



# BSCO Newsletter

April 2020

## Editor's Welcome

Well, I think its fair to say that this season hasn't quite ended the way we all expected it to.

After a successful start to 2020, with the Nationals in Perth, and some local tournaments at the Sir Craig Reddie Centre, it became clear as we headed into March that the season would likely end prematurely. Whilst disappointing, it is of course the right thing to do, in order to keep all of our players, coaches, officials and other volunteers safe.

Despite all of this we have a pretty full newsletter for you—we did manage to send some people away before lockdown so we have some excellent event reports.

I've introduced a new feature on page 8 (just for fun) and in light of the current climate, suggested a few ideas to help you stay occupied and connected in the coming weeks and months.



For many of us, BSCO is an extension of our family, and we will all be missing the badminton and the banter. However, in this world of technology, we are all only a click away—so for now, stay safe, stay connected, and we'll see you next season!

*Louise*

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I need your stories for the next issue! No matter how long or short, we will include them! Email me direct: [louisewilson82@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louisewilson82@hotmail.co.uk)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unfortunately, due to the current Coronavirus pandemic, all events for the remainder of the season are cancelled.

The AGM, scheduled for 2nd May, is also postponed. A new date will be advised in due course.

We look forward to seeing you in the new season—healthy and safe!



**Change of date!**

22—24th October 2020 Scottish Open

## Austrian Open, Vienna

'Oh Vienna' sang Ultravox in 1980 and in February 2020 'Oh Vienna' sang Moira, Jennifer and myself as we headed to the capital city for the Austrian Open.

On arrival at Vienna airport we were greeted by badminton officials who provided us with public transport passes that allowed us to travel to our Hotel that was about a 40 minute bus journey to the west of the city.

Once settled in we went for a walk to explore the area and found the sports hall within easy walking distance and we familiarised ourselves with the facility.

That night we went out to a nearby Hostelry for something to eat and drink and as the staff did not speak English it became quite an ordeal ordering the food. Margriet Karsmakers (Jennifer's roommate) from Denmark was with us and she decided she could translate for us – 30 minutes later we still had no food!! Menus were then produced with pictures of the meals so eventually we had ordered our food.

I had remembered Elaine Bankier saying we must try the Austrian Schnitzel but to beware as the portion is quite large so Moira and me ordered one between us. When it came I was astonished at just how big this was as it covered two large dinner plates and accompanied by French fries and salad it was more than enough for both of us. It was absolutely lovely and is to be recommended, we had more as the week progressed.

The competition began on the Wednesday morning at 9.00am with qualifying rounds and it was great to see a large Scottish contingent playing in various events.



Moira & Jennifer enjoy some strudel



Badminton Europe

Credit: Austrian Badminton Federation / Sven Heise

FRI AT 20:32

Spotted on Facebook—"The schnitzel was this big!!"

Lunch was provided in the sports hall by the local badminton club and they did us proud each day with soup, sandwiches etc. Evening meals were eaten at a nearby restaurant where again the food was lovely and more Schnitzel was consumed. The only down side to this was that the competition each day didn't finish until 9.30/10.00pm or later so we didn't get to the restaurant till very late which didn't really suit us to eat a big meal before going to bed.

The semi finals and finals were held on the Saturday and we were fortunate enough to watch Alex Dunn and Adam Hall win the gents doubles, what an achievement.

We had many laughs during the week and none more so then when we were walking back to the hotel one evening when Jennifer announced she had found a new entrance round the corner and that it saved us from going through the main doors. She led us in to a glass fronted building, into a lift and up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, where our rooms were. On the lift doors opening we found ourselves in darkness and in the middle of an office block!!

I got them out of there quickly before anyone spotted us as I didn't fancy getting locked up in an Austrian jail for Housebreaking!!

On the Sunday we had plenty of free time as our flight was later on so we ventured into Vienna city centre and enjoyed the many sights the city has to offer.

## Austrian Open, Vienna



Visiting St Stephens' Cathedral

We enjoyed our week enormously, meeting old and new friends from the Badminton family and I have to give a special mention to the competition Referee, Stephen Temple from Wales, as he was the most amenable referee I have encountered so far. He made sure the Umpires and Linejudges sat close to each other, had briefings for Umpires and Linejudges together, had Umpires come looking for us after a match if they had missed us and at times sat with us chatting



Jim & Moira on Court No.1

away and making sure we were ok. I can honestly say this is the first time I have truly felt that the Linejudges and Umpires were indeed a 'team' as is not always the case and I believe this model should be encouraged.

Here's to the next time Vienna.

*Jim, Moira & Jennifer*



## Dutch Juniors, Amsterdam

Recently having some unexpected time on my hands, I made enquiries to see if the Dutch were needing any assistance with their tournament. Covid19 was beginning to have an effect on attendance at events— Netherlands have always helped Scotland in the past and it felt right to help them if possible. At that time, I felt all the precautions being taken were a bit over the top and feeling confident in my health and immune system was happy to travel. It turned out they did have some call offs from Umpires, so my offer of help was much appreciated.

As I was going to Netherlands I took the opportunity to go early and visit a long time badminton friend Kai Tchung. I haven't seen Kai in a long time and it was good to spend a couple of days with him reminiscing, catching up and do some sightseeing in his hometown Nuenen and nearby Eindhoven. Mardi Gras was on at the time so lots of Dutch going about extremely happy and dressed to extreme. The windmill in the picture. was the subject of a Van Gogh painting according to my tour guide.



Tour Guide Kai

The tournament was held in the Duinwijck badminton club in Haarlem near Amsterdam which has a fantastic newly built 6 court hall with 3 separate practice courts.

I believe it is the biggest club in Netherlands and had seen many famous Dutch players come from it, including Ruud Bosch who I have umpired many times and is now the National coach. This is an U19 event but these guys are the best in the world and will be the next generation on the main circuit. All nationalities were there except the Chinese and some of the teams were beginning to just acknowledge their opponent and the Officials rather than shake hands. It was a tough week as there were no LJ's until the Sunday and the Umpire and SJ had to call their own lines. Had never done that before as we normally allow the players to call and we will correct if necessary. It was also long days with first matches on court at 9am and



some days not finishing until 10.30/11pm with 2 x 30 min breaks. Not much time for socializing but we did manage to squeeze in a few Dutch beers. The BadmintonScotland mug was taken on tour and was being eyed up by a couple of people and in the end, it was awarded to Germany with the instruction that it gets its picture taken at any events it attends. It was on Facebook the next week at the German Juniors.

In the end I umpired 44 matches and only 1 with LJ's. Some of the matches were a real privilege to be on court and some of the best I have umpired. Lots of smiles at the high standard of play which was in the best of spirits from the players. I highly recommend this tournament for Umpires wanting to gain experience of top-class play. Christo Popov was the only European to take a title with the rest dominated by Asian countries.



I only did a Semi on the Sunday as I had to leave early as I had tickets to see a band in a pub in Edinburgh, so it certainly was an adventurous week of travel and excitement.

### All England

Having returned from the Dutch I get a message from Marisa to ask if I would be able to assist at the All England. Covid 19 was now beginning to cause more concerns. The German Open and Swiss Open had both been cancelled and after much deliberation the All England finally decided they would still go ahead. All nations were there including China who had already been training in Europe for a few weeks, so they were cleared to play.

## Yonex All England, Birmingham

Now, Marisa's request was not to go help the Umpires but to join the LJ team who were really struggling with call offs. Me going back to my roots and line judging again created much amusement with some of our colleagues (they know who they are) but maybe justified as the last time I fully was a LJ was London 2012. However, I have always said being a LJ is easy so this would be a piece of cake....

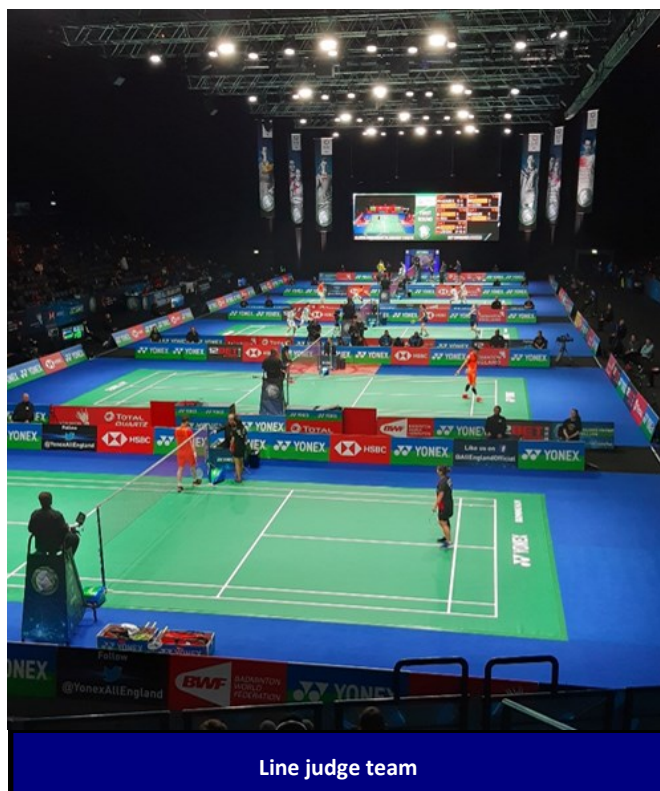
That was until I sat on a line on the first day and the reality kicked in when you remember what you are there for and that you can't just watch the play you need to be concentrating on your line. There were a couple of times where the umpire was looking for my call, but I was too busy smiling at what the players had done before I realised I should have made a call.

They were well in; it was just efficient Umpires looking to acknowledge my call, so a quick smile and nod of the head soon eased their minds. All England has IRS on Court 1 and I didn't have any calls on there that caused the players to use a challenge but there were a couple of others that if there had been IRS the players would have used it. I wonder what IRS would have decided?

Very soon though the old routines and habits began to emerge, and it was like I had never been away and started to relax and enjoy the whole experience. It was good to see many familiar faces that I am normally seeing from up in the chair. The All England being the event it attracts visitors from around the world and I bumped into a few that I haven't seen for a while. The event was very well supported by spectators after the first couple of days. Zibi was originally attending to spectate but also stepped in to help the LJ team. He had an adventurous time getting home as Poland went into lockdown and had to fly to Germany then drive back to Poland.

There was also an Umpire course happening and there were many there that weren't officiating so good to see them. The Umpires were a bit confused when they saw me appear and then to be part of the LJ team caused some concerns as I wound them up that they would have to be on their toes. It was all taken in good spirit and we had an enjoyable but again long few days. I helped from the Wednesday to Friday and came home on the Saturday leaving the semis and the finals to the "experts".

*Check out our new spot—Mugs on Tour! - over on page 9*



Line judge team

I "self-isolated" and watched the finals from the comfort of my living room and the MD was an immense match. I was also pleased to see Tai Tzu Ying win the WS. Having umpired her and watched her she is an immense talent and it is good to see her get the success

The "Mug" was again on tour and pictured on Facebook which again generated a few smart comments from our so-called colleagues.

### Stay Safe

All in all, despite all the concerns that were going on around the world at that time, these were two fantastic events that came together through everyone pulling together and getting on with their job for the benefit of the players, so that they get their chance to shine. However, since then, all events have been cancelled, and we are in a daily changing world.

I encourage everyone to follow the guidelines and look after yourself to ensure that you and everyone around you is also safe. These are challenging times, and we do not know what the outcome will be or when we can get back to normal. Stay positive, look after yourselves and we will all be back on court before we know it.

*Jim Gould*

## Training Update



Congratulations go to both Jan and Frances who recently received their Basic Line Judge Certificates! Well done ladies!



### Line Judge & Umpire Courses

Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers, both LJ courses in Dingwall and at the Sir Craig Reddie Centre were cancelled.

Our new posters did generate some interest in umpire training, however we were unable to schedule a course prior to the Coronavirus situation escalating.

However, we will be planning more courses in the new season, so please direct any queries to Marisa, [notrochmain@aol.com](mailto:notrochmain@aol.com) in the first instance.



Spotted at some recent tournaments:

- \* Peter at the European Team Championships—even better that Scotland women won Bronze!
- \* Stuart at the Estonian International
- \* Libby & Stan spotted at the Welsh Open, along with Chris Steeden (visiting Scottish Umpire) and of course you will recognise many of our colleagues from England and Wales



## A Word on...

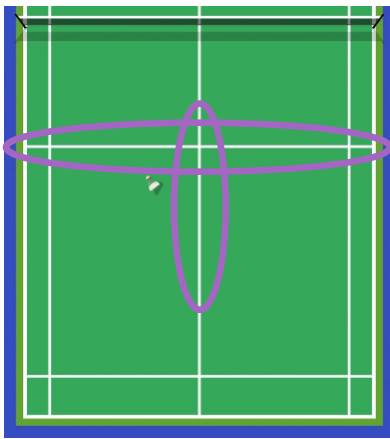
BSCO Newsletter

# Mopping

Mopping is a funny old business—it seems that no two referees ever do it the same way! Which doesn't help us poor line judges when it comes to grabbing our mops and attending to the court. So here is a little bit of "guidance":

**Spot Mopping:** For most local tournaments, mopping is usually just as required e.g. if a player dives and leaves a sweaty spot on the court, or if some sweat spots have dripped during or between rallies. Remember to pay attention so that you know where exactly on the court to go!

**Mopping at the interval:** You only have around 30 seconds! Focus on the T at the front of the court. This is where a player waiting to serve or receive is more likely to drip. Keep an eye open for any loose feathers elsewhere on the court too, and catch them as you go.

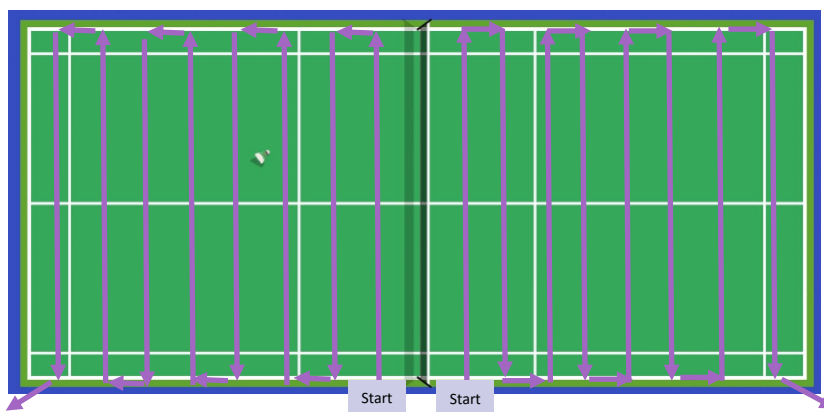


Perfect technique

Mops are often temperamental, and it sometimes takes a bit of practice!

**Top tip:** sometimes it helps to keep the mop head angled (like the picture above) and this stops it from flipping over

**Mopping between games:** Start at the net—work in tandem with the mopper on the other side (where possible) and work across the court and backwards towards the baseline—this makes it easy to nip back to your seat when finished.



**Mopping after the match:** Usually reserved for large events e.g. Scottish Open. Many matches are timed, so this is usually a very quick mop, looking for sweat spots and loose feathers. Again, work with your partner opposite to make it look as tidy and professional as possible.

The main guidance though is to pay attention to your briefing at the start of each day (on multi-day events sometimes it starts one way and changes half way through if the referee isn't happy!) **AND** work with your opposite line-judge/mopper. Keep watching each other to stay in sync as much as possible, and you will do just fine.

# Mugs on Tour!!



So our illustrious leader, Jim, started a bit of trend with his Badminton Scotland mug travelling to various tournaments, and I thought we could make a feature of it on future events..... How could I have known we'd be in lockdown with no more travel?

However, not to be discouraged, we've got some Socially Distant Mugs below!! Work from home mug, stockpiling mug, isolating mug, milking mug...

We'd love to see what your mug is up to—send us your pictures! [LouiseWilson82@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:LouiseWilson82@hotmail.co.uk)



**Mugs NOT on Tour / Socially Distant Mugs!!**





## Socially Distant—But Not Alone

I am sure you will all agree that times are indeed strange at the moment, and we will all be dealing with the restrictions in different ways.

For some life hasn't changed too much—for Marisa for example, life continues on the farm.

For others, we find that all of our usual social activities have suddenly disappeared e.g. church, badminton, "normal" work, visits from family and friends.

However, we live in an age with wonderful technology, and I am amazed at how creative people are being in the online/virtual world! So far since social distancing was introduced I've seen (or experienced) On-line Wine & Gin Tastings, Coffee & Chat sessions, On-line Book Group and Film Club, Virtual Exercise Classes & Virtual Trips (so far Paris, The Louvre & Disneyland) —in fact I am even hosting a Virtual Bingo night!

To help you, click on the picture to the right—this will take you to a huge list of resources to help you through this period. I'm sure you will find something of interest there—be it new book recommendations, live theatre or comedy streams, on-line concerts or games, Zoocams featuring your favourite animals—the list goes on!

P.S. Lots of others out there, but this was a good "all in one place list"

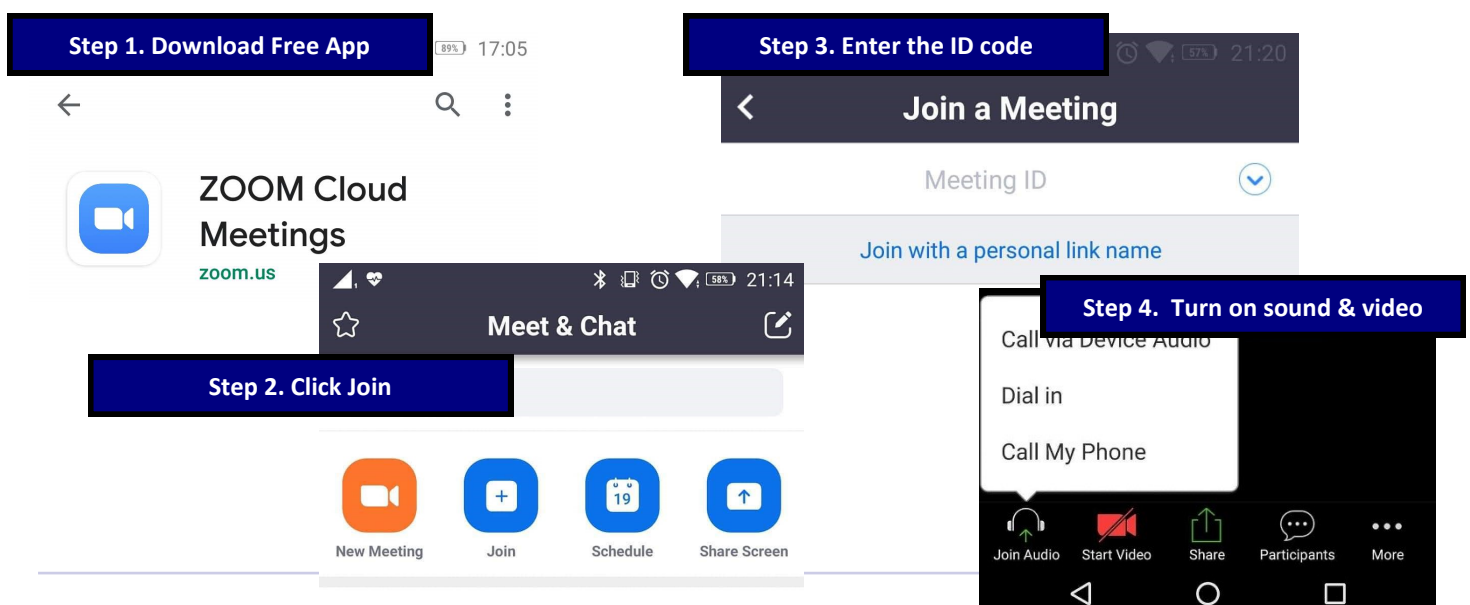


## BSCO Zoom Chat—5 April @ 14:00

One of the great bits of technology out there is an app called Zoom—until recently only really used in business for the purposes of video conferencing. However, it is now no.2 on the most downloaded list in the Google Play store, as more and more people are using it to be able to connect with friends and family.

As we were all meant to be together at the Junior Nationals on 5th April, I am going to host a Zoom Chat instead—if anyone would like to join, all you have to do is download the free app to your phone, tablet or laptop, and then join the meeting with the code that I will ask Marisa to send out via email!

We can all then catch up, from the comfort & safety of our own homes, and stay connected!



## Member Stories

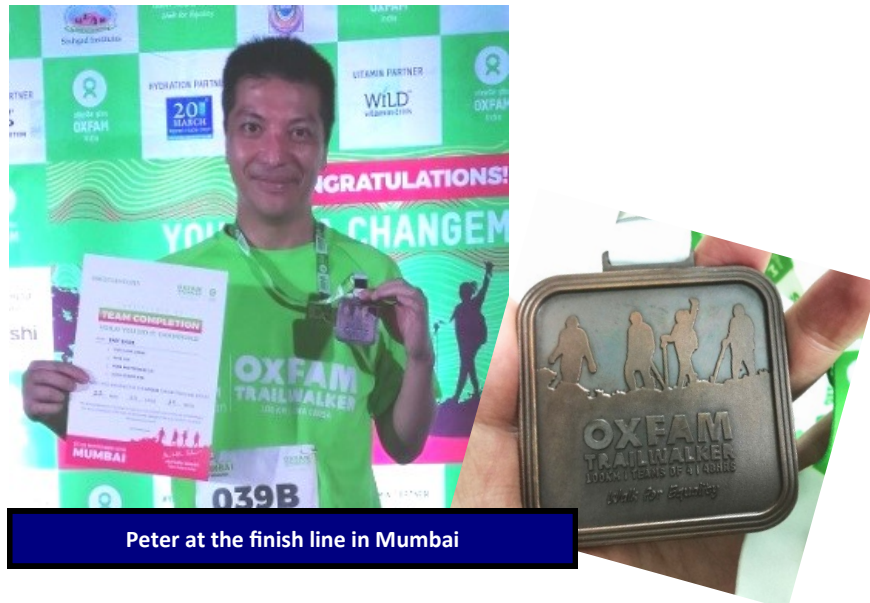
## Oxfam Trailwalking

As many of you know, we are a diverse and interesting group of people within the BSCO team— we ask Line Judge & Umpire Peter Chiu to share one of his worldwide adventures..

**OXFAM International** is a world-renowned non-profit organisation, working in over 90 countries, the charity fights against poverty and injustice around the world. As well as responding to emergencies as a result of natural disasters, they have ongoing development projects and campaigns designed to aid and assist poverty stricken places around the world. I cannot emphasize the amount of aid the organisation provides and the immense benefits provided to those who receive it. As part of my ongoing commitment towards raising the profile of the charity and raising awareness of their continual efforts in the fight against poverty and injustice, I am taking part in the Oxfam Trailwalker.

### What is Trailwalker?

Oxfam Trailwalker are fundraising endurance events conducted across the world by OXFAM. Currently there are 17 Oxfam Trails in the world,



Peter at the finish line in Mumbai

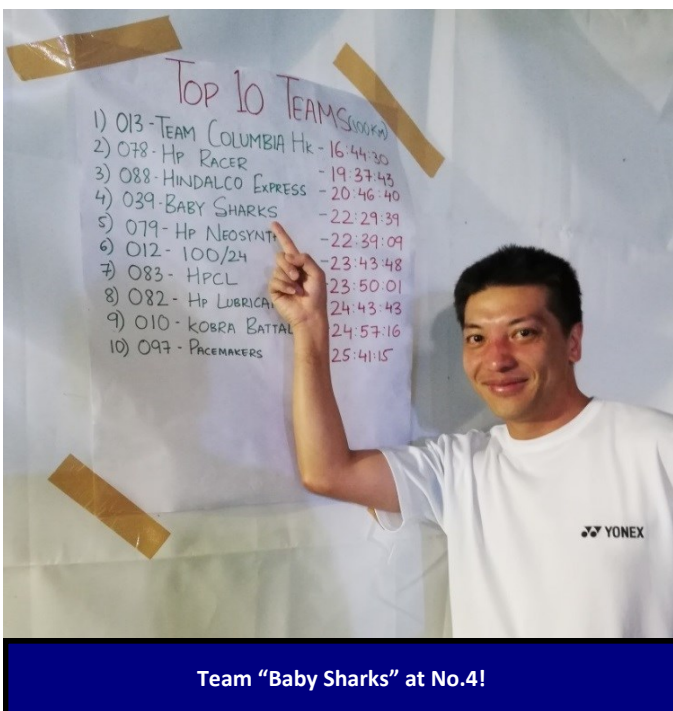
located in Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Ireland, Japan, Belgium, Spain, Germany, France, India, Australia and New Zealand!

To participate, teams of four members must complete a course of 100 kilometres (62.5 miles) in a set time limit - typically between 24 and 48 hours. All team members are required to cross all checkpoints along the route and the finish line together!



## Oxfam Trail Walking

My ambition is to complete all 17 Oxfam Trails in the world, so far I have already completed 11 Oxfam Trails. At the moment the most memorable trail I've completed is the Mumbai Trailwalker.



Team "Baby Sharks" at No.4!

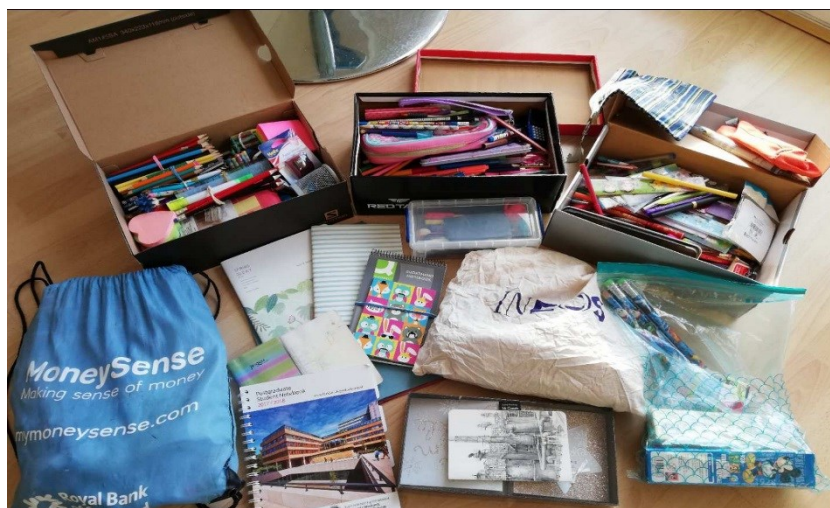
### Mumbai Trailwalker

Last year I took part in the Oxfam Trailwalker in Mumbai, India, with three other enthusiasts for the charity. Our team "Baby Sharks" survived in the 38 degree heat (only a LITTLE bit warmer than Scotland), and managed to reach the finish point in a full team of four with a remarkable result of 22hours 29 mins 39 sec!



Do you have a story to tell about life outside badminton? We'd love to hear it!

[louisewilson82@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louisewilson82@hotmail.co.uk)



*Peter*

# Members Stories

## Farewell

We unfortunately bid farewell to two of our new members—Jan and Riley—both Chinese students who joined us this year, but have now either returned to China or are awaiting return.

**Jan** (featured on page 6 receiving her Basic LJ certificate) has now returned to Fujian Province in China—we wish you every success Jan, and hope that you and your family stay safe.

**Riley** was also due to return home when the Coronavirus situation closed off all travel to China. Current travel restrictions mean Riley is still waiting. We wish you safe travels Riley and hope that you are able to return safely to your family and friends once the situation improves.

BSCO would like to thank both Jan and Riley for their support this season. Perhaps we will see you both on the Line Judge circuit in years to come.

Good luck girls!



## Volunteer of the Day

On finals day at the All England, Ziby was awarded the prestigious honour of Volunteer of the Day. This was in recognition both of his support of the tournament (he was there as a spectator but stepped in to help as a Line Judge due to call offs) and of BSCO's ongoing support to the event.

His prize, was the honour of delivering one of the trophies to the stand—anyone who knows Ziby will be in no doubt how proud he was to receive this award.

Ziby had a terrible journey home as Poland went in to lockdown—BSCO wish you and your family safety and good health!



Do you have a comment, suggestion, article or photo to share in the next newsletter? If so, send it on! [louisewilson82@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louisewilson82@hotmail.co.uk)



## Robot Update

Many of you will know that for several months now, Marisa and her family have been eagerly awaiting the arrival and installation of their new fleet of robot milkers!

It has been a testing time for all, with many delays in construction and commissioning, Marisa having her minor accident, her husband having surgery on his knee, staff shortages, Coronavirus, panic buying—the list goes on!

But, we are happy to report that the robot uprising has begun, and they are now fully operational and all the cows are now completing their training on self-milking.

In my call for “Mug shots” - Marisa sent this photograph of the Badminton Scotland Mug hard at work along side the robots! Glad to see the cows maintaining their 2m social distance too.

Stay safe everyone—and if you need milk, I'm sure Marisa has a robot that could sort you out!



**We can't produce this newsletter without your stories and news. Please tell us about your trips—even if its only a few lines, we will include it!**