

5 JULY 1934

THE INTERNATIONAL Badminton Federation is founded. The Badminton Association (forerunner to today's BADMINTONEngland) convenes a meeting of national associations. Delegates from Canada, Denmark, England, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales approve the proposal for a world body.

1948-1949

The World Men's Team Championships for the Thomas Cup, proposed by legendary player and administrator Sir George Thomas, takes off with ten nations competing in the first event. Malaya wins the final 8-1 over Denmark in Preston, England, in 1949.

1956

The World Women's Team Championships for the Uber Cup is proposed by England's Betty Uber. Eleven nations compete in the first edition, with USA emerging victorious over Denmark 6-1 in Lancashire, England.

1962

Badminton debuts at the fourth Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia. The hosts pocket three of the four titles (Mixed Doubles added in the next Asian Games).

1972

Badminton played as an exhibition sport in the Olympic Games in Munich.

1977

First World Championships held in Malmö, Sweden. Denmark dominates with three titles, including Flemming Delfs and Lene Koppen as singles champions.

1978

A breakaway group emerges in IBF over the issue of China's recognition. The World Badminton Federation (WBF) is formed.

1979

First prize-money tournament – Friends' Provident Masters – staged at Albert Hall, London, heralding the era of professional badminton. Champions Prakash Padukone (India) and Lene Koppen win princely sums of GBP 3,000 each!

1981

Re-unification is successful as WBF merges with IBF. China enters the IBF fold and makes an impact at the inaugural World Games, winning four of five titles.

1984

Thomas and Uber Cup tournaments take place simultaneously for the first time; format reduced from best-of-nine to best-of-five matches.

1985

On 5 June in East Berlin, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) accepts badminton as a full Olympic sport to be played officially in the Barcelona Olympic

Games in 1992. Badminton is also chosen as a demonstration sport for the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988.

1989

World Team Badminton Championships for Sudirman Cup held in Jakarta alongside the individual World Championships. Cup named in honour of PBSI founder, Dick Sudirman.

1992

Historic year as badminton joins the Olympic Games programme at the Barcelona Olympic Games. Four events are held with Indonesia's Allan Budikusuma and Susi Susanti (now husband and wife)

becoming badminton's 'golden couple'. They win the singles gold medals – the first Olympic medals for Indonesia in any sport. Meanwhile, the World Junior Championships are started.

1996

Mixed Doubles added to badminton's Olympic programme and bronze medal play-offs are introduced.

2003

Sudirman Cup becomes a stand-alone event.

2005

In June, the headquarters of IBF moves from Cheltenham, UK, to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



SHUTTTLING THROUGH 80 YEARS



2006

Revolutionary change in scoring system as IBF introduces a new rally points system of 21x3 at the Thomas & Uber Cup qualifiers in February 2006. The Council meeting in May approves the new system. The International Badminton Federation is re-christened the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

2007

A World Superseries circuit is announced, encompassing the most prestigious tournaments internationally.

2008

Introduction of the year-ending Superseries finale called the BWF Superseries Masters

Finals, with only the top eight players invited. It's renamed BWF World Superseries Finals in 2009.

2011

BWF schools' badminton programme – Shuttle Time – starts in Tonga, training teachers and coaches how to introduce safe and fun badminton to children. Shuttle Time is now in more than 65 countries across all five continents. The latest is Shuttle Time Dubai which was launched this week.

2011

Five Superseries events given Premier status and it becomes mandatory for top

players to compete in them. In June, BWF becomes the international federation responsible for para-badminton. BadmintonWorld.TV – BWF's online channel – is launched in August and gains quick popularity, currently boasting more than 60 million views and featuring more than 2,500 videos on tournaments, players, para-badminton, Shuttle Time, coaching and sponsorship-related promotions.

2012

BWF unveils a new logo to reflect its modern brand identity – contemporary, strong and efficient – with the letters set in a 'holding device' in the shape of a stylised shuttle.

2013

The BWF membership elects a new Council and new President, Poul-Erik Høyer of Denmark – Men's Singles champion at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games. He succeeds Dr. Kang Young Joong of Korea. A record six women attain seats on the Council. China's Lin Dan claims an unprecedented fifth BWF World Championship while Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand becomes the youngest singles World champion at age 18, wresting the women's title.

2013

The instant review system debuts at the BWF World Superseries Finals in Kuala Lumpur in December, helping players and officials use technology for more accurate line calls (in early 2014, Hawk-Eye

contracted to provide IRS services). Lee Chong Wei makes historic first challenge – successfully! Meanwhile, Monaco becomes BWF's 180th member.

2014

The 126th IOC Session in Sochi, Russia, confirms BWF President, Poul-Erik Høyer as an IOC Member. The President joins two other BWF Council colleagues who have this honour Li Lingwei (2012) and Dagmawit Girmay Berhane (2013).

2014

Era of significant growth in commercial partnerships. Global insurance company, MetLife, signs as title sponsor for BWF World Superseries for four years (2014-2017). MetLife was preceded by healthy-lifestyles brand, OSIM. In 2013, Li-Ning, RedBull

China and Chery became Major Events sponsors until 2016 while IMG Media also agreed a four-year contract (2014-2017) for the centralised media rights of BWF Major Events, BWF World Superseries and the new BWF Grand Prix Gold series. The Star Australian Badminton Open makes Oceania the third host confederation in the MetLife BWF World Superseries.

APRIL 2014

BWF and the Dubai Sports Council announce a partnership to host the BWF Destination Dubai World Superseries Finals in the emirate from 2014 to 2017 and to launch, Shuttle Time Dubai, in schools and clubs to develop badminton.

5 JULY 2014

Happy 80th Birthday, BWF!