



## Welcome!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the WIB working group of Badminton Europe.



## Photos

**Top right** The WIB working group meeting in Dublin on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Left to right:  
Christine Skropke (vice chair),  
Kristiina Dansken,  
Cheryl Evans,  
Sigríður G Bjarnadóttir  
Jean Marc Serfaty (BEC Director for Development)  
Ella Diehl,  
Emma Mason (chair),  
Corina Dan,

**Left** WIB Project of the Year winner: project leader Elina Vaisanen.

**Right** WIB Person of the Year winner: Nora Perry with Elina Vaisanen.



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## BEC Gala Awards

The second Badminton Europe Gala Awards were held in Dublin on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April.

**D**uring the Gala Award two Women in Badminton Awards were given out for project and person of the year.

This year the **WIB project of the year** was won by the Espoo Women's Open in Finland which is an annual female only tournament. The tournament aims to provide a competitive but fun environment where female players of all ages and skills can develop their game and be the stars of the show. The tournament has been a great success and now attracts over 140 female athletes every year and some of the players in the Finnish national junior tournaments

started their careers off at the Espoo Women's Open. The award was collected by Elina Vaisanen the project leader from Finland. The WIB working group would like to congratulate Elina and Badminton Finland for their great work on this project.

The **WIB person of the year** was Nora Perry. Nora had an incredible career as a player and of her many notable accolades three of the most significant were being crowned double World Champion and battling her way to 6 European Gold Medals and 8 All England Titles.



## International Women's Day 2014

### WIB Networking Breakfast

However, most significantly for the WIB Awards Nora was the lady who supported and facilitated the creation of a WIB working group at BWF level that would support the wider gender equality movement. She went onto chair the first BWF WIB commission and is responsible for the highly successful Women's Forum that is held annually after the BWF AGM. There is no doubt that her work has led to the gender equality movement being supported in the continental federations and Badminton Europe's WIB working group were proud to see her win this award.

**We** would like to remind all the MAs that these awards are an annual event. If MAs have a notable person or project that have contributed in the past year to the development of women in badminton within Europe then the WIB would encourage you to get in touch with your MA and to

put that person or project forward for the 2015 WIB Awards.

**D**ublin also hosted the BEC elections and unfortunately there are now no female representatives in the BEC Council. While this is a very disappointing result the WIB would like to remind each and every one of you that there are another 4 positions up for election in 2015. We would encourage all females interested in being a part of the governance of European Badminton to get in touch with their MAs and with the WIB. We would love to hear from you and see how we can help.

**I**n March this year the WIB held a networking breakfast on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March during the All England Badminton Championships to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). The WIB were delighted

to welcome speaker Amanda Bennett a former Welsh Rugby Player and current director of Fair Play to talk about her experiences as a female in elite sport. In a relaxed and informal environment Amanda gave a very engaging and thought provoking account of her sporting life to an audience that included the President of the BWF Poul-Eric Hoyer as well as the chair of the BWF WIB Geraldine Brown. The WIB hope to hold this breakfast as an annual event and hope that you will be able to join us next year!

**T**he WIB would like to encourage those of you within your MAs who are actively promoting and strengthening the position of women in badminton to come forward and tell us your stories. We would be happy to include those in our next newsletter and share these with the other MAs.