

**Issue 2**

**APRIL 2023**



**BADMINTON**  
SCOTLAND

# **BSCO Newsletter**

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## Jennifer at All England

I attended the All England Open in March and it was good to be back to normality, no more wearing of masks and trying to keep them ON, no isolating, a big change from the last few years.

The AE association this year had only asked for 1 line judge from Scotland. Badminton Scotland usually gets an invite for two LJ's apart from last year when there were 10 Line Judges, this was due to people still not wanting to travel after the covid pandemic.

I left early on the Monday morning, arriving at Birmingham airport at 7am, I got picked up at the airport and taken to my hotel which was the same one as last year so that was good, it's walking distance to the Utilita Arena and I knew my way there from last year. Once settled in the hotel I went and picked up my accreditation and the new tops, which were nice as they had changed from the previous years. In the evening I attended the Orientation meeting where I met up with some people who I have met before so that was good to have a catch up.

I had been given the team sheets and seat rotation for the full week before I arrived at Birmingham through email by Abby the Manager of the Line Judges. I had printed them off to take with me, I liked knowing who the team leader and team members were for the whole week (I am hopeless remembering people's names, so great for me). Day 1 started at 9am with the briefing then play started at 10am. It was all go on Tuesday but as they started one day earlier, usually started on the Wednesday it wasn't too long in the evening when we finished.

Jennifer

A wee mention about the meals at the arena, well it was a running joke about what we were going to get the next day as we had a baked potato every day, yes every day!!!

We got it at lunch time, if we didn't get it at lunch time we had it for our dinner!!!

A change one day we had soup for lunch then the baked potato for dinner, the next day lunch was baked potato, dinner was a pie, this went on for 6 days. We all had a good laugh about it but it will be a long time before I eat another baked potato. I had been on duty every day but it was finals day before I knew it. I was on 2 finals, men's doubles and men's singles. I thoroughly enjoyed the week and meeting up with all the other line judges again.



## Dutch Juniors

What a great adventure after an absence of three years principally because of the pandemic...- great to be travelling abroad for a badminton event!

Umpires had been asked to arrive in good time to attend the briefing at 9:15 pm on Tuesday 6th March. I have been on flights previously at silly o'clock in the morning, but this one was very civilised and took off shortly after 11 am. I knew where I had met the transport team on previous occasions, but I was given different instructions, and consequently there was a bit of to-ing and fro-ing in Schiphol Airport, before finding my very identifiable host driver in his bright orange sweatshirt.

A Swedish umpire and I were taken along with two or three players to our hotels. It was good to have a relaxing hour or so, before heading out with the other umpire to find somewhere for an early dinner before being collected to go to the briefing. It turned out to be a snack on a bench overlooking the sea to a rather beautiful sunset! Our hotel was in Zandvoort where the Dutch Formula One Grand Prix is held apparently.

We met our other umpire colleagues at the venue in the café overlooking the practice courts. The Dutch Junior is an extremely high-level event and it uses a dedicated badminton club which has six competition courts in one hall and practice courts in another. Such a wonderful facility! As usual, it was a mixture of old and new friends. It was going to be an extremely busy week as everyone was on duty all day every day and no benefit of line judges until the finals. That's particularly difficult in Europe as their procedure dictates that the umpire calls all lines : not the players with umpires just overruling if required. Following the briefing, we were transported back to the hotel where everyone congregated in the bar for a welcome drink together.

The week went extremely well. The Dutch Junior is one of two European events along with the German Junior which are world-class standard junior events. We had to remind ourselves on some occasions that these were technically "children" - the standard was incredible! As well as European players, there were participants from China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and India. On this occasion, there were no players from Scotland.

As our best under 19 players are probably only 16 years old, I suspect a decision was made that this tournament would not be an appropriate one for them to attend. Maybe next year?! Many of the best players at the event played all disciplines and consequently were probably exhausted by the end of the week. Two of the finals ended in retirement unfortunately, but overall the standard of play during the week was extraordinary. It is fantastic to see young players play at such an amazing level.

All the umpires got on very well together, and it was a great team. On the Sunday evening, those of us who were unable to travel home that day went to a local beach restaurant and had a glorious meal. It was wonderful to enjoy a meal without the words "can you be back in 20 to 25 minutes" ringing in our ears! The following morning I was returned to Schiphol Airport for my flight. I arrived home in Scotland, tired but happy : it was so good to be back on the international scene again!

Elaine Bankier.



## At the Swiss Open

On 20th March Moira, Gary and myself met at Edinburgh Airport for our flight to Switzerland for the Yonex Swiss Open 2023. We were there in plenty of time and Gary was keeping his eye on the departures board to confirm which Gate we had to go to. Eventually Gary told us it was Gate 26 and to make our way there. As I passed the departure board on our way I noticed that Gate 26 was in fact the flight to Berlin in Germany! Our Gate being 1k, the opposite end of the airport! I secretly hoped that Gary was going to keep his eyes on the 'lines' better than he had with the departure board!

We arrived safely in Switzerland and after checking into our Hotel we were to make our way to the Arena, St. Jacobs Halle, the same place we had been in for the World Championships in 2019. As no one was at the hotel to give us directions we called a taxi and 25 Swiss Francs (£25.00) later we arrived at the arena for our first briefing.

After the briefing we headed back to our hotel, this time via public transport that the hosts were paying for, and popped in to a nearby restaurant for something to eat as we were quite hungry by this time. Moira and me ordered pasta and Gary chose a hamburger, or should I say a Triple Burger that as the name suggested had 3 of everything on it, it was enormous! Needless to say he couldn't finish it. Back in the hotel, an Ibis Budget Hotel, the rooms were extremely small with one small double bed and a bunk bed directly above it.



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## At the Swiss Open

It was ok for Moira and me as we shared the double bed (she refused to go up in the bunk) however as Gary was sharing with a lovely big Dutch guy he lost out and had to sleep for a week climbing up into the bunk bed each night bumping his head on the ceiling as he went.

Play started on the Tuesday morning and continued through to the finals on the Sunday. The matches came thick and fast and we had to be on our toes especially when the IRS system was introduced for the semis and finals.

We had a designated area in the arena that kept us going throughout the days with hot dogs, cooked meat, cakes, snacks and drinks. In the evening we were provided with vouchers allowing us to purchase a main meal from the outlets in the public concourse areas.



Our hosts looked after us extremely well and on the Friday morning organised a City walking tour of Basel that was really informative and enjoyable even although the weather was very poor.

On the Saturday morning before the semi finals started, a Badminton competition was held for the Line Judges and Umpires that turned out to have some 'ringers' playing as the standard in some games were very high and competitive. Moira and me gave it a miss as it was an early start, and we (me) need our beauty sleep, however Gary graced the courts and did BSCO proud.

On finals day Moira, Gary and myself were in the same team and we were lucky enough to get a tightly fought Ladies Singles match.

Afterwards we headed back to the airport for our flight home to Edinburgh (I checked the departures board).

The three of us had a wonderful time in Switzerland where we met a number of old friends from previous tournaments and also a fair few new friends too. Moira, Gary and myself will look back on our time in Basel with gratitude and fond memories.



## At the Irish Open

At the end of 2022 BSCO were well represented at the Irish Open on the outskirts of Dublin. We had 3 Umpires, Myself, Chris Steeden and Barry McNab and 2 Line Judges, Clare Connor and Kenny Crawford. Kenny may have an article on his experience elsewhere in the newsletter as this was his first foreign trip, and he thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was my first time back at the Irish since 2010 and it was good to see there were still some familiar faces around from back then. Chris and I were on the same flights and as we had arrived early managed to get a few hours in the city along with Barry and Patrick from the Netherlands, who was desperate to go the Hard Rock Café. Something he does wherever he goes as he collects pins from them all. We were lucky with the weather and walked around the Temple Bar area a bit and managed to visit the famous bar before heading back for the briefing. We managed to navigate our way on the buses but as the tournament and hotel were in Blanchardstown it can take at least 45 mins to get there. Prompting Chris to comment that we flew from Edinburgh quicker than that. Check in at the hotel turned into a bit of a nightmare as they had underestimated the number of twin rooms required so some of us had to make do with fold up beds.

The tournament went ahead smooth enough with a good number of LJ's from a local school. This is the tradition at the Irish where they are trained over the previous 6 months so inevitably some were a bit shy to begin with but soon got the hang of it and were enjoying themselves by the end of it. Because the numbers were quite tight the Referee had the Umpires call their own line for the first couple of days. The Umpire is not best positioned to call that line and the chairs were quite far away from the court which didn't help. Some of the players and coaches were getting quite vocal about some of the decisions.

Scottish players made it as far as the Qtr Finals but Chris made it as far as the Finals being awarded SJ in the WS Final. Barry and I were so "pwoud" when he was awarded his medal. The tournament finished on the Saturday but Chris and I weren't flying back until later on the Sunday so managed a full day in Dublin. We saw a few more of the sights and had some laughs and ended up walking about 7 miles around the City. It was a good tournament helped greatly by the friendly Irish hospitality.

Jim Gauld



## At the Irish Open



I had the pleasure of representing Badminton Scotland at the Irish Open Championships on the 16th November last year as an international line judge after 1 year of attending local events.

This was my first international event and I couldn't have picked a better one. From start to finish it was fantastic to be involved. As a 'newbie' I didn't know what to expect. All line judges who attended from abroad were allocated a team from a nearby school who had been learning line judging as part of their school lessons for 3 months. At first I thought this was big responsibility but the confidence I got from leading a team throughout a tournament was a big positive for me in my progress as a line judge. I must admit the team I had made my job easy! On finals day I got chosen to line judge the women's and men's doubles finals which was a great end to an enjoyable few days. This won't be my last international event.

Kenny Crawford



## At the Welsh Open

This was my my fourth attendance at Cardiff, my previous experiences were as an English Umpire , but this one representing BSCO. This time I had difficulty arranging any flights to Cardiff from Edinburgh or Glasgow due to availability of flights. One flight would have taken me via Dublin, Bristol and then Cardiff which was a definite no no. So I decided to drive down with my wife to North Wales to stay with family and then I drove down to Cardiff on my own. All in all quite a drive but comfortable enough.

Arriving in Cardiff it was good to meet up with some old friends from my previous visits, but there were some new young faces. There were about 10 younger Umpires from all over Europe , even one from the USA, who were all being assessed so it became quite tense at times. However with the experience of some of us older umpires passing on some useful pointers to them along the way, they all managed to pass with flying colours. They all left after the semi finals, and you could see the relief in their demeanour as they did so.

There were quite a few players from Scotland there, I can remember overhearing Sarah Sidebottom ,as I walked on court for one match , actually saying , Oh look it's our umpire again! , a sign that meant I was well and truly accepted now as part of BSCO!!.



It was nice once again to officiate in a final, the men's singles, as service judge as I had done in Dublin a couple of weeks earlier. After the match the winner, from Denmark, said he saw me as his lucky omen as I had apparently umpired or service judged all his matches throughout the tournament. The umpire with me in the final was Kevin YU from the USA who had been in Dublin earlier with Jim Gauld and myself. As Jim and I observed, boy can he eat!! The amount he put away at breakfast was awesome.

The finals finished about 5.30 pm then those that were left went out for a meal, then the following day it was an early start back to North Wales to pick up my wife, then back to Edinburgh.

All in all another great time was had in Cardiff, it's a good friendly tournament as always. Hopefully I'll be back.

I have also read Jim's article about Dublin , he makes comment about the buses into Dublin. The thing we all found strange was that we had to get change from the hotel and actually pay cash to the driver for each journey! Barry commented on that it was like going back in time, they need to get into the 21st century.

Christopher Steeden



## Junior Championship U13/17

• Overall today competition was very good game with fast rallies. A lot of matches with a 3 sets with very close scores. Also we see coaches giving nice strategies to change each games giving a good come back. We had seen a lot of new talented juniors played today with high skill level and excellent court movements. Looking forward to see them in bigger competitions in the future.



• Umpire and Line Judge we all had a brilliant time in this event. We haven't had a full squad for a long time with 8 Umpires and 14 Line Judge. It was good catching up with everyone.

• We want to say thank you Libby Alexander one of our most experienced line judge. Libby had line judge big competitions around UK & Europe it's a very memorable time working with Libby. After today competition she has decided to retire, Badminton Scotland would like to say thank you Libby for her service in Line Judging and all the best in the future.



# Dates For Your Diary

## Upcoming Events & Training

### LINE JUDGE COURSE

We will plan courses for clubs and groups who are interested. Then we will organise a suitable time and location to host the course.

Please Contact Marisa Baird for more information.  
[notrochmain@aol.com](mailto:notrochmain@aol.com)

### Scottish Tournaments

22nd April AGM

Lanarkshire Juniors U13/17  
21st May

The dates for the new season will be available soon.