



Chair - BWF Umpire Assessment Panel, Malcolm Banham, speaks to umpires during a recent workshop in India.

## CONSTRUCTIVE APPRAISALS

By Malcolm Banham

**Chair - BWF Umpire Assessment Panel**

The role of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel is to appraise and assess umpires by observing them throughout a tournament.

The aim of the BWF Umpire Assessor, when appraising, is to impart as much knowledge as possible to help raise and maintain the standard and consistency of umpiring.

The BWF Umpire Assessor will observe the umpire/service judge during as many matches as possible throughout the tournament and provide the appropriate feedback, as soon as possible, following the conclusion of each match. The comments

of the appraiser are to be constructive and intended to raise the confidence of the umpire/service judge.

At the end of the tournament, an appraisal form is issued to umpires, highlighting the discussions that have taken place between the umpire and the BWF Umpire Assessor.

### Points to Note:

Reviewing appraisal notes in recent years, the following are recurring issues which umpires and service judges should keep in mind:

Umpire:

- At the start of the match, following the toss, the umpire should hold the coin out for a sufficient length of time to enable the players and TV cameras to see the result clearly.
- Good posture in the chair is essential, as is a professional uniform: black, formal trousers should always be worn.
- Opening announcements are often delivered too rapidly. Always take your time and remember to breathe. There should be a clear gap between "Love all" and "Play". Spend time rehearsing players' names – it will help in smooth announcement.

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FROM THE CHAIR BY  
**GILLES  
CAVERT**



# DELIVERING ON EXPECTATIONS

A new-look tournament circuit is on the way, aiming to provide more excitement for fans while increasing prize money for players.

As prize money increases, there will be an increase in the expectations of our stakeholders, particularly corporate partners, players, coaches and spectators. As technical officials, we are constantly facing new challenges and we must continue to ensure:

- More communication
- More proactivity
- Greater commitment
- Greater team spirit
- More consistency
- Better concentration
- Better anticipation

- More humility
- More professionalism

It is equally important that we be willing to improve all the time.

I cannot end this column without paying tribute to Vanessa Freeman (right) – the long-serving editor of COC-TALES; former staff member of the International Badminton Federation in Cheltenham; and overall supporter and cheerleader for our sport for many years.

Vanessa has decided to step back from her involvement in COC-TALES to focus on more local and regional volunteering commitments.

She has been a passionate professional, dedicated to her work, and we will miss her expertise and contribution.

Thank you, Vanessa!



# RIGHT ON TRACK



BWF President Poul-Erik Hoyer (left) discusses the BWF's new tournament structure during the BWF Council meeting in Malaysia. At right is BWF Deputy President Gustavo Salazar Delgado.

*By Torsten Berg*

On 19 March 2017, the BWF Council unveiled a new tournament structure for the 2018-2021 cycle.

The BWF Events department is currently working hard to finalise the details of this calendar of international tournaments for 2018 – not an easy task!

We can only start allocating referees and deputies for the tournaments after the tournament calendar is ready, so this is why you have not yet heard from BWF regarding your availability for duties in 2018.

Thank you in advance for your patience as you await confirmation on your assignments over the coming months.

## **Semi-Professional Referees**

Next year will also see the introduction of the panel of semi-professional referees. By the time you read this, BWF will have completed the first interviews for these positions. The appointment process will include appraisals of practical performance, and possibly another round

of interviews, and is expected to be concluded in August.

We expect the semi-professional referees to take responsibility for a major chunk of duties in 2018, but there will still be many jobs on all levels for those who have decided not to apply for the semi-professional positions.

## **Appraisals – A Useful Tool**

Evaluations/appraisals of referees are part of the appointment process for the semi-professional positions, but they are intended to be much more than that and to include all of you.

The appraisal is a tool for the BWF assessors for sharing experiences and to mentor the referees in order to raise and further standardise the performance of all of us.

Several appraisals have now been conducted and the results have been positive and encouraging.

We hope to cover all BWF referees in 2017 and 2018.

# LIFE ON THE LINE



*Marisa Baird of Scotland has been an inspirational figure in the world of line judging, both as a BWF line judge and in the development of line judges for her national association and for the world-governing body.*

*Baird has been part of the development, training, and evaluation of a team of 72 line judges for the upcoming TOTAL BWF World Championships 2017 in Glasgow, Scotland, and will help guide them throughout that event. She will also be serving as a BWF Line Judge at the BWF World Senior Championships 2017 in Cochin, India, in September.*

*She shares with us her experiences and insights on line judging:*

## **What inspired you to take up line judging?**

I was inspired to take up line judging while watching the BWF Sudirman Cup 2007 in Glasgow with my young daughters. I signed up for the next available course, joined BADMINTONScotland's Court Officials' organisation, and began to attend as many tournaments as I could in my new line-judging role.

## **Take us through the high points of your career.**

In 2012, after several years of work at the national level and at the Scottish Open, I

participated as a line judge at the Welsh International — my first international tournament!

I had the privilege and honour to serve as one of four line-judge coordinators for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, working with 80 line judges from many Commonwealth countries. I then took on the role of line-judge coordinator for Scotland, and was confirmed as a BWF line judge with my first assignment at the BWF World Senior Championships 2015 in Helsingborg, Sweden.

I gained a lot of experience at the OUE Singapore Open 2015, including mentorship from the tournament referee (and current BWF Referee Assessor) Jane Wheatley.

I was at the 2016 European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan, as a line-judge coordinator, and at the Yonex French Open 2015 as a line judge. Lastly, I served as a line judge at the Yonex All England Open 2016.

I have also served on a BWF panel responsible for the development of educational resources for line judges, as part of its overall Strategic Plan for Technical Officials Development 2016-2020, and I am excited about the development of professional line judges around the world.

## **What have been the highlights of your experiences?**

My first experience while line judging at the international level at the Welsh International — the organisers and other court officials were so welcoming, and the experience on court was so exciting!

Other memorable experiences were the atmosphere in the new Emirates Arena for the 2014 Commonwealth Games; the learning and mentorship I experienced at the OUE Singapore Open 2015; the 2016 European Games for the opportunity to help develop the line judge team and to follow their future development; the amazing atmosphere and closeness of the spectators in the Stade Pierre de Coubertin, as well as the camaraderie of the technical officials team at the Yonex French Open.

Also, the Yonex All England Open 2016, for getting a chance to officiate a final at one of the

most historically prestigious tournaments, with its high level of professionalism and attention to detail.

## **What are the valuable lessons you have learnt?**

That, as a line judge, you are part of a team of technical officials, and a very important part of that team. Line judges play a major role and are now being recognised by, for example, BWF implementing its team of line judges for its Major Events.

It pays to be professional in your appearance, manner, calls and signals. Players respect you if you make considered, clear, and correct calls and signals.

If your calls are incorrect, you can have an adverse impact on players, their game, the outcome of matches, and ultimately their livelihood. It's a big responsibility and we owe it to players, coaches, and spectators to be trained, experienced, alert, unbiased, unfazed, and professional in every aspect of our work.

## **What do you love about line judging?**

Being part of the sport of badminton, the camaraderie, the food, the funny anecdotes, feeling exhausted after a long match, when you've been under the bright lights with the cameras and the instant review system. I feel great about it and want to get back out and do it all over again.

## **Advice for aspiring line judges?**

Recognise that line judging is a wonderful opportunity to take you around the world to discover new places, meet remarkable people, and being part of an amazing family of technical officials.

You will sit within centimetres of the world's fastest racket sport, amongst the best players in the world, with all their power, skill, technical ability, fitness, and determination.

But never forget local and junior tournaments in your area. This is where the next generation of world-class players develop, and you can have the opportunity to watch them develop over time.

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## CONSTRUCTIVE APPRAISALS

- During the match, be aware of the number of towel breaks that could potentially cause deliberate delay, as opposed to the brief towel that players are permitted to have providing they are not holding up play.
- Deal with attempts at deliberate delay early on in the match (i.e. walking around the court). It is for the umpire to control the correct speed of the match.
- Quick decisions should be made on shuttle changes – do not allow this to turn into gamesmanship.
- Good eye contact should always be maintained with the service judge as he/she should be able to help in awkward situations.
- After the shuttle has ceased to be in play, at the end of a rally or game, do not be too hasty to look down at your pad/tablet – you could miss flash points.
- It is vitally important to keep updated on laws and terminology for the Instant Review System (IRS).
- There are certain situations when you need to look at, and acknowledge, two line judges. Good eye contact with your line judges helps build team spirit.

### Service Judge:

- The service judge should always be aware of what is happening on the court and its surroundings to enable him/her to assist the umpire if required.
- The service judge is not there just to call service faults and hand out shuttles. Be aware of flick-ons that the umpire cannot see, players deliberately breaking shuttles, incorrect scores, etc. A good service judge should be able to discreetly help the umpire.

Lastly, please take the time to read and understand the Umpire and Service Judge Instructions on the BWF website as these are updated regularly.

# REMEMBERING IVAN AND KEITH

*Technical officials worldwide were deeply saddened by the recent passing of two dear friends and colleagues – Ivan Skacha of Czech Republic and Keith Miller of Canada.*

*They will always be remembered fondly and their contributions to badminton will not be forgotten.*

## IVAN SKACHA

Ivan enjoyed a long and distinguished career as an umpire and referee.

As an active technical official with the Czech Badminton Federation – and demonstrating leadership in his role as President – Ivan was always on hand to advise those now charting their way as technical officials and to organise courses and adjudicate examinations.

His expertise was recognised and he was appointed a BWF Accredited Referee last year. Sadly, Ivan passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

We have lost a good technical official and a great friend.



## KEITH MILLER

Retired BWF Accredited Referee Keith Miller died at age 78 in mid-April.

Keith served as a BWF Accredited Referee (International Badminton Federation – IBF at that time) until his retirement in 2004, including officiating at the BWF Sudirman Cup and numerous editions of both the US and Canada Opens.

Like many in the community of BWF technical officials, where service to badminton is not just at the BWF level, Keith served in a lot of capacities in Canadian badminton for many decades, including in Badminton Ontario and Badminton Canada.

The following two quotes in memoriam are from prominent members of those communities:

“He was a student of the sport and had a special way of teaching and transferring his significant knowledge to others.”

“One of Keith’s greatest assets was his ability to connect with the athletes – to be tough but fair in how he enforced the rules of the sport but to be able to explain his decisions to athletes in a manner that garnered him great respect and admiration.”

He will be missed.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## UPCOMING MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND ASSESSMENTS

- Umpire Assessor Workshop, 17-18 May 2017, Gold Coast, Australia
- Referee Evaluation, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and BWF Certificated Umpire Assessments, TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2017, 21-28 May 2017, Gold Coast, AUS
- Referee Evaluation, Umpire Appraisals and Umpire Workshop, BCA Indonesia Open 2017, 12-18 June 2017, Jakarta, INA
- Referee Evaluation, YONEX Open Chinese Taipei 2017, 27 June – 2 July 2017, Taipei, TPE
- Referee Evaluation, YONEX Canada Open 2017, 11-16 July 2017, Calgary, CAN
- Umpire Appraisals, and BWF Accredited Umpire Assessments, TOTAL BWF World Championships 2017, 21-27 August 2017, Glasgow, SCO
- Technical Official Commission Meeting, in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2017, August 2017, Glasgow, SCO
- Referee Evaluation, BWF World Senior Championships 2017, 11-17 September 2017, Cochin, IND
- Umpire Appraisals, VICTOR Korea Open, 12-17 September 2017, Seoul, KOR
- Referee Evaluation, BWF World Junior Championships 2017, 9-22 October 2017, Yogyakarta, INA
- Umpire Appraisals, YONEX Denmark Open, 17-22 October 2017, Odense, DEN
- Umpire Appraisals, YONEX French Open, 24-29 October 2017, Paris, FRA
- Referee Evaluation, Bitburger Open 2017, 31 October – 5 November 2017, Saarbrücken, GER
- Referee Evaluation, Macau Open 2017, 7-12 November 2017, Macau, MAC
- Umpire Appraisals, Scottish Open, 21-26 November 2017, Glasgow, SCO
- Umpire Appraisals, BWF Destination Dubai World Superseries Finals 2017, 13-17 December 2017, Dubai, UAE



## ASSESSMENT TIME

BWF recently held its biennial workshop to assess continental confederation referees who have been nominated for upgrade to BWF Accredited Referees.

The 6-8 March gathering in Birmingham, UK, was the first part of a two-stage assessment programme. Upon successful completion of the workshop – including passing a written exam – candidates will be practically assessed at a tournament in 2017 or 2018 to determine their suitability for upgrade to the BWF level.

Pictured are BWF officials (front row) as well as continental confederation referees who are being assessed for upgrade to BWF Accredited Referees (back row).