

50 YEARS OF EUROPEAN BADMINTON

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

THE ORIGINAL 11 MEMBERS OF THE NEW EUROPEAN BADMINTON UNION IN 1967

 Austria	 Netherlands
 Belgium	 Norway
 Czechoslovakia	 Sweden
 Denmark	 Switzerland
 England	 West Germany
 Finland	



BY 2017 BADMINTON EUROPE HAS GROWN TO 52 MEMBER NATIONS WITH MONACO THE NEWEST MEMBER

 Albania	 Bulgaria	 Faroe Islands	 Greenland	 Liechtenstein	 Montenegro	 Scotland	 Turkey
 Armenia	 Croatia	 Finland	 Hungary	 Lithuania	 Netherlands	 Serbia	 Ukraine
 Austria	 Cyprus	 France	 Iceland	 Luxembourg	 Norway	 Slovakia	 Wales
 Azerbaijan	 Czech Republic	 Georgia	 Ireland	 Macedonia	 Poland	 Slovenia	
 Belarus	 Denmark	 Germany	 Israel	 Malta	 Portugal	 Spain	
 Belgium	 England	 Gibraltar	 Italy	 Monaco	 Romania	 Sweden	
 Bosnia & Herzegovina	 Estonia	 Greece	 Latvia	 Moldova	 Russia	 Switzerland	



*Celebrating the Golden Jubilee
of the
Badminton Europe Confederation
1967-2017*

This booklet tracing the history of Badminton Europe from its birth at the Parkhotel in Frankfurt on September 24, 1967 was presented to officials and distinguished guests at the BEC Gala Dinner and Awards Celebration at the Orea Hotel Pyramida Prague on April 1, 2017

Celebrating 50 wonderful years and saluting the dedication of those who made it possible

Half a century, five decades, 50 years. By any measure, this milestone anniversary for Badminton Europe, formerly known as the European Badminton Union, is impressive and signifies the importance of the organisation and the lives it has touched with its activities over the years.

It makes me proud to write these words as your President and to welcome you to read about some of the personalities and events that have had an impact on the organisation over its lifespan, be they players, elected officials, technical officials, administrators or coaches.

They are all part of our history and have built the foundation of the organisation that Badminton Europe is today.

Back in 1967 the EBU was established with the main purpose of organising European Championships. Since then the tournament programme has expanded dramatically and today we organise Championships for many age groups as well as tournament circuits for elite, Under 19 and Under 17 with around 75 tournaments annually.

Next to our competitions, the development of badminton in Europe has been at the heart of everything we do as an organisation. I know that many of us will, for example, be very familiar with our Summer School, which has brought badminton coaches and players together for well over 30 years.

And don't forget the impact that many regional projects have made, the coaches we educated and

the school-age children we touched with the Shuttle Time programme.

The administration has undergone quite a transformation over the last decades. Little over 10 years ago Gisela Hoffmann, as a one-woman band, administered, supported and helped establish and grow badminton in many European countries. Today, we have a professional staff of nine working out of our own office premises in Copenhagen.

In the past many of our activities were dependent on an army of volunteers, led by a very engaged Council, who at many occasions actively staffed our projects.

Many of us will certainly remember Horst Kullnigg's activities to bring together East and West Europe through playing badminton. Or Audrey Kinhead's strong but caring hand leading the Summer School.

Today your Board of Directors is just as engaged but can count on the support of our professional staff, the professional staff in many of our Member Associations and a yearly budget of more than 2 Million Euros.

We did not get to this place without the hard work of many and now is the time to make a real impact and leap forward even further. Badminton today is a top 12 Olympic Sport, our resources have never been stronger and the competition feels it is hard to keep up with the progress we all made.

I am extremely pleased to see the development within our Member Associations, of which we have

now reached 52. It is inspiring to follow how they flourish at the level of development, from our newest member in Monaco to our most established federations that compete for medals at World Championships and Olympic Games.

Europe won medals in four events in Rio. The results on court have never been better. We should all be confident that in the near future Europe will be a very close challenge to the historical stronghold in our sport, our partners and friends in Asia.

Before I let you get on with the anniversary booklet allow me a few words of thanks to our European players but also to the fans and supporters that follow our sport with passion.

A big thank-you as well to our sponsors and partners who help us expand our activities and grow the sport of badminton on our continent. Thanks to BWF for setting the direction and for the continued support. Thanks to the Member Associations for promoting and developing badminton and for playing an active part in our many activities. Thanks to my Board and to the staff at our office and a special thanks to all those that came before us.

Enjoy reading and happy 50th Anniversary to Badminton Europe!

Gregory Verpoorten,
Badminton Europe President



Royal approval:
IBF President Stellan Mohlin
presents His Majesty King
Carl Gustav of Sweden with
a commemorative shuttle
at the first World
Championships in
Malmö in 1977

Contents

- Page 6 The Founding Fathers and the leading figures from 1967-2017
- Page 24 The General Secretaries and Treasurers
- Page 32 11 of our Stalwarts who drove European badminton forward
- Page 36 Memories from pivotal figures in European badminton
- Page 55 Photo Gallery - Memories in Focus
- Page 58 Meet Our Award Winners
- Page 62 Enter the Hall of Fame
- Page 68 Saluting the Players



Acknowledgements

Thanks Thanks are due to Torsten Berg, Brian Agerbak and João Matos and the Badminton Europe staff for their contributions and tireless work in helping produce this 50th Anniversary Booklet. Also thanks are due to Stellan Mohlin, Gisela Hoffmann, Jadwiga Slawska-Szalewicz and Frank Peard for their memories and anecdotes of the early years.

Picture credits: Thanks to the BWF and Shi Tang, Raphael Sachet and BadmintonPhoto, Louis Ross, João Matos, Badminton Union of Ireland and Conor Doyle, Action Photography (Alan Spink), Stephen J Line, Peter Richardson, The Encyclopaedia of Badminton by Pat Davis, the Danish Badminton Federation – 75 Years, Mark Phelan and World Badminton. We are also indebted for the use of images by the late Preben Søborg and the Badminton England Museum.

Editor: William Kings. **Designer:** Jim Innes

HAPPY DAZE: Sture Johnsson of Sweden celebrates becoming Europe's first men's singles champion in 1968. He made it two in a row in 1970

From Past to Present



LEADING LIGHTS:
Herman Valken, Torsten Berg
and Stellan Mohlin

- 1967 The European Badminton Union was founded at the Parkhotel in Frankfurt on September 24, 1967 with Hans Peter Kunz of Switzerland elected as President
- 1968 First Annual Meeting, first European Championships
- 1969 Stellan Mohlin elected President, 8th Helvetia Cup competition
- 1973 Emile ter Metz elected Honorary Secretary
- 1977 Herman Valken elected President
- 1978 First Europe Cup competition
- 1980 First European Coaching Seminar held in the Dutch city of Groningen
- 1981 Gisela Hoffmann and Audrey Kinkead become the first two women elected to the Sub-Committee for Development
- 1982 Heinz Barge elected President, the first Summer School takes place in Pressbaum, Austria. The system of reciprocity was a key element in overcoming currency problems in the days of the Iron Curtain
- 1984 First Finlandia Cup competition played in Lausanne, Switzerland. Stan Mitchell elected President
- 1986 Gisela Hoffmann elected Honorary Secretary. Horst Kullnigg elected Honorary Treasurer
- 1992 Torsten Berg elected President
- 1996 Extraordinary Delegates' Meeting in Warsaw, Poland, to approve rule changes and future structure
- 1997 First EBU Office established along with a General Secretary
- 2002 Start of Junior Circuit and first visit of an IBF President at ADM
- 2003 Move of office to Denmark, Brian Agerbak appointed new General Secretary
- 2004 Tom Bacher elected President
- 2006 EBU changes its name to Badminton Europe on April 8
- 2010 April ADM cancelled because of volcanic ash clouds disrupting air travel. ADM held in Paris in August with Poul-Erik Høyer elected President
- 2012 New offices in Copenhagen
- 2013 Monaco becomes the newest member of Badminton Europe, bringing total to 52
- 2014 Gregory Verpoorten elected President after Høyer's resignation to become BWF President
- 2017 50 years old on September 24



PRESIDENTS PAST AND PRESENT:
Torsten Berg, Poul-Erik Høyer,
Gregory Verpoorten
and Tom Bacher
in January 2017

The Founding Fathers

THE DATE September 24, 1967 will always be a red-letter day in the history of European badminton.

It was the day at the Parkhotel in Frankfurt that the European Badminton Union, the forerunner of today's Badminton Europe Confederation, was born.

Fourteen delegates representing 11 nations ratified the decision to form the Union.

Representatives from Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, England, Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia attended, with Swedish delegate Mr Stellan Mohlin holding a power of attorney from Finland in support of the motion to form the European Badminton Union.

The minutes reveal that "from the 11 delegates only one delegate does not execute his right to vote."

It took just over two hours to complete the business of the day and by the end of the meeting the Union had elected the multi-lingual Hans Peter Kunz of Switzerland as President.

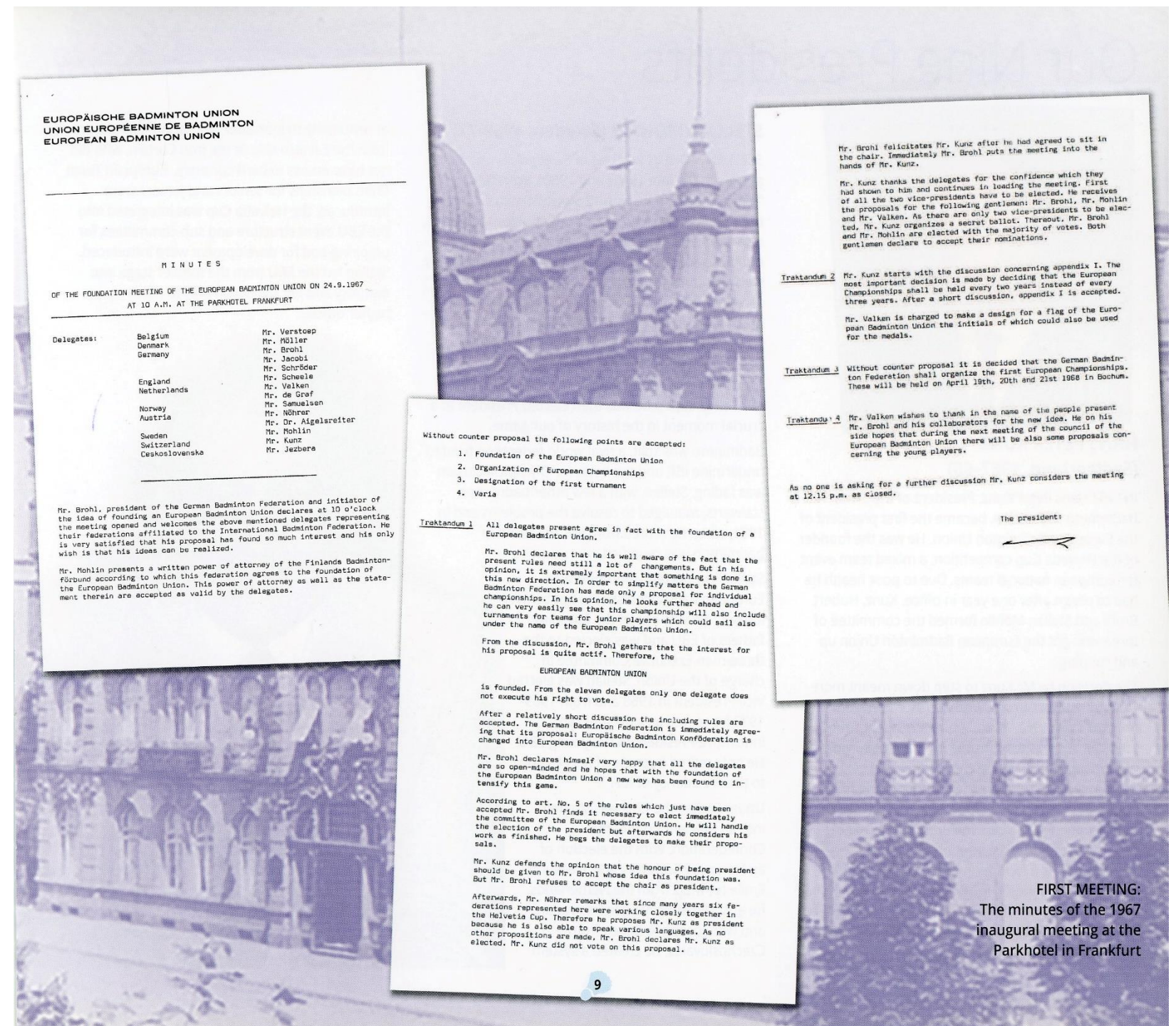
Mr Kunz had proposed Mr Hubert Brohl as President because it was his idea to found the Union but the West German delegate declined. However, he and Mr Mohlin were elected Vice Presidents.

The first big decision was to stage the European Championships every two years instead of every three and the German Badminton Federation was awarded the first Championships with Bochum to host it in April 1968.

Mr Herman Valken, the Dutchman who had missed out as the third contender in the vote for the two Vice Presidents, was invited to design a European Badminton Union flag.

The meeting ended at 12.15pm and the European Badminton Union was born.

DRIVING FORCES (downwards)
Stellan Mohlin, Hubert Brohl,
Hans Peter Kunz and
Herman Valken



FIRST MEETING:
The minutes of the 1967
inaugural meeting at the
Parkhotel in Frankfurt

Our Nine Presidents



HANS PETER KUNZ
(Switzerland, 1967-68)

IN 1967 Hans Peter Kunz, President of the Swiss Badminton Federation, became the first president of the European Badminton Union. He was the founder of the Helvetia Cup competition, a mixed team event for European national teams. Due to poor health he had to resign after one year in office. Kunz, Hubert Brohl and Stellan Mohlin formed the committee of three who got the European Badminton Union up and running.

The decision by Mr Kunz to step down meant more work for **Hubert Brohl**, who was Vice President of the EBU from 1968-71 but Acting President from 1968-69. He was responsible for the first European Championships played in the German city of Bochum in 1968. He was the founder of the first badminton club in Düsseldorf in 1952 and also the founder and for 12 years the President of the big regional Badminton Association of Northrhine-Westphalia. As a founder member of the German Badminton Federation in 1953 he worked in various functions for badminton. He acted as Vice President of DBV from 1958-1961 and was President of DBV from 1968-1971.

STELLAN MOHLIN (Sweden, 1969-77)

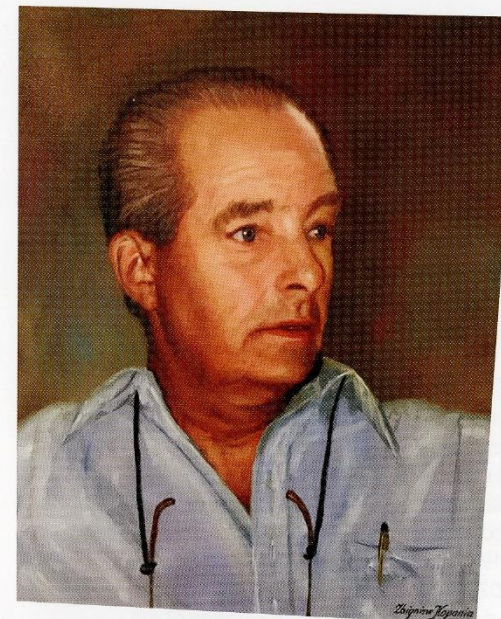
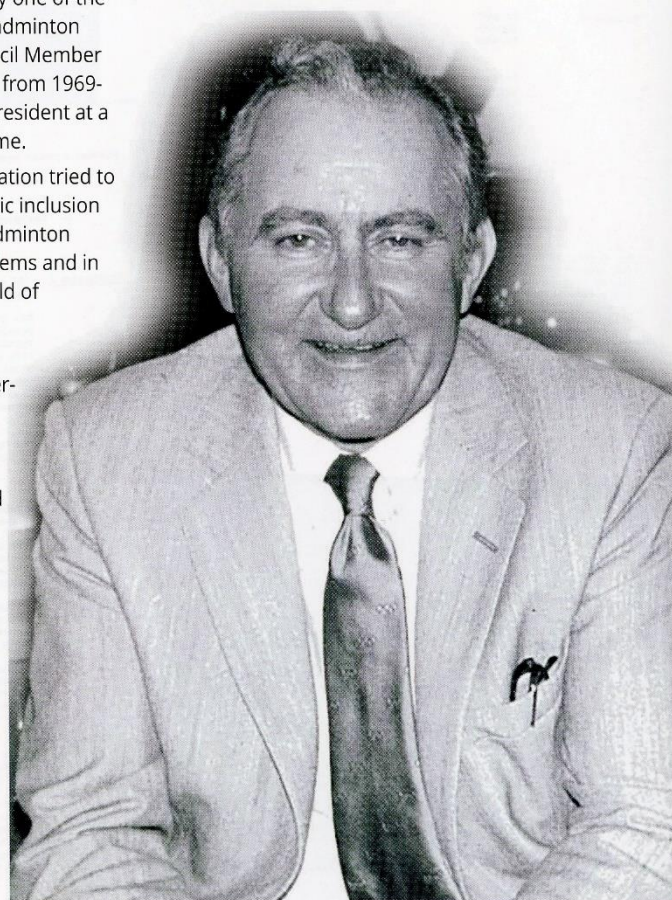
STELLAN MOHLIN was one of Sweden's finest players in the late 1940s and 1950s. With Nils 'Tomten' Jonsson he won 12 Swedish men's doubles titles and he also won one mixed doubles title. He also excelled internationally, with a close men's doubles semi-final in the All England Championships with Jonsson among his best results. Stellan's achievements as a sports official, however, are of much greater importance. He is certainly one of the most important leaders international badminton has known. He served the IBF as a Council Member from 1964-1969 and as a Vice President from 1969-1976 whereupon he was then elected President at a crucial moment in the history of our game.

Badminton was split, a rival world federation tried to undermine IBF, and the hope for Olympic inclusion was fading. Stellan, with a few other badminton stalwarts, managed to resolve the problems and in 1981, when he retired from IBF, the world of badminton was reunified.

Stellan's important contribution to European badminton should not be overlooked. He was one of the founding fathers of EBU and was elected to the three-man Executive Committee in charge of the Union. Stellan was elected Vice President in 1968 and from 1969-1977 he served as a dynamic and innovative President of the young EBU. He only retired because of his election to the Presidency of IBF.

Under Stellan the EBU was shaped into an efficient Continental Confederation. With the election of an Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Emile ter Metz from the Netherlands, he ensured effective administration, and with Joseph R. Benes from Czechoslovakia, he created a system

of reciprocity to look after the badminton players from the Eastern side of the Iron Curtain, who did not have access to hard currency. European Team Championships for seniors and juniors were introduced, the Helvetia Cup was integrated into the EBU event structure and sub-committees for umpiring and for development were introduced. Stellan led the EBU from the toddler stage into maturity and left the Union only to move to higher office.



HERMAN VALKEN
(Netherlands, 1977-82)

HERMAN VALKEN represented the Netherlands at that inaugural Frankfurt meeting so he was also one of the founding fathers of EBU. In 1968 he was added to the group of three running the affairs of the Union as the Committee was enlarged to five.

In 1969 Herman was elected Vice President, a position he held until elected President in 1977. In fact, Herman had become Acting President the previous year when Stellan was elected IBF President. Herman had served as Stellan's quiet partner in the background, both in EBU, IBF and later in the World Games so became President almost by accident.

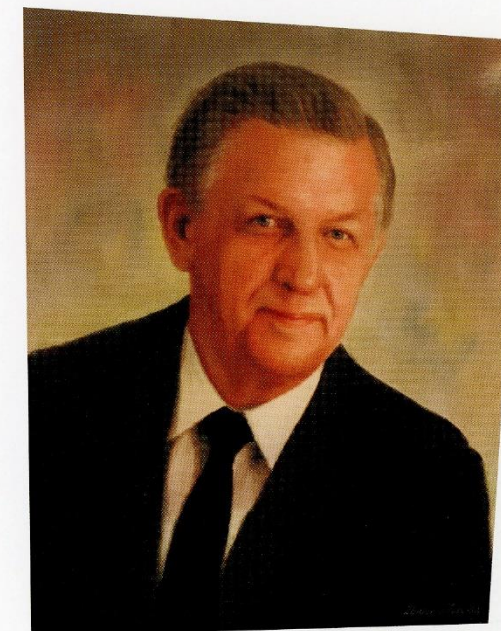
A true gentleman, he retired from EBU in 1982 without any fuss. He simply did not stand for election and received a standing ovation from the ADM. He obviously felt that he had just done

enough, the workload in EBU was growing and he wanted to focus on his IBF jobs as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Herman's great contribution to IBF was perhaps not all that obvious, but serving as Secretary and Treasurer from the era of Herbert Scheele well into the times of the professional office in Cheltenham, he ensured a smooth transition. As a skilful writer of English he helped the General Secretary, taking the minutes at many meetings and, under considerable time pressure, during Council sessions. His diplomatic skills and his charm, as well as his understanding of both Asian and European languages (what was said and what was meant but not said) were very useful to help the Council get along. He was always there for the game, not for himself. Though he possessed excellent qualities as a President, looked elegant and smart, spoke English and German impeccably and had fine diplomatic skills, he never showed ambition.

In Herman's period as President of EBU both membership and calendar grew steadily. New events were introduced, such as the Europe Cup, a championship for National league winners, a Europe v Asia match, and the EBU Summer School which still thrives today. A Technical Committee and a Development Committee were introduced and put to work in a constructive way. The EBU events were successfully allocated and completed, which was no mean achievement.

His partnerships with first Stellan Mohlin and then fellow Dutchman Emile ter Metz provided the motor driving EBU.



HEINZ BARGE (Germany, 1982-84)

HEINZ BARGE was President of the German Badminton Federation from 1976-1988. During the 12 years of his Presidency badminton in Germany received fresh impetus and total membership trebled.

Under his guidance the House of Sports and a Centre for Badminton were built in Mülheim and European Badminton Events were organised. He was an EBU Council Member from 1977, was Vice President from 1978-82 before becoming President from 1982-84. He felt strongly about the co-operation and inclusion of Eastern European countries into European Badminton.

Heinz was an IBF Council Member from 1978-1983, was an Honorary Member of the German Badminton Federation, was awarded the Federal Service Cross of Germany and in 1986 received the Meritorious Service Award.



STAN MITCHELL (England, 1984-92)

STAN MITCHELL came to the EBU in 1977 with energy and experience gained from a career in English badminton, first as a well-respected player for his county of Essex and later Berkshire and as an All England competitor. He was an official of the Badminton Association of England, first as an umpire and later as Chairman of the Development and Planning Committee. He brought the idea of systematic development to the EBU and shortly after his election to Council established the EBU Development Committee with Joe Benes as the other original member. This was the first development initiative in international badminton and one of the first in any sport.

Stan was born in 1926 in Sunderland but soon after his birth the family moved south to Leyton in Essex. He was just old enough to be drafted into the Royal

Navy during the Second World War and was about to be sent to the Far East on a dangerous mission when peace was declared. He was able to resume playing badminton, to umpire and begin his interest in the administration of the game. His background was in several ways similar to his Essex contemporary Arthur Jones but it was fortunate that Stan chose European badminton while Arthur chose a career in the International Badminton Federation, where he was President from 1989-1993. However, Stan, having often travelled the Continent for his holidays with his wife Jill, was a dedicated European, convinced that England should play an important role in European sport.

In 1980 Stan and Joe's Development Committee was enlarged to include Raymond Hogge of Belgium and Torsten Berg of Denmark. Soon after Gisela Hoffmann (Germany), Horst Kullnigg (Austria), Audrey Kinkead (Ireland), Jadwiga Slawska-Szalewicz (Poland) and Puzant Kassabian (Bulgaria) were added. All of them took responsibility for EBU events and administration for many years to come. Several initiatives are still going strong today, such as the BEC Circuit and the Summer Schools.

In 1982 Stan was elected Vice President and he gave strong support to President Heinz Barge, in particular as an elegant and eloquent representative of European badminton at meetings and events. Stan was exactly as he appeared, a real gentleman, distinguished in appearance and with a great sense of humour.

Stan took over the Presidency in 1984 and during the following eight years guided the Union through a period of major growth and progress. The membership increased with more events and larger participation in them. With badminton being accepted as a Summer Olympic sport in 1985 more money came into the game from sponsors and National Olympic Committees, all of which were now obliged to accept our game in full membership.

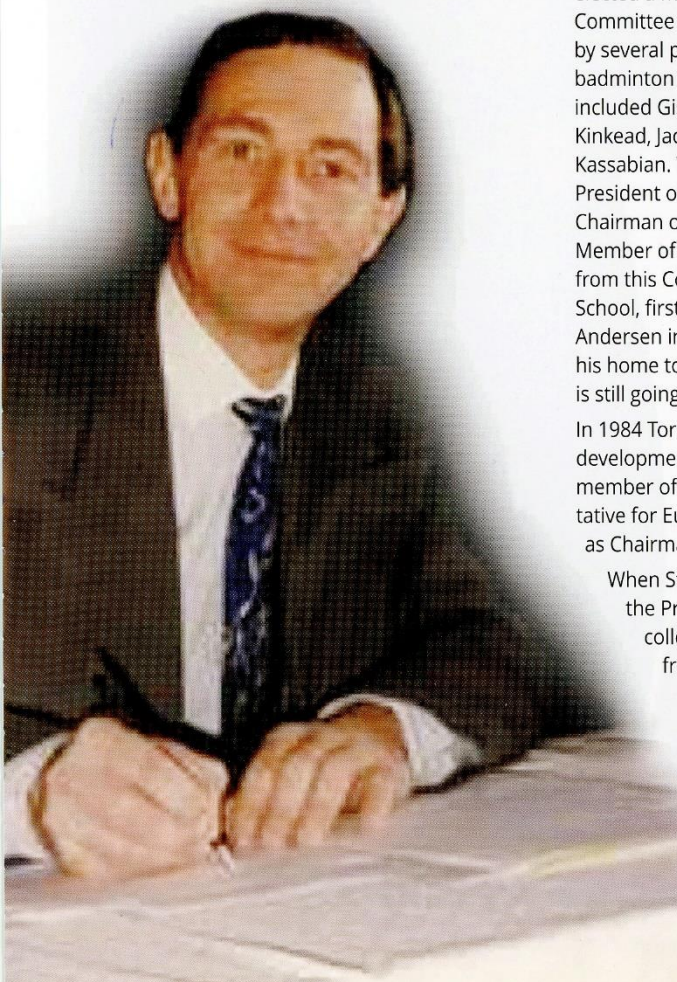
TORSTEN BERG (Denmark, 1992-2004)

TORSTEN BERG started coaching when still a junior player in Hillerød near Copenhagen, acting as assistant to his own coach, Henning B. Clausen. He was only 16 in 1964 when he took over responsibility for his fellow juniors. Around the same time he joined the top team of the club. Over the next 20 years he played nationally and internationally with some success, in particular in the Danish league and during post-doctorate studies in France in the mid-1970s, although he never quite reached the level of the best Danish players of the day.

In 1971 Torsten completed the Danish BF coach education programme and joined the Federation's Education Committee. In the following years he served as teacher and later as Head of the Danish coach education. When he returned from France in 1976, he was elected a member of the board of the DBF and he served until 1987. One of the highlights of this period was the organisation of the successful third World Badminton Championships in 1983 in Copenhagen, where Torsten served as Secretary of the Organising Committee. It was when watching the finals of this event that the IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch was convinced that badminton truly deserved to become an Olympic sport.

When studying abroad, Torsten realised how much the skills and experience that he had acquired in the Danish coach education system was in demand in countries where badminton was not

yet so well established. So he decided to use his coaching abilities and his language skills to run coach education courses, clinics and conferences as well as other badminton courses. The initial major international experience had seen him chairing the first IBF Coaching Conference in Malmö in 1977 during the inaugural World Badminton Championships. Several courses followed, in particular in France. In those days French badminton



was a minor organisation with fewer than 2,000 players but it was in the process of gaining independence from the Tennis Federation, of which badminton was a sub-Committee. Torsten's courses and general advice assisted this process.

In the European Badminton Union Stan Mitchell and Joe Benes had started development work and Torsten had assisted by providing coaches to their early twinning programme. In 1980 Torsten was elected a member of the EBU Development Committee and in the ensuing years he was joined by several personalities that would influence badminton in Europe for many years. These included Gisela Hoffmann, Horst Kullnigg, Audrey Kinkead, Jadwiga Slawska-Szalewicz and Puzant Kassabian. When Stan Mitchell was elected President of EBU in 1984, Torsten followed him as Chairman of the Development Committee and Member of the EBU Council. Several initiatives came from this Committee, notably the European Summer School, first established by Torsten and Martin Andersen in 1982 and organised by Horst Kullnigg in his home town of Pressbaum in Austria. The School is still going strong today.

In 1984 Torsten was co-opted to IBF to organise development work and in 1985 he was elected a member of the IBF Council as Continental Representative for Europe. In 1988 he followed Emile ter Metz as Chairman of the IBF Development Committee.

When Stan Mitchell decided to retire from the Presidency of EBU, his fellow Council colleagues asked Torsten, Vice President from 1989, to succeed him. He was elected President in Glasgow in 1992.

The map of Europe was changing with the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, in particular, and many new members joined EBU in the 1990s. The first and foremost task was to include

the new members effectively in the EBU family, adapting the competition to hold many more entries in national team events, both for adults and juniors, and assisting their development and coaching structures.

With growing numbers and with better economy, partly due to support of the Continental Confederations by IBF following an initiative by Torsten, time was ripe for changes in the Union. In 1997 a new structure was voted in, with each Council Member given a specific task as Director of Finance, Development, Events and other areas. The Committees were abandoned and replaced by ad hoc Commissions or Working Groups.

At the same time the Council could employ the first General Secretary, and Gisela Hoffmann, Honorary Secretary from 1986, became the first, modestly paid, General Secretary, having steadily rendered professional service to the Union and its members while serving in an amateur capacity. Internally in Europe, badminton enjoyed steady progress around the turn of the century, and Torsten enjoyed working with a group of dedicated colleagues, many of whom had already worked together in the Development Committee in the 1980s. A last major step forward was the move of the office to Copenhagen in 2003. The House of Sport became the new home of EBU and at the same time Gisela retired and Brian Agerbak was appointed as Secretary General in her place. Torsten enjoyed introducing Brian to the job as General Secretary in his last year in office, as he retired in 2004 after 12 years as President of EBU.

When Arthur Jones started modern refereeing in the mid-1980s Torsten was among his first deputies. King Arthur must have been satisfied with his trainee because soon after he was trusted with refereeing duties in IBF major events. Torsten already had experience from refereeing in Europe. He continued refereeing regularly until he had to

Continued on next page



BWF President Poul-Erik Høyer presents Torsten Berg with a commemorative cut-glass vase

retire at the age of 65. By then he had been in charge of three Olympic Games badminton events (Sydney 2000, Athens 2004 and London 2012) as well as approximately 20 World and European Championships. At London 2012, in particular, his experience was tested when a highly-publicised incident arose in the last round of women's doubles group play because in two matches the women tried to avoid winning to achieve what they considered was a more favourable draw in the quarter-finals. Following due process, all four pairs were disqualified and sent home the following day – an outcome that satisfied the IOC as the Games could go on as scheduled.

Olympic inclusion in 1985 had triggered growth and progress for the game, but of course more money in the game also meant a change of the environment. The increased development budget in IBF became attractive as a potential political instrument and in 1995 Torsten was replaced as Chairman of the IBF Development Committee in spite of his successful record. Instead, he was offered and accepted the Chair of the Technical Official Commission, a position he held for 21 years.

In 2001 Mme Lu Shengrong was succeeded as IBF President by Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Korn Thapparansi. His diplomatic skills and charm opened doors for the Federation, but also left room for a group, led by Vice President Punch Gunalan, striving for power. New Council Members came in every year and most often left after just one period. The move of the IBF office from England to Malaysia in 2005 meant a very significant loss of corporate knowledge, especially as no staff member made the switch from Cheltenham to Kuala Lumpur. As a result IBF – from 2006 renamed Badminton World Federation – missed the opportunity to grow in the prosperous years of world economy, due to internal issues.

Torsten, who from 2002 was elected Vice President,

found himself and European badminton in the middle of this turmoil. For a few years Gunalan succeeded in dominating the Federation with a coalition of representatives from other continents and a few token Europeans, who had no support within their own continent beyond perhaps their own association. As EBU President, Torsten – from 2002 well assisted by Horst Kullnigg who had succeeded him as Continental Representative for Europe – was a major voice, speaking for reason and moderation as well as for strategic development of the game and the international administration. When Dr. Kang Young-Joong was elected BWF President in 2005, the general expectation was for another sympathetic figurehead. However, it soon

became clear that Dr. Kang wanted to lead the Federation from the front and contribute his vast experience as a successful businessman and educator in Korea. When his questions to the management procedures and the financial administration were not answered to his satisfaction, a major power struggle broke out. Torsten found Dr. Kang and his principles honest and forthright and generally supported him in many, often losing, battles in the BWF Council.

However, in 2008, when more and more BWF Council members understood that Gunalan's methods were sometimes not honest, the tide turned. Shortly after a dramatic AGM in Jakarta in

Continued on next page



May 2008, Gunalan resigned, and a new set of Committee Chairmen was voted in, with Torsten as Chairman of the IOC and International Relations Committee.

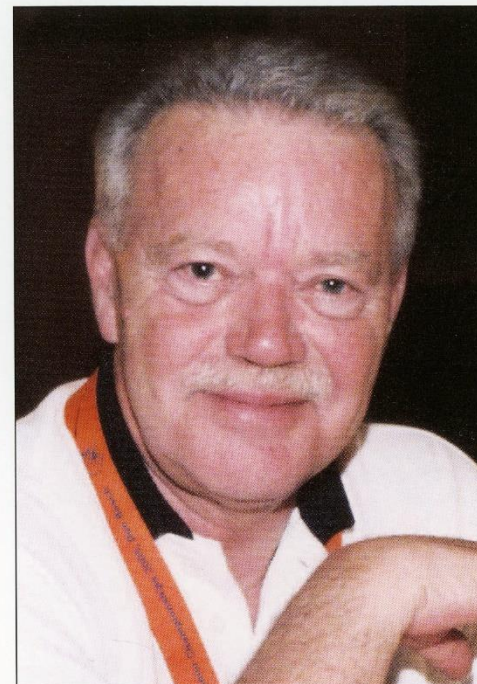
The foremost task of this new Committee was to ensure badminton's position in the Olympic hierarchy of sports. Through careful study of the IOC's requirements, badminton succeeded a few years later to move up the ladder in the hierarchy. Torsten initiated two major initiatives to help this agenda. A Women In Badminton Working Group was established to improve the gender balance in our sport off court, as well as an effort to promote Para-Badminton as part of our sport.

The second four-year term of Dr. Kang's Presidency from 2009 -2013 became a period of much progress for badminton in terms of prize money for the players and TV exposure worldwide. Torsten's major contributions in this period were the Para-Badminton inclusion as well as a complete overhaul of the BWF Constitution. From 2009 Torsten chaired a Working Group rewriting the BWF Constitution to eliminate the shortcomings and loopholes that had rendered the troubles possible, such as proxy voting, and introducing firm procedures, checks and balances so that similar problems could not possibly arise in future. To Torsten's great satisfaction, the new Constitution was passed unanimously by the 2012 annual meeting.

When Poul-Erik Høyer decided to stand for election in 2013 to follow Dr. Kang, Torsten found it was time to step back. This also ended another period in the Badminton Europe Council, where he had served since 2009 by virtue of his position as BWF Vice President for Europe.



DISTINGUISHED VISITOR: BWF President Korn Thapparansi of Thailand addresses the Council



TOM BACHER (Denmark, 2004-2010)

TOM BACHER was a well-known, all-round player in Europe scene in the 1960s and early 1970s, winning numerous major titles, mostly in men's and mixed doubles, thanks to his legendary energy and tactical skill, as well as his ability to find strong doubles partners. The pinnacle of Tom's distinguished playing career came in 1970, when, unseeded, he won the All England men's doubles title, partnering Poul Petersen. Tom and Poul won the second game 15-0 against the English favourites David Eddy and Bob Powell and the Danish radio commentator nearly lost his voice in all the excitement.

Tom played three times for his country in the Thomas Cup, winning the European Zone and reaching the Finals in 1967, 1970 and 1973.

Trained as an international umpire as well as a coach, Tom has served the game on court at the highest level since the 1960s. Young champions like Anne Berglund, twice European Junior women's singles winner and All England runner-up at the age of 18 until a serious back injury stopped her career, and Dorthe Kjær, European women's doubles champion in 1988 and 1990 with Nettie Nielsen, owe Tom's coaching a lot for their early achievements.

Even more importantly, he has both umpired and refereed World Championships, and he was in the chair in the dramatic deciding men's doubles match of the 1967 Thomas Cup Final in Jakarta between the holder Indonesia and challenger Malaysia when the match and tie had to be interrupted by the referee, Herbert Scheele, owing to riots in the stands when the home team was in trouble.

The Danish Badminton Association benefited from his all-round experience and sound judgment when he served as a selector and team manager from 1973-1981, after the end of his playing career.

In 1978 Tom joined EBU for a short period, as Chairman of the Court Officials Committee but a year later he was elected to the IBF Council, serving with distinction for 24 years, having been a Vice President since 1986.

Tom served BWF for 24 years, from 1979-2003 with distinction, from 1986 as a Vice President. He contributed particularly to the business side of the game, as Chairman of the Open Badminton Committee, which initiated and developed the international prize money events. The reform of the Thomas and Uber Cup in 1982, which greatly improved the attraction of this event and created the financial basis of the Federation for a decade until Olympic income arrived, was the brainchild of a small Working Group with Tom, Arthur Jones and Roger Johansson meeting in Tom's garden over a weekend. The establishment and growth of the World Grand Prix – now developed into the

Super Series – was another major contribution from Tom and his committee.

From 1982-2003 Tom was close to all international badminton decisions as a member of what is today known as the BWF Executive Board. Three Presidents used him as their Deputy. A well-placed observer once said that Tom Bacher was the best president BWF never had! Luckily enough we got him as President of Badminton Europe Confederation.

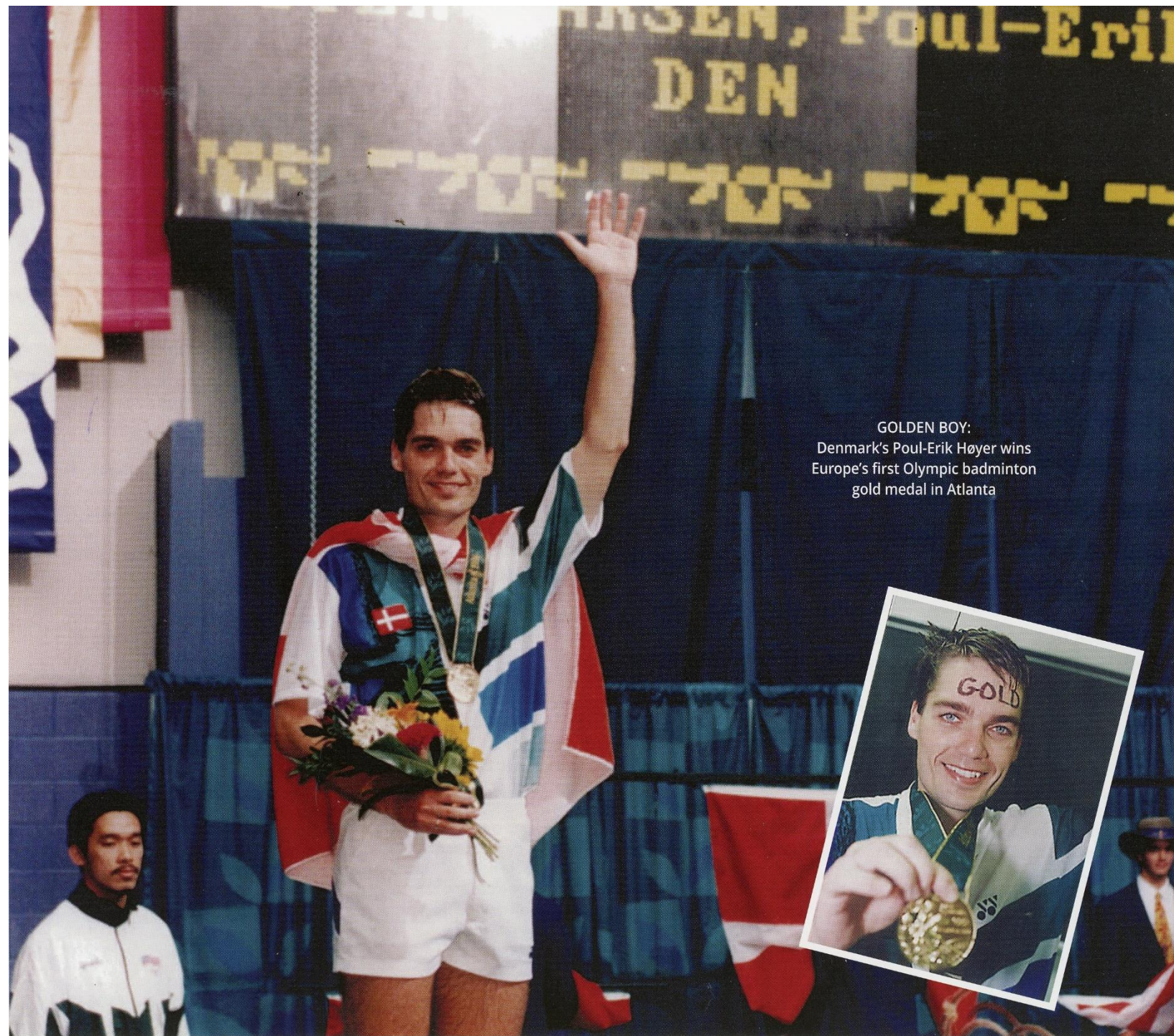
From 2004-2010 Tom was a very active President, successfully turning the focus for our Continental Confederation towards a modern, business-like approach to the game, with focus also on modern media.

Our Badminton Europe of today is largely the result of the initiatives and the professional approach that he inspired and initiated and which was followed up by his staff and successors. With the young and dynamic office staff we have today, where many were selected and trained by Tom, we have built a commercial platform that has served the game in Europe very well.

Moreover, he ensured that the Council was rejuvenated during his period in office. Several of the BEC leaders we have today were talent-spotted by Tom and they now follow up the work he started, with added value of their own ideas.

To his credit, Tom used all his experience in badminton and international sports politics when he and Badminton Europe, under his direction, played a major role as a strong supporter of Dr. Kang in his efforts to bring our game out of the serious troubles that personal agendas of a few individuals had brought to badminton in the first decade of this century.

For his services to the game, and in particular to Badminton Europe, Tom was nominated BEC Honorary Vice President in 2015.



GOLDEN BOY:
Denmark's Poul-Erik Høyer wins
Europe's first Olympic badminton
gold medal in Atlanta



POUL-ERIK HØYER **(Denmark, 2010-2013)**

POUL-ERIK HØYER is already one of the greatest names in the history of badminton. Olympic men's singles gold medallist in Atlanta 1996, two All England Championships and numerous other titles. In 2013 he was elected President of the BWF and shortly after became an IOC Member by virtue of his Presidency. As BWF President he is leading a team that has obtained considerable successes already in his first term, such as the inclusion of Para-Badminton in the Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020 and the largest contracts by far that BWF has ever obtained.

Moreover, Poul-Erik was the BEC President from 2010-2013. He came to BWF from the position as our President in European badminton.

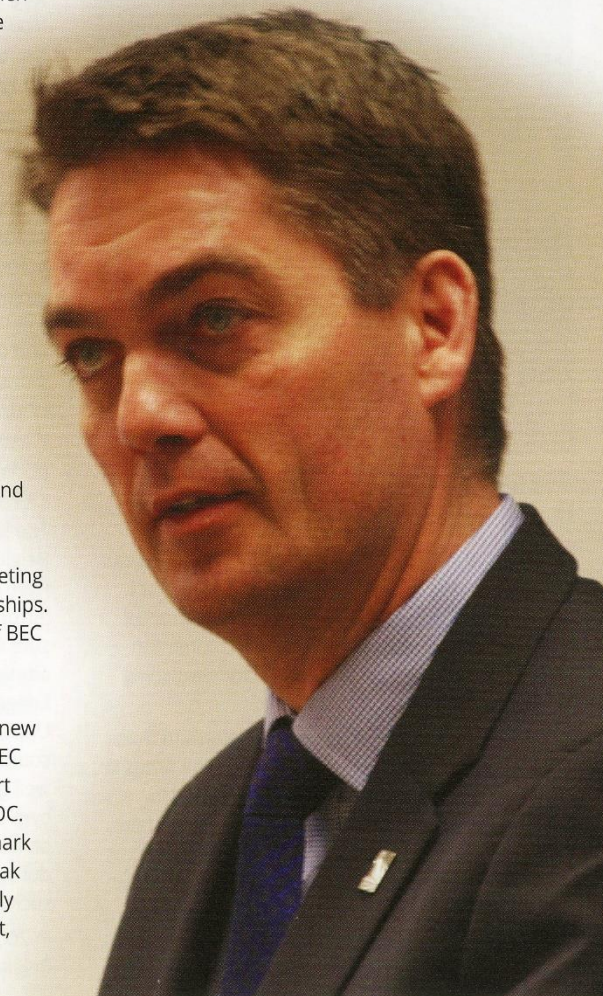
Having retired from international competitive play, he was elected Deputy Chairman of Badminton Danmark and served in this position while he

established a career in business, local government and general sports administration outside badminton. He also represented the athletes in the Danish NOC, when President Tom Bacher retired in 2010. In those days Poul-Erik was not yet well known internationally for his leadership and administrative skills, so there was perhaps a little hesitation when his name was first mentioned – he would be the third Danish President in a row. However, when he first met Council and explained his plans hesitation evaporated. He became the Council's nomination for BEC President. As the only candidate, his election in Manchester in April 2010 should have been a shoo-in, but that did not happen!

An Icelandic volcano decided to send massive clouds of ash into the atmosphere over Europe. While the European Championships in Manchester were already well under way and continued without problems – at least until the players wanted to return to their homeland – the Annual Delegates' Meeting called on the last Saturday of the Championships did not command a quorum as nearly all flights were cancelled. Tom Bacher had to remain in office for another four months until an Extraordinary General Meeting could be called in Paris at the World Championships. Finally Poul-Erik Høyer was elected President of BEC in August 2010.

The most important achievement during his presidency of the BEC was the purchase of the new premises in Brøndby. For 10 years from 2003 BEC was housed free of charge in the House of Sport owned by the Danish Sports Federation and NOC. The Council eventually decided to stay in Denmark so Poul-Erik and Secretary General Brian Agerbak identified a fine building, centrally but peacefully located near the House of Sport and the airport, and bought at a reasonable price.

Soon after, it was announced that Dr. Kang was retiring as BWF President, and Poul-Erik decided to stand as his successor. When successfully elected, he retired from the BEC right away and senior Vice President **João Matos** was appointed Acting President until the 2014 election.





GREGORY VERPOORTEN
(Belgium, 2014-)

IT WAS in 1991 that I first got touched by a European Badminton Union event. That year, the club that I later went on to coach, Olve in Edegem, organised the EBU Europe Cup. As a 12-year-old badminton addict, I spent hours sitting in the stands watching the European top players compete.

Ingrid Swiggers, one of Belgium's top talents in those days and Belgian champion for at least nine times in ladies' singles (if I remember well), competed in Edegem that weekend and I was in awe. When later, Ingrid presented me with a green Yonex toiletry bag, I was over the moon. Little did I know that, at a later age, Ingrid would be competing with me on the same side of the net when we played mixed doubles together in the Belgian top league with the club my

father co-founded, De Nekker in Mechelen.

When my playing career was slowing down because of an injury, I started coaching the provincial team of Antwerp in 1996 and the following year I worked with the Flemish squad at the request of Addy Regelbrugge, our Belgian national coach back then. As a promising junior coach, I was very proud to be invited to participate in the 1998 EBU Summer School in Neerpelt. It was here that I met Audrey Kinkead and her dedication to the development of European badminton was inspiring. I liked the Summer School so much that I returned to Neerpelt the next two years, being a co-organiser in 2000.

In 2003 I was invited to participate in the IBF World Academy in Sofia. It was here that I met two young enthusiasts from the IBF office, who were at that time working for Andrew Ryan, now ASOIF Executive Director. Those two enthusiasts were Simon Morton and Chris Harvey. Chris did such a good job at the World Academy that this was the last Academy of its kind. I am sure he had nothing to do with that though... Chris and the Summer School have probably been the two key drivers of my involvement with BEC later on.

The same year, I was the national junior coach for Belgium at the European Championships in Esbjerg. Here I got to know Gisela Hoffmann and was briefly introduced to 'newbee' Brian Agerbak. I wasn't too sure what to think of him taking over the administration at EBU. As head coach of Olve in Edegem, I joined the team to the Europe Cup in Uppsala. I remembered Gisela from Esbjerg, of course, but kept a close eye on Brian, who was still well guided by Gisela but started to stand on his own two feet. Little did I know that Brian would later on lead the BEC office during my time in Council and during my Presidency, and that he would do that in such a great way.

In 2004 I joined my father, the President of the Belgian Badminton Federation, at the ADM of

Badminton Europe in Geneva. It was there that I saw Tom Bacher being elected President and I witnessed the start of a new Council team at the same time as the ADM bid farewell to Torsten Berg, who had led the federation for so many years and kickstarted its professionalisation. Both men inspired me to dedicate more time to our sport beyond the courts.

It wasn't until I started my professional career as a tax consultant, that I became more involved in badminton politics. As I didn't have much time to coach the Belgian national team any longer, I filled my summer holidays by educating future national coaches as a staff coach at the BEC Summer School and led the Topsportdepartment of the Flemish Badminton Federation as an elected official.

Soon after, I was elected as the President of the Belgian Badminton Federation. I had a close relationship with Brian as well as Chris, who by now had joined the BEC office as well, and as I got to know both the BWF and BEC Council better as BBF President, I expressed my interest in the Directorship of Development in 2007. I was elected as a new Council Member at the ADM in Saarbrücken together with Hans Lenkert and Andrej Pohar.

Under the leadership of Tom Bacher, from whom I learned a lot and who I admired for his skills in chairing meetings, Badminton Europe developed its office structure and soon we were moving from three people in the office when I joined to five. Tom's view was that we needed the professional office structure to better serve our members and to grow as a sport. I couldn't agree more. We also agreed that in order to develop the sport worldwide, we need to have figures close to our Member Federations, which means we advocated for structural support from BWF to the development activities of the continents.

Today's BWF continental grant structure is a child of this thinking. We also felt that the continents needed closer ties with BWF and that it is important to have

a strong representation of the continents at the BWF level. At a time when the corporate governance of BWF was a bit dubious and as the then BWF President Dr. Kang was being pressured by some individuals in his Council to leave his chair, a group of people came together to react against the power struggles and individual ambitions which at times worked against the development of our sport. Badminton at that time was suffering, the Super Series needed sponsorship from the President, the office staff structure was not up to par with that of other Olympic Sports and we were well behind on sports marketing. The Federation was lacking strategic direction, a vision for our sport and bold leadership.

In 2009 a new Council team was elected at BWF level. Some BEC Council Members, including Peter Tarcala, Lawrence Chew and myself, were part of this team, together with some very capable and respected European Councillors such as Etienne Thobois, David Cabello, Sergey Shakray, Nora Perry and Torsten Berg. Together with our fellow Councillors from the other continents, we quickly built up the organisation again. A first focus was again on a professional office structure under the leadership of Thomas Lund, who, supported by Stuart Borrie and the other remaining office staff, played an important part in bringing our sport where it is today.

In recent years, we have also brought our Para-Badminton friends into the family and Paul Kurzo, at BWF level, supported by Torsten Berg and João Matos, at European level, have ensured a great and swift integration plan, which is currently being delivered.

The Badminton Europe Council, now called Board of Directors, played a very important role in steering our sport in the right direction. This could never have been done without the strong support your Board receives from the BEC membership. It is this

support which made it possible to professionalise our office, our events, to build out our development activities, to make your federation financially sound and which now ensures that many of our members and their athletes are key to the success of world badminton.

When you elected me as President in 2014, I was very honoured to get a chance to spearhead the further developments and realisations of your Board's visions for our sport. I could never have taken up this responsibility without the support of one of the key successes of my predecessors Torsten Berg, Tom Bacher, Poul-Erik Høyer and their Councils – our professional office.

I have been working with many of our office staff for years now. I know them very well and have seen them develop into great leaders for our sport. We should never forget to nurture the great asset a trustworthy, reliable, strategic-minded and ambitious office is. Brian Agerbak, Jimmy Andersen and their staff, Jeroen, Zsafia, Tania, Emma, Oliver, Pavel and Hugo, I am very grateful for what you do every day for our sport.

But we also owe a lot of gratitude to the many officers your federation has had in the last 50 years, of which I witnessed only 10 from the first row. Many of the pioneers of Badminton in Europe have gone before your current Board and all have shaped our organisation to be the federation it is today. Our ambitions for badminton should stay sky high. Our sport has the intrinsic capacity to be a top 10 sport worldwide, a top eight Olympic Sport, the No.1 school sport and a sport for all ages. It brings together friends from all over the world, it will one day have a fan-base larger than tennis and will be played at a speed dazzling the eye. Our sport will be experienced via the latest social media, our athletes will become global stars and, as a consequence, our sport will be played recreationally by more than 1 billion people soon.

Badminton Europe has over the last few years strengthened its financial situation, professionalised its office, standardised and built its development programmes and has a great relationship with all its Member Federations through its transparent policies and strategies. Now is the time to be bold, ambitious and take this all further, one bold step at a time.

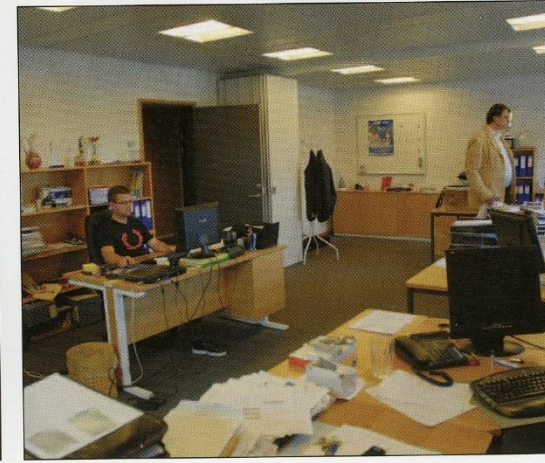
Europe came away from Rio with Olympic medals in four events, including one gold. In Tokyo 2020, we should aim for medals in all five events and strive for two golds. We will get badminton on the school sport map better than ever before through the Shuttle Time programme, we will build our event structure to deliver on a player development programme, creating super stars from Europe that will inspire the youth of today and tomorrow to play badminton for life.

While we do all this, let's make sure we celebrate the great friendships and rivalries badminton has created, celebrate the great athletes and stars that our sport has produced over the past 50 years, celebrate our two Olympic singles gold medal winners, celebrate our many successful federations and our Olympic status, celebrate our great coaches, officers, technical officials and elected officials who have made a difference in our sport.

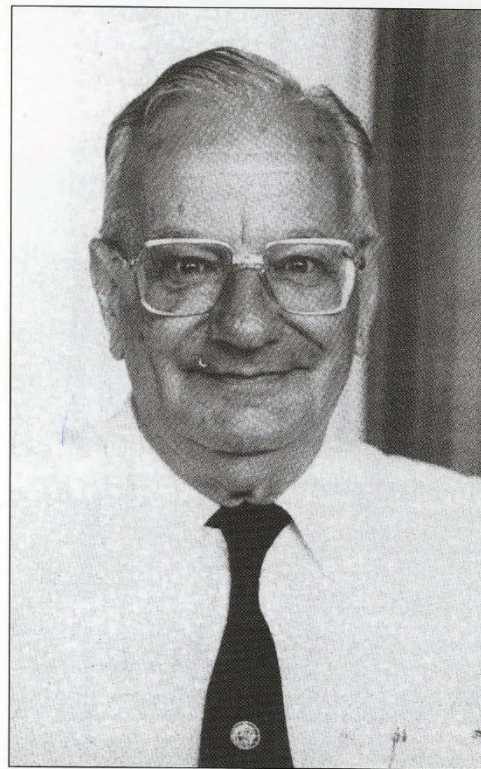
But most of all, we should celebrate badminton, the sport that has given us all that much and which will inspire many for years to come!



WINNING TEAM:
 Badminton Europe's staff (left to right):
 Pavel Florian, Tania Teoh, Zsofia Horvath,
 Brian Agerbak, Jimmy Andersen, Jeroen van Dijk,
 Oliver Gravers, Hugo Mussou and Emma Lollike
 and (right) their new offices in Copenhagen



General Secretaries



An outstanding and unusual leader

IN 1973 Emile ter Metz was elected to the newly-created position of Honorary Secretary of the young and rapidly growing European Badminton Union. With his election, the development of European badminton really gained momentum.

Emile, who came from Haarlem in the Netherlands, was an outstanding and unusual badminton leader. He was never a player but became involved in the sport when his daughters started playing in the Duinwijk Club, which initially became his base.

Emile was an eminent administrator. Sometimes he was almost stubborn but used his imagination to

seek solutions, while insisting on regulations and formal decisions being upheld.

With President Stellan Mohlin as the foremost partner and leading light, Emile ter Metz built the European Badminton Union in the 1970s. In 1977 he also took over the position of Honorary Treasurer, a role which until then had been filled by Stellan. 'Maximum of play with minimum administration' was the EBU slogan under Emile and Stellan.

Emile's energy and ability to get along with people became a key asset. He looked after a fast-increasing amount of letters in those days long before the Internet and always responded quickly to opportunities or reacted to help to solve the problems that could arise for the members.



With Joe Benes he developed the concept of reciprocity. These reciprocal arrangements enabled members from Central and Eastern Europe, who had inconvertible currencies, to overcome the problem and be able to play in tournaments outside their homeland.

How did reciprocity work? With the practical support of EBU – namely Emile – Central and Eastern European countries could host European events and pay in their own currency for the expenses of visiting teams from hard-currency countries. The guests could then reciprocate when they were hosting.

In this way Emile and Joe managed to keep the doors to European badminton championships open for all and keep the international game alive in

countries where badminton in those days were classified a 'C' sport. This meant it was ineligible for both government support and the hard currency needed for international competition.

While the official currency of EBU was the Swiss Franc, Emile received payments in any currency – a tradition that was continued when Horst Kullnigg succeeded him as Honorary Treasurer in 1986.

From 1973 Emile also represented Europe at the International Badminton Federation. He was

RISING STARS: Sir Craig Reedie and Emile ter Metz with some of the players who went on to make a name for themselves



Chairman of the important ICT Committee, the forerunner of today's Events Committee, from 1980-1984 and became the first Chairman of the IBF Development Committee from 1984-88. In 1984 he was elected IBF Vice President, a position he held until he retired from the role in 1989.

But the increasing EBU and IBF workloads meant that something had to give, especially after badminton was accepted as a Summer Olympic sport in 1985.

A year later Emile decided to focus on IBF and the time was right for a dedicated and effective younger administrator to take over as Honorary Secretary. That person was Gisela Hoffmann.

But European badminton will forever be grateful to Emile ter Metz, who joined the very young Union in 1973 when EBU was a mere toddler, to deliver to the next generation of leaders a much larger, robust and dynamic organisation 13 years later.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS:
Herman Valken, Stellan Mohlin and Emile ter Metz





The heart and soul of European badminton

GISELA HOFFMANN was a respected international women's singles and women's doubles player for Germany in the 1960s, the first golden age for German badminton. She won the National women's doubles title with Irmgard Gerlitzka.

However, her lifelong and outstanding contribution to the game is her achievements as an international badminton administrator, in particular for the European Badminton Union.

Towards the end of her playing career Gisela was elected the women's player representative on the board of the Deutscher Badminton Verband (DBV). She joined international badminton in the 1970s, first as an interpreter for DBV President Heinz Barge, who was a Council Member of IBF and EBU before becoming EBU President from 1982-1984.

Gisela was elected to the EBU Development Committee in 1981 and served in several capacities until she retired as General Secretary more than 20 years later in 2003. She had been elected Honorary Secretary of EBU in 1986 and until her retirement she was the heart and soul of EBU.

She was the daily point of contact and the source of invaluable information and assistance for the Member Associations as they grew in numbers from 29 to 48.

As Honorary Secretary and, from 1996 as General Secretary, she did much more than the administration. She strongly supported the development and expansion of badminton in Europe, facilitating the participation of new and upcoming associations in the many EBU events, but particularly those for junior players. Gisela looked after 'her kindergarten.'

The EBU Circuit is perhaps her foremost contribution to international badminton. The circuit was the brainchild of Gisela and Horst Kullnigg in the mid-1980s and it still serves as a forum for the top players of the young associations and the young players of the top associations in developing the playing standard of European badminton.

In her own quiet way, with a warm heart and a cold brain, with respect for rules and regulations and the different opportunities of players and Member Associations worldwide, Gisella served badminton and its development for a lifetime in an outstanding manner.

The business leader

BRIAN AGERBAK was a new face to international badminton when he was appointed General Secretary on February 1, 2003. His background in economics and business organisation combined with his passion for the sport provided convincing arguments that he was the right person for the job.

He had played badminton from an early age and later he took up challenges within the Danish badminton community as a coach, course instructor and in general development activities in the western part of Jutland.

In 1996-97 he accepted a position as national coach of the Cyprus Badminton Federation. The role gave him a real insight into the challenges that smaller badminton federations faced.

With Brian's arrival the offices of EBU moved to the House of Sport in Copenhagen. Gisela Hoffmann remained on hand in the transitional period to ensure a successful transfer of knowledge.

With Brian the organisation became more business orientated and professional. Volunteers in the Council were gradually relieved of their day-to-day duties, which would now be handled by the office, with new staff appointed to handle the increased workload in the areas of development, events and communication more efficient.

Under Brian the organisation changed its name from European Badminton Union to Badminton Europe Confederation.

Significant business partnerships were established too, with leading sports brand Yonex ensuring certain minimum standards were met at all European Championships.

These partnerships ensured a steady growth of the organisation but also allowed for reserves to be built.

As a result, some of this capital was used in 2013 to buy Badminton Europe its own office premises in Copenhagen.

Brian has been keen to set up structures where projects and support are available to all Member Associations. He is known to be fair, empathic and a person that stands by his principles. He is an experienced negotiator who always wants the best for Badminton Europe.

He has the utmost respect for those that came before him and the work they have done. At the same time he understands the responsibility resting on him to continue to serve the Member Associations and to grow Badminton Europe for those that come after him.



Treasurers



EMILE TER METZ

FROM the early days of EBU, when funds were limited, Emile ter Metz took care of the finances as Honorary Treasurer right up to 1986.

HORST KULLNIGG

AUSTRIA'S Horst Kullnigg is both the longest serving BEC Council Member and probably the European badminton stalwart who has worked more than anyone else for our Confederation.

Horst was first elected to Council in 1972 as representative of his Association, the Österreichischer Badminton Verband. Two years later he was organiser of the 1974 European Championships in Vienna.

In 1983 he was again appointed Council Member due to ÖBV taking over the 1985 European Junior Championships, this time in his home town of

Pressbaum in the Wienerwald. The year before the Championships he also joined the Development Committee.

Horst's main contribution, however, was in his 22-year role of Honorary Treasurer or Finance Director of the Confederation.

From 1986 until 2008 Horst kept the books. Remember that for much of this period, the Confederation did not have a professional office to look after the daily affairs of payments, invoices and book keeping. Horst took care of all that, with a minimum of hired local assistance.

He was a careful and a caring Treasurer. The income should be spent on badminton activities – but should

be spent, not saved. Every year he presented a balanced, realistic budget – and a pessimistic forecast. And every year, with only one exception as far as we know, he would present the Annual Delegates Meeting with a minor surplus.

This surplus was ensured through his meticulous work keeping expenses low. For example when his fellow councilors, after a long day of meetings, came to the coffee after dinner and asked if a cognac could be allowed – once and perhaps once again – finally the Treasurer replied: "Well, OK, but then a cheap cognac!" This proverb still lingers on in the BEC board room!

As Treasurer, Horst served as much more than the Confederation's money man. He always showed tremendous respect for the badminton people he met and he has been behind a large number of development efforts, like Summer Camps in Pressbaum having participants from all over the world, like hosting the first BEC Summer School in 1982 and assisting a large number of players and officials of Eastern Europe under difficult circumstances.

Horst, along with Gisela Hoffmann and Frank Wilson and later Irene Delvai, is the brains behind the BEC Circuit. He, more than anyone in the early years, developed the concept to the success we see today.

Horst's badminton activities are not limited to EBU and BEC. He had held almost every position in the ÖBV by 1980, when he was elected President

of his national association and remained in post until 1992.

To a large extent through his efforts and administrative talent, Austrian players rose to a respected level internationally, and the Austrian Internationals, often played in his own village of Pressbaum became the best attended event of its kind.

His contribution to sport is not limited to badminton. He was Chairman of the local sports club in Pressbaum and his national involvement included Finance Director of the Austrian Sports Confederation.

Horst also made an important contribution to the work of BWF. He served as the Council Member representing Europe from 2003-2009 and was an effective Chair of Finance from 2008-09.

From this position and with the support of the BWF's Korean President Dr. Kang Young-Joong, he undertook the arduous task to clean up the Federation's accounts after years of difficulties following the International Badminton Federation's move to Kuala Lumpur in 2005 and its change of name to Badminton World Federation.

BEC is privileged in having had Horst to look after finance for 22 years. He is the longest serving of only four treasurers over our first 50 years, along with Stellan Mohlin till 1977, Emile ter Metz from 1977-86 and Ritchie Campbell since 2008.



RITCHIE CAMPBELL

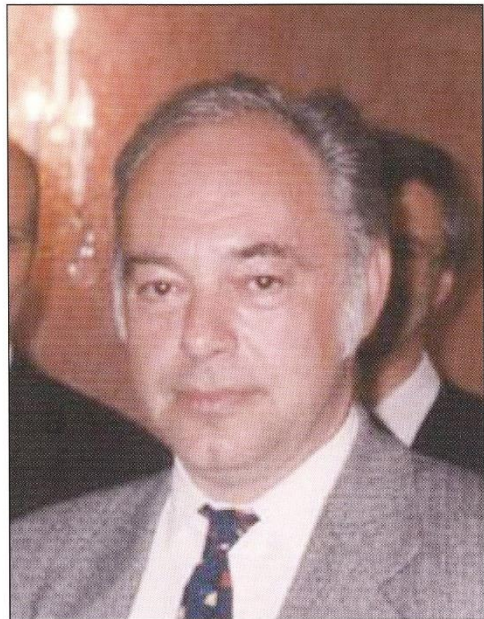
SCOTLAND'S Ritchie Campbell has been Badminton Europe's Director of Finance since 2008 when he succeeded Horst Kullnigg, having joined as a Vice President in Esbjerg in 2003.

He is a lifelong badminton enthusiast and played many times at county level in Scotland.

He was President of *BADMINTONscotland* from 1993-95 and is also a past chairman and former board member of the British Badminton Olympic Committee.

His involvement at national level also embraced *BADMINTONscotland* being awarded the 2007 Sudirman Cup world mixed team championships and the purchase of the their Cockburn Centre headquarters, which is now the Sir Craig Reedie *BADMINTONscotland* Centre.

11 of Our Stalwarts



GERHARD SALZER

GERHARD SALZER from Austria managed the EBU Circuit from 1987-1996, well before today's modern technology became available. Always service-minded and meticulous, Gerhard made a major contribution to the development of a successful circuit in the period where many new countries and young players entered the international scene.

JAN ÅHRBERG

JAN ÅHRBERG served the Swedish Badminton Federation for 40 years, more than 20 as General Secretary. He also served the EBU Development Committee from 1986-1993. While Jan preferred to work quietly behind the scenes, his always rational and open-minded contribution to the development of badminton in Europe is significant and should not be underestimated.

AUDREY KINKEAD

ULSTER'S Audrey Kinkead was for many years Secretary of the Badminton Union of Ireland and finished as its President. She joined the EBU Development Committee in 1981 and chaired it from 1990-2000. An eloquent speaker with a great sense of humour and lots of common sense, Audrey's interventions in the EBU Council and ADM were always worth listening to. For many years the EBU Summer School enjoyed her administrative skills as the secretary and key organiser. Several EBU events took place in Ireland with Audrey, well supported by husband Joe, as the driving force. "Keep your racket up, little girl," said Major McCallum, IBF pioneer and President 1961-63, to young Audrey playing mixed doubles in the early 1960s. Audrey truly kept her racket up for Irish and European badminton ever more.

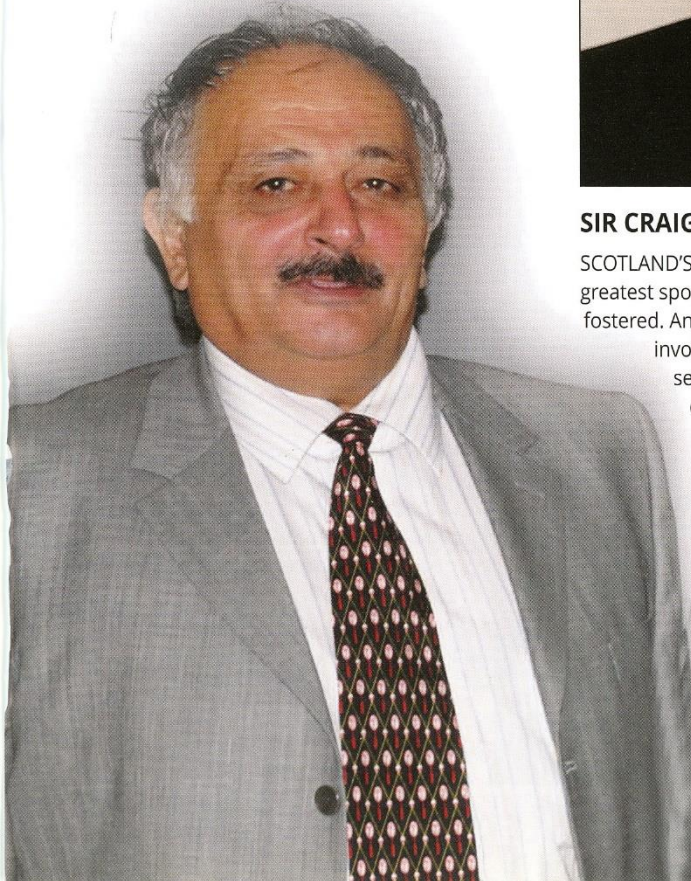
TRULS H. BREKKE

TRULS H. BREKKE was President of the Norwegian Badminton Federation and Vice President of EBU from 1997-2002. Always a voice of reason in the Council, he will mostly be remembered in international badminton as a strong first spokesman for playing five games to 7 or 9 points.



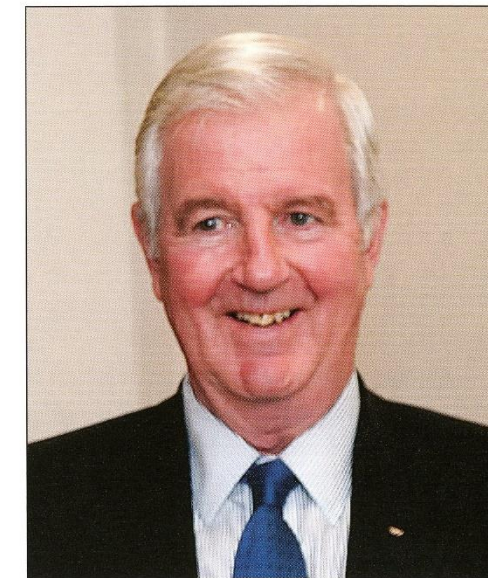
PUZANT KASSABIAN

PUZANT KASSABIAN has worked all his life for Bulgarian badminton, combining a pioneer playing career with management, playing leading roles in the Bulgarian Badminton Federation from the foundation in 1980 until today. PuZant was a great sportsman in his younger days, representing his country internationally in five different sports. An EBU Development Committee member from 1988-1993, he organised numerous European events in Bulgaria. Later he ventured into sports politics with EBU and BWF, where he served on the BWF Council from 2000-2009.



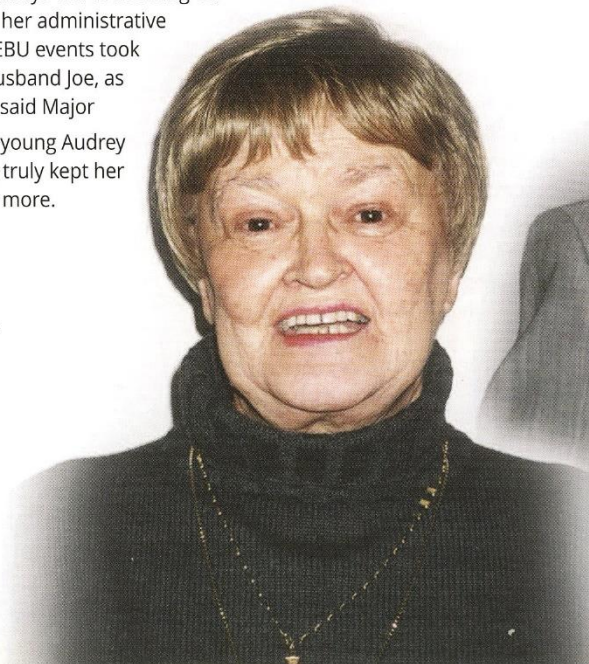
SIR CRAIG REEDIE CBE

SCOTLAND'S Sir Craig Reddie CBE is certainly the greatest sports administrator that badminton has fostered. An early part of his international involvement was in EBU, where he served as Vice President from 1974-1980, organising among other events the 1973 Junior Championships in Edinburgh. He built his legendary partnership with President Stellan Mohlin that blossomed a few years later in IBF. He was IBF President from 1981-84, an IOC member since 1994 and IOC Vice President from 2012-2016. Among many other key positions he today carries out the important and challenging duties as President of WADA and has recently been re-elected for a second four-year term of office.



IRENE DELVAI

IRENE DELVAI of Switzerland was a well-respected umpire and referee when she took over the management of the EBU Circuit in 1999 and built it to the success that it still enjoys. In her period on Council until 2007, the quantity and quality of the circuit tournaments increased significantly thanks to her firm and friendly style of leadership.





JOSEPH R. BENES

Only due to the painstaking data collection concerning badminton in EBU and its members by Joseph R. Benes and his wife Nada, this booklet may claim a considerable degree of accuracy. Founding father of badminton in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) in 1964, and a professional analyst of historical documents, Joe was the ideal choice as EBU Information Officer, in which capacity he served on Council from 1979 onwards. He joined EBU in 1974 and three years later he became a member of the first Development Committee, which was chaired by Stan Mitchell. Always supported by Nada, Joe contributed greatly behind the scene to forging friendship between East and West in the days of the Iron Curtain and also ensuring the reciprocity that helped players from countries with non-convertible currencies to compete internationally in spite of financial and other restrictions. For his great contributions he became the first to receive the EBU President's Medal in 1992 in Glasgow.

ANDERS SEGERCRANTZ

ANDERS SEGERCRANTZ was the founding father of the Finland Badminton Association in 1954 and a strong and influential supporter of EBU despite never standing for office. In 1984 Anders donated the Finlandia Cup as the trophy to be competed for in the junior equivalent of the Helvetia Cup. He was the main organiser of the 1983 European Junior Championships in Helsinki.



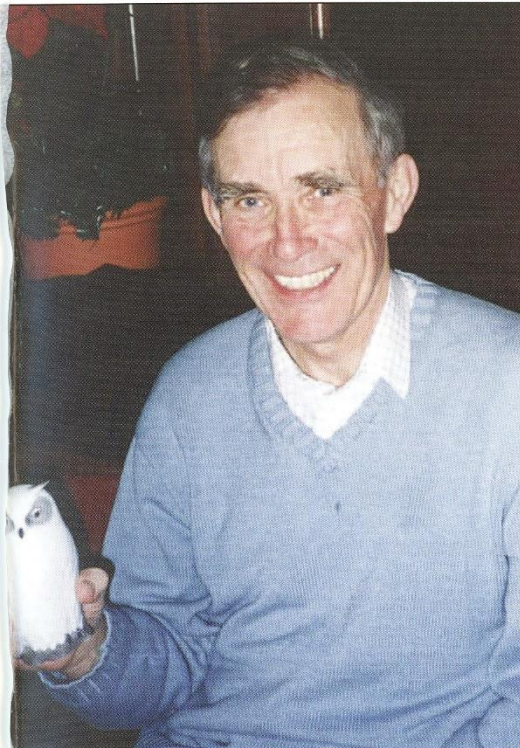
FRANK WILSON

FRANK WILSON was for the last 20 years of the 20th century a very active and useful Council and Committee member of the EBU.

When Frank was elected to the Technical Committee in 1980, he was already well known and respected among badminton players and officials, as he had taken over from the legendary Herbert Scheele as Honorary Referee of the All England Championships. He was a highly respected umpire and referee and his contributions to EBU were initially in these areas. However, with a professional background as a chartered accountant, his sharp brain was also extremely helpful in designing and implementing the format for EBU events, under the changing conditions that a rapidly increasing number of Member Associations offered during his period in charge. In 1986 Frank took over the Chair of the Technical Committee and when in 1993 the title was changed to Director for Events he continued to serve until retiring in 2000.

With limited support from his Committee, Frank was responsible for the successful allocation and conduct of all EBU events and the EBU Circuit and he did this without the professional office we know today! His contribution was enormous and he was a true stalwart of badminton in Europe.

Frank was not a great badminton player, but certainly a great sportsman. As a teenager he lived through the 1948 Olympic Games in London and fell in love with sport. Track and field, badminton and later tennis became his favourites.



However badminton was lucky that he chose officiating in our game, first as an umpire and later as a referee. His ability to observe and his sense of fairness, as well as his respect for rules and regulations, made him one of the most revered technical officials of our game. EBU was fortunate when he opted to serve in our Technical Committee and later on Council.

In the EBU Council, Frank's contribution was never limited to his technical field of expertise. He often contributed in other areas, such as finance, where his professional background was an asset, and his sound judgement was always important when difficult decisions had to be taken.

JOÃO MATOS

JOÃO MATOS was a young and new President of the Portuguese Badminton Association back in 1992. Within four years he became a member of the Working Group to determine the proposal for a new structure of EBU. In this work, he did so well that following the adoption of the new structure he was elected Director of Public Relations of BEC the following year. He held that position until 2008 and contributed significantly to Badminton Europe's improved profile in the media, and in particular the modern media, receiving good support from the staff in the Brøndby office.

That same year João was elected BEC Vice President, a position he still holds. As Vice President he often represents the Confederation at major events and in meetings, when the President is unavailable.

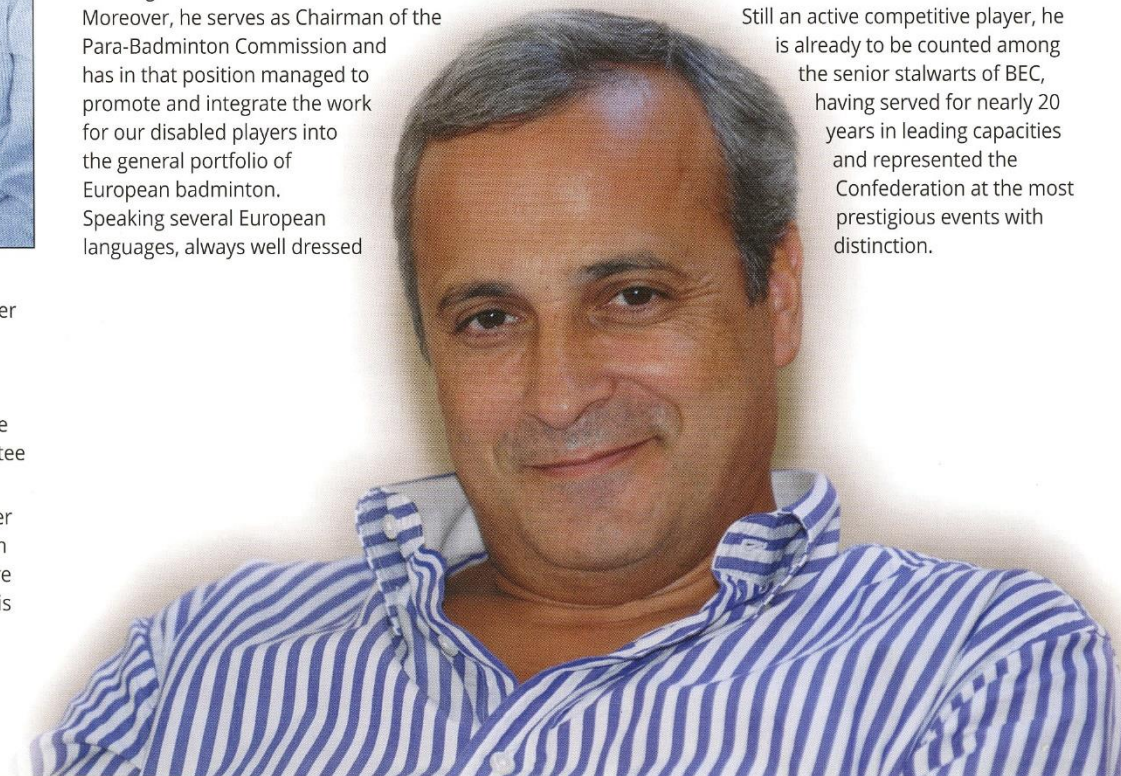
Moreover, he serves as Chairman of the Para-Badminton Commission and has in that position managed to promote and integrate the work for our disabled players into the general portfolio of European badminton. Speaking several European languages, always well dressed

for the occasion, polite and generally very well informed, João is an excellent ambassador for BEC.

When in May 2013 Poul-Erik Høyer was elected BWF President, João was the obvious choice for Acting President of BEC, a responsibility which he discharged in his usual modest and effective way for almost a year.

In Portugal João served as President of his national association for 20 years until 2012, and in that period he established the excellent badminton centre in Caldas da Rainha, where many European and national events have taken place. From 1997-2013 João was elected a member of the Portuguese National Olympic Committee, where he contributed as the Treasurer in the last four years, as well as in the capacity of Chef de Mission for the Portuguese delegation at several Olympic events.

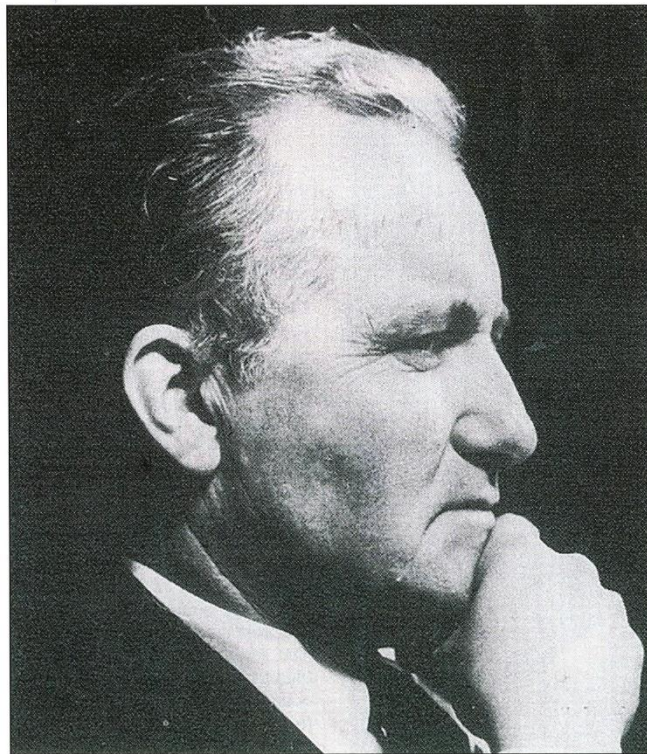
Still an active competitive player, he is already to be counted among the senior stalwarts of BEC, having served for nearly 20 years in leading capacities and represented the Confederation at the most prestigious events with distinction.



Memories

How Frankfurt paved the way for a bright European future

Former European President Stellan Mohlin penned this article on January 25, 2010 as he reflected on the development of the sport and the rise of the European Badminton Union on the road to Olympic status



THE BOOK *International Badminton – the First 75 Years* is a brilliant résumé of the successful development of international badminton from 1934. The articles are well written, and it gives even an old administrator news he did not know about.

I have, however, been requested to comment on the European development and, having read the 75 Year Book, will take what comes out of this magnificent History a stage further.

It is clear to me that when the Badminton Association of England formed the International Badminton Federation in 1934, the international tennis administrative organisation was copied.

The result was to collect as many badminton nations as one could find. In Europe badminton had just been discovered and only the United Kingdom federations, Denmark and Netherlands were badminton organised. Nine members formed the IBF, six from Europe and three from Asia. The development to today's 166 members makes 22 members in each seven-and-a-half decades.

Badminton or 'featherball' was a Royal game at least in France and Sweden in the beginning of 1700, and badminton still is in Thailand, where the present King plays or played badminton in his castle.

The 75-year History gives a number of interesting old badminton games with battledores and shuttles, from 1500 years back and up to the time when the game came with British officers from India to the United Kingdom and ended up at Badminton House.

During my IBF Presidency we arranged a Council Meeting in this House, and it was interesting to learn of the old battledores and early strung rackets we were shown.

The court size we have today is that of the entrance hall in the House but a shuttle hitting the wall was deemed out. We did not measure the room with a tape, but I did several step tests on both length and width and it was remarkably similar to the size of a court.

When I was elected Councillor in IBF the majority of the Council were old players with pre-World War I badminton playing experience on which discussions were based. But gradually younger people came on to the Council, and we developed IBF into a more modern organisation.

Herbert Scheele and Betty S. did a magnificent job but Committee chairmen let Herbert do almost all the work and the Council meeting became very much a Scheele-ideas Federation. Fortunately, Herbert was a true enthusiast, and in bar discussions after a meeting was remarkably flexible, unless it meant that the English influence in badminton could be affected.

My first task in IBF was to seek international contacts in the GAISF meetings and also to find ways to see if the Olympics was a good idea for badminton. Herbert and I participated in one of the first GAISF meetings and found good international contacts.

The contacts made were valuable for us, as it described the difficulty and the requirements to be able to apply to become a programme sport in the Olympics.

IBF statutes must be approved by IOC, regular regional games must take place in four of the five parts of the world in which IOC split up sports, and World Championships must regularly be played in different parts of the world.

Continue on page 39

SUCCESS IN SCOTLAND:
Stellan Mohlin (back left) leads
the Swedish team in April 1953





DRIVING FORCE:
England's Herbert Scheele
and wife Betty and
(inset) directing operations
at the All England
Championships
Pictures: LOUIS ROSS

Without all these requirements there was no possibility to get an application discussed in IOC. With this information I started to contact the Swiss badminton President H P Kunz, who had initiated a competition later called the Helvetia Cup, which was interesting for the smaller badminton countries in Europe and later also contained Poland and Czechoslovakia. Continuing visits in these countries by me formed the idea of a Europe Regional Unit.

Herbert was aware of my thoughts of finding a good solution for badminton, with the end target to get an Olympic programme opportunity, but he was not at all interested in a World Championship.

Talking with Indonesians and Malaysians, they had already formed a regional body for badminton in the Asian Games and had need for a badminton regional unit. The Germans, knowing of the Asian situation and being one of the strongest in Helvetia Cup, volunteered to organise a meeting in Frankfurt in 1967, where 11 European countries participated. The idea was also to unite Europe badminton and get away from the split that then existed between the better badminton countries and the smaller ones in badminton play.

The target was to form a European administration with the priority to create a regular European Championship, and hopefully when we had seen sufficient moves from other regional Championships, try to create a regularly played

World Championship, with the aim for badminton to become an Olympic Programme Sport.

After a long discussion the meeting decided to form the European Badminton Union. H P Kunz was elected President with H. Brohl, Germany, and S. Mohlin, Sweden, as a formal assisting group to the President.

Every participant in the meeting was asked to bring principles for statutes to the meeting. This request meant the meeting could give the elected President the task of finalising the statutes and have them distributed and ready at the first European Championship in Bochum 1968, six months later, Kunz served as interpreter and later as President but combining the two at EBU meetings was a heavy burden on him. He became totally exhausted and meetings took hours to conclude, which is why later we decided that the language in EBU was to be English and every participant could bring an interpreter.

We were 11 federations in Europe forming the EBU, today BE for Badminton Europe, and now we see more than 50 members,

When I got the honour to lead EBU Emile ter Metz became my assistant and our aim was "maximum badminton with minimum administration." This we could do with two people working and the Dutch contacts with the Benes family in Czechoslovakia helped to get both the Czechs and Poland into the Union.

We gave Joe Benes the task to be our minutes secretary, enabling him and his wife Nada to be allowed to travel to our AGMs, giving us very up-to-date reports he could never have sent to us, giving us information how we could help countries behind the Iron Curtain to



HONOURED: Stellan Mohlin receives the Herbert Scheele Award from Scheele's wife Betty in 1991 and (below) with Poul-Erik Høyer and Torsten Berg

develop badminton, which led to one of our European Championships being held in Leningrad, and became a kick for Soviet/Russian badminton.

The resistance from Herbert Scheele in the beginning was based on his fear that the target to get a World Championship would hit the All England Championships with then more half a century in tradition.

Herbert had difficulties to see anything else than the All England be used instead of a World Championship and it took me a long time, even after 1977, to get him to understand that a regularly played World Championship in different parts of the world was a necessary condition to becoming an IOC Programme Sport.

Fortunately we see today that the All England is played every year, as it had been throughout the whole of the 20th century, in spite of a World Championship and a number of new large tournaments appearing in the growth of our sport. With Craig Reedie now in the IOC Executive group, we certainly have the very best power to stop negative conclusions for badminton in IOC.

Badminton Europe is still growing, has a good economy and under the head of an Olympic gold medal winner seems to me create an atmosphere where we can play an important part in the BWF.

What some of us made in Frankfurt 1967 seems to have served badminton in a positive way.



A professional secretariat

WITH the growth of badminton world-wide, and in particular with the increasing membership in Europe following the Olympic Games in Barcelona 1992 where badminton was first played as a competitive game, the need for changes to the structure and administration became obvious.

A Working Group comprising experienced leaders from a number of member associations was to be set up as Council proposed a new structure. Directors were to be made responsible for their particular area, replacing the small Council that had been supported by a Technical and a Development Committee since the 1970s. This structure was adopted in an EDM at the end of 1996 and implemented shortly after.

At the same time, EBU was fortunate that it became financially possible to employ the long-time Honorary Secretary Gisela Hoffmann as General Secretary. We were lucky that Gisela was available and chose to make her hobby a job – and surely not a 9 to 5 job.

A professional secretariat was established in a room in Hohenzollernstrasse near Gisela's home in Krefeld, Germany, and from there she managed the affairs of badminton in Europe until 2003 when she decided to retire. From her appointment as General Secretary, the Council had to abandon the long-standing agreement that she would receive double pay for working on Sundays – two times zero still makes zero!

The woman who turned a rowing boat into a cruise ship

Gisela Hoffmann recalls how she juggled the day job with her badminton work

IF THERE is somebody who never had any intention to become a sport's official, it was me! However, sometimes things happen beyond your control and change your life.

I was happy to be a successful badminton player in a top German league team for many years and later to manage the team and enjoy several wins of the German Club Team Championships.

Out of the blue I was elected as women's representative to fill a vacancy on the Board of the German Badminton Federation. After a while I was asked by the former President of DBV, Dr. Heinz Barge, to work as his interpreter at the various meetings of the International Badminton Federation and the European Badminton Union, which he had to attend in his function as Council Member. This was a good opportunity for me to meet badminton people and make contacts with Council Members of many European Member Associations as well as officials from other Continents.

When Emile ter Metz, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of EBU, announced in 1985 his intention to resign the following year, I was contacted by many European National Associations with the request to take over this position. That was not at all what I had in mind, especially as that double function included the work of the Treasurer, a field that did not attract my interest and where I had no knowledge at all.

My hope that this argument would be sufficient to scratch my name off the list of possible candidates was quickly dashed. Council discussed the matter and made

a proposal at the Annual Delegates' Meeting to split the function into two separate Council posts and thus to enlarge the Council.

In April 1986 at the Annual Delegates' Meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, I was elected Honorary Secretary of the European Badminton Union and had to take over the function immediately after the ADM ended.

There I was in my little flat in Krefeld with 25 files, a small box with pins, some flags, a list of trophies, some EBU writing paper and envelopes and the Rules and Regulations of EBU.

In 1986 EBU had 30 Member Associations and already a considerable number of events to organise.

The technical equipment at that time was extremely poor. There was my private telephone and a typewriter at home and a telex machine at my office in a big American Company producing safety parts for cars. I had a very demanding full-time job and had to find a way how to squeeze all the EBU work into my daily schedule. The days were used for my paid job, the nights and weekends were badminton work. My annual leave was completely needed to manage the travel obligations. I tried my best to serve all masters.

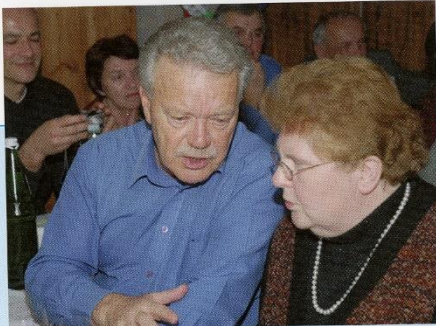
However, a good number of Member Associations had already installed a staffed office and I received more and more phone calls during daytime at my work place. To be able to deal with the various requests during working hours a separate big bag with the actual badminton business accompanied me daily to the office. It was a difficult time and a big portion of understanding and goodwill from my company's boss was needed to accept the regular daily badminton disturbance at work.

Communication with Member Associations took place mainly by mail, urgent information was submitted by telephone and last-minute entries etc. were sent by cable. I had to look for a special cable address – just like big companies – to keep costs as low as possible. All my efforts and persuasiveness was needed to get such a cable address from the post office in particular as EBU

Continued on page 42

ALL SMILES:
Gisela Hoffmann with
Horst Kulnigg and (inset) the
house in Hohenzollernstrasse
with the first one-room
office of the EBU





TALKING HEADS: Gisela with Tom Bacher

SOMETHING unexpected happened in Edinburgh in 1981 when Mrs Audrey Kinkead and I were elected members of the EBU Sub-Committee for Development. We were the first two women to take over an official EBU function.

It was a good tradition that the President of EBU announced and congratulated newly-elected officials at the Championships dinner. Herman Valken, President of EBU at that time, suddenly realised at the dinner that only ties were available for presentation to honour EBU officials, which was a rather embarrassing situation for him. But he handled the unexpected moment with a good sense of humour and the two ladies proudly received their EBU ties.

didn't fulfil any of the required criteria for that purpose.

With the limited technical means available at that time administration work and producing tournament papers was mainly manual work and very time consuming.

For example, a draw for the individual events of European Championships was done manually – four people, four bags with numbers, a list with the names of the entered players, a list with the players to be seeded, a big form to fill in the drawn names – and several hours were necessary to get the job done. I do envy those involved today of the availability of the tournament software which makes the job so much easier.

To prepare for an Annual Delegates' Meeting I had to produce copies of all papers, reports, proposals, budgets and forecasts. Most of the time around 65 pages had to be copied 80 times, the floor in my flat was used to spread out the copies and to produce a separate file for each National Association, Council and Committee Members and EBU officials.

The files were sent by mail and approximately 40kg of mail had to be transported to the post office. Believe me, the post office staff loved that particular day of the year when they had not a consignment of 40kg of mail but had to dispatch just one big letter to each European country. It was a highlight for all of us to get the mail on the way, the only unhappy people were the other post office customers because of the delay.

Over the years many new events were included in the EBU tournament programme. The start of the Summer School in 1982 and the Circuit in 1987 meant a challenge for administration in particular. You can't imagine what an outstanding help it was when fax and later e-mail was available.

With the increased workload and increased membership from 30 to 48 National Associations it became more difficult for me to handle both jobs – the paid full-time job in industry and the honorary

CORRESPONDENCE with the many members countries was a considerable daily business for me. English as the official language of EBU very often turned out to be a serious problem in writing and produced many misunderstandings. But from time to time the language also gave me a good laugh. Here are two examples:

One day I received an e-mail from a member country asking me for advice on how to handle their internal problem with "representation of a player." I mailed an answer to the sender informing him on the existing regulations and gave advice how to proceed in that matter. A few minutes later

full-time job in badminton and an understanding and generous Company Director was needed more than ever before.

The first step forward to manage the workload was Council's decision in 1995 to rent a one-room office in a private house very close to my flat. The big step forward was to officially employ me with EBU as General Secretary from 1997 until my retirement in 2003. To sign the contract as the first professional employee of EBU was a great moment after so many years of extreme pressure to serve two masters. Despite the fact that my official badminton job meant a reduced income compared to my job in industry, I was firmly convinced and still am today that I took the right decision.

I can look back on a most interesting and rewarding time in my badminton life. It was a unique experience and a real gain for me. I was very happy that we have found in due time a good and capable successor for the position of General Secretary, which guaranteed a smooth transition.

If I would be asked to picture my EBU years I would say that I started my badminton work with a rowing boat and that I was able to hand over a cruise ship, which gave me a happy feeling on the day of my retirement.

I got a reply telling me: "Do no longer worry about the problem, in the meantime we have executed the player." Dear me, what a sport!

A member country applied to organise an international event and gave detailed information about the sports hall to be used. Besides all details on the facilities they also listed all the events that had already taken place in that particular hall and I could read: In addition the World Championships for the Dead were organised in that sports hall." That must have been a very silent event but it was good to know that badminton friends can look into the future with confidence.

Brian Agerbak guides Badminton Europe into a new era

I MET Torsten Berg for the first time at the World Championships in 1997 in Glasgow where I was coaching Cyprus. On that occasion, he encouraged me to seek job opportunities with EBU. In 2002 I was back in Cyprus exploring living arrangements for taking an MBA Scholarship there when Torsten called me home for an interview to become the General Secretary of EBU.

The interview panel was Torsten, Gisela Hoffmann and Jos Nouwt, who was Vice President at the time. I was thrilled to be offered the position and a few months later I visited the Helvetia Cup in Caldas da Rainha in the middle of January 2003 in a freezing cold sports hall. Later the same month I was introduced to the Council at a session in Copenhagen. On February 1 I officially started in a new office space in the House of Sport in Copenhagen, well supported by Gisela, who continued working out of her Krefeld office for most of the year.

It was a steep learning curve but I felt that I was getting well into the role when Torsten announced that he would not be seeking re-election as President. This threw the organisation into some turmoil as his decision came at a time when Member Associations were no longer allowed to nominate for the position. This all came during the period when there were some underlying issues between the IBF leadership and EBU. The tension escalated when a prominent IBF Council member asked to meet the EBU Council in person to thank them for the battle over the years since he would now be taking over.

It did not come to that as a decisive EBU Council

decided to call on the services of Tom Bacher, who had recently lost his seat on IBF Council. He was elected in Geneva in April 2004 but he took over an organisation where it was apparent that the membership was rather divided and this division had quite some impact on the working conditions in my early years. Tom worked tirelessly from his first day as President to steer the organisation clear of the choppy waters and soon the organisation started to be run as a business and slowly but surely we also started to have a say in IBF affairs.

The turnover increased, we could employ more staff and the general output and respect for the organisation and the more established Member Associations improved. In 2006 the name, look and feel of the organisation changed when the European Badminton Union became the Badminton Europe Confederation.

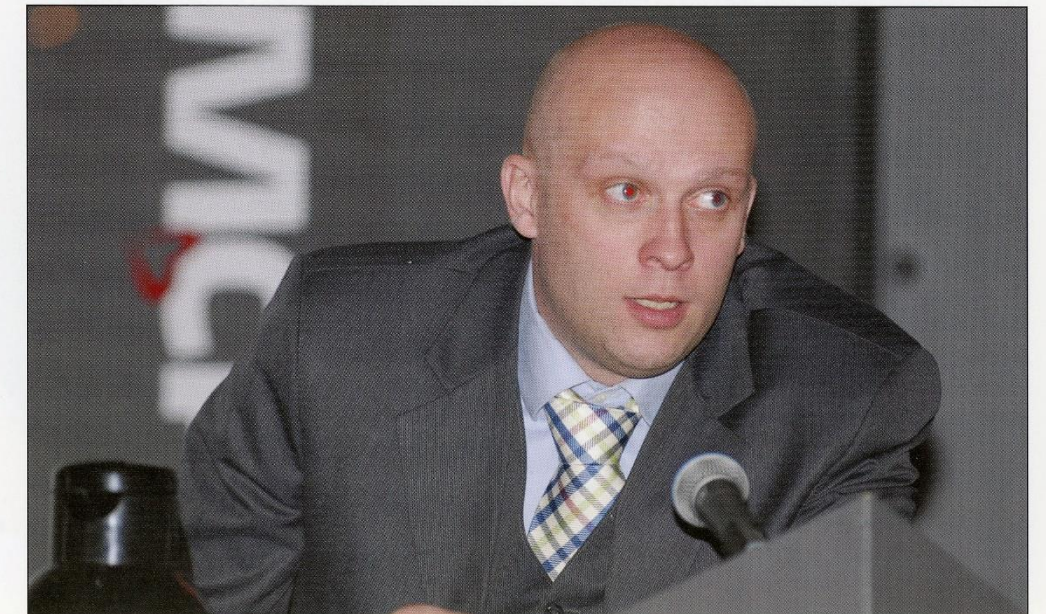
The next milestone was the 2009 BWF Elections, where the Badminton Europe Board managed to influence the process to an extent that the Europeans elected were individuals with whom we

had good working relations. Since then the Continental Confederation has played a more significant role in setting the direction for the global development of our sport and initiatives like Shuttle Time and the new BWF Coach Education were born.

By April 2010 Tom had decided to stand down as President of the Confederation and leave the organisation to the leadership to Poul-Erik Høyer. Many will remember the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud which almost forced the cancellation of the European Championships in Manchester. But the ash cloud did keep enough delegates away from Manchester to prevent us having a quorum so Tom had to stay on as President for another four months.

Finally, in August 2010 Poul-Erik became President and with him it felt like the European Member Associations moved closer. At that time he was Europe's only Olympic gold medallist and so he was a President that everybody could relate to and support. Notable achievements under his leadership

Continued on page 44



was badminton's inclusion in the inaugural 2015 European Games (even if he was no longer President when the Games took place) and the move of the Badminton Europe office to our own premises still in the greater Copenhagen area.

Poul-Erik was re-elected in April 2013 but he was also contesting the Presidency of the BWF the following month. It has been a fierce battle which again had caused a small crack in European unity. The night before the election Poul-Erik had a comfortable lead according to our count but it would be much closer than we had anticipated. Still the election was won which meant that Badminton Europe had to look for his successor. João Matos stood in as acting President until the 2014 ADM where Gregory Verpoorten was elected as the new head of the organisation.

With Gregory the organisation has become more inclusive. We enlarged the Council, or the Board as it was now called, and added a Commission structure with extensive external contributions. Next to that a European Athletes' Commission was formed. With healthy reserves this was also the time to consider new and exciting projects. The European Training Centre of Excellence stands out as one example along with many of the other development activities which were born when Gregory was the Director for Development.

It has been an interesting journey and I still believe there is significant growth potential in European badminton. On a personal level working with Badminton Europe is giving me great satisfaction. It must be anyone's dream to work in a field that is also your hobby. Besides this I have made many fantastic friendships over the years and all over the world. I look forward to taking the organisation into its 50th Anniversary and we shall see what the future brings. Happy Anniversary, Badminton Europe.

Chris Harvey recalls his travels with 'Marco Polo'

WORKING for the EBU and subsequently Badminton Europe all began for me in April 2005. I had been offered the opportunity to work with Brian Agerbak and double the EBU's work force, having previously been employed by the International Badminton Federation for three years.

Taking up the position of Deputy General Secretary meant relocating from the UK to Denmark and living in Copenhagen. My role focused on organising development activities, strengthening relationships with member associations and organising the annual and council meetings of Badminton Europe.

In addition to the highlights of working at the European Championships my memories include organising the Summer School each year, and coordinating training camps for emerging talents from all over Europe. We took two groups out for intense training in China with the goal of increasing their level so that Europe qualified more nations for the Olympic Games. It was very satisfying to see many of these badminton players compete at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Working with the Council brought many highlights. Going on expeditions with the EBU's very own Marco Polo, Horst Kullnigg, to establish new national federations and future member associations will never be forgotten.

The two of us travelled to all corners of the continent, including Albania and Georgia, to support their initial development.

Tom Bacher was President during my five years and we achieved a significant amount in increasing the capacity of the organisation and professionalism of how we delivered our events and activities.

During my time at Badminton Europe we recruited additional staff, including an enthusiastic Jimmy Andersen as Events Manager, plus a number of new Council members were elected, one being a young Belgian who later became President! I learnt a huge amount during the five years and had the privilege to travel to and work with most nations in Europe.



Jimmy Andersen finds variety is the spice of life

OVER three days in late August 2006, I first received an unexpected phone call, asking if I could be interested in attending an interview for a newly-established position as Events Manager for Badminton Europe.

On the second day I went to the interview and on the third day I was offered the position. It did not take me many seconds to accept the opportunity and challenge and since October 1, 2006 I have been working with my biggest hobby, badminton – and with great colleagues from all over Europe.

Besides the many great memories from working on European Championships all over our Continent, and working with many dedicated badminton colleagues and making many good friendships, a few other spectacular moments stand out.

Being appointed and working as Technical Delegate at the first European Games will live in the memory, as will moving the BEC office from the single office in the House of Sport to our new two-floor house in Copenhagen.

Attending the annual Gala with key people from our member associations, being in Kuala Lumpur when Poul-Erik Høyer was elected as new BWF President, being in the legendary Istora Senayan when Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan became World Champions, being in Kunshan when Denmark won



the Thomas Cup, being in Rio when Lee Chong Wei finally overcame Lin Dan – and many, many more!

Being able to combine the administrative work in the office with the onsite work at events is, indeed,

something special and gives my job a great variety.

There are many different tasks from book-keeping and VAT registration to appointing technical officials for the Olympic Games and creating new mobile applications. Over the past 10 years I have seen many different aspects of the organisation and I look forward to experiencing even more.

I should like to thank Tom Bacher, Chris Harvey and Brian Agerbak for giving me the opportunity back in 2006, and for mentoring me during my first years. I am also grateful to Peter Tarcala for his close cooperation during this whole period, as my direct link to our Council and Board.

Jimmy Andersen (centre) with Peter Tarcala and Lawrence Chew



Peter Tarcala, the man who never misses a meeting

MY INVOLVEMENT with Badminton Europe started with my election in April 2003 during the Annual Delegates' Meeting in Esbjerg, Denmark. I began as Director for Events, with responsibility for major Badminton Europe events. With changes in our structure over the years, my position became Director for Sport in 2009, with responsibility for BE Major Events, BE Circuit tournaments and Technical Officials.

With another change in April 2015 my role became Director for Major Events Commission and Director for the Circuit Commission. I have served five Presidents so far, starting with Torsten Berg, continuing with Tom Bacher from 2004, then Poul-Erik Høyer, João Matos as acting President and now Gregory Verpoorten.

I am actually proud that during almost 14 years I have not missed any Council or Board of Directors meetings. So far I have attended 56.

If I have to pick out one moment, I would probably highlight a meeting with Poul-Erik.

After Tom Bacher decided not to seek re-election, I came up with idea that we should probably approach Poul-Erik to see if he would be interested in being a candidate. I was given the task of making the approach as I had come up with the idea. We met in July 2009 in the House of Sport in Copenhagen and I was happy that Poul-Erik accepted the nomination. He should have taken up the Presidency in April 2010 but it was delayed because the BEC ADM in Manchester had to be postponed due to the volcano eruption in Iceland.

Toblerone, Guinness and a winning formula

Frank Peard looks back on the 1976 European Championships in Dublin with affection as it was the first Europeans to make a profit and became the blueprint of its day for future Championships

IN APRIL 1974 the Badminton Union of Ireland sent Honorary Secretary Geoff Trapnell and Northern Ireland's Bob Colhoun to Vienna to make the case for allocation of the 1976 European Badminton Championships to Ireland. I went as potential organiser should the Championships be awarded to Dublin.

Sweden's Stellan Mohlin was President of EBU and a good friend from the days since we played against one another. Stellan told me that from his soundings there was no way the EBU Delegates' Meeting would allocate the EBC to Belfast and that, accordingly, the BUI should make its application for a Dublin venue. I had no official standing so I referred him to Geoff and Bob.

When the ADM came along a few days later, Geoff stood up and made the BUI's case for Belfast with Dublin as an alternative venue. Bob had refused to modify the BUI's application. Immediately, Stellan, as chairman of the meeting, stood up and said that the EBU Committee had discussed a potential Irish application. It could in no way support the BUI's application for Belfast and recommended that the EBU award the Championships to Ireland provided the venue was Dublin. The members voted something like 13-8 in favour of Ireland and Dublin.



I subsequently had a meeting with the BUI Executive, who readily agreed my proposals that I should take complete responsibility for running the Championships, that there would be no committees but individual responsibilities for the various functions and that

I would report regularly to the BUI Executive.

The BUI made two requests: that I should keep the loss on the event to a minimum and that as far as possible I should avoid drawing away from their normal tasks people who already had responsibilities in the Branch or BUI set-ups.

No European Championships prior to 1976 had been run at a profit, hence the BUI's desire to keep the loss to a minimum. We finished making a profit of £7,000 (equivalent to €50,000 when Frank penned this article in 2011).

One of the key figures was Har Allison, who had responsibility for 24 foreign umpires, 12 Irish umpires, and 60 linesmen and women. The lines judges were of particular concern. In some previous European events there had been problems, with massive defaults despite all the usual promises. Some linesmen were overworked as a result, lost interest, and became increasingly incompetent. We suspected that though linesmen might be recruited readily they might start to defect in the week or so leading up to the Championships.

We decided, therefore, to charge a non-returnable signing-on fee of £10 which we felt would test people's commitment. In return we gave a special tracksuit (retail value £15), admission to all sessions of the badminton (a season ticket cost £9), and free admission to the party on Saturday night (say £5), making a total of £29 (€206).

At that time Fitzwilliam had great difficulty in finding

linesmen for the Irish Open Tennis Championships. Their officials were shattered to discover we were charging people for the privilege of officiating!

This was the first tournament in Ireland where the linesmen were required to indicate positively by a hand signal whether the shuttle was in or out. Also we required the baseline linesman to operate score boards. They needed to be trained and given practice. Har saw that they got it. He was tough enough to see that they performed properly and he sacked a couple before the Championships began! In the event, they all performed splendidly - and they all turned up.

The main source of Championships income was ticket sales. The big promotional principle was to suggest that the demand would be extremely heavy and that tickets would be scarce.

Clubs applying for tickets by February 14 (seven weeks before the event) would be given first preference, with further priority to season ticket applicants. Early bookings also received a discount, albeit that this discounted price was really the base price.

During all of the 1975/76 winter Vivien Hood (promotions) with a group of helpers was promoting EBC76 by visiting clubs and major badminton events, with circulars giving details, posters, and selling promotional T-shirts. By February 14 we had sold 387 season tickets which filled 44 per cent of the main stand for all sessions. Ticket applications came from 157 of the 576 affiliated clubs and 22 schools sent 525 pupils to daytime sessions.

Early in our preparations we employed a professional designer to produce an appropriate logo for the Championships. This was an attractive



motif - a green shamrock with three leaves obviously shuttlecocks on a gold background. We carried this logo into everything - notepaper, tickets, souvenirs.

This was the first sponsored EBC. We were fortunate in being able to recruit a sponsor early - Toblerone, through their Irish affiliate. Toblerone were quite demanding, very professional, and they wanted just as much as we did, to be associated with a successful, well-organised, venture. They required to see our budgets and they examined critically every aspect of our arrangements including the contracted catering arrangements. They didn't want anyone going away saying 'It was marvellous but the food was too expensive and not very good!'

Toblerone supported us with £5,000 cash but the help provided by their Promotions Manager, Bill Hyland, and Don Hollwey, their Chief Accountant, in promoting the event was worth a lot extra. Bill and Don went to the European Junior Championships in Copenhagen in 1975 to see how the event was presented and made useful connections with EBU officials there.

One problem we had to straighten out was the name of the Championships. The EBU would not accept the title TOBLERONE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS. We had to settle for EUROPEAN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS sponsored by Toblerone, the last part in small letters. As time went on, however, the small letters got steadily larger!

Financial Control, of course, was important. Critical estimates had to be made for ticket pricing and spectator attendance. We knew what the seating capacity would be for every session and from that we planned our promotional effort and ticket pricing. In retrospect, we considered we just about got it right.

We got it wrong on the number of programmes and souvenirs (T-shirts, glass cloths, key rings, lapel pins, EBC mugs and glasses and ties). The problem: If you order too few you may lose an opportunity, too many and you are left with stock on your hands. We were left with a lot of programmes (the sales teams at the various sessions were not very good). The surplus was just given away subsequently as promotional material at various events. The over-purchase of souvenirs was due to simply over-estimating demand.

We found it very difficult to get indemnity and risk insurance. There was a risk up to the last moment that the event might not take place.

Our first financial estimate in August 1974 predicted a loss of £5,100. The second estimate in July 1975 showed a loss of £600. The third estimate in September 1975 showed a profit of £2,500. The actual profit was about £7,000. Severe inflation in Ireland in the period in question increased our problems.

On Monday April 5 David Galloway and I took up residence in the Burlington Hotel, where the

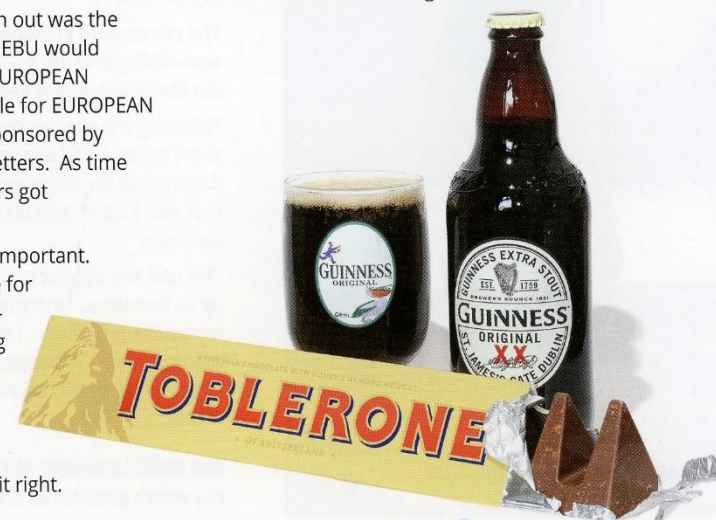
management placed a suite at our disposal. Some officials and all competitors to a total of about 160 were staying at the Burlington, which was very convenient to Fitzwilliam, a mere 200 metres away.

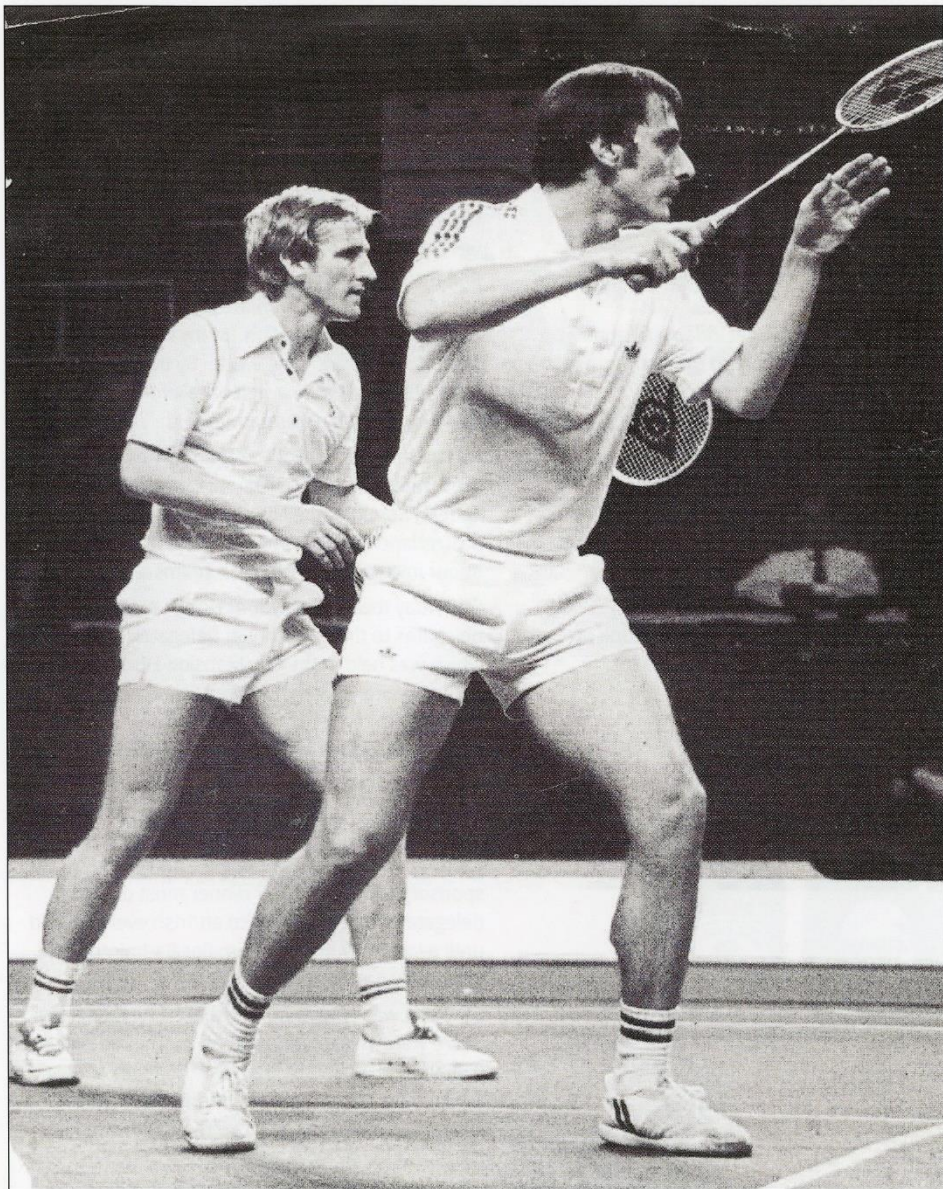
This in itself was a great plus for the tournament. At many European events the hotel is a long way from the playing venue. Players and officials from the various countries arrived at Dublin Airport and were met by Geoff Trapnell, President of the BUI, and the team hosts. Each country was allotted a host or hostess to whom the players and officials could turn for information. Many new friendships were formed during the week. By the end of the day I was able to breathe a sigh of relief that, bar a total calamity, we had a tournament!

During the two days of the Team Championships the Ambassadors for Belgium, Denmark, German Federal Republic, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland and the Ambadress for Austria came at our invitation to meet their teams at Fitzwilliam.

On Friday the Lord Mayor of Dublin received the delegates to the EBU Annual Delegates' Meeting which was held in the City Mansion House. Subsequently a total of 60 were entertained by Guinness to dinner at the Dublin Brewery. During the course of the dinner two perpetual trophies were presented to the EBU, the IRELAND trophy presented by the BUI for the winner of the EBC men's singles and the TOBLERONE trophy for the winner of the EBC ladies' singles, presented by the sponsors of EBC76. After dinner most of the delegates made their way to an 'Irish evening' held until a late hour in Dublin's major Badminton Hall, where a crowded and hilarious party ensued.

Saturday was always expected to be a testing day. There were 10 semi-finals to be completed between 9.30am and 12.45pm. Between 12.45pm and 1.30pm the arena had to be reorganised. Four courts and all lights had to be removed, a single court had to be laid in the opposite direction, two





new stands were brought into operation and the TV lights commissioned.

One team of half the linesmen and a number of other officials undertook this task while the second, similarly constituted team, had their lunch. The reorganisation was completed in 45 minutes. Now 1,800 people had to be seated in an orderly fashion before 2.30pm to enable play to start punctually for the TV which was going out live.

Circulars had been issued with all season and Saturday tickets asking people to come into Fitzwilliam from 1.30pm. They co-operated, and the second team (having had their lunch!) directed them efficiently into their seats. Everything went smoothly. This was the biggest crowd ever in Fitzwilliam's indoor stadium. A crowd of 1,800 attended the individual finals and the two singles finals were televised live.

There were two Danes in the final of the men's singles, otherwise the tournament was a triumph for the English.

Denmark won the team event by the narrowest margin over England. This was possibly the strongest ever English team, as evidenced by the individual performances.

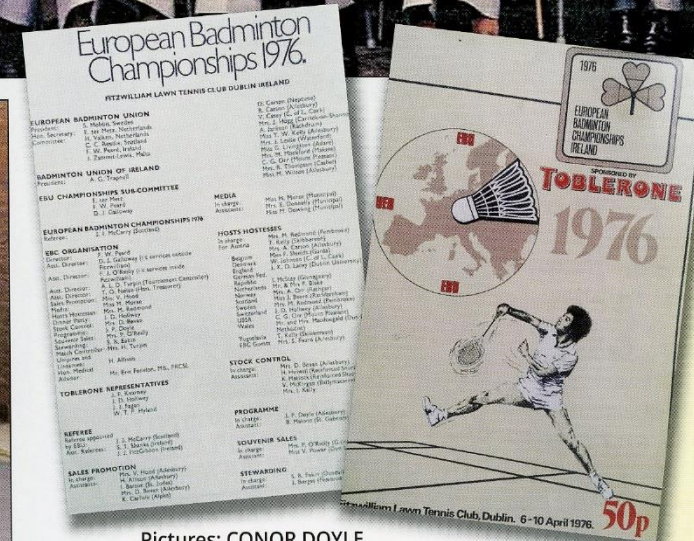
The prizes were presented by Irish players who had won All-England titles - Tom Boyle, Frank Devlin, Ian Maconachie, Sue Peard, Jim Rankin.

Following the conclusion of play a dinner party with a short cabaret and dancing was held at Leopardstown Racecourse for 360 players, officials, and helpers. The cost was £1,800 (€12,000 at 2011 rates), the largest single cost item.

This was the biggest badminton event ever run in Ireland up to that time. Financially and organisationally it was a tremendous success. I subsequently sent a letter of thanks to the 130 people who contributed to that success by their efforts and sacrifice of a week of their annual vacation.

DOUBLES LEGENDS: Mike Tredgett and Ray Stevens won the men's doubles as England took four of the five titles

Management Team
(standing, left to right):
Tom Nolan,
Maureen Redmond,
Maura Moran, Chick Doyle,
Sue Peard, Vivien Hood,
Hazel Turpin, Pat O'Reilly,
Har Allison.
Seated: Bill Hyland,
Digby Turpin, Frank O'Reilly,
Frank Peard, David Galloway,
Don Hollway.



Pictures: CONOR DOYLE

EBC 76 Presentation party

Left to right J. F. Devlin, T. H. Boyle,
Mrs F. W. Peard, I. C. Maconachie and J. L. Rankin.

For the record:

Men's singles:

Flemming Delfs (Den) bt
Elo Hansen (Den) 15-4 15-7

Women's singles:

Gillian Gilks (Eng) bt
Lene Koppen (Den) 11-5 11-5

Men's doubles:

Ray Stevens & Mike Tredgett (Eng)
bt Ed Sutton & Derek Talbot (Eng)
13-15 15-12 15-6

Women's doubles:

Gillian Gilks & Sue Whetnall (Eng)
bt Margaret Lockwood &
Nora Gardner (Eng) 15-8 15-4

Mixed doubles:

Derek Talbot & Gillian Gilks (Eng)
bt Steen Skovgaard &
Lene Koppen (Den) 6-15 15-12 17-15

A real triumph for honest endeavour and team spirit

Jadwiga Slawska-Szalewicz turns the clock back to 1985 and recalls how a small and dedicated work force overcame the difficulties of staging the *Helvetia Cup* in Warsaw



IN 1985 we were preparing for the Helvetia Cup team championship in Warsaw. It was a very difficult time. Poland was poor, grey and sad, but we were all full of energy and we wanted to do so much!

Janusz Rybka came from Wrocław with his team to clean the Mera Sport Hall. We cleaned it inside out and by the time we finished, it was shining! The light bulbs were replaced and special curtains hanged by the mountaineers (obviously our friends).

Andrzej Szalewicz was simply everywhere and had to know all the details and decide about everything, even about the tapes that we used to mark the courts. The company called 3M helped us tremendously by giving us approximately 1,000 meters of tape (each court needed approximately 100m). Not available in the shops, it was our luck that Andrzej knew people from this firm.

Just once we made a mistake when outlining the courts. After the whole night of work, we needed to correct them by 20cm. That was a nerve-racking and very tiring exercise! There were flags and some nice sponsors' adverts, mostly from Carlton.

Talking about sponsors, PLL LOT sponsored us by arranging cheap flights for all the teams, FSO

Warszawa lent us six Fiat cars with drivers and most important, petrol coupons!

So all in all, flowers, adverts, clean courts and baskets for players' clothes, were all nicely arranged. Pepa Pearsona (Pip Pearson), the Carlton representative, signed with us a two-year contract and we received 350 dozen shuttlecocks with plastic heads (new technology in 1985).

Ryszard Borek was given 30 dozen for the team to train in Glubczyce. That was the only place where the sports hall did not cost an arm and a leg, as the manager of OSiR, Marian Masiuk, from whom we rented the place, was a great badminton fan (his

daughter Marzena was a junior player on the national team). We were also given rackets and clothing by Carlton. The team looked wonderful and I was so proud of them and happy with everything.

My happiness did not last for long though, as one day, Andrzej ran into the office with a pile of newspapers and, with a troubled face, announced: "You will be arrested! All of us will be arrested! We will not get out of jail!"

"What," I asked. "Arrest? Jail? Are you mad?"

At last Andrzej said: "In all newspapers it is written that you have sold the event to the English, the whole sport hall is in blue, Carlton is the name of the



Jadwiga Slawska-Szalewicz and Stan Mitchell at the 1986 ADM in Uppsala



OPENING TIME:
EBU President Stan Mitchell and Polish BA President Andrzej Szalewicz signal the start of the Championships

Championship, Carlton in the brochure, Carlton in the adverts, Carlton in the press, simply Carlton bought our event! Some people must have taken a lot of backhanders, of course all think it is you, you will be arrested and Championship is in two days, damn."

"Phew, if that is all, I am relieved!"

I started to laugh, wonderful, that is great advertising for us! I flicked through all the papers, the titles were almost identical everywhere and I couldn't contain my joy, all that press for free. How many people are going to come after reading it, not only to watch the games but also to see people who sold the event to the English?

Three thousand people came! They were everywhere, sitting and standing as there were not enough seats. All the journalists were immediately taken by Ryszard Lachman, Zbyszek Mazanek (my brother who is unfortunately no longer with us, he died in 1992) and Grzegorz Gajewski to Andrzej Szalewicz who arranged seats for them in the VIP area next to the Sport Minister, Marian Renke, his deputy Stanisław Stefan Paszczyk (died in 2009), Stan Mitchell, President of EBU, Emile ter Metz, Honorary General Secretary of EBU, Audrey Kinkead, President of the Irish Badminton



Pictures: JAN ROZMARYNOWSKI

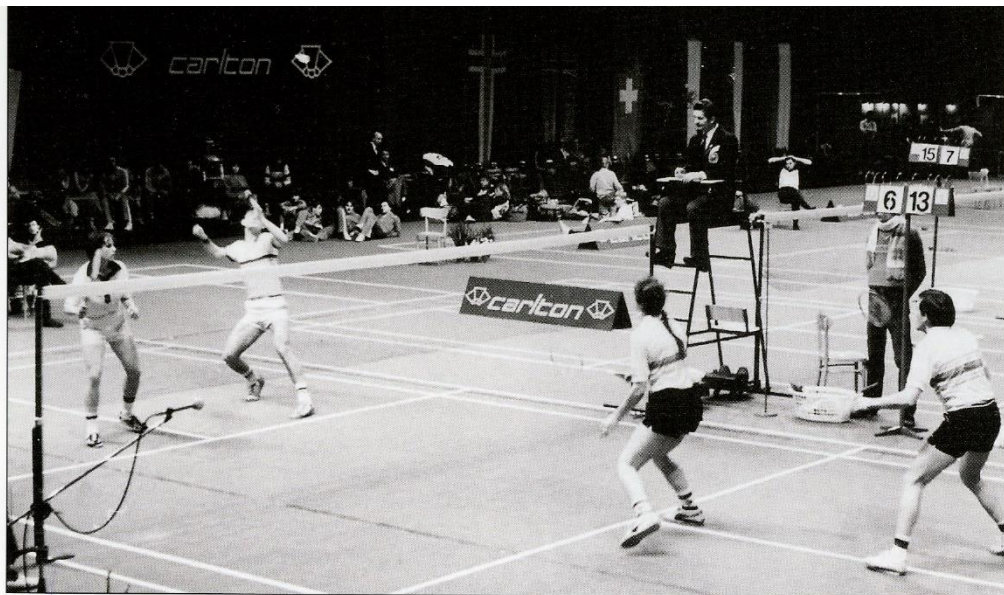
Association and member of the EBU Development Commission, and Torsten Berg, President of the Development Commission of EBU.

After many years, I have found out that Paszczyk, Deputy of the Sport Minister, told GKKFIS officials to visit our events to learn how to organise international championships. I am sure he was not aware of the fears we had regarding a so-called "sold event to the English."

Hotel Vera's manager Jadzia and restaurant manager Krysia did everything to supply good food for everybody, which was almost a miracle in the 1980s. Zbyszek Lippe, Vice President of Warsaw, helped us by issuing extra meat coupons and hard currency shop Pewex was very well stocked with alcohol, the price for which was some 0.80\$ to 2.50\$ per bottle!

The chain of hotels Vera, Novotel, Solec and Grand Hotel was run by Tadeusz Słarsa and he was extremely effective in achieving the unachievable! We always tried to show Poland at its best: 'Not that

Continued on page 52



much in the shops? These are only temporary problems and look here, we have all you need'. That was the way we presented our country.

The amount of paper work we had to prepare was unbelievable, to police for getting the permission to organise the event, to airport management for speedy immigration checks, to hotel for food, coffee and toilet paper etc.

Badminton was, however, our priority and we did everything, no matter how difficult it was. You must remember that hardly anyone had a car in those days and most of the time we used buses and trams (even large amounts of money was transported this way by Renia Jarnutowska, which was not that safe). Only Andrzej had a Fiat 126.

When I started to work for the Polish Badminton Association I had to learn all about it, I also had to learn English as in my previous work at the Polish Fencing Association, French was obligatory.

I started the Polish Badminton Association together with B. Zdeb, J. Szulinski, A. Szalewicz, J. Wrzodak, J. Krzewilski, E. Jaromin, T. Sudczak, W. Derych, J. Musiol and a few more in 1977. I went to Groningen in 1980 after studying English for two

years with Joanna Malesa (Kolacka) and I could by that time speak fluently and arrange all things necessary for our first international championship.

The trip for six players, one coach and Andrzej was paid by the Association but I paid for my trip myself. During the whole event I was taking notes about everything, from organisation, opening ceremony, music, decoration, hostesses, courts, hotels, referees, cafes, prices, banquet, communication, everything. This was extremely useful when organising our own championship.

I haven't got my own pictures from that time (I didn't have the camera). That's why I have asked Jan Rozmarynowski, our friendly photographer, to give us the best ones. It wasn't until 1987 that I bought a camera in Singapore and it lasted for 14 years!

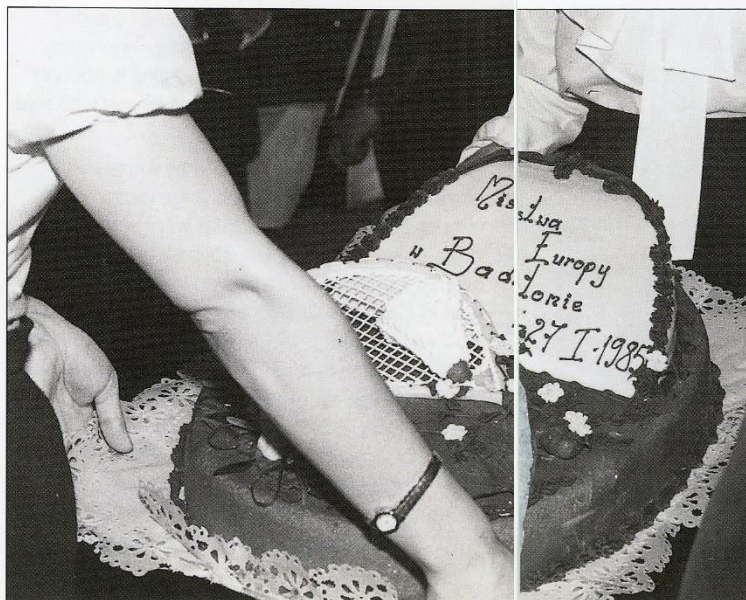
During the opening ceremony everyone gathered at the sport hall, players, referees, coaches, VIP, hostesses (wearing white pullovers and red skirts), guests and sponsors. Andrzej gave an opening speech and Stan Mitchell praised us at the end for a perfectly organised event.

All were given souvenirs – red-white hats and scarves. All VIPs were taken to the Concert Hall at

Okólnik Street where our famous pianist Janusz Olejniczak played some Chopin. The cost for PBA for that concert was a flower bouquet. Bogumil Palasz, who was a director there, was my teacher in the secondary school. He also arranged the visit of Zelazowa Wola Palace, where Chopin was born. At the end of the day we visited the restaurant Pod Wierzbl where we had some delicious Polish pierogi (dumplings) and red champagne!

All this was possible because we worked like one big family, my sister-in-law Jola worked as a cashier, my parents worked at the entrance of the sport hall, preparing coffee and distributing toilet paper (you simply could not leave rolls of paper in the toilet as it would be taken and you must remember that toilet paper was a very difficult product to obtain).

Before our Championship, in January, the Austrian Championship took place. It was a good opportunity to go there and to see what else is needed for our games. I went to see Horst Kullnigg, president of Austrian Badminton Association, and asked: "What are they doing with the boxes where all the games paperwork was stored?"



"Throwing away" was the answer. "Such good boxes," I said, "can we have them?"

And this way we had 23 boxes and countless pens that were used for many years in Poland!

Horst, knowing what a difficult situation we were in, added a few kilos of fantastic coffee that was used later on for all the VIPs and guests.

Horst, who later became financial director of EBU, was our great friend and helped us countless times. By telex we could communicate with him and many times his players brought us some essential goods. Telex was a very useful device that was operated by Regina Jarnutowska, it was shared by many associations in our office.

The Championship official opening ceremony took place in the Wola Theatre. Six hundred players, coaches, referees and VIPs watched the folk dance show by a dance group from the Akademii Wychowania Fizycznego, which we managed to arrange for a relatively small amount of money. The folk group dance was marvellous and the enthusiasm and talent of all the boys and girls was extraordinary.

There was an unexpected incident, when the necklace of one of the girls fell apart and her partner masterfully picked up all the beads while doing press ups, which was met with big applause! EBU Council members received scarves and hats presented by the dance group.

One of my strong memories from this ceremony is Anders Segercrantz words. He said that he had never seen such a glorious opening

ceremony. I was so proud. If only he knew how difficult life in Poland was and how much effort it all cost us.

The last day of the Championship was a Sunday. We presented some lovely vases as trophies and organised a banquet in the evening. It was a pleasure to watch all our players, coaches and referees (the last ones all dressed in grey trousers and navy blue jackets specially tailored for them).

Through this banquet we wanted to say thank you to everyone who worked so hard during our event. I think we all think about these times so warmly as we had such an amazing team and spirit. All 30-40 people worked so closely between 1980-1985. We cared about everything and everybody, we didn't quarrel, we helped each other. These times will never come back.

I should mention two important men: Janusz Lojka and Andrzej Szalewicz, both avid stamp and card collectors. The very first postcard was printed by Janusz for the Helvetia Cup.

Leading in the cards collections were Japanese and Austrians; Janusz designed and printed together with the Polish Post hundreds of cards and stamps, as well as envelopes. Perhaps I will write about it some other time.

To finish my memories I would like to remind you of the speech by Emile ter Metz in 1985. He said: "I hate sport activists who say I sacrifice for sport, people like that should go. We need people who love the sport and give their hearts. Their reward will be to see people who are the future of the country and future of Europe, physically and mentally mature and ready for their tasks. You will be rewarded seeing friendship between people from many countries and a better understanding of the world. Perhaps one day the only battles will be the ones fought on the badminton court. In the name of the



PRESENTATION TIME: Polish BA President Andrzej Szalewicz with the hostesses in folk dress

EBU, I thank you for being part of it."

Nobody listening to these words in 1985 could foresee the United Europe, nobody thought that Poland would develop so beautifully and that we will forget about such problems as where to buy towel or soap or toilet paper.

At the end of the banquet, the Polish Badminton Association was rewarded with a medal for the organisation of the Championship and I was the recipient of it.

JOB WELL DONE: Jadwiga receives a medal on behalf of the Polish Badminton Association organising team from Stan Mitchell



Success Story

The BEC Summer School

THE BEC Summer School is a long-lasting success story for us. The unique, week-long training and education camp for elite junior players and their coaches from all over Europe, directed by senior expert coaches, provides the participants with special high-level opportunities to learn about the game and improve their skills, while at the same time giving them a valuable cultural experience and an opportunity to make friends.

The Summer School was one of the first initiatives from the EBU Development Committee. Martin Andersen and Torsten Berg developed the concept. Horst Kullnigg offered his home town facilities of Sacré-Coeur and looked after all practicalities and Audrey Kinkead served as the secretarial anchor.

The first EBU Summer School was delivered in 1982 in Pressbaum with Torsten as Director. From 1986 Martin took over and every July since then there was an EBU (from 2006 BEC) Summer School.

Now the BEC Coaching staff, directed by Jeroen van Dijk, is in charge. Jeroen was a participant as a junior player in 1989.

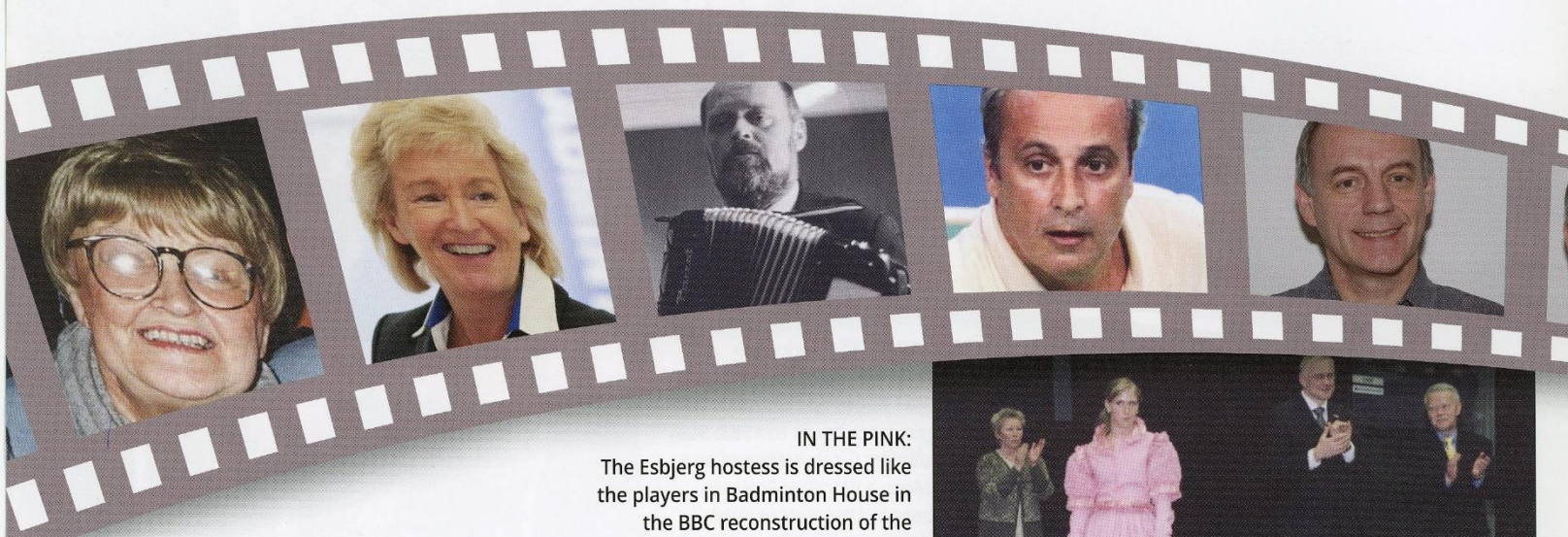
The concept has been adapted and developed over the years but the general idea that has proved successful from the outset remains.



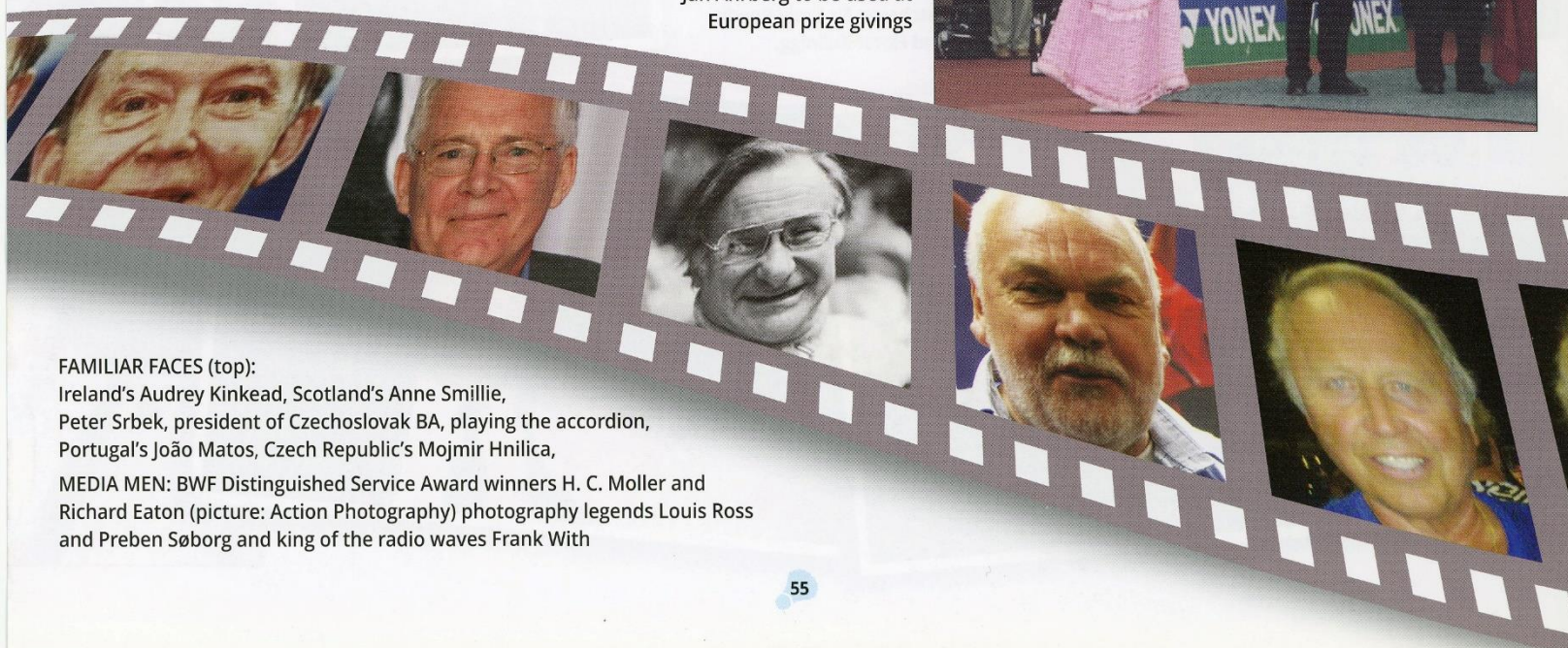
TOP CLASS: The 2004 Summer School in Pressbaum, Austria, and (below) the 2016 school in Podčetrtek, Slovenia



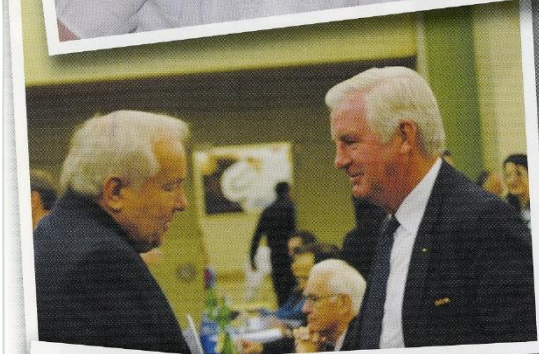
Memories in Focus



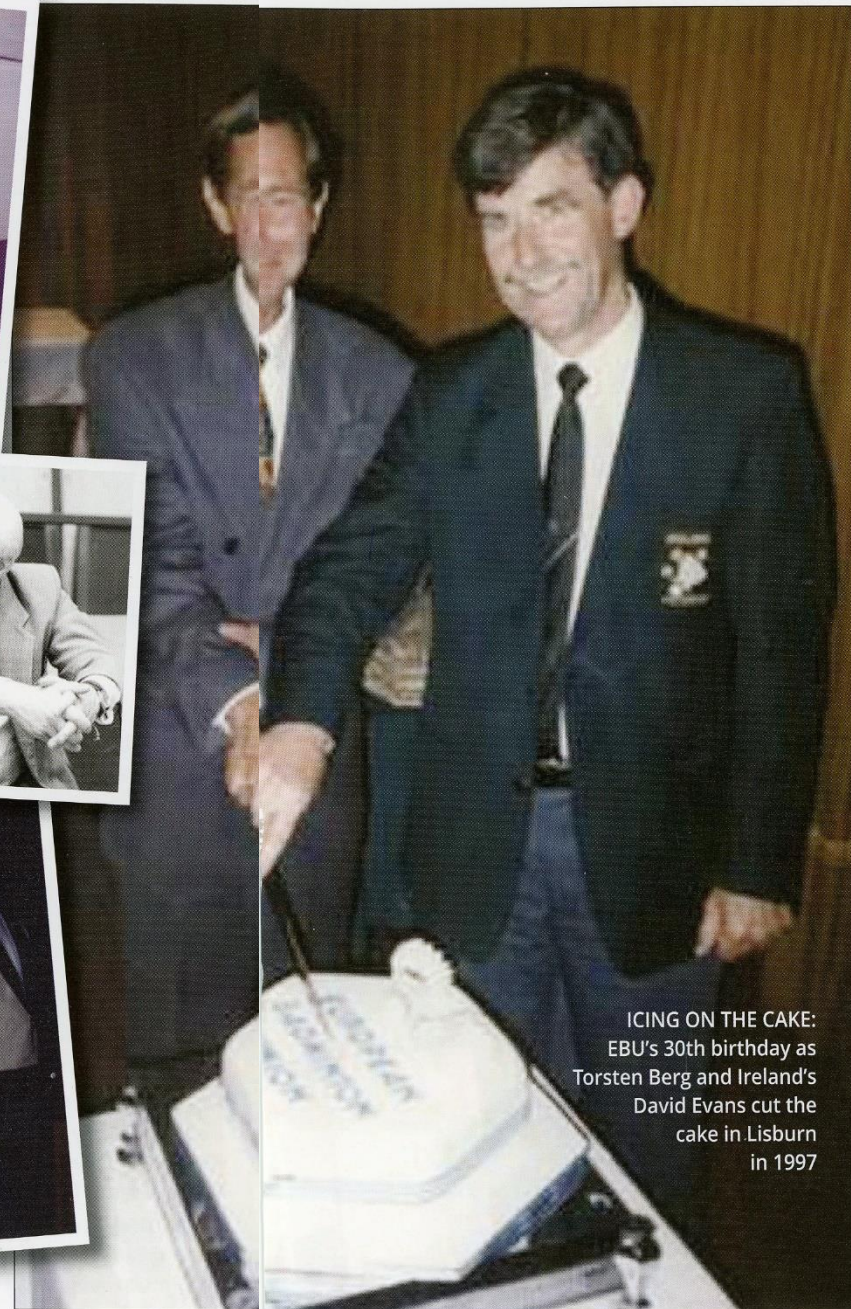
IN THE PINK:
The Esbjerg hostess is dressed like the players in Badminton House in the BBC reconstruction of the original game. The dress was a donation from Sweden and Jan Åhrberg to be used at European prize givings



FAMILIAR FACES (top):
Ireland's Audrey Kinkead, Scotland's Anne Smillie, Peter Srbek, president of Czechoslovak BA, playing the accordion, Portugal's João Matos, Czech Republic's Mojmir Hnilica,
MEDIA MEN: BWF Distinguished Service Award winners H. C. Moller and Richard Eaton (picture: Action Photography) photography legends Louis Ross and Preben Søborg and king of the radio waves Frank With



FAMILIAR FACES (clockwise)
BWF's Ronnie Rowan with Tom Bacher;
Torsten Berg, Joe Benes and Stan Mitchell
at Anders Segercrantz house in 1983; Stan
and Horst Kullnigg; Gisela Hoffman and
Emile ter Metz; a Working Group in
St Petersburg in 1996 (left to right)
Simeon Simeonov, Puzant Kassabian,
Torsten Berg, João Matos, Horst Kullnigg,
Vladimir Liftshits, Audrey Kinkad and
Derek Batchelor; Sir Craig Reedie
and Horst Kullnigg.

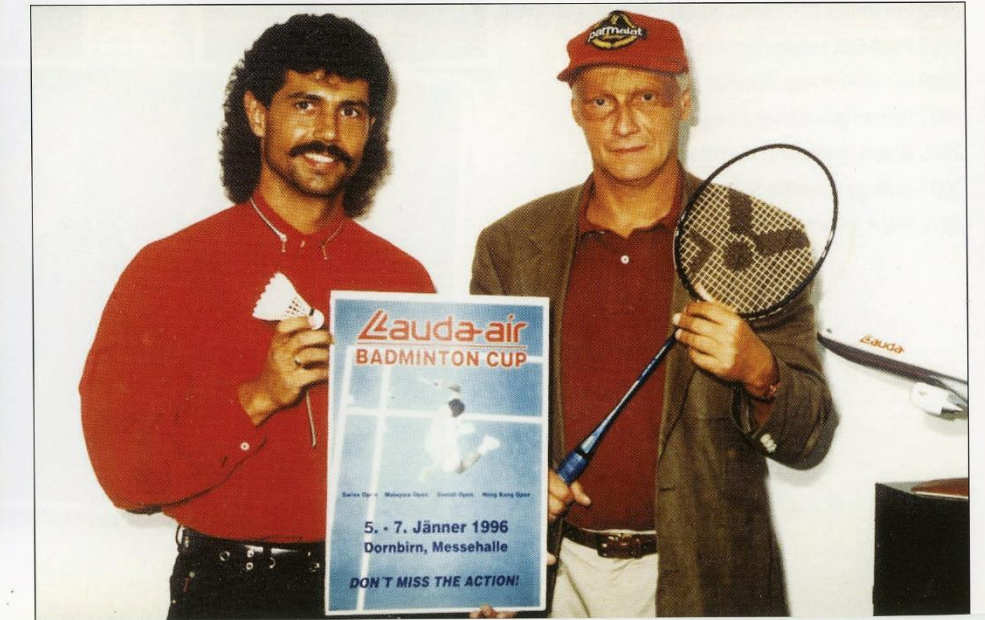


ICING ON THE CAKE:
EBU's 30th birthday as
Torsten Berg and Ireland's
David Evans cut the
cake in Lisburn
in 1997



IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch witnesses Anders Segercrantz donating the Finlandia Cup trophy to President Heinz Barge in Lausanne at the 1st Finlandia Cup in January 1984

WINNING FORMULA: Three-times world motor racing champion Niki Lauda at the launch of the Lauda Air Cup competition



Awards

The President's Medal

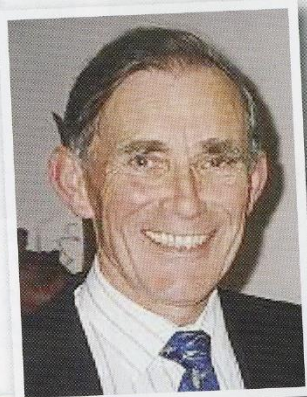
IN 1992 at the 25th anniversary celebration of the EBU former Presidents and close friends Stellan Mohlin and Herman Valken offered a very special medal to be presented to those who had made an extraordinary contribution to badminton in Europe.

The intention was that it should be presented once every five years and they had produced the first five medals. Their only condition was that the first recipient should be Czechoslovakia's Joe Benes, who for many years had served as the information officer and statistician of European badminton.

This generous offer was very well received and in 1998 Poul-Erik Høyer was presented with the second President's Medal for his outstanding achievements on court and his continuous availability for Europe whenever called upon.

The full list of distinguished recipients is:

- 1992 Joe Benes (Czechoslovakia)
- 1998 Poul-Erik Høyer (Denmark)
- 2000 Horst Kullnigg (Austria)
- 2001 Puzant Kassabian (Bulgaria)
- 2005 Gisela Hoffmann (Germany)
- 2007 Jadwiga Slawska-Szalewicz (Poland)
- 2012 Frank Wilson (England)



Irene Delvai is honoured by Torsten Berg



Puzant Kassabian receives an award from Tom Bacher



Stan Mitchell makes a presentation to IOC member Pal Schmitt in Budapest 1989



BWF President Dr Kang (right) shares the limelight with Gisela Hoffman as she gets her Herbert Scheele Trophy and (left) receives her BWF Distinguished Service Award from Mme Lu Sheng Rong



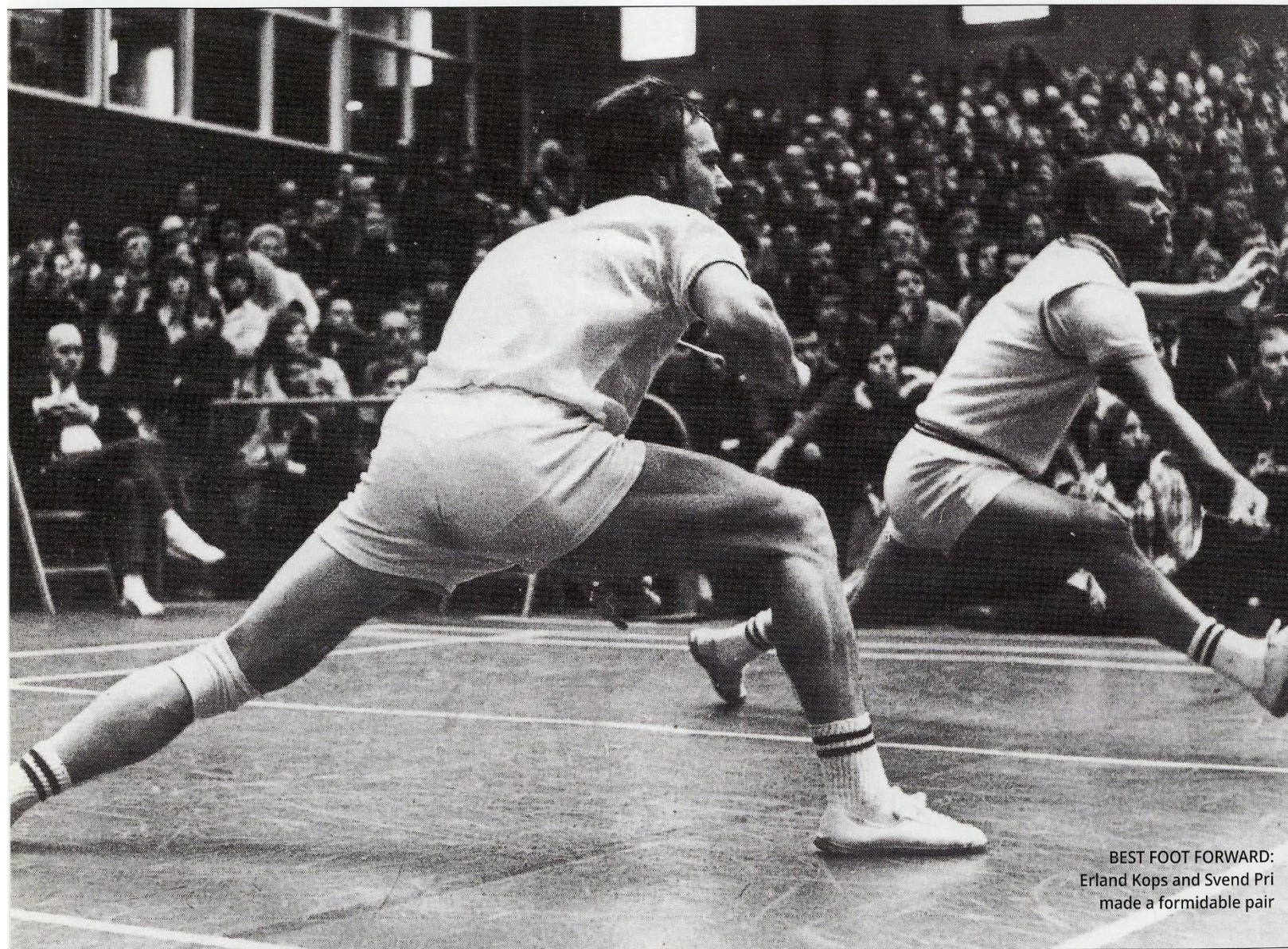


Finland's
Tuomo Tennila (above)
and Austria's
Gerhard Salzer
receive their
Distinguished
Service Awards



MORE FAME:
England's Nora Perry is made
a member of the BWF Hall of
Fame by Mme Lu Sheng
Rong, Bulgaria's Puzant
Kassabian (second right)
receives the President's
Medal, and Torsten Berg
receives a painting as a
present from Council to
mark his retirement
as President in 2004





BEST FOOT FORWARD:
Erland Kops and Svend Pri
made a formidable pair

Hall of Fame

- 2013 Erland Kops
- 2014 Gillian Gilks
- 2015 Lene Koppen
- 2016 Morten Frost

The citations penned by Torsten Berg

2013 - ERLAND KOPS

Erland Kops is the most successful Danish men's singles player, with seven All England titles from 1958 to 1967. Moreover, he won four All England men's doubles titles in 1958 with Poul-Erik Nielsen and 1967, 1968 and 1969 partnering Henning Borch. He was the first European to win major titles in Asia as he moved to Thailand after winning his 1958 titles to work for a major Danish trading company and to improve and test his game.

In the 1960s he travelled the world and won numerous titles along the way, dominating for nearly a decade the men's singles game. His long and successful career finished with two European men's doubles medals in 1970 and 1972.

Erland was a physically very strong and extremely well-trained player. He combined fast footwork with accurate stroke play and a devastating smash. His strong will, his understanding of badminton and its tactics, as well as his legendary stamina, made his game complete. While he could show his temper on court, his mild manners outside the court won him numerous friends all over the world.



After his playing career Erland Kops joined Badminton Denmark, then the Danish BA, as a selector and team manager for several years. His experience travelling the world helped his younger colleagues, and long after he left the association to focus on his personal business career, he was always prepared to use his contacts in Asia to help ambitious young badminton players dreaming of following in his footsteps.

Erland Kops was introduced to the BWF Hall of Fame in 1997 and became the first member of Badminton Europe's Hall of Fame in 2012. When in 2000 he received a knighthood from the Queen of Denmark for his badminton achievements, he was the first, and for many years the only badminton player to have this rare honour, until it was recently bestowed upon BWF President and Olympic gold medal winner Poul-Erik Høyer.

GREATS TOGETHER:

Erland receives his BWF Lifetime Achievement Award from President Poul-Erik Høyer

JUST as this booklet was being prepared for publication came the sad news that 80-year-old Erland Kops had passed away on February 18 after a lengthy illness

2014 - GILLIAN GILKS

DUBLIN is a milestone in the history of badminton in Europe. Thirty-eight years ago, almost to the day in 1976, European badminton was in Dublin for our Championships – and an excellent and very well-organised championship it was. For years to come, Dublin was the model to follow – and in the stadium there was one player standing out among all the others. Our new member of the Hall of Fame.

She won in Dublin all three titles, women's singles, women's doubles with Sue Whetnall and mixed doubles with Derek Talbot. It was no big surprise because in all three events she was the defending champion, having already won the Triple Crown in Vienna in 1974, partnering Judy Hashman in the women's doubles and Derek in the mixed. Of course, the new member of the European Hall of Fame is Gillian Gilks.

A few words about her fantastic career, with emphasis on the results in European badminton: Already in the first Europeans in Bochum 1968, GG was on the podium – winning silver medals in women's doubles with Angela Bairstow and in mixed with Roger Mills, under her maiden name of Gillian Perrin.

In Karlskrona in 1972, she won her first European titles, women's doubles with Margaret Beck and

mixed with Derek. In 1974 and 1976 she won all three – an achievement no-one else has equalled – and most likely no-one ever will!

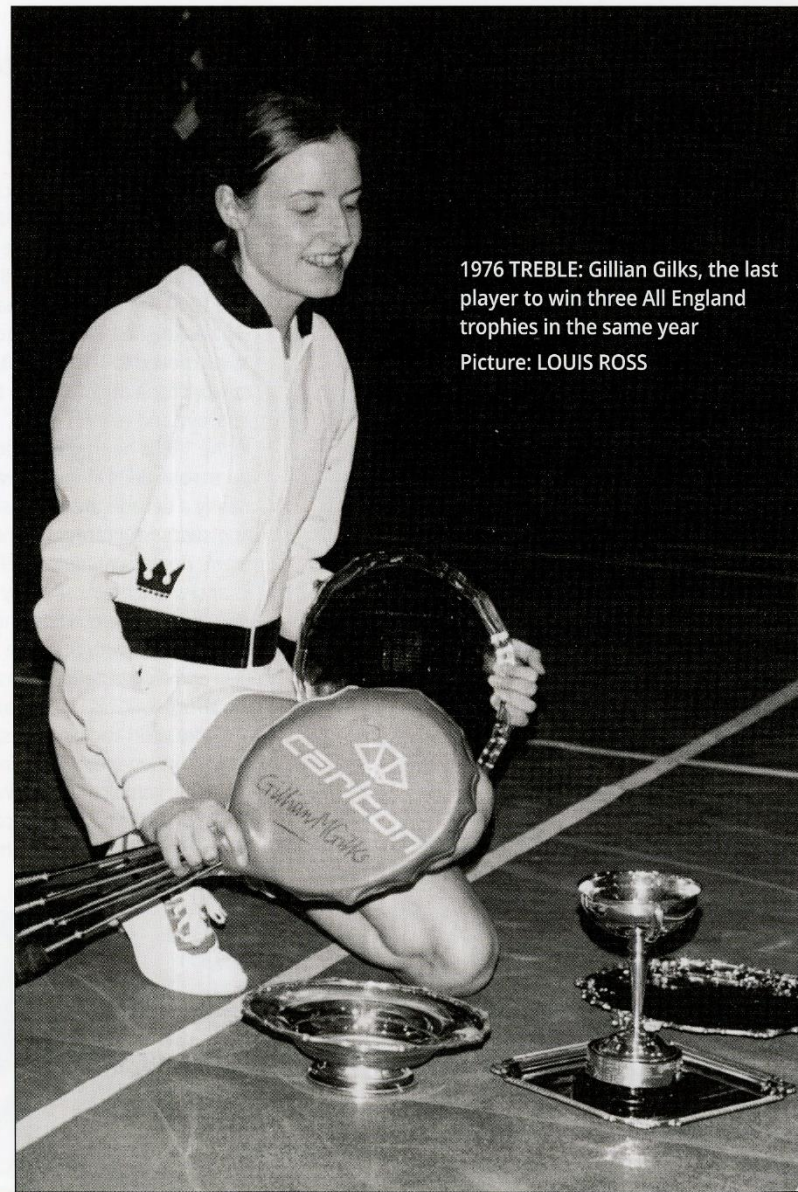
She went on to win a total of 12 European titles, the last one in Sweden again in claiming the mixed doubles with Martin Dew in 1986 in Uppsala, almost 20 years after her European debut. The 12 titles, too, is a record in Europe that will hardly ever be beaten.

Of course, Gillian Gilks won much more than European Championships: She is also among the most successful players of the modern era at the All England with 11 titles to her name, again in all three events, and including a triple in 1976 – the last time it has ever happened, and I dare say it never will happen again.

You will remember that those days, before the first World Championships in Malmö in 1977, the All England was considered an unofficial 'Worlds'.

I could go on with Gillian's achievements all night but will just add that even in the first World Championships proper she won two silver, singles and mixed with Derek, a women's doubles bronze in Copenhagen 1983 with Gill Clark and her very last one, bronze in mixed in Beijing 1987 with Martin Dew.

Let us sit back and enjoy for a few minutes a video of the one of the last and surely one of the greatest all-round badminton players there's ever been – slim, tall, elegant, our new Hall of Fame member Gillian Gilks



1976 TREBLE: Gillian Gilks, the last player to win three All England trophies in the same year

Picture: LOUIS ROSS

2015 - LENE KØPPEN

The winner of the Badminton Europe Hall of Fame this year is a player of quite exceptional playing and personal qualities – qualities that have given her status as a legend in the game, so that she is still very well remembered although she stopped her international career early in 1983. And she holds a record that is unique in badminton and is likely to remain forever!

Lene was, of course, strong as a junior player already, but she happened to be born in a year of very good women players in Europe and in particular to grow up with compatriot Anne Berglund, who was just a little better in those early years. Anne won the European Junior Singles Championships both in 1969 and 1971 and went on to be All England runner-up at the age of 18, only to have to give the game up the following year due to a serious back injury.

Lene's only European Junior title came in women's doubles in 1971 when she and Anne beat the English top girls Nora Gardner and Barbara Giles. Those two names may not tell you much, but if I say Nora Perry and Barbara Sutton, many of you will surely remember!

Soon after that, Lene arrived at the summit of the international women's game, as a versatile all-round player of singles, occasionally even doubles, and in particular mixed doubles with Steen Skovgaard.

For several years she fought great singles battles against last year's European Hall of Fame winner Gillian Gilks, with Gillian winning the European women's singles finals in 1974 and 1976 against Lene, and Lene taking the titles in 1978 and again in 1982. Lene also won two All England titles in 1979 and 1980 and in the 10 years of her career, she steadily reached at least the semi-finals of the All England singles every year but one.

Lene's greatest achievement, and the one that more

than anything else has won her iconic status, came in the first week of May 1977. In the first World Badminton Championships in Malmö, she won both women's singles, beating her arch rival Gillian Gilks in the final, and later same day collected the mixed doubles title with Steen Skovgaard, again with Gillian and partner Derek Talbot taking the silver medals.

As Flemming Delfs beat Svend Pri on that same sunny Sunday morning for the men's singles title, this became the greatest day in Danish badminton history – with Lene as the superstar!

Her style on court as well as her personality contributes to her legendary status. She was a fighter and thanks to her fast and elegant footwork, she covered the court very well. Her strokes were



well trained and she made very few errors. Rarely was she caught in the backhand side, but should it happen she managed to sweep an underhand clear to the baseline that often took her out of trouble.

Her concentration on court was her strongest point, and off court her neat and smiling appearance and her modest ways was an asset to the game.

Lene is a very well organised person, even as a youngster. She managed to plan her daily life so that she could combine the hard badminton and physical training with her studies, and a few weeks after her triumph in Malmö, she graduated as a dental surgeon. Her personal life she kept to herself and husband Hans Røpke, also a badminton player in the Danish National squad at the time.

When she retired – rather early after the World Championships in Copenhagen in 1983 – she was reigning European champion and still among the best players in the world, she was asked why? The answer was, smiling of course, that she had achieved all that she wanted in badminton and now wanted to do something else with her life!

So she did, and that includes a fine career in her dental profession. In recent years, Lene and Hans have occasionally been seen at badminton events, following daughter Marie Røpke playing doubles successfully for Denmark.

I said in my introduction that Lene Køppen holds a unique record in badminton. She won two World Championships titles on that wonderful Sunday in 1977. Well, she is not the only player having won two world titles on the same day, Park Joo Bong in men's and mixed doubles and three Chinese women have also won titles in women's doubles and mixed, most recently Zhao Yunlei.

However, Lene is the only player in the world to have won both a singles and a doubles World title in the same Championship – that is a unique record, and I don't think it will ever be equalled.

Picture: PREBEN SØBORG



2016 - MORTEN FROST

HE IS probably the greatest men's singles player in recent badminton history. And it is a particular pleasure to present to you as the nominee for the Badminton Europe Hall of Fame 2016 a gentleman that I have known well for so many years.

I met him in 1972. Coaching the Sjælland junior squad, an under 14 boy challenged me to a match in the afternoon break. Still playing in the Danish first league those days I won the first game, but then the skilful boy had figured me out, played all my weak points and easily won in three – already at that young age his ability to analyse the opponent and adapt his game was extraordinary! That boy was indeed special.

He went on to break through the Danish scene in 1978, winning the national men's singles title, beating both the reigning world champion Flemming Delfs and runner-up Svend Pri.

A technically very skilled player, his strength was this ability to analyse and adapt his game. To work the weak points of his opponent, with patience. Not having a very powerful smash, but with unequalled will power. Hating to lose, he NEVER gave up. Quite often he won, even if he trailed far behind in the last game.

The All England was HIS scene in the 1980s. Eight years consecutively he reached the finals. The first victory came in 1982 and was followed by three more, in 1984, 86 and 87 – and the other four years he was runner-up. For a decade, he was the world's best and most successful player, winning numerous international titles, such as the Denmark Open eight years out of nine in the 1980s.

Yes, you are right – we speak about MORTEN FROST, the new name in the BEC Hall of Fame.

And twice Morten was ever so close to winning the world title – in Calgary in 1985, where Han Jian caught up with his lead in the third game, and in Beijing two years later, where he fought back, against the drift and 16.000 enthusiastic Chinese supporters, from 1-10 down in the third game to 12-13 against Yang Yang, only to have a close and crucial line call go against him.

Morten also dominated the European Championships in the 1980s. Runner-up in Groningen in 1980, where he and Flemming Delfs played a great final – perhaps the best European final so far, and Flemming's last great final. Away because of a contract issue in 1982, he came back to

win in 1984 in Preston and again in Uppsala 1986 then came second to England's Darren Hall in Kristiansand 1988.

A true gentleman on and off court, always controlling his strong temper throughout his career, Morten was a true asset to the game when he played. After retiring he has been coaching and mentoring in Denmark and abroad, in Malaysia in particular.

We are fortunate still to have Morten Frost around the courts where the most important matches are played. Moreover, Morten nowadays uses his analytical skills as a highly appreciated television commentator to the benefit of TV viewers worldwide watching badminton.

TALENT SPOTTER: Torsten Berg discovered first hand what a special talent the young Morten Frost was



World's Gold Stars

World Championship heroes and heroines

JUST before Badminton Europe's official 50th birthday in September the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2017 will be staged in Glasgow.

It will be the 24th World Championships and to date Europe have produced two men's singles champions in Flemming Delfs at the first Championships in Malmo in 1977 and Peter Rasmussen in Glasgow in 1997.

In women's singles Denmark's Lene Koppen (1977) and Camilla Martin (Copenhagen, 1999) have won gold while Spain's Carolina Marin won two years in a row in 2014 and 2015 before also winning Olympic gold in 2016.

Lene Koppen remains the only European player to have won two gold medals at the same World Championships (1977) when Denmark won both singles and the mixed doubles title.

Denmark's Thomas Lund, now BWF Secretary General and Chief Operating Officer, is the only European doubles player to have won gold medals at successive World Championships – in mixed doubles with Catrine Bengtsson of Sweden in 1993 and with Denmark's Marlene Thomsen in 1995. (It was not until 2005 that the World Championships switched from every two years to every year except Olympic year).

Mixed doubles has proved to be Europe's most successful event with six golds, with two golds in men's doubles and just one gold in women's doubles through Nora Perry and Jane Webster in Jakarta in 1980. Apart from the England pair's triumph, women's doubles is an event where Asia have been dominant.

The full list of European World Championship gold medallists is:

1977 (Malmo)

Men's singles: Flemming Delfs (Den)

Women's singles: Lene Koppen (Den)

Mixed doubles: Steen Skovgaard

& Lene Koppen (Den)

1980 (Jakarta)

Women's doubles: Nora Perry

& Jane Webster (Eng)

1983 (Copenhagen)

Men's doubles: Steen Fladberg

& Jesper Helledie (Den)

Mixed doubles: Thomas Kihlstrom (Swe)

& Nora Perry (Eng)

1993 (Birmingham)

Mixed doubles: Thomas Lund (Den)

& Catrine Bengtsson (Swe)

1995 (Lausanne)

Mixed doubles: Thomas Lund

& Marlene Thomsen (Den)

1997 (Glasgow)

Men's singles: Peter Rasmussen (Den)

1999 (Copenhagen)

Women's singles: Camilla Martin (Den)

2003 (Birmingham)

Men's doubles: Lars Paaske

& Jonas Rasmussen (Den)

2006 (Seville)

Mixed doubles: Nathan Robertson

& Gail Emms (Eng)

2009 (Hyderabad)

Mixed doubles: Thomas Laybourn

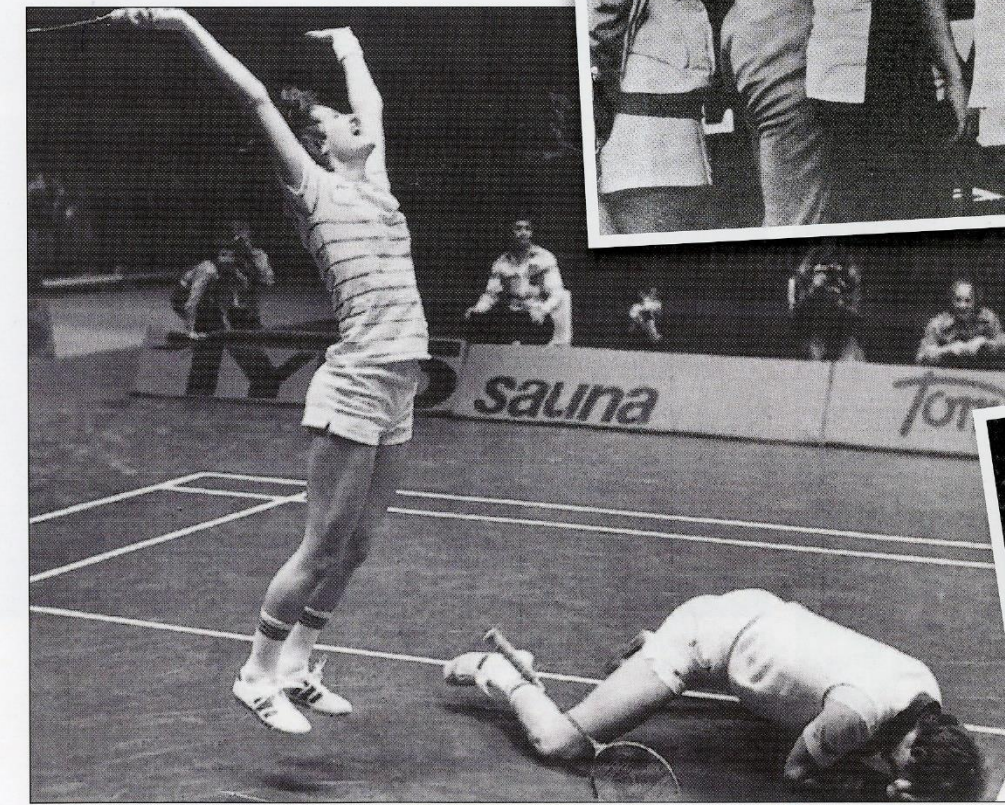
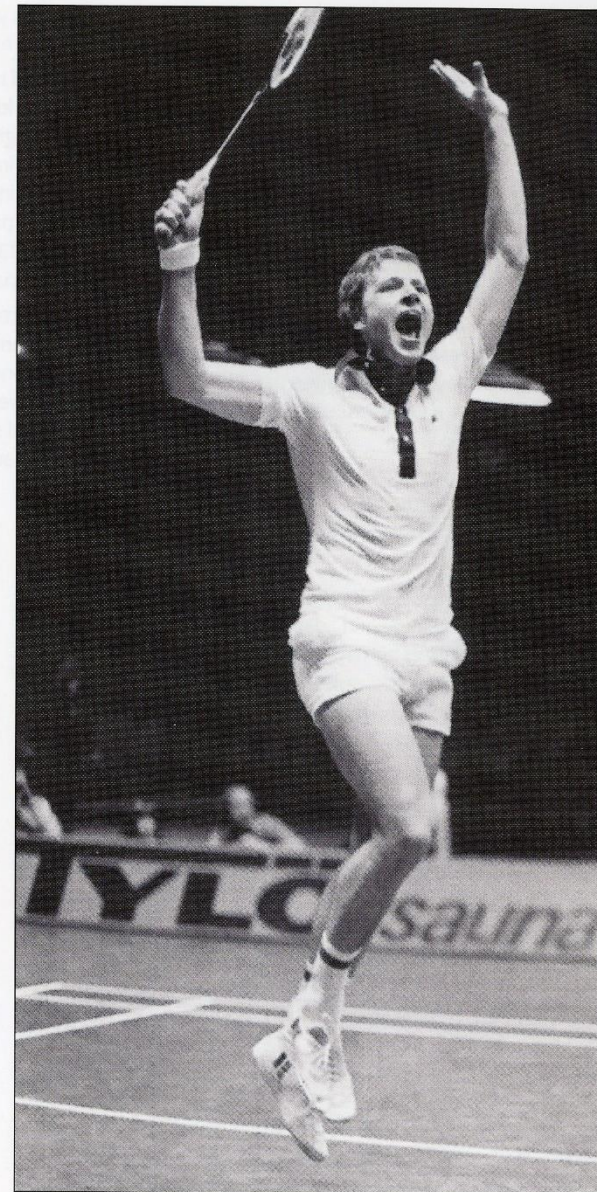
& Kamilla Rytter Juhl

2014 (Copenhagen)

Women's singles: Carolina Marin (Esp)

2015 (Jakarta)

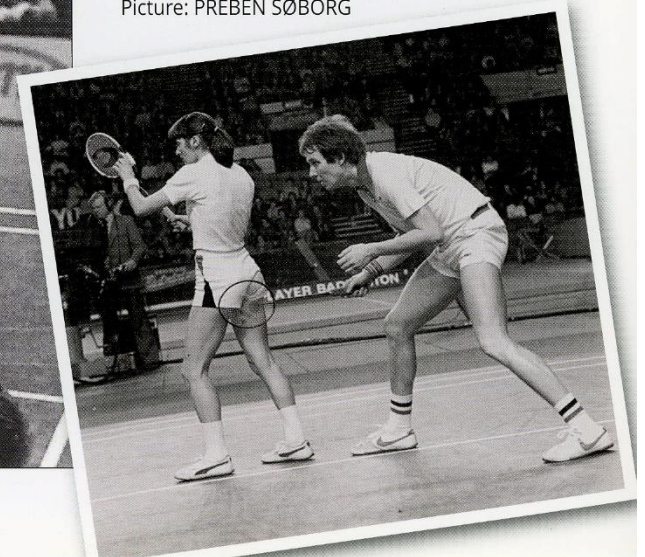
Women's singles: Carolina Marin (Esp)



1977: Flemming Delfs (left) wins the men's singles at the first World Championships in Malmo while Lene Koppen adds to her women's singles title by taking the mixed doubles with Steen Skovgaard (below) to give Denmark three titles in Malmo

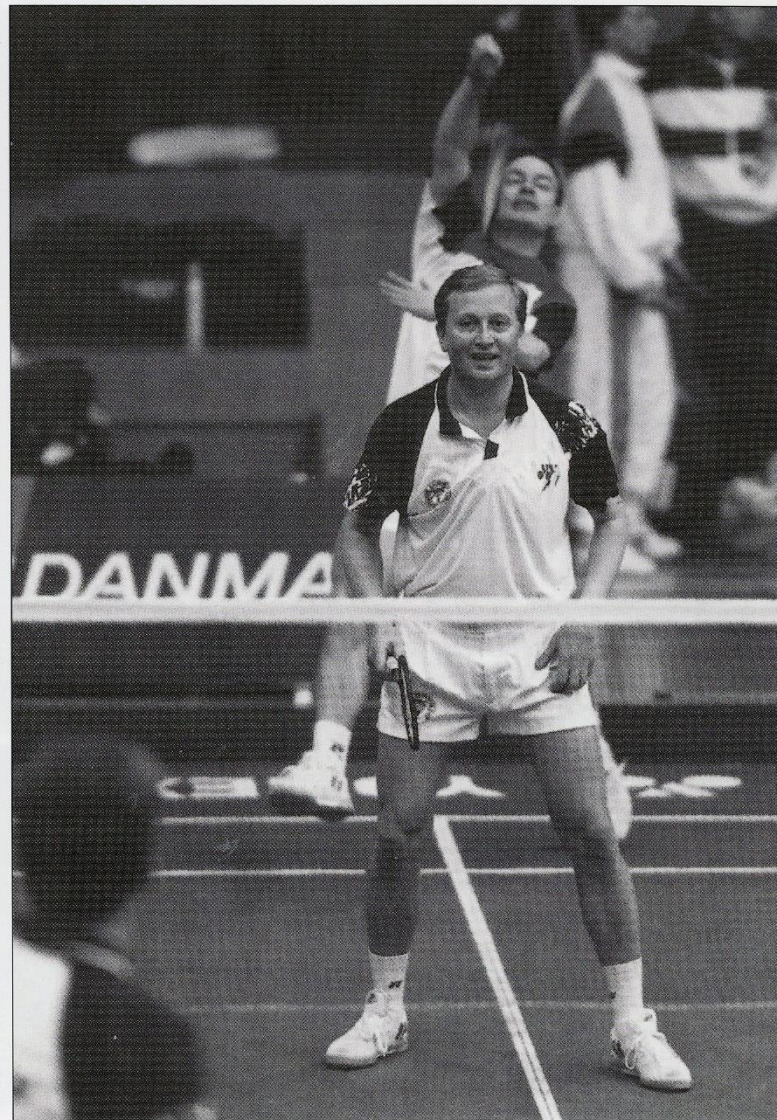


1980: England's Nora Perry and Jane Webster (above) are Europe's only winners, taking the women's doubles title in Jakarta
Picture: PREBEN SØBORG

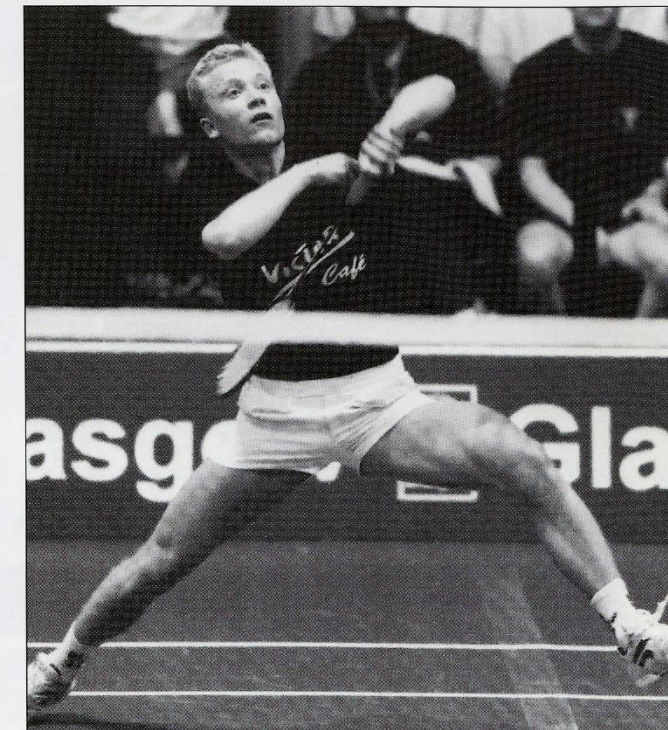
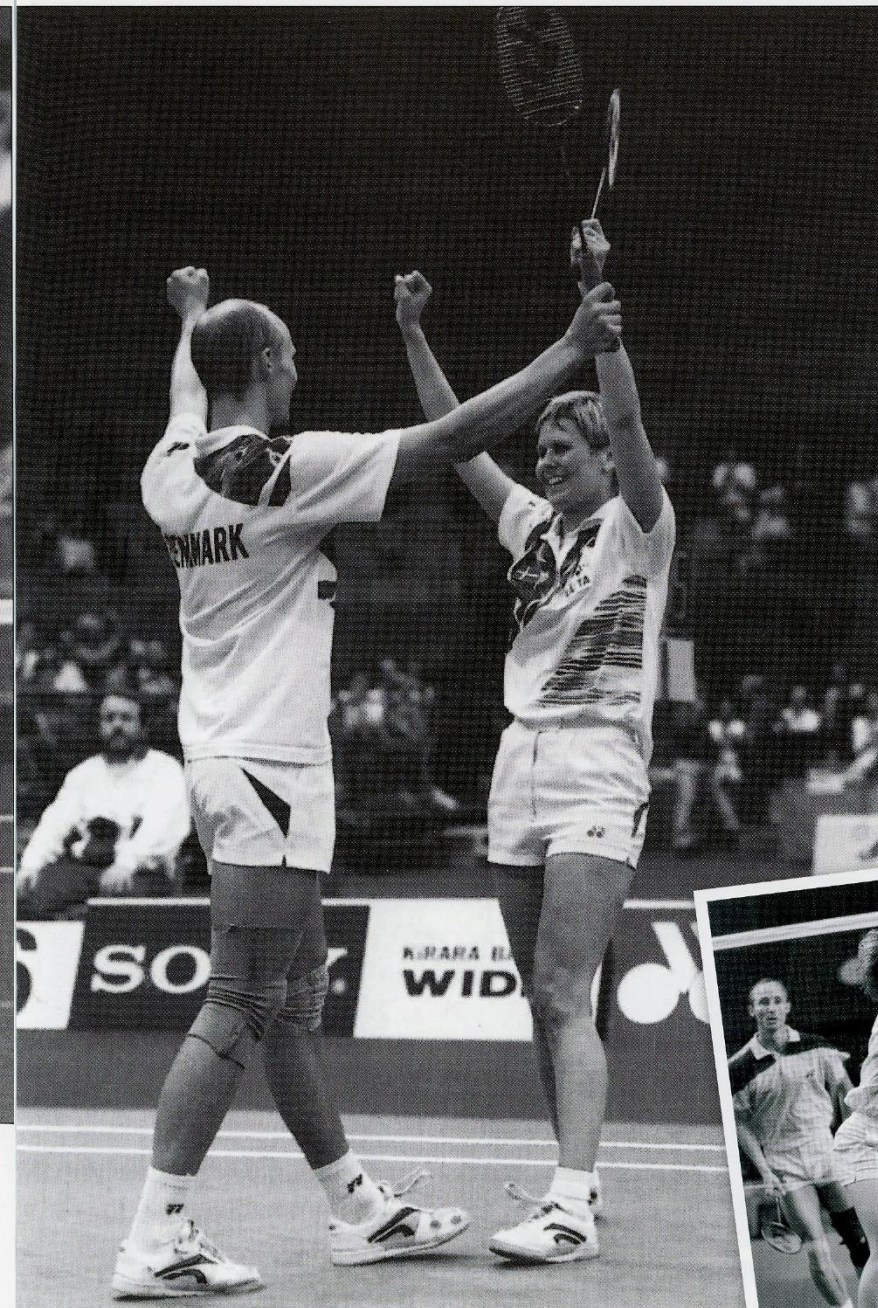




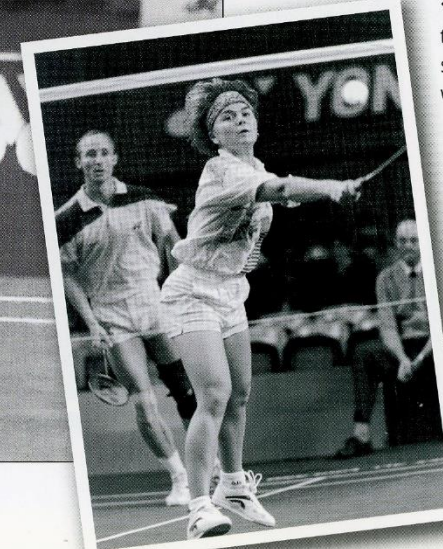
Picture: PETER RICHARDSON



1983: Nora Perry and Sweden's Thomas Kihlstrom (left) take the mixed doubles, while Denmark's Jesper Helledie and Steen Fladberg (above) lift the men's doubles title in Copenhagen



1995: Thomas Lund and Marlene Thomsen (left) claim the mixed doubles title in Lausanne to add to Lund's 1993 victory with Sweden's Catrine Bengtsson (inset) in Birmingham. Picture: WORLD BADMINTON



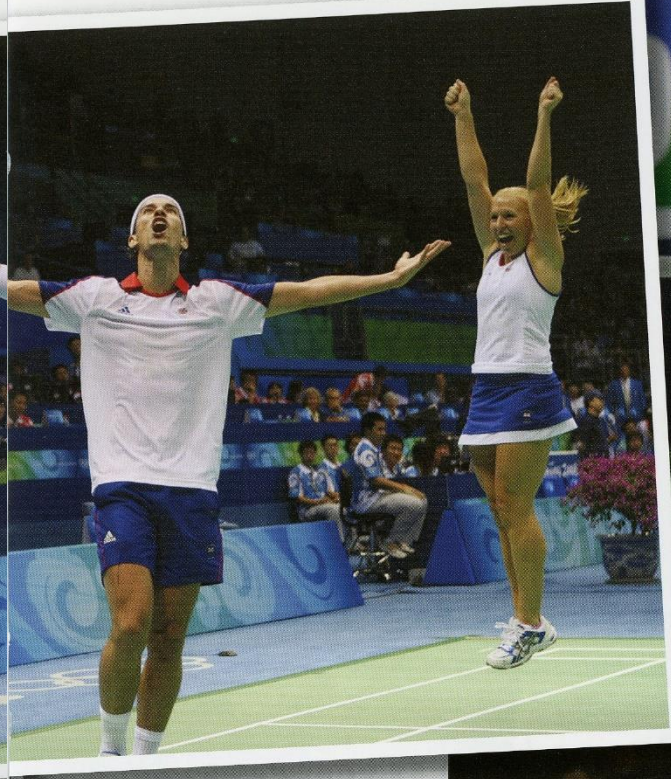
1997: Twenty years after Europe's first men's singles triumph Peter Rasmussen (above) wins the men's singles in Glasgow after a marathon match with Sun Jun



1999: Denmark's golden girl Camilla Martin wins the women's singles title in Copenhagen



2003: Denmark's Lars Paaske and Jonas Rasmussen (below) win the men's doubles title in Birmingham
Pictures: PREBEN SØBORG



2006: England's Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms (above) win the World mixed doubles title in Madrid to add to their 2006 Commonwealth Games gold and 2004 Olympic silver medals

2009: Thomas Laybourn and Kamilla Rytter Juhl (top right) win the mixed doubles title in Hyderabad, having won the World Superseries Finals title in 2008

Pictures: BADMINTONphoto

2014: Carolina Marin (right) wins the women's singles title in Copenhagen and retains it in 2015 in Jakarta before winning Olympic gold in 2016 in Rio
Picture: SHI TANG



Olympic Roll of Honour

Europe's Olympic Games successes

Badminton was one of two demonstration sports at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. Twenty-five players from 11 nations took part in a one-day tournament. Britain's Derek Talbot and Gillian Gilks can lay claim to being Europe's first Olympic champions although no medals were awarded at this demonstration event.

Europe's successes were as follows:

Men's singles: Runner-up: Svend Pri (Den),
Semi-finalist: Sture Johnsson (Swe),
Wolfgang Bochow (FRG)
Women's singles: Semi-finalist: Gillian Gilks (GBR)
Men's doubles: Semi-finalists: Elliot Stuart & Derek Talbot (GBR), Willi Braun & Roland Maywald (FRG)
Mixed doubles: Winners: Derek Talbot & Gillian Gilks (GBR); runners-up: Svend Pri & Ulla Strand (Den); semi-finalists: Roland Maywald & Brigitte Steden (FRG)

Badminton became a full Olympic sport at the 1992 Games in Barcelona although mixed doubles was not included until 1996 in Atlanta.

Poul-Erik Høyer of Denmark became Europe's first gold medallist in 1996 when he won the men's singles in Atlanta. In 2016 Carolina Marin became Europe's first women's singles gold medallist. By then the Spanish star had also won the 2014 and 2015 World titles, making her the first European player to hold Olympic and World titles at the same time. Høyer and Marin are Europe's only two gold medallists to date across the five events.

Denmark's Christinna Pedersen is the only European player to have won two Olympic medals – a mixed doubles bronze with Joachim Fischer Nielsen at London 2012 and a women's doubles silver with Kamilla Rytter Juhl at Rio 2016.

Here is the full list of Europe's Olympic medallists:

1992 (Barcelona):

Men's singles: Bronze –
Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen (Den)

1996 (Atlanta)

Men's singles: Gold – Poul-Erik Høyer (Den)

2000 (Sydney)

Women's singles: Silver – Camilla Martin (Den)

Mixed doubles: Bronze – Simon Archer
& Joanne Goode (GBR)

2004 (Athens)

Women's singles: Silver – Mia Audina (Ned)

Mixed doubles: Silver – Nathan Robertson
& Gail Emms (GBR)

Bronze – Jens Eriksen & Mette Schjoldager (Den)

2012 (London)

Men's doubles: Silver – Mathias Boe
& Carsten Mogensen (Den)

Women's doubles: Bronze – Valeria Sorokina
& Nina Vislova (Rus)

Mixed doubles: Bronze – Joachim Fischer Nielsen
& Christinna Pedersen (Den)

2016 (Rio de Janeiro)

Men's singles: Bronze – Viktor Axelsen (Den)

Women's singles: Gold – Carolina Marin (Esp)

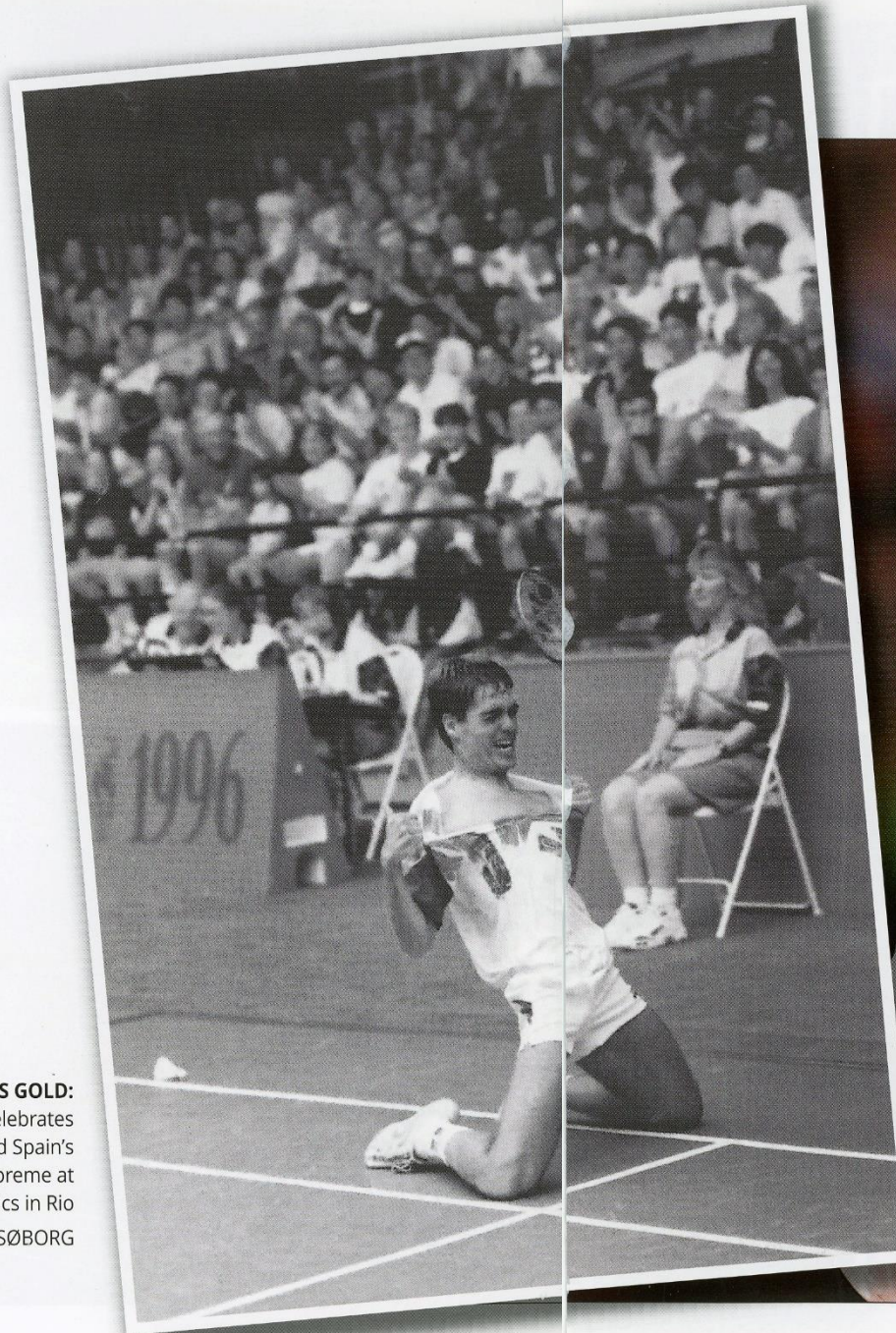
Men's doubles: Bronze – Chris Langridge
& Marcus Ellis (GBR)

Women's doubles: Silver – Kamilla Rytter Juhl &
Christinna Pedersen (Den)

GOOD AS GOLD:

Denmark's Poul-Erik Høyer celebrates
in Atlanta in 1996 and Spain's
Carolina Marin reigns supreme at
the Olympics in Rio

Picture: PREBEN SØBORG



Picture: SHI TANG

Europe's Recent Stars

PETER GADE
Denmark's five-times European champion, World silver medallist in 2001, All England champion in 1999, 10 National titles, five European titles, 22 international titles and World No. 1 1998-2001



XU HUIWEN
Germany's European champion in 2006 and 2008, World bronze medallist in 2005 and 2006



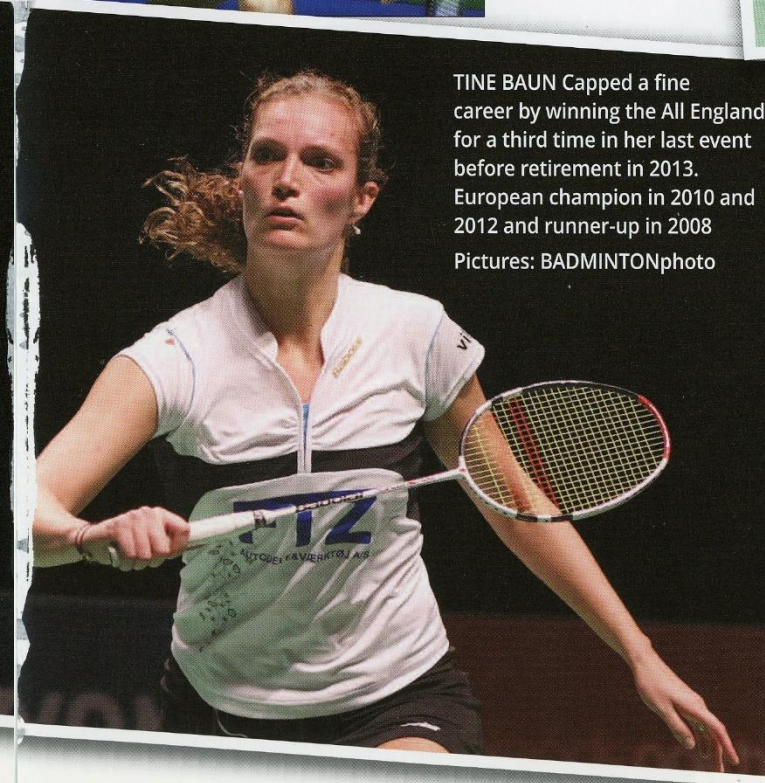
YAO JIE Dutch women's singles champion four times, European champion in 2002 and bronze medallist in 2004, 2006 and 2012



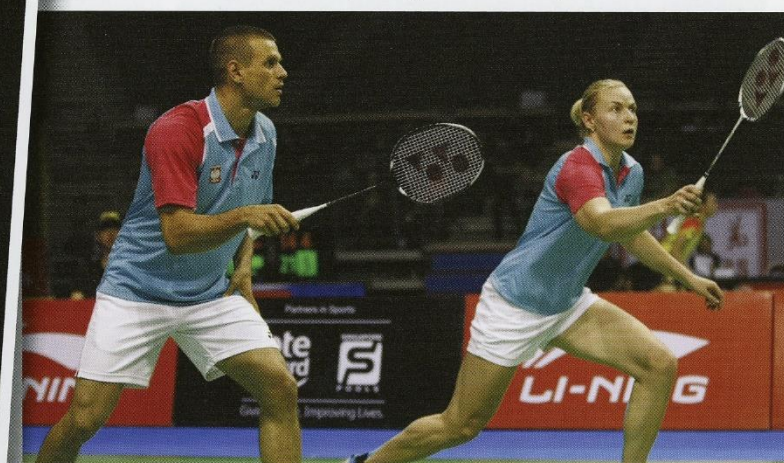
JOACHIM FISCHER NIELSEN and CHRISTINNA PEDERSEN
The Danish former World No1s won the 2014 and 2016 European mixed doubles title and were Olympic bronze medallist at London 2012 and bronze winners at the 2009 and 2014 World Championships. World Superseries Finals winners in 2009, 2012 and 2013



VLADIMIR IVANOV and IVAN SOZONOV
In 2016 celebrated in style as the first Russians to win the All England men's doubles title, having lifted the European title in 2014 in Kazan



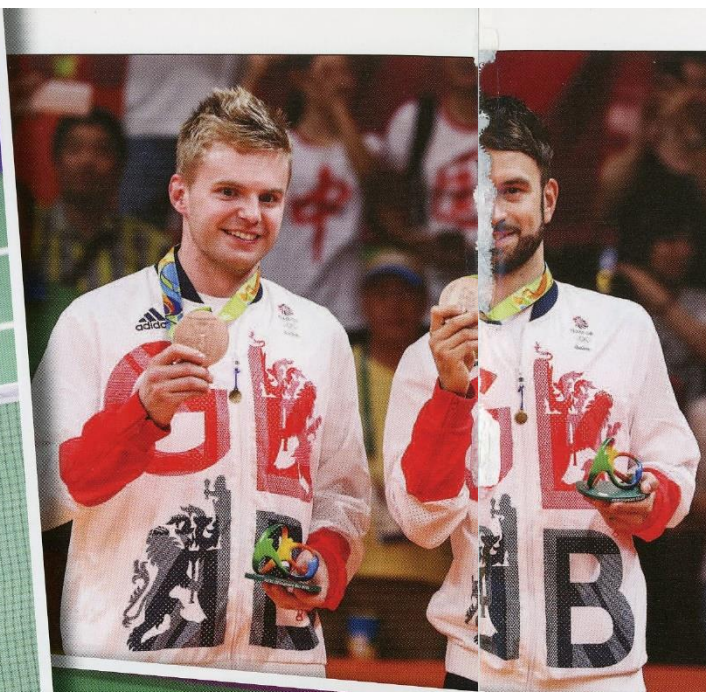
TINE BAUN Capped a fine career by winning the All England for a third time in her last event before retirement in 2013. European champion in 2010 and 2012 and runner-up in 2008
Pictures: BADMINTONphoto



ROBERT MATEUSIAK and NADIEZDA ZIEBA
Won European gold for in 2012 to add to silver in 2008 and 2010. They represented Poland in the Rio Olympics when he was 40. Robert also won four European bronze in men's doubles.



MATTHIAS BOE and CARSTEN MOGENSEN
World Superseries Finals winners in 2010, 2011 and 2013. Won Olympic silver in 2012, world championships silver and bronze in 2013 and 2014. Won European gold in 2012. Mogensen recovered from a brain aneurism in 2016 to play in the Rio Olympics months later



MARCUS ELLIS and CHRIS LANGRIDGE
The England pair sprung the surprise of the Rio Olympics by winning Britain their first medal in men's doubles when they took bronze in Rio to add to their European bronze in France four months earlier
Picture: SHI TANG

NINA VISLOVA and VALERIA SOROKINA
Russia's first Olympic badminton medallists they won bronze in women's doubles at London 2012. They also won the European title in 2010 and took bronze in 2008 and 2012



VIKTOR AXELSEN
Followed up 2012 and 2014 European bronze by beating Danish team-mate Jan O Jorgensen to gold in 2016 and went on to take bronze at the Rio Olympics before winning the World Superseries Finals at end of the year. Also won bronze at the 2014 World Championships.
Picture: MARK PHELAN



KAMILLA RYTTER JUHL and CHRISTINNA PEDERSEN
Denmark's Olympic silver medallists at Rio 2016 the pair won the European title together in 2012, 2014 and 2016. Won World Championship silver in 2015 and bronze in 2013. World Superseries Finals winners in 2013 when Pedersen also won mixed title. Picture: SHI TANG



PI HONGYAN
France's 2004 European silver medallist and World bronze medallist in 2009. Also claimed European bronze in 2008 and 2010. Was the 2007 All England runner-up and won 16 international titles
Pictures: BADMINTONphoto



Pictures: SHI TANG

Denmark lift the Thomas Cup at last

In 2016 Denmark, who had been runners-up eight times, became the first European team to win the Thomas Cup. BWF President and 1996 Olympic champion Poul-Erik Høyer (front) leads the applause.

To lift the trophy Denmark won group matches against South Africa 5-0, New Zealand 5-0 and Chinese Taipei 3-2 after securing a 3-1 winning lead. Then they did it the hard way, beating Japan 3-2 in the quarter-finals, Malaysia 3-2 in the semi-finals and Indonesia 3-2 in the final. Emil Holst won the deciding rubber against Malaysia while Hans-Kristian Vittinghus provided the final victory against Indonesia just as he had against Japan.

The squad: Jan Ø. Jørgensen, Viktor Axelsen, Hans-Kristian Vittinghus, Emil Holst, Mathias Boe, Mathias Christiansen, Mads Pieler Kolding, Mads Conrad-Petersen, Kim Astrup Sørensen, Anders Skaarup Rasmussen. **Team Manager:** Finn Trærup-Hansen. **Coaches:** Lars Uhre and Kenneth Jonassen. **Physios:** Michael Ries, Kim Balling. **Sports Psychologist:** Jakob Hansen. **Video:** Christian Thelin

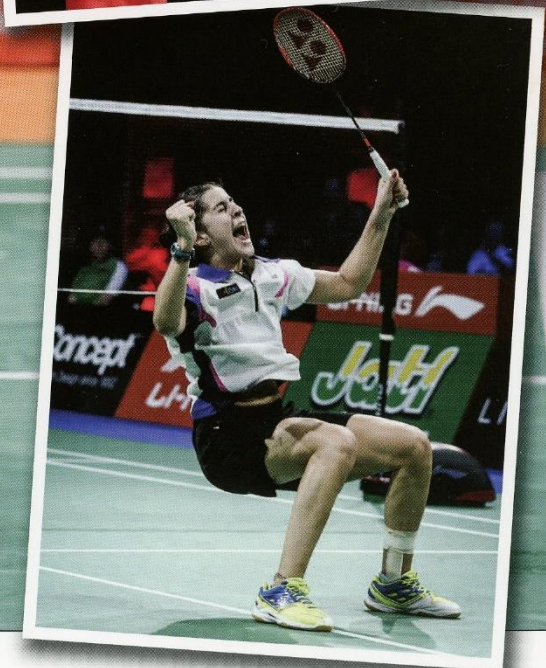


Superstar Carolina is the golden girl

Spain's Carolina Marin capped an incredible three years by winning the Olympic Games women's singles title at Rio 2016. In doing so she became the first European to win the women's singles title. That means the 23-year-old has won six Spanish National singles titles, two European titles, the 2014 and 2015 World titles and now Olympic gold.

This year she will be going for two hat-tricks – a third successive European women's singles title in Denmark in April followed by the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2017 in Glasgow in August.

Her achievements have really put Spanish badminton on the map and there is surely more success to come the way of the young woman from Huelva. Pictures: SHI TANG



Picture: SHI TANG

