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**THE BADMINTON**

**LINE JUDGES**



**ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND**

**NEWSLETTER NO. 55**

**AUTUMN 2021**



# Letter from the Editor



Dear Members,

It seems as though I have to include an RIP article in every newsletter at the moment. This edition's first one is particularly poignant as our friend and great servant of the BLJAofE, Rizvan Sadikot, died suddenly and totally unexpectedly of a heart attack on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. It was particularly shocking when he was only participating at the Nationals 2 weeks earlier. Abby wrote a heartfelt tribute which appeared on our website and which I have included here for anyone who hasn't seen it. I have also included some photos provided by Himanshu which help to capture Rizvan's personality and love of life.

I have also included a tribute to Indonesia's Markis Kido who collapsed and died at the tragically young age of 36. Many of you, I am sure, will have line judged Kido at the All England and other major events.

On a happier note, thank goodness some things are starting to get back to normal. It's great that we are now able to have events without the restrictions we saw at the All England. We have reports on the Senior Gold Event and the English Nationals both held at Milton Keynes in August.

We also have reports on the Olympic Games and the Paralympics from Suzanne and Kate. Despite the misgivings about holding the games in the face of the exploding Covid numbers in Tokyo, my own feeling was that the events were a great success all round. Pity we have no badminton medals in the Olympics but there were some great matches and how nice it was to see Victor Axelsen taking the men's singles Gold. Also, congratulations to Krysten Coombs and Dan Bethell for their Paralympic bronze and silver medals

I have included a really interesting item from the archives about shuttlecocks written by Graham Habbin, one of the longest serving line judges in England.

"Where Are They Now?" is about a great favourite of mine, Liem Swie King. He was spectacular to watch, and I always thought he was like a bouncing ball as he leapt around the court.

Stay well and keep living every day to the fullest extent.

Anne Morden

**Please send articles for future editions to me at:**

**Email: [amorden49@btinternet.com](mailto:amorden49@btinternet.com)**

**PLEASE NOTE: This is an independent newsletter which does not necessarily reflect the views of the BLJAofE Committee or BADMINTON England.**



**RIP RIZVAN SADIKOT 1959 - 2021**

# **RIZVAN SADIKOT - A TRIBUTE**

It was a great shock to learn that my colleague and dear friend Rizvan passed away on the evening of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. He was at the Nationals on 21/22 August, and to hear the sad news just 10 days later on the morning of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September was indeed devastating to all of us who knew Rizvan well and worked with him on the BLJAofE Committee, and at events. Our sincere condolences go out to his family in this time of great sadness.

Rizvan was a great servant to badminton, serving both the Umpire and Line Judge Associations. He was a committee member of the Badminton Line Judges Association of England and served on the International Events Selection Subcommittee. His line judging career began in the early 1990s, just before the 1993 World Championships in Birmingham. In nearly 30 years of line judging, he officiated at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, the Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002, and at 4 World Championships (1993 and 2003 Birmingham, 1997 Glasgow, 2011 London). He was also a line judge at the English Nationals for many years, the Deputy Manager of Line Judges for 10 years when the event was held in Manchester, and Manager of the event for the 2 years when it was held in Wycombe. Rizvan was also a keen supporter of local and national events, either as a line judge or manager, at events such as the UK School Games, the Under 17 and Under 19 Nationals, and junior and senior Gold events. In addition to all this work, he was also the Training Officer for the Midlands region and was responsible for training and mentoring many new recruits who have now gone on to become part of a highly competent national line judge team.

Rizvan qualified as an umpire in 1996 and rose to National Grade, now renamed Continental Grade. He umpired at the Nationals and the All England Championships on a number of occasions, as well as other lower grade events. He was an Umpire Assessor for the Midlands region, and he was also a referee at Midlands region events. In the midst of being so involved in badminton work, he somehow found time to be a referee for volleyball matches in the Midlands League.

Rizvan's dedication and his contribution to English badminton was exceptional. The Line Judges Association owes him a great debt for his hard work in officiating, training and management. His infectious laugh and his sense of humour positively affected all of us who worked with him at events, and it made our day so much brighter. We will miss you so much Rizvan. May you rest in peace.

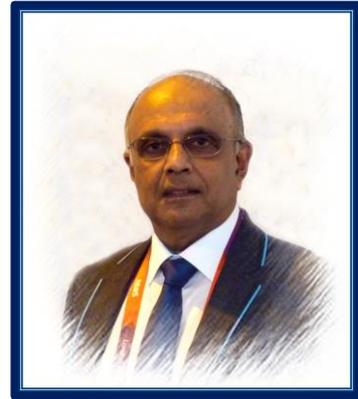
**Abby Kumar**  
**President**  
**Badminton Line Judges Association of England**



# A Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

At last, we are out of lockdown and back to normal life. The last two events we had, the Euro Mixed Team Qualifiers in December 2020 and the Yonex All England in March 2021, were held during the period of severe restrictions. Now, we can resume events under normal conditions, although some basic precautions are still being observed. The event calendar from August to the end of the year has been decided, and a selected list of events that are suitable for us to officiate in, has been posted on the BLJAofE website. There are fewer events being held this autumn as fewer counties and organisations are offering to stage them. I hope that the situation will change in the new year, and I do know that Mark Downie and his team are working hard to get more events on the calendar.



We have already officiated at one event post lock-down, the MK Senior Gold on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Mike Spear and his team did an excellent job at that event. By the time you read this, the Senior Nationals would have taken place at the NBC. My thanks to Suzanne Benton and Mike Spear for having done the hard work in organising our team for this. Looking forward, there are 4 more events, one a month from September to December. As I mentioned above, the list is on the website, and it is also attached here in this Newsletter.

The big challenges for 2022 will be the Yonex All England in March and the Commonwealth Games in July/August. Kate will start work on the All England in September, but work is already well advanced for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The deadline for applications to officiate at the Games has now passed, and Vicky and her team will be finalising selections in September. As with all major events, the organisational work starts to build up as you get closer to the event, so there will be plenty of hard work for both management teams in the coming months.

There is news from Adrian Christy that Badminton England will be bidding to stage major international events from 2023 onwards. Funding has been assured from UK Sport and Sport England for this. If bidding is successful, we may have at least one major international event a year, in addition to the Yonex All England. This is great news for us, but it also means that we have to prepare ourselves by having sufficient numbers of trained and experienced officials for the future. With this in mind, Gerry will be working to restart the training programme which has been put on hold up to now, for obvious reasons.

The future looks exciting, especially next year with the Commonwealth Games coming up. Let us hope that we will get more event opportunities next year, to keep us in good shape for this exciting event.

My best wishes to you all,

**Abby Kumar**  
**September 2021**

# MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER



Dear Members

Just to inform everyone as we have had no events taking place for at least 18 months all your bank details are now deleted from BLJA bank account.

As a result, when you next attend an event, I will have to request your bank details again. I will do this with a personal email from myself requesting name on account, sort code, account number.

The only way I can input your details is when I am going to pay you subsidy that is how the system works.

I do not save your details they are immediately deleted after inputting them into the bank.

Also, if you have had an email change of address or telephone number, please advise me to update my database.

In addition, should anyone want a BLJAofE top can they please contact Margaret.

**Margaret Redfern**

**Treasurer BLJAofE**

## **BADMINTON NEWS IN BRIEF**

### **CONFIRMED EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2021**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
19 Sept	Under 19 Gold	Hertfordshire Sports Village
24 Oct	Middlesex Senior Gold	The Dome, Hounslow
28 Nov	Under 17 Nationals	National Badminton Centre
12 Dec	Under 19 Nationals	National Badminton Centre

**Don't forget to look at the posts on our website that are starting to pop up for volunteers for overseas tournaments too.**

### **NEW BWF APP**

BWF are in the process of releasing a new app called Badminton4U. The app will have features such as badminton news in a flash, a calendar with regular tournament updates and tournament information, live scores in real time and the latest badminton videos. The app can be personalised to get the information you want. If you are interested in getting the app you can register at:

<https://bwfbadminton.com/badminton4u>

# RIP MARKIS KIDO



***The death of anyone is a sad event, but it is particularly poignant when the deceased person is young and apparently fit. It was a real shock to hear that one of badminton's most successful badminton men's doubles players, Markis Kido, died on court on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at the age of only 36 from an apparent heart attack.***

Markis Kido was born on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1984 in Jakarta, Indonesia. He started playing badminton in Jaya Raya Jakarta badminton club and became one of the world's leading men's doubles players. Markis teamed up with Hendra Setiawan and, in 2005, they won the Asian Badminton Championships and the Indonesia Open. In 2006, the pair also won the Jakarta Satellite, the Hong Kong Open and the China Open after defeating Cai Yun and Fu Haifeng 21-16, 21-16 in the final plus the gold medal at the World Cup.

In 2007, Kido and Setiawan became World Champions after defeating Jung Jae-sung and Lee Yong-dae from South Korea, 21-19 and 21-19, at the World Championships finals in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They also won the China Super Series after beating China's Guo Zhendong and Xie Zhongbo, and the World Cup after defeating Malaysia's Lin Woon Fui and Mohd Fairuzizuan Mohd Tazari in the final. In September, they won the Chinese Taipei Grand Prix Gold event. In December 2007, they won the Hong Kong Super Series, defeating the famous veterans Tony Gunawan and Candra Wijaya 21-12, 18-21, 21-13 in the finals. At the 2007 Southeast Asian Games in Thailand, they helped the Indonesian team win the gold medal in the men's team event and won gold in men's doubles at the individual event after beating the Indonesian born pair Hendri Kurniawan Saputra and Hendra Wijaya who represented Singapore.

In January 2008, they won the Malaysian Super Series. Later that year they captured their most prestigious prize, the Olympic gold medal in men's doubles at the 2008 Summer Olympics held in Beijing, China. They defeated the Chinese pair of Cai Yun and Fu Haifeng 12-21, 21-11, 21-16 in a thrilling match which more than avenged their loss to the same pair at the China Masters the previous summer.

Numerous other titles followed including, in 2008, the China Masters Super Series, the Denmark Super Series and the French Super Series events. In 2009 they won the Japan Super Series, the French Super Series again and the Southeast Asian Games in Laos. They continued their domination to win the gold medal at the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou after beating Koo Kien Keat and Tan Boon Heong.

Strangely, despite their domination, they never reached an All England final together. However, after Kido retired, Setiawan teamed up with Mohammad Ahsan to win the All England men's doubles title in 2014 and 2019.

Markis collapsed during his usual Monday session with some of his badminton buddies including Candra Wijaya, of a suspected heart attack. Markis' death came three years after the demise of Korea's Jung Jae-sung, Kido's opponent in the 2007 World Championship final, who also tragically died of heart attack in 2018 at the age of 35. Markis leaves behind a wife and two daughters.



**Kido and Setiawan Gold Medal presentation at the 2008 Beijing Olympics**

# MY OLYMPIC ADVENTURE

by **SUZANNE BENTON**



Let me tell you a little bit about my Olympic experience

I was so excited to get my appointment as a BWF line judge at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020, but, as we all know, because of the pandemic they did not happen until July 2021. I was lucky that my place was kept open for me and in late July 2021 I headed out to Haneda Airport Tokyo.

But let me take you back a few months. I started to have monthly briefings with representatives of the World Federation via an online platform. At these meetings we were guided through the immigration procedures and what the games were likely to be like for us. I started making enquiries regarding COVID testing, and this proved to be quite difficult. Very strict guidelines had to be met and a Japanese form completed. After much angst and worry I settled with having my tests with Boots and this proved to be successful, but I had to press very, very hard to get the forms signed off. Anyway, they were signed and because of that I sailed through testing and immigration in only 2 1/2 hours.

For the two weeks prior to departure, I had been monitoring my health, taking my temperature, logging the details and being careful with social interactions. I'd also been to Boots for four nose and throat COVID tests and printed out and filed on my phone all the results. There was a strict timeline to be followed and all these details added to the anxiety levels - will I be negative, will the paperwork be sufficient, will I be allowed to enter Japan.

The fateful day arrived, and Michael drove me to Heathrow, arriving nearly four hours before my flight time. Lots of time to kill. I remember feeling relief after passing through each stage, as I'd truly believed that I would be turned away for not having the correct paperwork.

After a restless 11-hour flight I arrived in Haneda and started the process of proving my negative status, taking more tests and other Olympic processes. I was then taken to the transport hub and taxied to my hotel. All extremely efficient I must say. The Keio Plaza Hotel is one of the oldest high-rise buildings in Tokyo and celebrates its 50th birthday this year.

I had a lovely room all to myself which is quite a treat, but then you realise that you're alone in that room for hours and hours as we are not allowed to go to another room, out of the hotel or to any other Olympic Venues. Quite isolating in reality.

Every morning before drinking anything, cleaning my teeth or eating I had to do a spit PCR test, log the test details, take my temperature and log my health status in an App, deliver the test to a room in the hotel and then I could have breakfast and catch the bus. It generally meant a fairly early start.

It was off to the uniform distribution centre next to swap any uniform that didn't fit, which as basically all of mine as it was too big. Then off to the venue for rehearsals and to meet all the other ITO's (umpires), Referees and fellow NTO's (line judges). Feeling quite jet lagged at this point. Being socially distant was proving impossible.

Next morning it was an extremely early start for breakfast before catching the 6.50 coach to the arena. Yes 6.50am after having about 2 hours restless sleep. I was allocated chairs 5 and 6

(both short service lines) for my first two duties which was a nice gentle introduction to the event. After the end of the first session, I managed to grab a sofa and get a bit of sleep - even slept through the moppers briefing! In the afternoon I had a great ladies doubles match played with a great spirit which was really hard-fought. I managed to finish in time to catch the 10pm coach back to the hotel.

Basically, the rotation meant that once you finished a session on court 3 you would have the next session off and, as my squad of 5 had finished on court 3 the night before, we had the morning off and caught the 15.55pm bus to the arena for the evening session. This was basically the routine for the remainder of the group play days. Once we got to quarter-finals and semi-finals things changed up a little. Mr Musato Hara was the line judge manager and, bless him, he did have problems keeping his mask over his nose when briefing us.

Things I've learnt about the Japanese way of doing things:

1. If they set you a time to be anywhere you have to be there at least 10 minutes before that.
2. Everything must be done as a group. Catch the bus, enter the stadium, leave the stadium, meet in foyer, go for lunch.
3. The Manager's word is gospel and there is no room for independent thinking.
4. When sitting in spectators' chairs to watch matches, use it as a time to learn from your fellow umpires and line judges. Look for good and bad technique and use that to develop your own ways. No sleeping, or smart phones and no relaxing - behave yourself (I think maybe that didn't translate very well)
5. The manager was not into over thinking allotment of duties and lines to cover. If you stated on chair 3 - you would be on chair 4 next, then 5 etc.
6. I never want to do a match in BWF face masks, cap and glasses again. It's like trying to drive your car through fog for 12 hours a day

I also learnt that the Japanese are friendly, engaging and very, very respectful.

The tournament then went into the second week and the group matches came to an end. Bring on the quarter finals.

I never did get to line judge on a match with any of the GB team playing and they mostly seemed to be happening behind my back, which is very distracting! I did however line judge in the men's singles Bronze medal match (on chair 2) followed straight away by men's singles Gold medal match (on chair 5). Needless to say, with 10 on a court from the beginning, you have to accept that you get lots of inactive (don't like calling them sleepy) lines.

I'd already started the process of PCR test to return to the UK and went to see a doctor in the hotel to get my nose swabbed. Goodness me, I didn't realise they needed brain matter on the swab as well - he went so far up my nose. Thankfully that test came back negative and after picking up my negative certificate from the arena at 8pm the evening before setting off - all my paperwork was in order - and I returned to the hotel at 10.30pm to get some rest before meeting Marisa for breakfast at 6.15am.

The efficiency of transport, airport security, uniform distribution was something to behold. My taxi to the airport arrived 10 minutes before its scheduled time (basically bang on Japanese

time) and I checked into my flight. There was a long wait at the airport, but it wasn't too busy so, after finding comfy chairs and something to eat, the time went quickly.

On the way to Tokyo, I'd sat next to an eventing athlete and low and behold he sat next to me on the way home too - wearing his stunning silver medal. It was lovely to catch up and hear that he had won a medal. 12 hours later we arrived back in Heathrow and the processes at Heathrow were even more efficient than Tokyo and I was through the airport with my suitcase rolling along beside me 35 minutes after the aircraft wheels touched the tarmac.

Very excited to be home and watch the Olympics on the TV and say (in the words of Max Boyce) "I was there".

It was an amazing experience - it was just what the whole world needed at this time to bring everybody together. Not just to live through the pandemic but to wonder at the amazing talented athletes and what they've achieved. It allowed the world to focus on excellence and endeavour rather than anxieties.



Et donc a Paris 2024. Vive la France.





## Editor's footnote to Suzanne's Report

As a footnote to Suzanne's fabulous report, I wanted to add my own personal emotional highlight of the Olympic badminton tournament.

I watched the ladies' doubles final between the Indonesian pair Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu and the Chinese pair Qing Chen and Yi Fan Jia. The result was a 2-0 win for Polii and Rahayu, probably a surprise in itself. What was really fantastic and touching, however, was the emotional reaction of Polii to winning, as this was the triumphal climax of a difficult few years.

From the depths of despair in 2012, through injury, thoughts of retirement and personal tragedy, to winning the gold medal in 2021, it has been a momentous Olympic journey for Greysia Polii.

Polii and partner Meiliana Jauhari were disqualified at London 2012 along with a Chinese and two Korean pairs for not giving their best on court. From that point on her career was fraught with problems and disappointments. After being seeded in the top four at the Rio Olympics ladies doubles event, she only reached the quarter-finals with her partner Nitya Krishinda Maheswari who retired two years later in 2018 after a serious injury.

Polii contemplated quitting the sport, but her coach Eng Hian and family convinced her to keep playing. Then, virtually out of the blue, came along a young and hard-hitting partner in Rahayu who could provide her the force from the back that allowed her to create the play and keep going. However, life still had another tragic curveball to throw at her. Her father had died when she was two and her brother Rickettsia had cared for her like a father from then on, encouraging her to keep going. He died of an illness the day after her wedding in December 2020, which was a massive blow to her.

Her winning Tokyo was like a redemption for her and once the final point was won her emotions took over. She couldn't stop crying at first, but I have never seen anyone so overjoyed as Polii was after winning a title. She dedicated the win to her brother and said that when she entered the court she felt some super power from above, from him. What a great moment it was to see her win the gold medal at the age of nearly 34 after so many ups and downs.



# MY TOKYO 2021 PARALYMPIC JOURNEY by KATE ROWLATT



## **OCTOBER 2014**

The international Paralympic Committee announce that badminton would be included in the Paralympics programme for Tokyo 2020 for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

## **7<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

I received the BWF nomination letter. I remember the day well. I was at work and I may have reacted a little so that those around me wondered what had happened. Celebrated with a brew. Not much work done that day.

## **16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Received the appointment letter to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. Flights were booked to Tokyo a couple of days later.

## **February 2020**

Uniform sizes were sent in.

## **24<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

It was announced that Tokyo 2020 was postponed for a year. My term as a BWF ITO was due to end at the end of 2020. Uncertain if I would be selected 1 year later.

## **31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Email from BWF confirming the postponement saying that there would be further updates later. In the meantime, emails were sent to Adrian Christie asking if he could help both Suzanne and I, explaining our situation. He contacted BWF and said he would do everything he could to keep our selection.

## **8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Received an email from BWF saying that those people that had been selected to officiate at Tokyo 2020 would still be doing so. A special exemption had been made to those BWF line judges who term had expired. I was still going to Tokyo.

## **14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

I received the second appointment letter for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. Massive relief but there was still uncertainty if the games would go ahead. My original plan had been to travel around Japan before the games, but all this was cancelled. This was going to be a trip just for the Paralympics. Also, I found out that the IPC would be paying for the flights.

## **April 2021**

Suddenly realised I wouldn't have 6 months on my passport to be able to travel. Quickly applied for a new one.

## **26<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Accreditation documents arrive.

## **29<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

1<sup>st</sup> BWF zoom meeting. This was to outline everything we needed to do before we could get to Tokyo. I had received some information from Suzanne as to what was required

1. Covid-19 tests at 96hrs, 72hrs and 24hrs from a Japanese approved test centre that would fill at a Japanese government test form.
2. Sign a 'pledge' document about the rules and regs for entering Japan
3. Download OCHA app used for uploading test certificates, general information, immigration, and customs
4. Download covid-19 contact tracing app (similar to NHS track and trace)
5. Monitor health 14 days prior to trip
6. Email all test results to BWF
7. Purchase facemasks, hand sanitizer and thermometer
8. be aware that on arrival in Tokyo you would be required to do a covid-19 test before you could leave the airport, and then be tested everyday whilst in Tokyo.

I was on holiday at the time of this meeting and my sister listened in whilst enjoying a glass of wine on the hotel balcony.

## **5<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

2<sup>nd</sup> BWF meeting. Found out in this meeting that the UK had been removed from a group 2 risk country to general risk and therefore I didn't need the 24hr covid test. Unfortunately, the test was non-refundable, but BWF were covering costs.

## **24<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

The Paralympics starts. Very weird to still be at home working still not knowing for sure that I would be on the plane in a couple of days' time.

## **25<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

1<sup>st</sup> Covid-19 test – 96hrs before departure

## **26<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

1<sup>st</sup> Covid-19 test results come back negative & go for my 2<sup>nd</sup> Covid-19 test – 72hrs before departure.

## **27<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

2<sup>nd</sup> Covid-19 test results come back negative. Upload details into OCHA and complete all sections in the app for pre departure. Start packing making sure that all documents were printed off and I had my passport, PVC and covid-test results.

## **28<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

Time to depart for Tokyo!! This was happening. I arrive at Manchester Airport to find that my internal flight to Heathrow had been cancelled. Fortunately, there was a later flight that would get me to Heathrow in time to get the connection to Tokyo. I wasn't really going to relax until I was on that Tokyo bound flight. The flight out to Tokyo was no way near full and I had 3 seats to myself, so I could lay down and sleep and arrive reasonably refreshed.

## **29<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

Arrive in Tokyo. Arriving in Tokyo, everyone for the Paralympics was held back on the plane. We had our own route out of the airport. It was like an individual relay with tests at each change over.

1. Have the right forms completed correctly
2. Have the OCHA app checked, and immigration process started.
3. Covid-19 test – saliva sample needed. A lot was required to reach that red line.
4. Next step health form. Thought this might be my downfall to get clearance to bring in my medication
5. Wait for test results until your number appears on the screen
6. Handed negative test result – thankfully
7. Now to get accreditation
8. Then move to immigration and onto customs
9. Move onto transport and into taxi on the way to the hotel

On arrival at the hotel which was quick due to the insane speed the driver was going through the streets of Tokyo, there was a temperature test, and then the usual checking procedure. The package of souvenirs which I had ordered from the Tokyo 2020 official site had arrived (they would only deliver within Japan). Up to the room on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time since I had arrived at Manchester airport, I could finally take off my facemask (expect for eating and drinking of course). Last task for the day was to collect the covid test kits I would need for the next 7 days. Messaged home to say I had arrived and put my feet up in the room watching the games on TV.

## **30<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

Relaxed start to the morning but get up and take Covid-19 test and record temperature and general health in OCHA. At breakfast we find out that the collection of the uniform has been changed from 10am meet to 9:10, this was done through a WhatsApp group that had been set up by BWF. Ahhh.. small panic at breakfast as people rushed to finish and get ready. Everyone just about made the bus though a couple had to be chased up as they were still in bed. It was a very smooth transition to get both the formal and casual uniform. Only the casual kit would be worn by the line judges, and they had so many casual shirts left over we were given an extra orange and a blue shirt. At the uniform site they would only alter the formal wear, so it was back to the hotel to alter the casual wear trousers which were 6 inches too long (You never go anywhere without Hemmingweb!!). Still, it wasn't as if I had anything else to do as I was confined to the hotel room for the rest of the day.

## **31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

Again, another leisurely morning though had to be up by 9am to drop off the Covid test. Nice breakfast before returning to the room. We were not required to meet up to go to the arena until 2pm. Another nap then. Suzanne had warned me that when they gave a start time of a meeting it was generally started early, so I made my way down to the meeting point 20mins early. I was late. I was late for a meeting that I was 20mins early for. I wasn't the only one caught out. Found out that I was in group A and we created a WhatsApp group just for our team. The only problem was I couldn't get wi-fi at the venue. It appeared that anyone with a Samsung phone couldn't get access for some reason. I would get all my messages and matches for the following day when I arrived back at the hotel. The NTO meeting was at 3pm and we all went into a big hall where we could all sit socially distance. Fern gave a small speech then it was over to the referee and line judge manager. In total there were 97 line judges split into 9 groups. We would be using 10 LJ's for a full court match and 8 LJ's for a half court match. There was also no IRS. When we got into the hall I bumped into Howard (who is the announcer at the All England and many other top BWF events) had a quick catch up. It was then on to the dress rehearsal to get the walk on/off right and to get timings right for the TV. There was also the medal

ceremony run though, also to get the timings for the TV. We had dinner at the hall, which wasn't too bad, before heading back to the hotel.

### **1<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

History is being made. Para badminton starts at the Paralympics. Again, another leisurely start to the day, slow relaxed breakfast, before heading back up to the room. Not require to meet up for the bus to go to the arena until 16:00, briefing 17:10 and play starts 18:00. I was going to be on the 1<sup>st</sup> match on court #1 for the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 class. It is a match I won't forget. In total I had 3 matches and some really good games. Unfortunately, with the way the matches fell there was no dinner for me as by the time I came off court the food hall had closed. Luckily, I had an instant noodle dish back at the hotel so that was my dinner. That and some Haribo. As the matches started a 18:00 it was a late finish. Alarm had to be set for 5:30 for the following day.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

Just normal days in the hall, starting with the 5:30 alarm, covid test, OCHA app health monitored, breakfast all before the 7:00 bus departure. Briefing at 8:10. On Thursday though I was at the hall for 8am my 1<sup>st</sup> match wasn't until 11:40. I then had 4 matches back-to-back and was finished at 17:30 though the bus back to the hotel wasn't until 22:00. It did however mean I could have dinner tonight at the hall, though I missed lunch as I was on court. On Friday I had 6 matches with a break between 4 & 5, so it was off to the NTO lounge. I put 3 chairs together next to the fan and fell asleep for 40mins. A good power nap.

### **4<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

All too soon you had to start planning to get home. I was booked in for a PCR test at a clinic to provide the correct paperwork to get back home. A lie in, but still had to be up to hand in the Silvia covid test by 9:00. I had a knock on my door at just gone 7:00. It was my team leader checking where I was, as I wasn't in the meeting place for the bus. He had forgotten I was off for my PCR test. All those that were having theirs within 72 hours (that was all that was left of my Paralympic adventure) were at the BWF desk in reception for 9:00 where we were taken by taxi to the test centre. When we got there, I did wonder where I was going, as it was down in a basement of the hotel. Once they had found me on the computer, which took some doing, I then had to remember the date of my 2<sup>nd</sup> covid vaccination; thankfully I had put in in my phone calendar. The test was not pleasant. The swab up your nose did not have to go that far!! After that we were taken off to the arena to continue to officiate. I got there about 11:00, but my 1<sup>st</sup> match wasn't until 14:30 and the start of the semi-finals and the finals. From in the stands, I was willing on Daniel Bethell in his semi-final match, knowing that I would be doing the bronze medal SL3 match later that evening. I didn't want to do his match. He won the semi-final. Only 2 matches today, but I did get to see a bit more of Tokyo, and also Daniel, win a silver medal. It was lovely to watch a GB player win a medal and to witness in the arena the union flag go up. My bus back to the hotel was at 21:30 but I told my team leader I wasn't getting on it (I would take a later bus) if the medal ceremony hadn't taken place. I wasn't going to miss this moment.

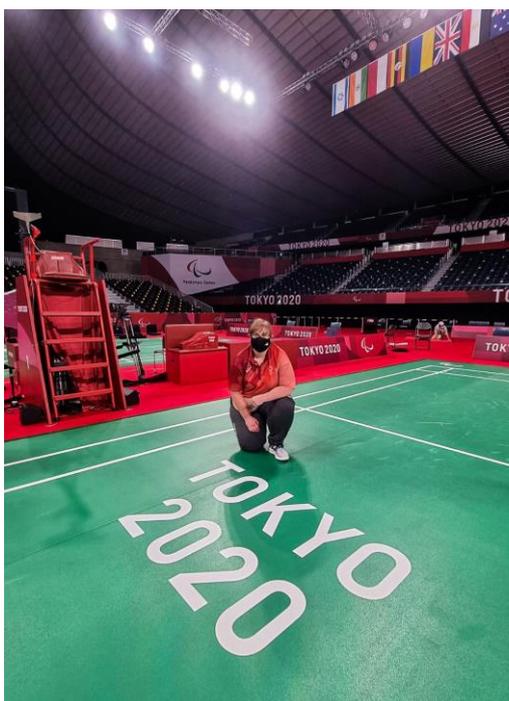
### **5<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The last day & 2 more matches the WS SL4 Final and the SL3-SU5 XD final. The way it worked out I would go out onto court 1 for the last match of the day on that court just as I had walked out onto that court for the 1<sup>st</sup> match of the tournament. 2 excellent matches. There was also the SH6 medal matches to watch with Krysten Coombs winning a bronze medal, another GB medal. What a games GB were having. Suddenly before you know it, it is all over. No big celebration, no going out for a group meal, no socialising, just back to your room to watch the closing ceremony as we were not lucky enough to get tickets like the umpires!! Back at the hotel Group A gathered for one last time and we were handed over gifts from our team leader. It was quite an emotional moment realising that my

BWF ITO line judging had come to an end. The last group photos were taken, goodbyes were said and back to our rooms we went.

### 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

No PCR test required today as we were heading home. Taxi was booked to get to the airport. Unlike the flight out this flight was full. I was sat next to a guy that was part of the TV crew doing all the unusual TV shots. He had spent the evening on the Olympic stadium roof for the closing ceremony. All to soon it was over. To be a part of badminton history at the Paralympics was very special and a treasured memory. It was different but maybe in some way it added to it knowing hopefully that no other games will not be held under the same conditions. Thank you, Tokyo 2020, for staging the games and for some wonderful memories.



Above: NTO Initial Briefing



Above: Inside the hall



Above: Martin Rooke on court



Above: Yoyogi National Stadium



**Above: Daniel Bethell receiving his silver medal**



**Above: Krysten Coombs receiving his bronze medal**

# SENIOR GOLD EVENT - REPORT BY MIKE SPEAR



The first event post lock-down was the Senior Gold event held on 1<sup>st</sup> August at the National Badminton centre at Milton Keynes. The event was well subscribed with willing Line Judges wanting to make that call again! Unfortunately for Abby he had to make the decision as to who would be lucky enough to be in the 2 teams.

Nearer to the event Abby handed over the reins to me to take over the stewardship of Line Judges, with a mix of new and experienced line judges, including guest appearances by our 2 new BWF Line judges – Ian Johnstone and Himanshu Anil Shah. So, with a feeling of great excitement, Sunday arrived and after the briefing we were soon back into the familiar routine of lining up for court, followed by the walk on court; then it wasn't long before the call of "OUT" was heard.

Both teams had a long morning which saw a split of 6 to 4 games between the courts. In the afternoon session the players gave us good games to watch and participate in with our in/out calls. I didn't see any calls of unsighted. I would like to add my thanks to all those who attended and made my role easy.

Around 4pm I bade farewell to the line judges after the final and headed home, satisfied that yet again we gave a good account of ourselves to the players and other officials.



**Back Row: Dionne, Tony, Mike, Tim**  
**Front Row: Clive, Ruben, Chen (Missing Ian Johnstone)**



**Back Row: Keith, Gerry, Mike, Sue, John**  
**Front Row: Horace, Andrew, Karen, Himanshu**



# ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – REPORT BY SUZANNE BENTON



The English Nationals were held at Milton Keynes from 21st to 22nd August 2021. The Management Team were me and Mike and we had a coffee shop selection meeting in July, after which the emails confirming selection were sent out.

The Schedule was quite restrictive for line judges. Badminton England only wanted us to cover the Saturday evening session (then drop nine line judges) and Sunday all day. I was aware of those that were on an assessment pathway, and we took this into consideration with our match selections.

The details regarding food, shirts, hotel, briefings had all been emailed and it was time to make my way to Milton Keynes. It was so lovely to be back again, meeting up with some of my line judge family (sadly, some not there) and, after a good chat, it was time to crack on with the games in hand.

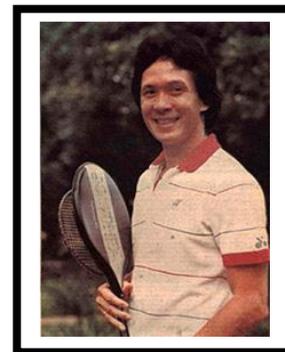
First teams lined up and ready to go - and breath!!! I cannot thank those guys enough. Some had that turned up (some at very, very short notice) and covered only the Saturday evening. I tried to ensure that they all got the maximum number of games possible. Again, I cannot thank the whole team enough for being so 'on it'. No match was held up unnecessarily by a line judge not being there. Everyone worked really hard, and it was very hot in the hall for long sleeve jumpers.

It was a pleasure to work with each and every one of you. The whole team from Badminton England staff, Referee Team and Manager of Umpires were very complimentary and wanted me to thank you all - so THANK YOU from them too.





## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? LIEM SWIE KING – "KING SMASH"



Liem Swie King was born on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1956 in Kudus Regency, central Java, Indonesia. When I first started line judging in the mid-eighties, King was nearing the end of his illustrious career and I was never lucky enough to be on court with him, but I saw him at the All England as a spectator between 1977 and 1981 and he was amazing to watch because of his incredible ability to leap and smash.

His parents were Chinese, and his birth name was Ng Swie King. However, in 1974, in order to comply with a government direction that any Indonesian with a Chinese name had to adopt what is considered as an "Indonesian name" for naturalisation, he chose the name Guntur (meaning "thunder") suggested by his older sister. He later changed this to Liem which his trainer said was easier to pronounce.

While watching a local badminton competition, Budi Hartono, the owner of the prestigious Djarum Badminton Club, recognized Liem's talent at the age of 14. and invited him to join the club. With proper coaching, it did not take long for the teenage Liem to start overwhelming opponents with his fast-paced style in various local youth badminton tournaments. In 1972, at the age of 15, Liem became the junior singles champion of Central Java. In November 1972, he tasted his first international tournament, the First Djakarta Badminton Open Tournament, defeating Singapore's Ng Choi Yu in the first stage, before succumbing to Thailand's Sangob Ratananusorn. In 1973, Liem was called to join the provincial badminton squad for the National Sports Competition. He reached the men's singles final by defeating senior players, before finally losing to a veteran national squad member, Iie Sumirat.

While still a teenager, he won two successive Indonesian national titles; junior in 1974 and senior in 1975. In 1974 he also participated in the All England for the first time.

Liem became well known for his iconic jumping smash, which has been recognized as the most aggressive type of offensive stroke in badminton. Although some players claimed to have originated the move, Liem was widely accepted as the man who popularized the jumping smash. Different than most pro players before him who used hopping leg action to compensate the lateral gap to reach the shuttlecock, Liem effectively used higher vertical leap in executing his smash.

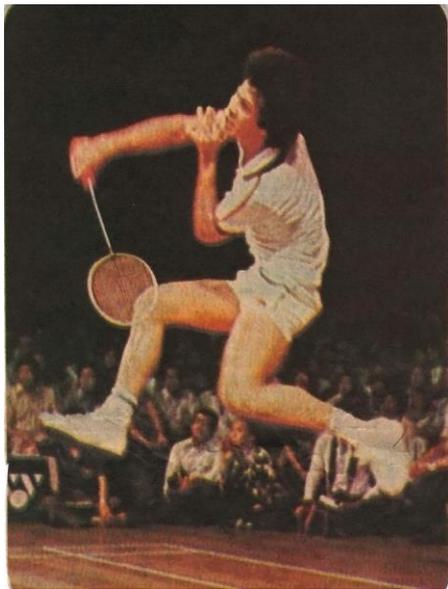
As his popularity increased, badminton enthusiasts around the world began to associate that kind of hard-hitting, leaping smash with Liem, earning him the nickname "**King Smash**". Liem's move was considered revolutionary during his era, but now it has become a standard attacking skill for badminton pros.

Liem's vertical leap explosiveness came from his low crouching stance before launching his jump, he then intercepted the shuttlecock at high altitude with a ferocious whipping strike, or sometimes a deceptive drop shot which immobilized his opponent who was expecting a slamming hit from him. By intercepting the shuttlecock at higher altitude, Liem was able to deliver a shot with a steeper angle. Given his average stature (5'6"), his jump-smash made a quite dramatic visual for the spectators, due to the perceived height of his leap. In an interview, Liem explained that he began to do jump-smash around 1977. He liked fast-paced style and simply wanted to hit the shuttlecock quicker. No coaches complained about it since they saw it improved Liem's game.

In an illustrious career Liem reached the All England men's singles final six years in a row from 1976 to 1981, winning in 1978, 1979 and 1981. For 33 months, starting in 1978, he was undefeated. He was the runner-up at the then triennial World Championships in both 1980 and 1983 to fellow Indonesians Rudy Hartono and Ick Sugianto consecutively.

He was a member of the Thomas Cup winning Indonesian teams of 1976, 1979 and 1984, playing both singles and doubles on the latter two occasions. He also played in the Thomas Cup in the years 1982 and 1986. He was a bronze medallist in the men's doubles together with Hariyanto Kartono at the 1985 IBF World Championships in Calgary. King decided to retire from badminton in 1988 at the age of 32. At that point he had no idea what to do except he didn't want to become a badminton coach. After an initial failure selling sports' accessories, he became a businessman running a hotel and several massage parlours and now owns a health spa.

King met his wife Lucia Alamsah in 1976, they married in 1982 and they have three children, Alexander, Stephanie and Michelle. Having faded into relative obscurity after his retirement, King's life and achievements were the inspiration for the 2009 Indonesian movie "King" in which he made a cameo appearance. That same year, Robert Adhi Kusumaputra published a biography on the Indonesian legend, titled "Call Me, King".



**Liem Swie King at his daughter's wedding June 2010.**

Photo by I Gede Sanat Kumara

## BLJAE WEB SITE UPDATES

by Himanshu Anil Shah, Web Site Administrator

Dear Members

1. Web site is now running smoothly, with no weird error on the top line.
2. The members have got used to logging in to see additional menus and information and making comments to the Posts. However, it is critical for the members to understand that posting a comment, CANNOT be used as a way of communicating to a member of the committee or an event manager, this MUST be done via a direct email to the relevant individuals. You can find links to send committee members an email here -  
> <https://bljae.org/committee>
3. The event online registration process is working well, and feedback from Managers and Volunteers is very positive **(we still need a few more LJs for the Under 19 Gold on 19/9/21)**
4. If any member feels our web site could be improved, please do not hesitate to contact Himanshu with your ideas.

**Himanshu Anil Shah**

**FROM THE ARCHIVES: Newsletter 27 in September 2010 contained a really interesting article by Graham Habbin, one of our longest serving line judges, about the history of the shuttlecock. This was one of several articles Graham contributed over the years.**

## **FACTS ON FEATHERS - ANOTHER INTERESTING ARTICLE BY GRAHAM HABBIN**

Although records are few evidence from drawings and paintings shows that shuttlecocks, in various forms have been around for over two thousand years. They were struck by a variety of bats - be they solid wood, crudely strung rackets or, as in China from the 5<sup>th</sup> century feet were often used to keep the shuttle in the air.



In the early times shuttlecocks were all individually made and of many shapes and sizes. A late 14<sup>th</sup> century woodcut on the left shows two boys hitting a 'missile' that might have been a piece of bark with a few chicken feathers stuck into it. As time went by shuttles more akin to today's shape developed. Certainly, this was so by the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when Jean Chardin's famous painting of 1737 shows a young girl holding a sizable shuttle with seven large feathers stuck into a domed base. It was the late 18<sup>th</sup> century before cork bases came into being when the corks from newly imported bottles of champagne were used for the

purpose, which were to be the forerunners of the base used today.

The middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the beginnings of the game of Badminton as we know it; much of it was happening in India amongst British Army Officers and their wives stationed there. The shuttles they used were locally made wherever play took place and were often works of art! An example still exists which has no less than thirty six chicken feathers, each 4 inches long with a spread of 5 ½ inches, but with no stitching to control them. These Indian shuttles had little similarity of speed and length of flight, although this was not seen as of great importance for this, still gentle, outdoor game.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the game was developing, shuttles remained rather crudely made with variable flight. However, by the time of the first All England Championships in 1899, shuttlecocks were a little more standardized, although still no specification was laid down. Some of the best at this time were made in France with their leading shuttle known as the 'Barrel' because of its shape. *\*\* see below* These shuttles were first made with chicken feathers but after a few years the stronger goose feathers were used from birds farmed in France to provide pate-de-foie gras, a well-known delicacy.

For the All-England Championships in 1909 the Badminton Association [BA] decided to replace the 'Barrel' with an earlier version of the modern shuttle. This was known as the 'Straight' and manufactured by FH Ayres. The goose feathers used were fixed with the flat side to the inside so that the stitching straightened out the natural curve of the feathers. Although now being produced in some quantity these shuttles were still being made by hand. The Ayres firm continued to supply their shuttles, which were improved slowly year by year until 1938.

It was in 1911 that BA introduced Law 4 which specified the dimensions, weights and flight lengths of shuttlecocks which went a long way to standardising the manufacture. Despite these laws and improvements in manufacture there were still demands by tournaments players for a machine to test the length of flight of the shuttle on the courts where an event was taking

place. This they thought would take away the human element of testing shuttles and so put an end to arguments. Such a machine was indeed made in the late 1930's, but it was unable to hit a shuttle the full length of flight required and was too costly and cumbersome for practical use by most clubs so its wider use never happened. Ever since, therefore, we are still reliant on the mythical players of average strength holding the shuttle over the base line and hitting it with a full underhand stroke to land within a space 9" [23 cm] before and beyond the doubles long service line.

In the 1930 the firm of Reinforced Shuttlecocks Ltd [RSL] was started and soon turned its attention to designing and building machinery with the aim of producing identical shuttles to very fine limits and weighted to give a range of speeds. The results was the No 1 Tourney shuttle becoming the most perfect shuttle which was then used at the All England Championships from 1938 until the Yonex sponsorship began in 1984. RSL opened a new factory in Sandwich, Kent in 1974 with improve machinery. A second stitching was introduced to provide greater strength- a form of product in that has remained ever since.

Ever rising costs, demand and doubts about a sufficient supply of feathers pointed to the need for a synthetic shuttle. In 1950 Carlton produced the first plastic shuttle and reviewers were unimpressed!. For many years Carlton continued to search for a synthetic answer to nature's feathers but never managed to match the feathers flight or 'feel'. RSL joined the hunt in 1957, but it was not until 1974 they came up with the idea to use a cork base which much improved the 'feel' factor. In 1982 the International Badminton Federation drew up a specification for a synthetic shuttle so that those shuttles could be used in any of their tournaments. Research continues; the synthetic shuttle, whilst being accepted by some clubs, has never replaced the feather shuttle for important events.



A Chinese Land Goose

Until the late 1970's most top-quality feathered shuttles were made in Britain. However, in 1981 RSL was forced to close its factory at Sandwich due to high costs, failing quality of imported feathers and ever increasing cheap Asian shuttle imports. The machinery was moved to China where RSL continued production of the No.1 Tourney Shuttle with good quality feathers and a skilled labour force.

Most feathered shuttles are now made in several factories in China using the Chinese land goose which has particularly strong white feathers. The method of production has changed little over the last 70-80 years. The 16 feathers for each shuttle are hand plucked from the same bird's wing, (which are then allowed to grow again before being plucked again!). After cleaning, selecting and cutting the feathers are fed into a machine which slots them into pre-drilled

slots in the base which provides the correct angle and spread of the feathers. Ingeniously, two lengths of thread are interwoven round the quills with the ends are tied by hand, and a lacquer is then applied to bind the stitching and the feathers together and add strength. The cork bases are cut and covered by machine and the green ribbon or lute, added. But the final label is put on by hand after a small lead weight is pressed into a central hole in the base. With this complicated manufacturing process, it is not surprising that top quality shuttles can cost up to £30 a dozen, compared with around 5/- [25p] a dozen 100 years ago.

From time-to-time concerns are raised about the continuing supply of feathers and even cork, to keep up with the modern game. In recent years the Bird flu epidemic caused the death or culling of over 200 million birds in China which brought considerable worries for the game, but it has survived and let's hope it continues to do so.

Whilst many sports use a ball as their 'missile' Badminton is unique in having a shuttle. In spite of its delicate nature, it is amazing that it can be wacked by modern rackets at speed up to 200 mph and still survive as long as it does. Nevertheless, its ultimate fate is to end up being broken

and battered, a sad end after all the care that goes into what can be considered to be a manufacturing miracle!

Graham Habbin.

\*\*An advertisement from the Badminton Gazette of date clearly illustrates the different shaped feathers in barrel and straight feathered shuttlecocks and the trademarks on them indicates that they were made in France.

January, 1910. THE BADMINTON GAZETTE. 17

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**STILL THE BEST.**

Straight. **GEISLER'S Shuttlecocks** Barrel.

**HAVE STOOD THE TEST.**

**Used by most of the Leading Clubs since 1901.**

Perfect in flight and weight.

**WILL LAST LONGER THAN ANY OTHER.**

Supplied by the leading Firms in the Trade. **Insist on having this make and refuse worthless imitations.** **Every Shuttle stamped with my trade mark.**

REG. No. 410,532.



TRADE MARK

# A HAPPY COINCIDENCE

Two days before we were due to go to Cornwall for a fortnight's holiday, my husband Doug had a conversation with Vicky Hatton about an umpiring trip she is due to make in October. It transpired that Vicky and her new husband Matt were not only going to be in Cornwall at the same time as us but that we would be staying only about 15 minutes away from each other. We arranged to meet up for dinner and a convivial evening ensued, as you can tell from the photo below.

**Anne Morden**

