



BADMINTON EUROPE

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Award: **President's award**

Nominated: **Frank Wilson**

Frank Wilson (ENG) was for the last twenty years of the 20th century a very active and useful Council and Committee member of the European Badminton Union, EBU, as BEC was known in those days.

When Frank Wilson was elected to the EBU Technical Committee in 1980, he was already well known and respected among badminton players and officials, as he had taken over from the legendary Herbert Scheele as Hon. Referee of the All England Badminton Championships some year earlier. He was a highly respected umpire and referee, and his contributions to EBU first were in these areas. However, with a professional background as a Chartered Accountant, his sharp brain was also extremely helpful in designing and implementing the format for the EBU events, under the changing conditions that a rapidly increasing number of Member Associations offered during his period in charge. In 1986 Frank Wilson took over the Chair of the Technical Committee, a capacity in which he served until the title in 1993 was changed to Director for Events. He then was the EBU Director for Events until retiring in 2000.

In this long period of 14 years, Frank, with limited support from his Committee, was responsible for the successful allocation and conduct of all EBU events, until 1997 including the EBU Circuit, and – please take note - without the support of the professional office we know today! His contribution is enormous, and in his days he was a true stalwart of badminton in Europe.

Frank Wilson was not a great badminton player, but certainly a great sportsman. As a teenager he lived through the Olympic Games in London 1948 and fell in love with sports for life. Track and field, badminton and later tennis – he still plays, also internationally – became his favourites. However badminton was lucky that he chose officiating in our game, first as an umpire and later as a referee. Frank's ability to observe and his sense of fairness, as well as his respect for rules and regulations made him one of the most respected technical officials of our game. EBU was fortunate when he opted to serve in our Technical Committee and later on Council.

In the EBU Council, Frank's contribution was never limited to his technical field of expertise. He often contributed in other areas, such as Finance, where his professional background was a very useful asset, and his sound judgment was always important when difficult decisions had to be taken.