

Reverse Spin is Banned

AT THE IBF AGM,
LONDON, MAY 19 1982

The Annual General Meeting (the 44th) of the IBF was held in London on May 19 at the time of the Thomas Cup finals and was attended by 42 National Associations plus several Associate Members and International Organisations.

For once, Badminton was the main item on the Agenda and the meeting was particularly concerned with a revision of the service laws, the intention being to ban what has become known as the "reverse spin serve". After a debate on principle it was clear that the law would be changed and the meeting eventually came down almost unanimously behind the wording proposed by the Danish Badminton Association. This introduces a new phrase at the beginning of Law 14 (a) reading 'if the initial point of contact with the shuttle is not on the base of the shuttle'. The intention is clear—to make the server strike the base of the shuttle and thereby greatly reduce the opportunities of imparting spin to the shuttle.

Law 4 was amended to introduce a legal definition of a synthetic shuttle and a new Law 21 was agreed introducing penalties for interfering with the speed of the shuttle and for misconduct. These law changes come into effect on JULY 1 1982 and will be formally intimated to members by a prompt Information Bulletin.

The second major debate concerned the regulations for the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup competitions. The proposal was made that they be played together with the number of matches in a tie being reduced from 9 to 5; that qualifying venues be arranged; and that a larger number of teams qualify for the final ties. Both qualifying and final stages would be played in a pool system to give most Badminton and thereby to encourage entries. After a long and interesting debate the meeting agreed that the principle was acceptable and the Council was instructed to produce the necessary legislation for the next AGM.

The elections of Office Bearers produced no change at the top with Craig Reddie (Scotland) being re-elected as President, Herman Valken (Netherlands) as Secretary/Treasurer and Poul-Erik Nielsen (Denmark) and Roy Ward (Australia) as Vice-Presidents, but there are a number of new Council Members. Rudy Hartono made yet more Badminton history by being elected to and attending a Council Meeting while playing in a Thomas Cup contest and he is joined by Miss Lu Shengrong (China) Charoen Wattanasin (Thailand) and by R W W Kente of the Africa Badminton Federation.

The Council met on May 20 and carried on its routine work. ●