

# ‘PRO’-POSAL ON TOs

By Torsten Berg

A key element of the BWF strategy for development of Technical Officials (TO) 2016 – 2020 is the introduction of semi-professional referees and umpires. In China, the TOC and Events Committee discussed the implementation of this initiative.

It is vital that the manner in which the paid officials are selected is fair and transparent. It is also important to note the semi-professional referees and umpires are not expected to monopolise the duties at the highest levels of badminton. There will still be a substantial number of elite duties for those BWF Referees and Umpires who, for personal or professional reasons, do not wish to be part of the limited semi-professional workforce.

The need for semi-professional referees is pertinent and the plan is to be ready for 1 January 2018. Following the approval from the Events Committee and Council in May, comprehensive job descriptions will be developed for final acceptance by Council in November 2016. As a part of development, it was decided that there should be an improved, more objective evaluation system and that future assessments should include stakeholders other than just BWF Referee Assessors.

Semi-professional BWF Umpires will follow and the plan is to be ready for 1 January 2020. The experience gained from introducing the semi-professional referees will be extremely useful when designing the process for umpires.

This was among the initiatives discussed at the BWF meetings in Kunshan. Here are updates on other matters:

### LEGAL SERVICE – A TOP PRIORITY

Over the years, few problems have been as persistent as the consistent enforcement of the service laws, particularly in Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

BWF has appointed a working group consisting of players, coaches, team managers and technical officials to look into this issue. The working group has agreed there is a problem with the top level of the men's game, but the solution needs to include all levels of badminton.

After the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, experiments will be run on fixed-height serving by using technology such as HawkEye to try to resolve the matter. Law 9 and relevant Recommendations to Technical Officials (RTTO) will also be reviewed.

### CONTINUOUS PLAY

BWF remains concerned about the delay of service at the elite level of our game. We want to speed up the game, but it must be fair to players. Since we initiated action in 2015, there has been considerable improvement in some top tournaments; however, delay of service still remains a problem. Please keep this in mind when refereeing or umpiring in the coming months.

It's about striking a fine balance. On one hand, we do not want umpires and players to be fighting about rushing play; on the other hand, it is important to ensure continuous play. What we want to stop is a player unnecessarily and unreasonably walking around on court.

Think about how the audience views the match. Would they be frustrated if a player spends a lot of time between each point just walking around?

If the answer is yes, please act.

### THROWING SWEAT

There has been a big improvement on players throwing sweat on court and appreciates the efforts of technical officials in policing this. A quick towel-down between rallies when necessary, without delaying the game, can be allowed.

### NO WHITE CARD

A proposal for the umpire to signal the referee or doctor on to court in case of an injury using a white card or other signal was discussed. However, it was thought that this was potentially more confusing. The doctor is usually seated near the referee, or has a radio or phone at all times, so can be summoned quickly if needed. In large venues with many courts other ad hoc arrangements can be made.

### SHOUTING

BWF remains strongly in favor of players expressing joy or disappointment on court. It is an essential part of the appeal to fans and illustrates the emotional nature of our competitive game.

Systematic shouting aimed at distracting the opponent, however, is a fault under Law 13.4.5: *"It is a fault, if, in play, a player deliberately distracts an opponent by any action such as shouting or making gestures."*



**TOASTING TORSTEN!** Veteran BWF administrator, Torsten Berg (right), chaired his last Technical Official Committee (TOC) meeting in May in Kunshan, China. Among those present to salute his excellent service was BWF President Poul-Erik Hoyer. The farewell celebrations were of course completed with an appropriately-branded cake (inset).

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I hope you find the 12th edition of COCTales informative and if you have any articles that you would like to share, please send them to Chris Trenholme.

By the time you read this article, the Rio 2016 Olympic Games will almost be upon us. I hope that wherever you are in the world – whether you are officiating at the Games or staying at home – you do get a chance to watch some of the matches as I'm sure they will be awe-inspiring.

If you are officiating at the Games, I hope you soak up the atmosphere and enjoy every moment – it's such a special event in which to be involved.

Have fun!

Regards  
Vanessa Freeman  
Editor-in-Chief



FROM THE CHAIR BY  
**GILLES  
CAVERT**

## A KEY YEAR FOR TOs



This has been a very exciting year so far for the BWF TO community with a significant number of top-level events having concluded – including six of 12 events in the MetLife BWF World Superseries calendar as well as the TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals.

There's more to come: the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the BWF World Junior Championships, the six remaining World Superseries tournaments and the season-ending Dubai World Superseries Finals.

This year is also an important period in terms of development strategy for our technical officials. The BWF Strategic Plan 2016-2020 recognises the domain of technical officials as a key results area (KRA) and BWF Council has acknowledged the need to boost both the quality and number of TOs.

The global challenge is to maintain and increase the performance level of our TOs. We must be in line with the evolution of the game and the increasing expectations of various stakeholders.

Therefore, we are in the process of developing and implementing specific tools to be in line with the BWF Strategic Plan and the 'BWF Strategic Road Map for Development of TOs - 2016-2020'.

These tools will also increase the attractiveness of the TO pipeline and enlarge the base of TOs at the national and continental levels.

Three key directions have been identified:

1. Designing and building educational resources for the three groups of TOs: referees, umpires and line judges.
2. Starting in 2017, strengthening the assessment and appraisal processes of referees and umpires.
3. The selection and constitution of a group of semi-professional referees in the first stage, and a group of semi-professional umpires in stage two.

All these challenges are very motivating and a large number of TOs have already shared their know-how, expertise and competencies in the development of these tools.

I cannot conclude without congratulating the former TOC Chair, Torsten Berg, on his hard work and unique vision in the development of BWF TOs.

Torsten has been an inspiration for me and I thank him from the bottom of my heart for his continuous support over the past months.

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**DISCLAIMER:** COCTales articles submitted by TOs are the writer's own opinion and not necessarily that of BWF. We welcome views for discussion and debate. Articles written by a member of the TOC, including articles from the Chair, will always follow BWF policy or direction.



# THE TECHNICAL OFFICIALS' STRUCTURE

By Chris Trenholme

The BWF Strategic Plan 2016-2020 highlights the domain of technical officials as a 'key results area' (KRA) within Events. BWF recognises, supports and continually develops a core group of referees, umpires and line judges, as well as tournament doctors and, where applicable, other technical support volunteers/staff.

BWF Council leads and governs BWF and has overall authority for all decisions made within Events, including technical officials.

## EVENTS COMMITTEE

The current Events Committee is made up of the following Council Members:

- Peter Tarcala (SVK) – Chair
- Li Lingwei (CHN) – Deputy Chair
- Lawrence Chew (MAS)
- Nora Perry (ENG)
- Raj Gaya (MRI)
- Anton Subowo (INA)
- Ng Yoke Weng (SIN)
- Geraldine Brown (AUS)
- Akhilesh Das Gupta (IND)
- Yuhan Tan (BEL) – Athletes' Commission Chair

**BWF Staff Liaisons:** Darren Parks (Events Director) and Chris Trenholme (Senior Technical Events Manager).

Currently, the Events Committee meets at least twice a year and typically before BWF Council Meetings so any recommendations can be considered by Council in a timely fashion.

## TECHNICAL OFFICIALS COMMISSION (TOC)

TOC sits under the jurisdiction of the Events Committee. TOC's responsibility is to recommend policy and direction to the Events Committee for consideration as it relates to technical officials.

It is currently made up of one representative from each of the technical official commissions of the five continental confederations. The current members are:

- Gilles Cavert (FRA) – Chair
- Jean-Guy Poitras (CAN) – Pan Am Badminton Confederation
- Peter Cocker (AUS) – Badminton Oceania
- Diraj Gooneardry (MRI) – Badminton Confederation of Africa
- Chua Soo Hock (MAS) – Badminton Asia
- Ewald Cejnek (AUT) – Badminton Europe

**BWF Staff Liaison:** Chris Trenholme (Senior Technical Events Manager).

Note: Outgoing Chair, Torsten Berg, will support the TOC in the short term.

From 2017, further representation will come from the Chair of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel and Chair of the BWF Referee Assessment Panel.



BWF TOC meeting in May 2016 (BWF President Poul-Erik Hoyer seated second left).

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BWF Umpire Assessors' workshop in May 2016  
(BWF President Poul-Erik Hoyer seated centre).

## BWF UMPIRE AND REFEREE ASSESSMENT PANELS

Two key teams have been delegated to develop, train, and mentor umpires and referees: the Umpire Assessment Panel and Referee Assessment Panel.

As their names suggest, their long-standing mandate was to assess candidates for upgrading to the BWF Accredited or Certificated levels. However, a number of years ago, their roles expanded to include appraisals, mentoring, as well as providing recommendations on policy and offering TOC direction on behalf of umpires and referees in the field.

The Umpire Assessment Panel comprises the following members:

- Jean-Guy Poitras – Chair
- Gilles Cavert (FRA) – TOC Chair and Umpire Assessor
- Malcolm Banham (ENG)
- Carol Ui Fheargail (IRL)
- Yau Li Na (MAS)
- Nahathai Sornprachum (THA)
- Mike Walker (CAN)
- Sandie Zheng Sanliang (CHN)
- Greg Vellacott (AUS)
- Sudhakar Vemuri (IND)

**BWF Staff Liaison:** Chris Trenholme (Senior Technical Events Manager).

The Referee Assessment Panel is made up of the following members:

- Torsten Berg (DEN) – Chair
- Gilles Cavert (FRA) – TOC Chair
- Chua Soo Hock (MAS)
- Charlotte Ackerman (USA)
- Paisan Rangsitpho (USA)
- Ernest Robinson (FRA)
- Isabelle Jobard (FRA)
- Dennis Li (HKG)
- Juniarto Suhandinata (INA)
- Henry Ee (SIN)

**BWF Staff Liaison:** Chris Trenholme (Senior Technical Events Manager).

## OTHER WORKING GROUPS

From time to time, BWF will nominate working groups to oversee/ research different projects and plans.

Currently, there are three panels formed to help design and oversee the development of the new BWF Technical Official Educational Resources Programs for referees, umpires and line judges. They are represented by various TO stakeholders and BWF staff, including umpires, referees, and assessors from all continental confederations.

There is also currently a working group on service laws, comprising representative of technical officials, team managers, coaches, BWF staff and athletes.

As you can see, there is an extensive group of leaders and experts in the field of technical officiating to support you and keep the foundation for development and governance strong.

Contact Chris Trenholme or Gilles Cavert if you have any questions.



# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The name 'COCTales' for the BWF's technical officials' newsletter may sound funny to modern-day line judges, umpires and referees – but there's a good explanation for its origins.

When the International Badminton Federation (IBF) decided to start a special news bulletin for umpires and referees – presenting relevant issues for debate some 20 years ago – the 'Court Officials Committee' (abbreviated 'COC') was the precursor to the TOC.

IBF Vice-President Stan Hales, an American committee member as well as an IBF Certificated Umpire and former Thomas Cup player, proposed the COC's stories – or rather tales – be published under the name 'COCTales'.

His colleagues embraced this play on words and hence the publication with which you are all familiar today.

## SALUTING SUDHAKAR



Sudhakar Vemuri of India (right) receives his BWF Distinguished Service Award for more than 15 years' of sterling work from BWF President Poul-Erik Høyer in Kunshan, China.

# CALENDAR OF WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

- BWF Referee Workshop, 25-26 September 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Yonex Open Japan, 20-25 September 2016, Tokyo, Japan
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Yonex Denmark Open, 18-23 October 2016, Odense, Denmark
- Technical Official Commission Meeting, 20-21 October 2016, Odense, Denmark
- BWF Accredited Umpire Assessments, Yonex French Open, 25-30 October 2016, Paris, France
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop and BWF Accredited Umpire Assessments, Thaihot China Open, 15-20 November 2016, Fuzhou, China
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Scottish Open, 23-27 November 2016, Glasgow, Scotland
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Dubai World Superseries Finals, 14-18 December, Dubai, UAE
- BWF Accredited Umpire Assessments, OUE Singapore Open 2017, 11-16 April 2017, Singapore
- Technical Official Commission Meeting, in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2017, May 2017, Gold Coast, Australia
- BWF Certificated Umpire Assessments, TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2017, 21-28 May 2017, Gold Coast, Australia
- Umpire Assessor Workshop, in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF World Championships, August 2017, Glasgow, Scotland
- BWF Accredited Umpire Assessments, TOTAL BWF World Championships 2017, 21-27 August 2017, Glasgow, Scotland

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

### BWF ACCREDITED UMPIRES

- Chris Yip Ting Pong (HKG)
- Mohammed Nazib Ismail (BAN)

### BWF CERTIFICATED UMPIRES

- Christof Osebold (GER)
- Fabio Betto (ITA)
- Jiten Bhatt (AUS)
- Jessen (Setiawan) Mahadoo (MRI)
- Sudip Barve (IND)
- Wahyana (INA)
- Liu Yun (CHN)
- David Wong (MAS)

### BWF ACCREDITED REFEREES

- Enrique Charadan (CUB)
- Ivan Skacha (CZE)
- Susana Maldonado (POR)
- Liu Qian (CHN)
- Shirley Gaby (BRA)