

COCTALES

BWF

THE NEWSLETTER OF BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

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BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING AND UPDATES

By Gilles Cavert, Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission

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Back Row L-R: Enrique Charadan (CUB), Peter Cocker (AUS), Diraj Gooneadry (MRI)

Middle Row L-R: Omar Rashid (IND), Guest: Honorary Life Vice President, Torsten Berg (DEN), Gilles Cavert (FRA), Selena Lim (MAS), Gretha Prinsloo (RSA), Sven Serré (BEL), Chris Trenholme (CAN)

Front Row: BWF President, Poul-Erik Høyer



BWF President, Poul-Erik Høyer honours Chair of the BWF Technical Official Commission, Gilles Cavert (FRA)

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BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING AND UPDATES

FROM THE CHAIR BY
**GILLES
CAVERT**

**By Gilles Cavert,
Chair – BWF Technical
Official Commission**

BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting

During the meeting of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel (24-25 May, Chengdu, CHN), the BWF President Poul-Erik Høyer made a special visit to thank the panel for their work and years of service, and in particular, thanked and recognised Malcolm Banham (ENG) for his long service to badminton and presented a retirement certificate to him as this was his last meeting as Chair

of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel. very constructive and interactive.

BWF Technical Official Commission Meeting 2024

The BWF Technical Official Commission (TOC) met in-person for the last time from 29 April – 1 May 2024 in Chengdu, CHN, in conjunction with the TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024.

I would like to thank my TOC colleagues for their dedication and, for some, their many years of service to BWF Technical Officials through their leadership on the TOC.

A New Technical Official Structure

A new technical official structure will start in 2025. Because BWF is continuing to professionalise its workforce, the structure is becoming more human resource driven and so requires a more professional-driven model where expert group consultation will still be sought. As such, BWF is recruiting a highly experienced Head of Technical Officials as the link to all the stakeholder groups, and to manage the overall programme. Hence, there will be no requirement for the Technical Official Commission moving forward.

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Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028

In the current cycle (2020-2024) it was decided to add one more SP Referee and one more SP Umpire to the team but we are looking at building the professional component of our workforce from 2027 and beyond.

Therefore, a new Technical Official Strategic Plan is drafted for 2024-2028 called “A Strategically Focused High-Performing Team”.

In particular, it highlights the main focus of our professional and semi-professional workforce on our commercial products (e.g. Major Championships and World Tour).

Remembering Ernest Robinson

The Badminton community faced a great loss on 3 May 2024 with the passing of Ernest Robinson (FRA).

Ernest was a former BWF Certificated Referee, who joined the BWF Referee Assessment Panel in 2016.

Ernest owned great human qualities, including the talent to find solutions to any problem within seconds. He could also spot all the little details happening on and off court during a tournament. He could tell the umpire what went wrong or not. He had eyes everywhere! And his briefings were always real masterpieces.

I first met Ernest in 1988 when the French Open was organized in my hometown of Toulouse, FRA. Ernest was an inspiration for me, and more than that he was such a good friend.

Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Both tournaments are drawing nearer and there is the obligation for the selected BWF Technical Officials to perform at their highest level as millions of TV viewers will watch our Olympic and Paralympic competitions.

In that context, do not forget to spot and implement the following criteria:

- ▶ Read the game
- ▶ Feel the game
- ▶ Alertness
- ▶ Teamwork
- ▶ Team spirit
- ▶ Willingness to improve
- ▶ Mental strength
- ▶ Empathy
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Resilience
- ▶ Humility
- ▶ Concentration
- ▶ Commitment

And remember: The game is for the players.

JOB Opportunity

BWF Head of Technical Officials

The Head Technical Officials is responsible for day-to-day management of the Technical Officials (TO) programmes, including; day-to-day TO operations and tournament assignments; management and development of the professional technical officials workforce; policy development; innovative initiatives within the TOs area; and TO education and development pathways.

Position description/requirements can be downloaded from BWF website career page:

<https://corporate.bwfbadminton.com/about/careers/>

Closing Date – Friday 19 July 2024

Interested please email – recruitment.HTO@bwf.sport



Ernest Robinson (FRA)



From L-R: Tournament Doctor, Dr. Anders Sundström (SWE), Referee, Pencho Stoyanov (BUL), Nyl Yakura & Adam Nong (CAN), Umpire, Stéphane Venet (FRA) at the TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024

REFEREE UPDATE

By Gretha Prinsloo, Chair – BWF Referee Assessment Panel

In a sad moment we share the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Ernest Robinson (FRA). Ernest was a true leader and gentleman. He was a mentor to many and his presentations regarding public speaking was one of the best. Our condolences to his family and friends.

We are now halfway through the year with the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games fast approaching, and we wish our referee teams a successful and enjoyable experience in Paris.

Consistency

We must continue to maintain consistency in our refereeing role.

The Team Managers' Meeting (TMM) and Umpire Briefing (UB) are the cornerstones of your role as referees. Information provided at the briefings must be upheld throughout the tournament and the material contained

must be correct and in accordance with BWF GCRs, ITTOs, and World Tour regulations.

Do not "borrow" a colleague's presentation content. Preparing your own presentation is putting your head and heart into the tournament and establishing a sound footing for your role as the referee.

As part of your pre-tournament preparation, organise an online meeting with the host, the BWF Tournament Manager and, if applicable, include the Umpire Assessor and Referee Assessor.

Our Referee Workshop held in February 2024 introduced us to an updated Draw Management document, including new World Tour regulations and draw timelines, and some consternation was afoot as we grappled with the changes. An extremely professional presentation by Semi Professional Referee, Chris Lawrence (USA), provided the stepping stones needed. Implementation of this system has been well delivered at our Team Managers' meetings with positive feedback received. The key is to be well prepared with a

thorough understanding of the new system.

Technical Officials' Wellbeing

At the recent BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting, the topic of the care and wellbeing of our technical officials was discussed.

In our high-tech world, our technical officials can be exposed to unpleasant posts on social media and other public platforms, and none-more so when an umpire is involved in an on-court incident. We have many reports of umpires being trolled through social media.

We can do our part in supporting an umpire who has come off court after an incident, knowing that they may be feeling disheartened with a mistake. Be supportive, gather around, and help them move forward. Do not let that umpire leave the tournament in a negative state. Think about sending a supportive email or message after the tournament as a follow-up.

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Briefings

Your TMM and UB should not be any longer than 30 minutes or some team managers or umpires focusing their attention elsewhere (e.g. looking at their mobile phones).

At the start of your meeting, advise your audience that you will forward them a copy of your presentation for further reading and information. This allows you to condense the number of slides containing the important messages you present, while at the same time a quick mention of other slides they can read through.

Please practice at home.

Be well prepared for your daily UB, and if applicable, consult with the assigned

BWF Umpire Assessor for their feedback so one message is given.

It only takes five minutes for you to address your valued line judge team. This is the opportunity to encourage and thank them for the long hours they contribute, as they are an important part of the overall team.

Working with your Umpires

There will be tournaments that have an appointed BWF Umpire Assessor carrying out their 360-degree appraisals. They are valuable, should the need arise, if you have an umpiring concern. It is important that the referee first confers with the umpire assessor before speaking to the umpire to ensure we are all on the same page.

Working with IRS

At the recent KAPAL API Indonesia Open 2024, the referee team had the opportunity to put into use the new BWF direction giving the referee authority to go onto court to assist in correcting an error involving IRS.

This can either be an IRS problem or an umpire error that can occur when simultaneous challenges are called, and results are misconstrued.

When called onto court, take the walkie-talkie that is in direct communication to the IRS operators so problems can be solved as quickly as possible to allow play to resume. If an incident occurs, make sure you meet with the IRS operators and BWF Tournament Manager and sort out the problem.

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From L-R: Dr. Anastasia Sugiharta (INA), Dr. Carmen Jahja (INA), Cleopatra Monco (ITA), Lynne Nixey (NZL), Zheng SanLiang (CHN), Dr. Anders Sundström (SWE), Girish Natu (IND), Pencho Stoykov (BUL), Chau Yat Kwong (HKG)

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Personal Presentation

As a key part of the presentation of our sport at the highest level, it is important that we present ourselves as best as possible.

To that end, we recommend the following:

- ▶ If we are a larger size, wear a shirt that is loose fitting rather than tight;
- ▶ Formal dress trousers / tailored dress skirt;
- ▶ Formal dress shoes; and
- ▶ Neat and tidy hair.

It is a requirement of our umpires and line judges not to wear their accreditation on to court. As such, please remove your accreditation before entering the field of play.

Preparation for new BWF Referee Candidates in 2025

We are now preparing the “Bridging the Gap” online referee workshop that will be conducted over four weekends in October/November this year. Identified CC Referee Candidates will be invited to attend the online workshop in preparation for the BWF Accredited Referee Workshop to be held in February 2025.

Technical Delegate Integration

BWF continues its work towards integration of the technical delegate role in Para badminton into the role of the referee.

Check Nets

It has been noted that referees are not physically checking the nets. Do not assume

all is well. Each morning, check where the tape and net join at the top. Pull down carefully along the entire net as this is where there can be a hole. It may be that a broken string has been pushed back into the tape and therefore the net looks okay. We do not want to be changing a net on a TV court during live broadcast simply because the referee assumed the net was in good order and did not take time to check.

Be Diligent

Be diligent and focused at every tournament, keep your communication open with all stakeholders, and do not assume anything. Checking of draws, M&Q reports, and withdrawals lists is essential for the smooth running of your tournament.

Referee - Julien Nys (BEL) and Umpire - Michael Pütz (NED)





BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Members

From L-R: Kelly Hoare (AUS), Gretha Prinsloo (RSA), Christian Johannessen (DEN), Gilles Cavert (FRA), BWF President, Poul-Erik Høyer, Malcolm Banham (ENG), David Turner (AUS), Selena Lim (MAS), Michael Fyrie-Dahl (NOR), Teo Kian Joo (MAS), Chris Trenholme (CAN)

UMPIRE UPDATE

By Malcolm Banham, Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

A lot has happened since the last version of COC-Tales!

We held a BWF Umpire Assessor Workshop, the BWF Technical Official Commission met, and there have been several constructive workshops at our Major Championships and HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments.

It is good to see so many umpires and line judges, who are also local umpires attending; this is a very good way of gaining consistency between all umpires, regardless of level.

Obstruction at the Net

During the BWF Umpire Assessor Workshop, we discussed how to best message guidance

regarding Laws relating to obstruction at the net which seems to have posed problems for some umpires. This is now one of the topics we will be covering in upcoming workshops at our Major Championships and HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments.

We came to consensus that we should remove the thinking where umpires kept saying, “What if...?”

Nowhere in the Laws does it say “What if...”. All you have to decide is, “Can the player play any legal stroke?”

Please continue to read the complete Laws to make sure it is understandable.

If you use the Law as it is written, with nothing else added, it is straight forward.

BWF Umpire Assessments – KAPAL API Indonesia Open 2024

Six Continental level umpire candidates were assessed at the KAPAL API Indonesia Open 2024 to become BWF Umpires.

I am happy to report that all candidates passed their evaluation, including very good marks on their theoretical examination, and they have all been recommended to become BWF Umpires.

I am also pleased how well the new delivery of the theoretical examination went, where candidates were given the choice to hand-write or type their answers on a laptop computer, with both options taken-up by the candidates.

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BWF President, Poul-Erik Høyer honours Chair of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel, Malcolm Banham (ENG)

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Thank you to the rest of the umpires at the tournament for their help giving guidance to these candidates.

IRS / Service Judge Teamwork

I have written and spoken before about mistakes using the IRS. You have also heard me talk about the important role of the service judge to get up out of the chair and help the umpire, if required.

This is essential on an error on the IRS, and I have since seen occasions when this has worked perfectly: the score was corrected with no fuss or need for the player to get frustrated; and it was fair for all which is why we are there. It was great to hear TV commentator Gill Clark saying it was good umpiring, so let's keep this going.

Looking Ahead to Paris

Looking to the Paris 2024 Olympic and the Paralympic Games, congratulations to all that have been selected.

I hope you all prepare yourselves well, remembering that the world will be watching you.

Get as much umpiring as you can before you go, to give you the best chance of performing at your best.

It is not only for your own pride of being part of such a tournament. Remember the players have been preparing for many years to reach their goal of an Olympic or Paralympic medal.

Hope to see you all again soon.



Victor Wong Wai Nap (HKG) at the TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024

REFLECTIONS OF A NOVICE BWF UMPIRE ASSESSOR: MY JOURNEY AND INSIGHTS

**By Teo Kian Joo,
BWF Umpire Assessor**

After serving as a Badminton Asia Umpire Assessor since 2016, I had the opportunity to conduct my first BWF “shadow” appraisal alongside experience BWF Umpire Assessor Mike Walker (CAN) at the TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2022 in Bangkok, THA. Most recently, I served as a BWF Umpire Assessor at the KAPAL API Indonesia Open 2024 where we assessed Continental level umpire candidates for BWF level certification, as well as appraisals of BWF Umpires, alongside Chair Malcolm Banham (ENG), David Turner (AUS), and Kelly Hoare (AUS).

Being an umpire assessor presents challenges but is undeniably rewarding.

I believe that “assessors are here to assist, not merely to appraise”.

I have discovered that the role of an assessor extends beyond umpire appraisals; it involves motivating and assisting them to enhance their performance and

reach their full potential. This requires analysing their strengths and areas for improvement while they are officiating or “on chair” and providing constructive feedback afterward. These feedback sessions are crucial in the developmental process. Managing umpires with diverse personalities and experiences remains a continuous learning experience for me.

It is gratifying to witness umpires progressing and improving through the appraisal process, especially when deserving candidates successfully advance and continue to grow into even better umpires.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel’s efforts to enhance efficiency in our tasks. One notable achievement was the successful implementation of the theoretical examination of Continental umpire candidates where we included the option for candidates to type their answers. The feedback we received from candidates was highly encouraging.



Teo Kian Joo (MAS)

PARA BADMINTON IS READY FOR PARIS 2024

**By Carmen Martínez,
BWF Referee**

The road to Paris has been completed and the list of qualified athletes was made public several weeks ago. We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to the 120 players from 31 countries who will be competing for medals in the 16 events. We are ready and willing to be there!

From the technical officials' point of view, during this second Paralympic cycle, Para badminton has experienced many small changes, including the consolidation of competition levels, together with the various modifications to Laws and regulations.

In this edition, we hear from some of our protagonists at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, on certain technical and developmental sections.

Günter Klützke (GER), BWF Technical Delegate in Tokyo and also for Paris 2024, gave his views on the growth and evolution of competition levels.

Question: How would you describe the impact of the different levels of competition during the last Paralympic cycle?

Answer: *"When assessing the impact of the new tournament system, a distinction should be made between the introduction of beginner tournaments at Level 3 and the organisation of competitions at Levels 1 and 2.*

In my opinion, the lower level has proven itself for starters. On the one hand, it was possible to bring many athletes into competitive sports. On the other hand, in contrast to Tokyo qualifiers, no player who qualified for Paris competed at the Uganda International.

"I see the introduction of Grade 2 - Level 1 tournaments differently, including its initial impact on the Race to Paris ranking, where only halfway, after the Continental and World Championships, did it smooth out. Players who, for different reasons, were unable to start again immediately after the end of the COVID-19 break, ran 15 months behind the successes of their competitors, as they were not admitted to any Level 1 tournament.

"At the same time, there were numerous cancellations of the non-Paralympic events so that the planning security desired by organisers could not be achieved."

The impact of these 16 events has been

reflected only through the conclusion of the last Grades 2 - Level 1 tournaments, where participation in non-Paralympic Games events was low. It will undoubtedly be important to know the statistical evolution of the following Grade 2 - Level 1 tournaments in the coming years, in order to establish the most appropriate criteria for their development.

The last of these tournaments took place in Scotland, where we took the opportunity to ask some questions to one of the umpires who took part the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, and who will be present again in the Paris edition: Seamus Halpin (IRL).



Q: What differences are there to officiating at a Para badminton tournament compared to badminton?

A: *"When preparing for a Para badminton tournament, it's slightly different than a badminton tournament. You need to mentally prepare yourself differently. Understanding players disabilities also helps. Regarding umpiring you really need to know the different court layouts for each event and it's not just a case of learning them before you go on court. One wrong call could mean the end of someone's tournament so you need to be well tuned in from the moment you get in the chair."*

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Q: What has umpiring in Para badminton meant to you?

A: *"Umpiring Para badminton has really helped me appreciate what I have in life and understanding that no matter how tough things get, you shouldn't complain about them. When you watch para badminton players close up and see what they put in to competing, giving 100% effort with a never give up attitude regardless of their disability, sometimes brings a tear to my eyes.*

"It teaches you a different perspective about badminton players. While able bodied players just meet you on the court for the match and you may not see them until the next tournament, para badminton players want to get to know you personally and share their stories with you. They like to build a trust between themselves and you."

Q: What is your advice for those who have never umpired Para badminton before?

A: *"Jump in the deep end and go for it. You will not regret it. While we say our umpiring colleagues are our second family, believe me: para athletes are even closer.*

"They will want to know you on a first name basis and this in turn makes you feel so comfortable around them as they do with you.

"Forget all the officiousness you thought while becoming an umpire as this will not work or go down well in Para badminton.

"Just be your yourself, relax enjoy the experience of course while applying the laws and regulations and the players will see this and get the right vibes from you. They know the strangers to the game."

Seen through the eyes of the referee, the competitive structure for Para badminton is very different than badminton. All those factors can be overwhelming for less experienced referees, and even having the help of the technical delegate, there are many elements that can be difficult to understand, so it is important to approach them with an open mind.

The following are questions posed to Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games referee Barbara Fryer (SUI):

Q: What aspects would you highlight from the first edition of the Games in Tokyo?

A: *"The debut of Para badminton in the Paralympics felt like a circle was completed. After great efforts over more than 20 years by everybody involved in the sport, we had finally achieved a very important objective.*

"I still remember the joy in the eyes of players and coaches who resided in the Paralympic Village to be part of this big family. The organisation of the tournament was superb and despite no spectators due to COVID-19, the atmosphere in the competition venue was phenomenal with the teams, and even team officials from other sports, supporting their players enthusiastically."

Q: What did you expect from Para badminton when you officiated your first Para badminton tournament?

A: *"I was not aware it was possible to play badminton in a wheelchair and just went along for the fun when I was asked to referee at an international tournament in Switzerland. I was very impressed to see how the level of play has increased over the years and that in particular wheelchair badminton has become so much more dynamic at the top level."*

Q: What has refereeing in Para badminton meant to you? Would you recommend it to the new referees and why?

A: *"What I loved most was the familiar atmosphere. Striving to develop and promote our sport meant working together closely, including with coaches and players, to improve the level of all aspects of the game. And then it was always amazing to witness the players overcoming their disability and striving to achieve their aims in sport with passion and determination, but all the way showing respect and appreciation for each other.*

"Absolutely, I would recommend Para badminton to all referees! The atmosphere at tournaments is competitive but always very friendly. Technical officials are usually well respected and considered part of the family. That is why most colleagues I know – referees, umpires, and line judges – who have been at a para badminton tournament for the first time wanted to come back again".

We wish the best of success to all participants in the Paralympic Para Badminton Games, athletes, coaches, team managers and technical officials. See you in Paris!



Barbara Fryer (SUI)

BWF LINE JUDGE LOOK BACK TO TOKYO AND AHEAD TO PARIS

**By Marisa Baird,
Line Judge Coordinator/BEC
Line Judge Representative**

TotalEnergies BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2024

The first tournament for BWF Line Judges in 2024 was an exciting one, and one which is unique in that it is held once every two years, and comprises two separate World Team Championships: The Uber Cup for women, and the Thomas Cup for men.

This year the TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024 was held from 28 April – 5 May in Chengdu, CHN, with 10 BWF Line Judges as part of the overall line judge team.

Some BWF Line Judges began their experience by applying for a Chinese visa, while others had a visa exemption for visits of less than 15 days. Because of this, no one had the opportunity to extend their stay in China for sightseeing. However, David Cifuentes Martin's flight home left at night, so he took the opportunity to see as much of the city as he could before he had to go to the airport.

Experiences included a very simple and smooth procedure for entering the country and the excellent organisation and hospitality of the Chinese hosts. Most found the food to be very spicy and quite different from what they were used to but came to enjoy the meals very much.

As this was a team tournament, the level of performance of the athletes was enjoyed by all. In particular, the line judges had an opportunity to officiate the same players at various stages of the tournament, whereas at an individual tournament, they would see the player only once if they lost their match.

Most noted the facilities and venue were much better than in years gone by. The spectators filled the stands and the atmosphere and noise was more than most



Back Row L-R: Woo Hyeong Ho (KOR), Hui Chee Shing (HKG), Kongphon Kongnawakul (THA), Dietmar Barten (GER), Ahmed Aboushady (EGY), David Cifuentes Martin (ESP)
Front Row L-R: Jacqueline Myers (USA), Aurore Lequatre (BEL), Ang Lay Ean (SGP), Christy Palmos Villafior (MNP)

had experienced in the past, making the experience one they would not forget.

One line judge commented that all players performed to their best and there were several new or more inexperienced players from countries such as Uganda, Mexico, and Australia, showing the growing popularity of badminton throughout the world.

The camaraderie amongst the BWF Line Judges was enjoyed by all and made the tournament a very special experience, leaving them eager to participate in future BWF Major Championships. after their respective Games due to work or family commitments.

Looking back to Tokyo

By the time you read this, the Paris 2024 Olympic Games will be only a few days away with the badminton competition running from 27 July through 5 August.

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games badminton competition runs from 29 August – 2 September.

I was appointed as a BWF Line Judge to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (held in 2021), with the opportunity to share this experience with my friend, Suzanne Benton (ENG). Our experience will be very different to those in Paris this summer.

We were in the middle of a global pandemic, and it was testament to the host organisers that the Games took place safely, albeit behind closed doors.



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L-R: Suzanne Benton (ENG), Marisa Baird (SCO)



The experience started before we even left our home countries, with numerous COVID-19 tests to be performed by professional testers, named on a list generated by Japanese authorities. Our flights were booked for us and when we landed in Tokyo, we underwent another COVID-19 test, which had to be negative before we were allowed to leave the airport.

We were allotted single rooms and were not allowed to leave these rooms for anything other than transport to the competition venue or to eat in a designated restaurant. When we left our rooms, we had to wear a mask at all times.

We undertook a daily COVID-19 test and had to follow a strict path from the hotel to the bus, to the competition venue, field of play, and then reverse the route at the end of the day.

With all these rules to follow you might have thought it would be a difficult tournament to tolerate, but the exact opposite is true.

The Japanese staff and volunteers were welcoming, friendly, helpful and overjoyed that the Olympics were happening. Everyone laughed and smiled (behind masks) and made our experience extra special.

The professionalism of the whole team was exceptional and although a very different tournament experience, my 'carry home' thought was that I had a great time.

Also, that I want to return one day, to see and experience the 'real' Japan.

Preparing for Paris

For those preparing for this year's Games, my advice would be to try and participate in as many tournaments as you can before you travel to Paris.

Find out about the country and capital city you will be visiting. It's a beautiful and fascinating place.

Make sure you bring appropriate clothes for your off-duty time.

Ensure you have plenty of space on your phone or camera for all the photos you will want to take.

I asked some of the assigned BWF Line Judges to explain how they were preparing for their Olympic and Paralympic experience:

Lamia Kherraz (ALG) noted that her preparation for the Olympic Games is as intense as that of the players, including immersion in the regulations, perfecting her knowledge of techniques, and mental training to make fair and quick decisions under pressure. Each local or international competition is an opportunity to refine her skills and be ready to guarantee fairness and safety during the Olympic Games.

Martin Maipuu (EST), assigned to the

Paralympic Games, explained that he will take part in as many tournaments as I can, either in Estonia or abroad. He will try to keep himself fit, including exercising regularly, eating healthy foods, and a doctor checkup. And, he will review the Para badminton regulations.

Kun-il (Ken) Chung (CAN) is focused on preparing for the Paralympic Games, including planning what to bring (e.g. what and how much clothing, souvenirs for colleagues, and pins for trading), and looking at opportunities during the tournament, if possible, to sightsee when off shift, meal planning, and laundry. She is looking forward to an exciting experience and the chance to reunite with old friends and make new ones, too.

Shevaun Moody (AUS) is excited and honoured to be selected to Paralympic Games, noting that this will most likely be his last BWF assignment. As it is his first Para badminton tournament, he has been studying court boundaries and watching matches from several tournament, as part of his preparations. He noted his luck to have studied French in high school, so he is "brushing up" on his French language skills! He is looking forward to what colleagues at previous Para badminton tournaments have described as "awe inspiring", so he cannot wait to go!

Finally, and thanks to Kamil Kyzlik (CZE) for this excellent tip: bring a big suitcase to take home your Olympic Games uniform and souvenirs you will purchase.

Wishing all players, officials, volunteers, and spectators a safe and exciting experience in Paris!



GREAT BWF UMPIRES OF THE PAST

By Torsten Berg

Badminton is nowadays successfully televised worldwide. The HSBC BWF World Tour and our Major Championships fill the halls as well as - well deserved - the pockets of our professional players.

With this fantastic and sometimes fanatic spectator interest come increasing demands on our top technical officials. Nowadays we have technology, such as the IRS and the service judge's tool, to assist our BWF Umpires to ensure fairness and fine presentation. We have the ITTOs providing guidance and standard solutions to most issues arising on court.

However, well before we had these useful tools, BWF had umpires who mastered the art of controlling the game and the players as well as match presentation.



Yap Tee Loy (MAS)



Johnny Quek Liang Kwee (MAS)
Photo taken in 1984 at the
ProKennex GP Finals in Kuala
Lumpur, Malaysia

Johnny Quek and Yap Tee Loy (MAS)

Malaysia was always a great country to in which to officiate as a BWF Referee. The local umpires were - and still are - both experienced and well trained. Many of the line judges were local umpires. Moreover, they had excellent role models among their own. Johnny Quek (MAS) and Yap Tee Loy (MAS) are eminent examples of such role models. Both were trained by the grand old man of Malaysian Technical Officials, Francis Siow, himself an esteemed BWF Certificated Umpire and a great teacher.

Johnny Quek and Yap Tee Loy were among the original lot of BWF Certificated Umpires, passing their training and test at the BWF World Championships 1983 in Copenhagen, DEN, under the auspices of Vice President and IBUO (International Badminton Umpire Organisation, as the Commission was originally called) Chairman, Hector Roy Ward (AUS).

Johnny Quek served the Federation until 1998, umpiring on the highest level,

including the Olympic Games and finals of the World Championships and Thomas and Uber Cup. He had a natural authority as well as a smiling presence in the chair and was very well respected among players and team managers worldwide. Following retirement, Johnny Quek assisted BWF in the Kuala Lumpur office for a couple of years, looking after tournament and umpiring matters.

Yap Tee Loy contributed equally well to the international game in his many years as one of the best umpires. His strong points in the chair were his care for the presentation of the game as well as empathy and a strong sense of fairness. The players knew that he understood their situation and did his utmost to give everyone a fair deal.

Yap Tee Loy retired from BWF duties in 2006. After his umpiring career, Yap Tee Loy, affectionately known in his homeland as 'Uncle Yap', helped his association to educate the future generation of Malaysian umpires, often together with former BWF Referee Assessor Chua Soo Hock.

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Jan Mooij (NED)

Jan Mooij (NED)

In his own quiet way, Jan Mooij (NED) was one of the very best BWF Certificated Umpires. Relaxed in the chair, though always observing every detail around the court, Jan Mooij, tall and with natural charisma, had immediate respect among the top players as well as among his peers. He served the international game on the highest level, including the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games. In 2008, Jan Mooij received the BWF Meritorious Service Award for his services to badminton as an international umpire.

Rune B. Hansen (NOR)

With a university degree in Law, Rune Baard Hansen (NOR) had an excellent theoretical background for serving as a BWF Technical Official, as well as a lot of practical experience. He knew the Laws, regulations, and each and every interpretation.

In the chair, Rune B. Hansen possessed natural authority and managed even the most difficult matches without any issues. BWF used him on the highest level, including the 1996, 2000, and 2004 Olympic Games. A highlight was the men's singles semifinal at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games when our BWF President Poul-Erik Høyer (DEN) won and tore his shirt as often seen in the legendary photo, before going on to win the gold.

Following retirement as a BWF Umpire, Rune B. Hansen also did some refereeing and training of Norwegian umpires, even if very demanding duties as chief of the regional police services in both the Norwegian Arctic Islands of Svalbard - where the chief of police is the supreme authority and there is a considerable Russian presence - and later the Vestfold region near the capital Oslo, took his time.

In recent years, BWF has also enjoyed his support as a legal expert in connection with the development of our judiciary system.



Rune B. Hansen (NOR)

2024 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of July 2024 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
20 Aug – 25 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	DAIHATSU Japan Open 2024
27 Aug – 01 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Seoul	KOR	Korea Open 2024
27 Aug – 01 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Seoul	KOR	Korea Open 2024
27 Aug – 01 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Pekanbaru	INA	Indonesia Masters I 2024
10 Sep – 15 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	LI NING HONG KONG OPEN 2024
10 Sep – 15 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	LI NING Hong Kong Open 2024
16 Sep – 18 Sep	BWF-CC Umpire Assessor Panel Workshop 2024	Changzhou	CHN	In conjunction with the VICTOR China Open 2024
17 Sep – 22 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Changzhou	CHN	VICTOR China Open 2024
28 Sep	Tournament Panel Meeting 2024	Nanchang	CHN	In conjunction with the YONEX BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2024
01 Oct – 06 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Nanchang	CHN	YONEX BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2024
01 Oct – 06 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Nanchang	CHN	YONEX BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2024
08 Oct – 13 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Nanchang	CHN	YONEX BWF World Junior Championships 2024
08 Oct – 13 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Vantaa	FIN	CLASH ROYALE Arctic Open 2024 powered by YONEX
15 Oct – 20 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Odense	DEN	Denmark Open 2024
29 Oct – 03 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Surabaya	INA	Indonesia Masters II 2024
03 Dec – 08 Dec	Referee Appraisals	Guwahati	IND	YONEX-SUNRISE Guwahati Masters 2024
11 Dec – 15 Dec	Umpire Appraisals	Hangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2024