	Almere	Hassenkhan Hyderkhan	Ivanka Pokorni
15 - 20 Oct	Denmark Open	Odense	Ernest Robinson	Torsten Berg, Lajos Csanda
22 - 27 Oct	French Open	Paris	Dennis Li	Isabelle Jobard
23 Oct - 3 Nov	World Junior Championships	Bangkok	T. M. Poonambalum	Pencho Stoynov, Ajith Wijesinghe, Yves Cote
29 Oct - 3 Nov	Bitburger Open	Saarbrücken	Nils Petter Johansen	Nicos Vladimirov
12 - 17 Nov	China Open	Shanghai	Mojmír Hnilica	Chau Yat Kwong
19 - 24 Nov	Hong Kong Open	Hong Kong	Isabelle Jobard	Phillip Lee
3 - 8 Dec	Korea Open	Seoul	Anthony Linggian	Ronny de Vos
12 - 15 Dec	SS Finals	TBC	Torsten Berg	Juniarto Suhandinata
17 - 22 Dec	India Open	Lucknow	Ajith Wijayasinghe	A.A. Pahlavan