

# COCTALES

**BWF**

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## 2024: AN EXCITING YEAR FOR BWF TOs!

By Gilles Cavert, Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission

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# 2024: AN EXCITING YEAR FOR BWF TOs!

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

First of all, I would like to wish a happy new year to the BWF TO community.

2024 is a very challenging year for BWF TOs. On one hand we have the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer, only three years after the Tokyo 2020 Games. For the first time in the history of the Games, an Olympiad will only last for three years.

All the TOs selected for the 2024 Games will have one focus in mind: Performance!

In that context, referees, umpires, line judges, doctors, and umpire coordinators will have to implement

their soft skills, especially alertness, willingness to improve, team spirit, and team work, as well as empathy and humility. The Olympic and Paralympic venue for badminton is almost sold out, which adds an extra pressure.

On the other hand, 2024 will see the launch of new cycles of our Semi-Professional Teams:

- ▶ Eight SP Referees with an additional appointment to be confirmed soon;
- ▶ Seven SP Umpires with an additional appointment to be confirmed soon; and
- ▶ Three SP Tournaments Doctors (first cycle).

Professionalisation is a strategic tool and a key component of the BWF TOC

strategy to continuously increase the performance of our TOs to meet the expectations of our stakeholders, especially when it comes to our Major Championships and World Tour.

Congratulations to those selected for the 2024-2026 cycle, but at the same time, thank you to all BWF Referees, Umpires, Tournament Doctors, and everyone in the BWF TOs Family for your dedication, team work, and support towards our common goal: Performance!

FROM THE CHAIR BY  
**GILLES  
CAVERT**



# REFEREE UPDATE

## By Jane Wheatley, Chair – BWF Referee Assessment Panel

I write this article on 31 December 2023, my last day as Chair of the BWF Referee Assessor Panel, and at the same time extend a heartfelt welcome to our new Chair, Gretha Prinsloo from South Africa. Our next COC-Tales edition will introduce Gretha.

As the year ends and another begins I believe it is a good time to remind you of your responsibilities to the BWF as our employer. Whether as a volunteer, part-time, or full-time employee, we are under the umbrella of the human resources management of a large corporate organisation. These organisations also have responsibilities to their volunteer and paid workforce. Best practice is to work as a team, being mindful of ethical sensitivities. The BWF Statutes, Section 2.1 (Badminton Code of Ethics) clearly

notes the expectation that the most important core values are the principles of behaviour and conduct. Some notable core values that relate to our referee team are:

- ▶ Loyalty
- ▶ Dignity
- ▶ Harassment free
- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Accountability
- ▶ Neutrality

### Accountability

In particular, I would like to emphasize the principle of accountability. The act of being accountable is an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions.

When we are carrying out our referee duties, we should make decisions in the sole interest of the organisation we represent, that is, the BWF.

BWF is our backstop: the first point of contact should you need help. There is a strong team surrounding the referees ready to step in when needed and the teamwork starts with your appointment and active engagement in communicating with your BWF Tournament Manager.

Should you need support you also have the Chair of the BWF Referee Assessor Panel to assist in helping make adjustments to your appointments if necessary. Pastoral care is of paramount importance in human resource management.

### Court Management

As we prepare for our biennial BWF Referee Workshop (5-8 February 2024 in KL) I have had the opportunity to review a selection of on-court incidents that occurred during 2023. Whilst we have come a long way over the past few years

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in our on-court management, there are still areas that need attention. Our case study sessions during the workshop will deal with issues arising under the headings of injuries, coaches, and umpire decisions.

### Medical Documentation

There are a number of documents available to download through the BWF Corporate website, “Technical Officials” / “Tournament Doctors”.

Of significant value to all referees are the following:

- ▶ BWF Tournament Doctor Responsibilities
- ▶ Guidelines for Tournament Doctors On-Court
- ▶ Player and Coach Information on Handling On-Court Injuries
- ▶ Tournament Doctor Report Template

These documents give you best practice guidelines on dealing with on-court injuries and the direction you must give to your tournament medical team. I encourage you to include these documents in your referee tool kit, especially the “Guidelines for Tournament Doctors On-Court”, a document giving you firm direction on dealing with on-court injuries.

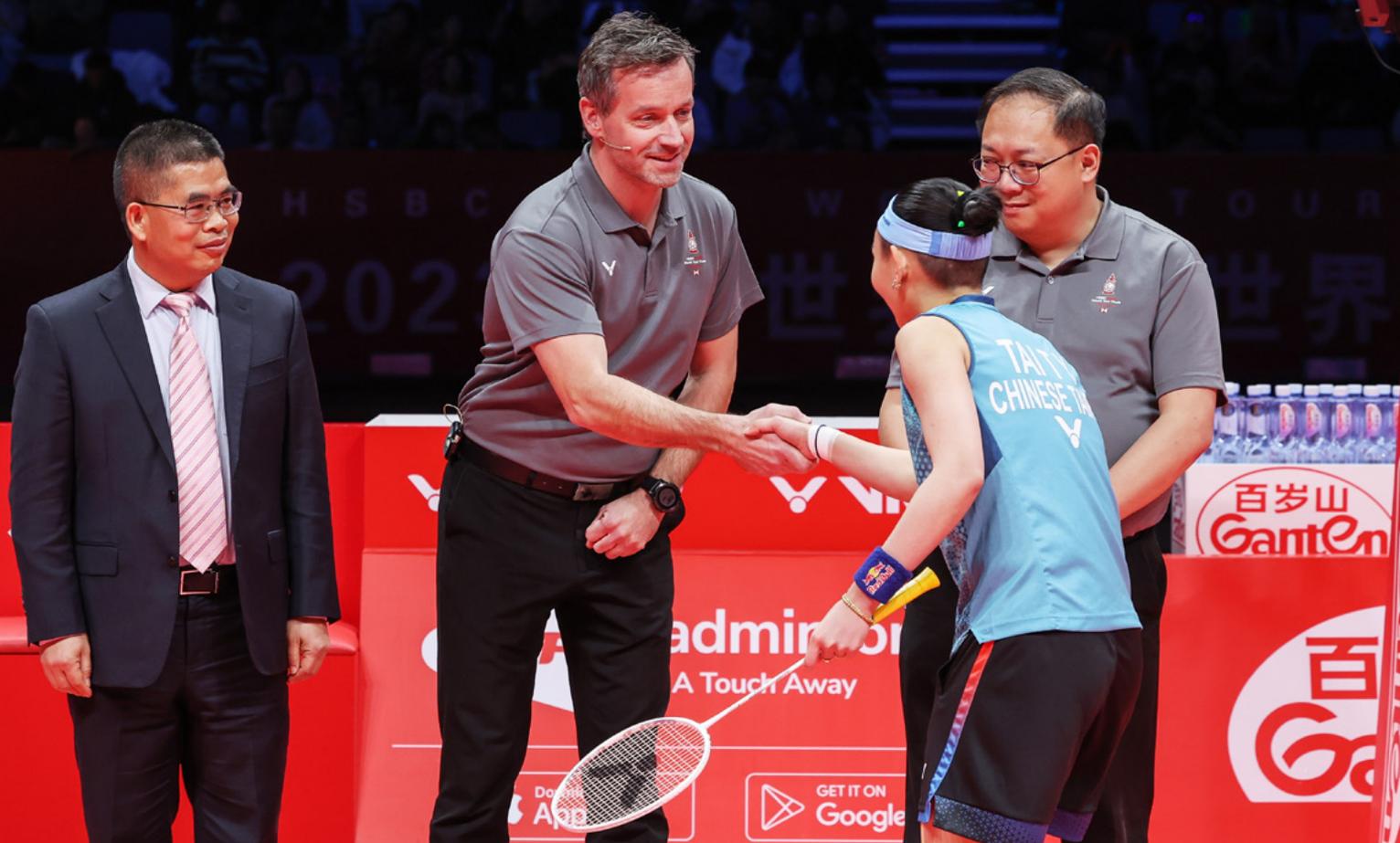
I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to you all for your friendship and support over the past five years in my role as Chair.

My thanks to the Panel members for their dedication to their important role of ensuring we achieve the high standards now needed in our sport.

I wish you all well in achieving your referee goals and look forward to following your journey from the comfort of my home.



# UMPIRE UPDATE



## By Malcolm Banham, Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

Before getting started, let me wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year!

It is sad that four of our long standing BWF Umpire Assessors retired at the end of 2023: Greg Vellacott (AUS), Mike Walker (CAN), Carol Ui Fhearghail (IRL), and Kelvin Martin (BAR).

I would like to thank them for the work they have carried out over many years to progress the standard of umpiring all over the world. Their commitment and expertise will be sorely missed.

However, with a new year and a new group of panel members, we look forward to carrying on the hard work of our predecessors.

## Semi-Professional Umpires

The new cycle of the Semi-Professional Umpires is underway with the BWF Council agreeing to extend the number from seven to eight. The selection process of the additional SP Umpire is still ongoing and should be completed soon.

It was very pleasing to see the number of applicants as it shows the progress we are making in our sport.

In the meantime, I welcome the previously selected SP Umpires for this new cycle, and I look forward to working with you.

And, thank you to the ones who are retiring for their work in getting the S P programme up and running. I am sure our new team will carry on the good work.

## Para Badminton Umpire Integration

It is very pleasing to see that the integration into Para badminton is well underway, including many of you having already umpired at Para tournaments over the past few years, and adding Para badminton tournaments to our calendar of umpiring duties will make this year even busier than normal.

The feedback I have received from umpires that have worked at Para tournaments is extremely positive with all saying how much they enjoy the experience. As such, I encourage you attend one of these tournaments, because it will be very rewarding.

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The BWF Umpire Assessment Panel is developing a paper focused on the integration of Para badminton into its appraisal system, with the goal for our assessors to be equipped to carry out appraisals at Para tournaments soon. We have already had two members attend tournaments as an orientation on how we can best appraise at these tournaments. It is hoped that we will be fully prepared to start appraising at the start of 2025.

### Major Championships and World Tour

It is good to see the BWF Major Championships and HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments going from strength to strength, including

the participation of the crowd, the quality of play, and the exceptional badminton on display.

This brings me to the standard of umpiring that is required for these tournaments, where the expectation is that no umpire should arrive at these levels of tournaments ill prepared to umpire to their best.

I am sorry to say we have had some experience where umpires are clearly not umpiring

to BWF level for their first match. The players and stakeholders expect and deserve top quality umpires for at these levels of tournaments, and so as umpires, your own pride should drive you to officiate at your very best in every match. This includes how you present yourself, and how you are dressed. With increased TV coverage, you want to be seen in a good way and not on YouTube making errors.

### How to be a Top Umpire

I was asked recently what to do to become a top umpire.

Answer: I do not have a magic wand, but I can provide you with things to work on. However, this requires hard work on the part of the umpire, including practice, practice, and practice! Going too long between tournaments will not allow you to practice the skills needed to be one of the best.

Why do we look at some umpires and see that they are good? They are not doing anything different. They are doing all the standard things consistently well, quick clear precise decisions, and they know the Laws extremely well so they can make that decision quickly and accurately.

Thank you for all your help and support in 2023, and let's hope for a great 2024.

I look forward to seeing you all somewhere in the world soon.





# GROWING WITH PARA BADMINTON IN 2024

## By Carmen Martínez, BWF Referee

Before continuing with our descriptive education on the different functional classes, it is necessary to pause and dedicate a few lines to 2024 and what it will bring.

This will be a year that will go down in history, not only because of the implementation of new rules and regulations, but especially because of Para badminton's second opportunity at the Paralympic Games.

In addition, we will soon be celebrating the 14th BWF Para Badminton World Championships, and in which a tremendous boost has been

given to the updating and clarification of the regulations in different sections about which we all need to be aware.

### Regarding Tournaments

The exponential growth of Para badminton competitions has been a palpable reality in recent years.

New Member Associations and Para Badminton Organisations make their debut as host organisers on the competition calendar, with World Circuit competitions reaching participation numbers we could never have dreamed of, and the structure is becoming firmer and more compact.

This wide range of offerings also provides us with new opportunities to enjoy, if we have not already done so, new refereeing and umpiring experiences, and the process of technical official integration in the Para badminton environment is a reality in which we will all be immersed in the coming years.

### New Challenges

Some of the aspects mentioned in previous editions have been readjusted in the latest update of the regulations in November 2023, and there is no excuse for not being up to date.

For all those who will be taking part at the BWF Para Badminton

World Championships 2024, the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, or the World Circuit, there are new tasks to face, and small details to add to our review of the rules and regulations. Let's be professional in our work!

The BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2024 is the most awaited moment for many of our Para badminton players, and the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games are, without a doubt, the showcase where millions of expectant eyes will be on the evolution of our sport.

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## Updated Laws and Regulations

Changes to Para Badminton regulations approved by BWF Council will be implemented at different times throughout the year, which forces us to be cautious and committed in the review prior to each competition. In a matter of a few months the same situation may have to be dealt with differently.

### JANUARY

#### PBITTO

- ▶ The umpire shall decide the number of acceptable stoppages for a player asking for permission to dry his/her prosthetic limbs during a match
- ▶ The umpire will step down to shake hands with players in WH and SH6 classes.

#### PBGCR

- ▶ Shoes worn by players on court must be non-marking ones

### FEBRUARY

- ▶ New **wheelchair seating regulation** will be added to the BWF Statutes.

### APRIL

#### PB Laws (after approval at the BWF AGM 2024)

- ▶ There might be exceptions for some players to be in a stationary position during the service due to health conditions.

### SEPTEMBER

#### PBITTO

- ▶ A time limit for players to repair a wheelchair or prosthetic issue will be implemented.

Likewise, significant changes will be made to the regulations related to the Para badminton classification regulations, World Ranking, and World Circuit regulations, which, although they do not affect our duties as TOs, will be present in our future competitions.

## TO Experience

The road to a high level of professionalism in Para badminton is a joint effort of players, coaches, organizers, and TOs.

To be fully integrated implies a double effort! Although there is a general knowledge



that we can export and bring from our experience in conventional badminton, we cannot leave aside the knowledge of the specific rules and conditions in Para Badminton, this will be the aspect that can give high quality to our umpiring level.

## For Referees

Standardisation of timelines and ways to perform at the different levels of competition, depending on whether or not we have a classification process, should be one of our aims for 2024.

The prior preparation of a good schedule structure is a fundamental task in which we can collaborate and participate together with the Technical Delegate. Try to keep the match calculation up to date considering

possible combination options, publish daily schedules as far in advance as possible, and anticipate the need for extra matches when doing the calculations. Check that you follow the rules and recommended order of singles and doubles rounds.

Be proactive with the organisers in the preparation of the FOP, and make sure that all spaces meet the necessary conditions and tools. Do not hesitate to ask questions when needed. Only by working together and establishing good communication can we continue to improve.

Add some nice pictures from last World Championships or Paralympic Games

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### For Umpires

Being an umpire in a Para badminton competition means going beyond our conventional badminton knowledge, as there are more and more extra small details that make the difference!

With the new updated regulations, the umpire will be involved in a greater number of tasks, and there will be more aspects to control on court. Be prepared and cross-check information before the start of the tournament.

If you have not tried Para badminton yet, be aware that the integration process is an active and growing reality, so bring yourself to take heart in this experience.

And to all TOs who are already part of this small Para badminton world, best wishes and success for the contribution to making 2024 a truly historic year.



# BWF LINE JUDGES EXPERIENCES AT THE HSBC BWF WORLD TOUR FINALS 2023 AND A LOOK TO THE FUTURE



Left to right: Hui Chee Shing Albert (HKG), Patrick Visscher (NED), Nathalie Simone Esseiva (SUI), Ludovic Didier Claude (MRI), Khin Thaw Thaw Kyi, (MYA), Karen Marie Arnold (AUS), Cung Thuy Lan (VIE), Jacqueline Wendy Myers (USA)

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

## **HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2023: A Round up from BWF Line Judges**

The eagerly anticipated HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2023, back in China after several years, took place in Hangzhou, from 13 - 17 December 2023, with eight BWF Line Judges assigned.

Most found the travel to China took a long time and some encountered various disruptions along the way, including cancelled flights and lost luggage but everyone praised the organisation within China for prompt airport pick-ups and finding the lost luggage very quickly.

None of them ended up extending their stay to sight see, however, BWF arranged a boat trip for players, coaches, officials, and invitees to the famous West Lake, which proved a wonderful trip detailing

the history and beauty of the lake and featuring an amazing light show.

Patrick Visscher (NED) described everything in Hangzhou as “enormous”. The hotel was 35 floors high, but dwarfed by buildings all around which were at least twice the size. The roads too, were huge but very quiet as most cars are powered by electricity.

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The stadium was described by the team as astounding. It was also massive, and when the audience were seated, the noise they made, especially when Chinese players were on court, was so loud, it hurt their ears. Jacqueline Wendy Myers (USA) noted that there was great patriotism for the Chinese players, proving badminton's popularity in this country.

The BWF Line Judges were used exclusively on baselines and asked to mop at times. Many of the matches were very intense and some lasted almost two hours. Matches were played consecutively, thus the BWF Line Judges were challenged to remain focused, which all managed to do extremely well. But this meant they were slightly fatigued through jet lag, and they could not watch many matches.

The local line judges were very welcoming and a great help to the BWF Line Judges, as much of the information and signs were in Chinese. The team mentioned how they enjoyed meeting new people and catching up with old friends.

One of the sponsors, VICTOR, provided a badminton session for officials with souvenirs for all.

Karen Marie Arnold (AUS) mentioned that BWF Line Judges SHOULD always undertake proper research before they attend BWF Major Championships and tournaments such as these, especially



if they are going somewhere new. She discovered that she could not use currency or credit cards and they had to use a local app to pay for things.

Ludovic Didier Claude (MRI) found the temperatures in China much cooler than at home, and this took some time to adjust, but he managed very well throughout the tournament.

All the ITO's wish to thank BWF, Badminton China and all colleagues, old and new for this amazing experience.

## A look to the future: BWF Line Judge Virtual Workshop 2024

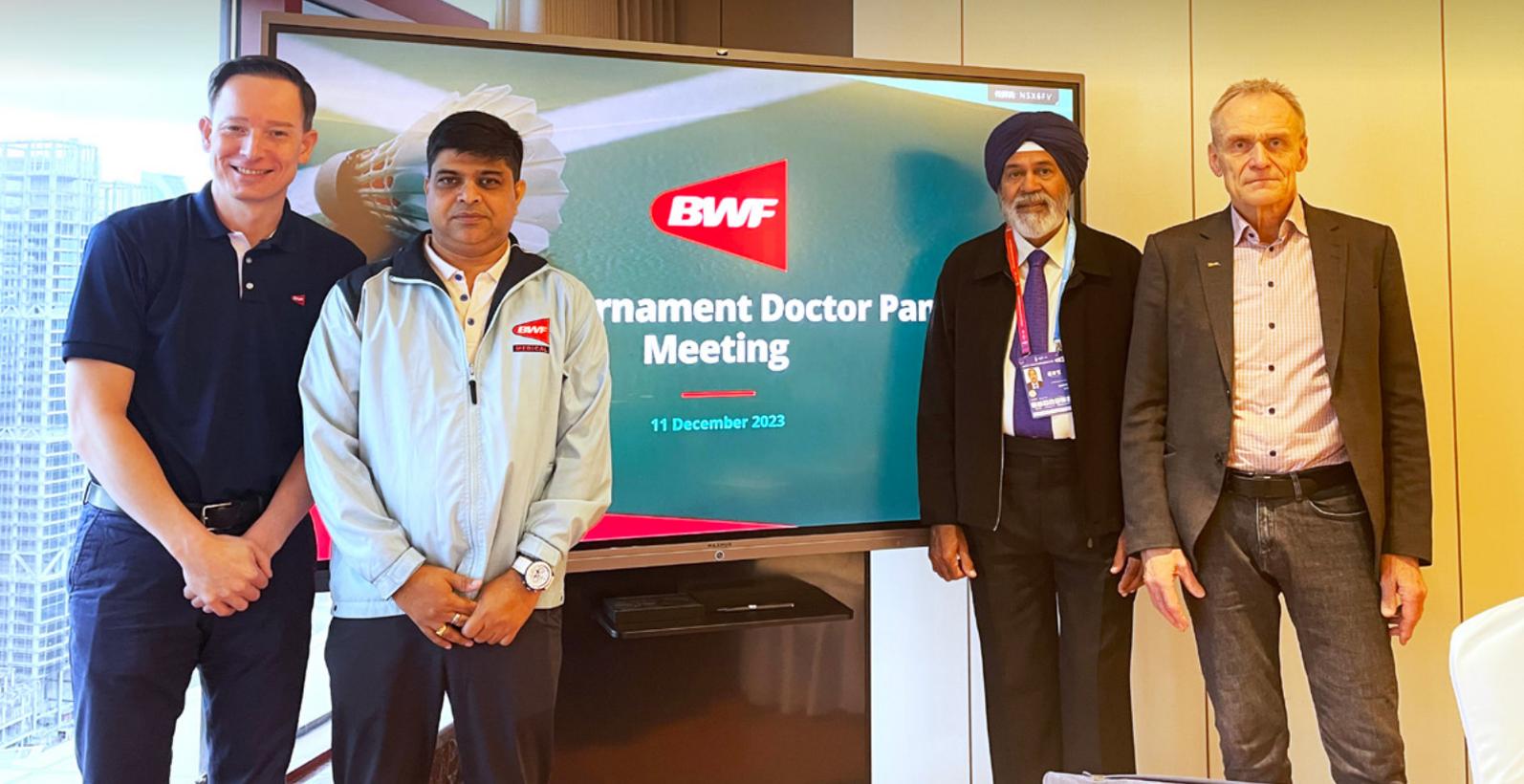
This is due to take place in late March 2024 (date to be determined), with, among other items, the following:

- ▶ BWF Social Media
- ▶ BWF Safeguarding Policy

If you have anything you would like discussed during this meeting, please contact Deputy Events Director, Chris Trenholme, at: [c.trenholme@bwfsport](mailto:c.trenholme@bwfsport)



# BWF TOURNAMENT DOCTOR UPDATE



## Tournament Doctor Panel

As part of the new BWF Medical Commission structure, the BWF Tournament Doctor Panel met on 11 December 2023 in Hangzhou, CHN, in conjunction with the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2023.

The current panel, made up of Panel Chair, Dato Dr. Gurcharan Singh (MAS), Dr. Martin Fahlström (SWE), Dr. Sudeep Satpathy (IND), and Deputy Events Director, Christopher Trenholme. It was a good opportunity to discuss policy considerations within the overall medical area, and procedures and guidelines for tournament doctor operations at our Major Championships and World Tour.

There were several areas for further review and consultation, and these will be taken up with respective stakeholder groups, including the BWF Referee Assessment Panel, Sport Science and Medical Research Commission, and the Medical Commission.



## Tournament Doctor Workshop

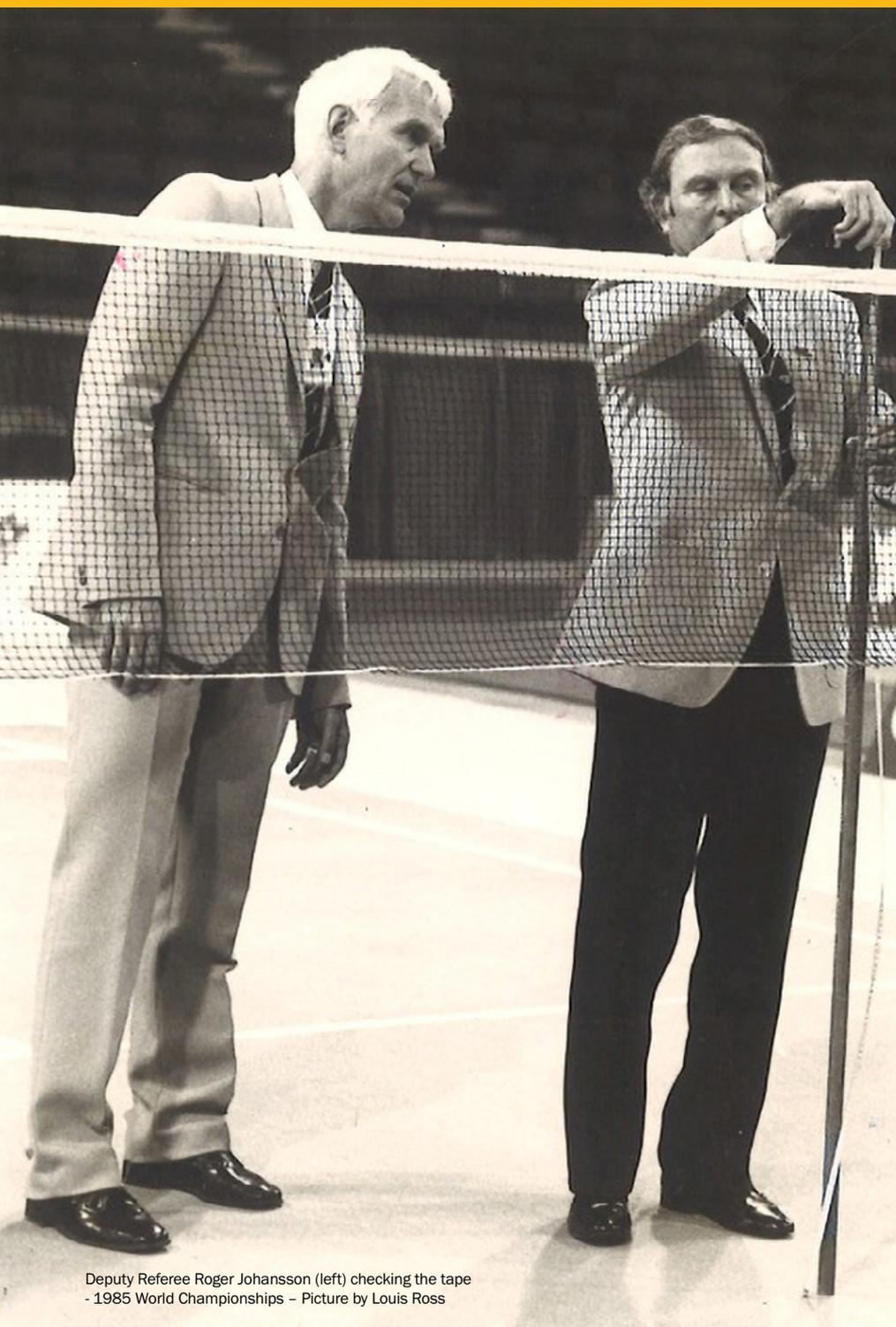
In preparation for 2024, the new BWF Tournament Doctor workforce, made up of three Semi-Professional and up to five volunteer Tournament Doctors held a workshop on 12 December 2023 in Hangzhou.

Led by Dato Dr. Guru, Dr. Fahlström, and other members of the team,

the focus was on procedures, education, and training of the workforce so they are ready to start in 2024. Topics included on-court protocols and procedures, emergency protocols, and practical training.

Congratulations to the new team for 2024-2026, and thank you to the workforce that has supported BWF and its Major Championships up to this point.

# THE DOCTORS - IMPORTANT TECHNICAL OFFICIALS



Deputy Referee Roger Johansson (left) checking the tape  
- 1985 World Championships - Picture by Louis Ross

By **Torsten Berg**

When badminton turned professional in the 1980s with prize money for players and introducing BWF (then IBF) Umpires and Referees, the need for professional medical services became clear. A Medical Commission was established under the leadership of Roger Johansson (SWE), with two important priorities: anti doping and on-court medical assistance.

Roger was well placed to chair this Commission with a background as doctor albeit in physical chemistry, however, like the author not a medical doctor, and serving as Arthur Jones' first Deputy as an IBF Referee as well as with a genuine interest in anti-doping. The sports medical expertise was provided by Dr. William Taor (ENG), who had served already with the Badminton Association of England and at the All-England Championships for some time and knew our game well. William Taor was well versed with sports medicine and also a forensic expert.

Roger Johansson and William Taor, with the assistance primarily of Neil Cameron (SCO), built up the BWF (IBF) anti-doping regulation and control system, well in advance of the WADA organisation of today. Fortunately, we have over the years had fairly few non-negative tests in international badminton compared to many other sports, partly due to the nature of our sport where it would be difficult to design a performance enhancing drug to help a player in the very complex battle on a badminton court, where speed, endurance and fine technique are only part of the performance and so much is tactical and mental.

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This historical origin explains why BWF Referees were more involved with the anti-doping measures than technical officials in many other sports; in badminton, anti-doping was introduced, and to some extent for many years serviced by, referees, carrying sealed bags of urine samples around the world and delivering them to the Chelsea Hospital Laboratory that performed the tests.

When William Taor resigned after the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games (where he arrived with a flu, shared it with Roger Johansson who was a Deputy Referee and both only came out of bed for the finals), he had already pointed to his student, Dr. Ashwin Patel (ENG) as a replacement. Dr. Ashwin brought to badminton much practical sports medical expertise, as he was heavily involved in boxing, where bleeding wounds and quite serious injuries were common.

He had already taken over the job as doctor at the YONEX All England Championships some years earlier, so he also knew badminton quite well. As an additional asset to his great practical skills - in fact common among on-court

badminton doctors - Dr. Ashwin brought many stories and a great sense of humour to the referees' tables around the world.

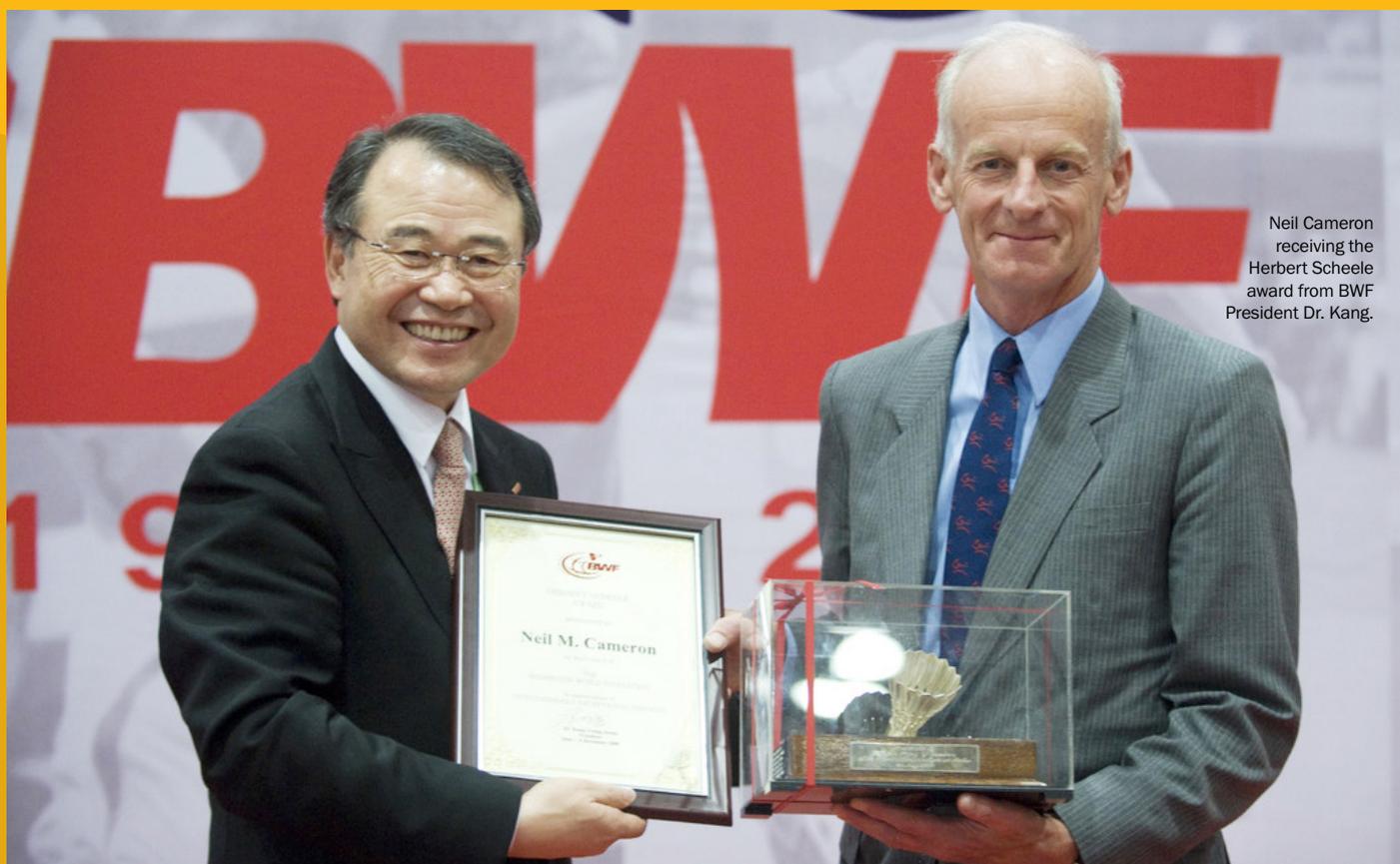
The other key member of the original Medical Commission was Dato Dr. Gurcharan Singh (MAS), affectionately known in badminton and football circles as Dr. Guru. Dr. Guru brought to badminton beyond his own practical expertise in sports medicine also a large and important network among sports medicine experts in Asian football, as he was for many years Chairman of the Asian Football Association Medical Commission. Dr. Guru took over the Chair of the BWF Medical Commission from Roger Johansson and serves until today. His contribution goes far beyond his own assistance at tournaments, as his leadership and recruitment of doctors has helped the World Tour and BWF Major Championships over many years.

The youngest one of the original Commission is Dr. Martin Fahlström (SWE), a professor in occupational health and himself a badminton player at the Swedish top league level. Dr. Martin brings to the table a lot of badminton expertise and own research into

badminton specific injuries. His doctoral thesis was on Achilles tendon ruptures among badminton players. Moreover, he is an excellent lecturer, and, together with Dr. David Cabelló (ESP) of the BWF Development Committee and the University of Granada, Spain, Dr. Martin is behind the ongoing research into badminton injuries that the referees will have supported in the BWF Major Championships and HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments over the last year.

Some years ago, I realized that with the development of the game and the much increased television exposure, there was an urgent need for modernization of the BWF medical setup. The initiative was delayed by COVID-19, but is now near completion. With the BWF Events leadership, Chris Trenholme, our leading BWF Tournament Doctors, in particular Dr. Guru and Dr. Martin, have led this process that also to some extent means a change of generation.

BWF will forever be grateful to the doctors mentioned above, as well as their colleagues who for decades efficiently have helped players and referees through difficult situations on and behind the courts.



Neil Cameron receiving the Herbert Scheele award from BWF President Dr. Kang.

# 2024 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of January 2024 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
09 Jan – 14 Jan	Umpire Appraisals	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	PETRONAS Malaysia Open 2024
09 Jan – 14 Jan	Referee Appraisals	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	PETRONAS Malaysia Open 2024
16 Jan – 21 Jan	Umpire Appraisals	New Delhi	IND	YONEX-SUNRISE India Open 2024
03 Feb 2024	BWF Referee Assessment Panel Meeting 2024	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	-
05 Feb – 08 Feb	BWF Referee Workshop 2024	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	-
27 Feb – 03 Mar	Referee Appraisals	Mulheim an der Ruhr	GER	YONEX German Open 2024
05 Mar – 10 Mar	Umpire Appraisals	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2024
12 Mar – 17 Mar	Referee Appraisals	Orleans	FRA	Orléans Masters Badminton 2024 presented by VICTOR
26 Mar – 31 Mar	Referee Appraisals	Madrid	ESP	Madrid Spain Masters 2024
28 Apr – 05 May	Referee Appraisals	Chengdu	CHN	TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024
28 Apr – 05 May	Umpire Appraisals	Chengdu	CHN	TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024
TBC	BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting 2024	Chengdu	CHN	In conjunction with TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024
TBC	TOC Meeting 2024	Cuttack, Odisha	IND	In conjunction with TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024
14 May – 19 May	Umpire Appraisals	Bangkok	THA	Thailand Open 2024
28 May – 02 Jun	Umpire Appraisals	Singapore	SGP	Singapore Open 2024
04 Jun – 09 Jun	Umpire Appraisals, Umpire Assessment for BWF Level	Jakarta	INA	Indonesia Open 2024
11 Jun – 16 Jun	Referee Appraisals	Sydney	AUS	Australia Open 2024

# 2024 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of January 2024 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
02 Jul – 07 Jul	Umpire Appraisals	Calgary	CAN	Canada Open 2024
02 Jul – 07 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Calgary	CAN	Canada Open 2024
20 Aug – 25 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	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	TBD	INA	Indonesia Super 100 I 2024
10 Sep – 15 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	Hong Kong Open 2024
10 Sep – 15 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	Hong Kong Open 2024
17 Sep – 22 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Changzhou	CHN	China Open 2024
TBC	BWF-CC Umpire Assessor Panel Workshop 2024	Changzhou	CHN	In conjunction with the China Open 2024
01 Oct – 06 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Nanchang	CHN	BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2024
01 Oct – 06 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Nanchang	CHN	BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2024
08 Oct – 13 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Nanchang	CHN	BWF World Junior Championships 2024
08 Oct – 13 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Vantaa	FIN	Arctic Open 2024
15 Oct – 20 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Odense	DEN	Denmark Open 2024
03 Dec – 08 Dec	Referee Appraisals	TBD	IND	India Super 100 I 2024
11 Dec – 15 Dec	Umpire Appraisals	Hangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2024