



## *China top National Referees begin the “long march” to International Refereeing: WSF Senior Assessor Rod Symington invited by CSA to hold a “High Level Squash Refereeing Seminar” in Beijing*

*By Lao Meng*



*Rod and China 5 National Referees*

Last April 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> WSF World Referee Senior Assessor Mr. Rod Symington has held in Beijing a three days seminar on high level squash refereeing.

The seminar, called “Aiming your improvement”, was organized by Chinese Squash Association and specifically aimed to start training and preparing Chinese

National Referees for the extremely challenging objective of becoming in future WSF International Referees.

Besides the 5 National Referees who received at the end of the seminar a diploma, 5 more referees (A and B classes) attended the seminar as auditors and received a certificate of attendance.

Mr. Jin, Deputy Director of 2<sup>nd</sup> Department of Multi-ball Center from the Ministry of Sport, told us: “Chinese squash is developing fast. This time we have had the great opportunity of inviting Mr. Symington, one of the only two Senior Assessors of WSF and probably the best expert in high refereeing teaching. This made this seminar a unique opportunity for our top referees to improve their officiating capabilities and to become better prepared to future demand of high level referees for professional matches in China”. Mr. Jin also confirmed the intention of organizing another high level seminar just in the occasion of China Open next autumn.



*Mr. Jin gives Rod a souvenir of China*



“Since 2004, when squash referees development started in China, we have trained and certified around 60 Referees divided in 5 different categories according to the refereeing skills and capabilities reached” said Franco Amadei, CSA Refereeing Committee Supervisor and person in charge of Chinese Referee Development Program. Among the 60 referees of China the top 5 are already National Referees and are now working hardly to improve their level and possibly start the “long march” to WSF International Referee. “In the next months our National Referees will hopefully start receiving official assessments by WSF International Refereeing Assessors.”



*Rod assisted by Franco, China National Assessor*

“In terms of theoretical preparation on rules and interpretations, this is the best team of National Referees I have met in more than 20 years of seminars around the world ! China Squash Association has done a great work in developing so well its local referees just in few years.” Rod Symington said during the farewell ceremony at the end of the seminar. “But I understand in China now there are only few opportunities to officiate professional matches, and joining refereeing work in top tournaments abroad is even more difficult. Chinese referees lack opportunities of officiating high level matches, so it is difficult to reach the necessary level of experience to become an international referee. If you want to reach WSF international refereeing standards you need to do lots of high level matches refereeing and get as many as possible opportunities of guidance and official assessment by WSF International Refereeing Assessors.”



*Rod delivers the diploma to China National Referees*



Mr.Symington told us that if people work seriously, it takes an average of 5 to 8 years to develop a good National Referee. And not everybody can reach the national top level. Then if you want to go ahead and reach the standards fixed by WSF for its certified International



Referees it's a long and challenging road and selection is really tough.

WSF develops and certifies the two top levels of referees in the

world: the WSF World Referees and WSF International Referees. At present there are only 8 WSF World Referees (of which 1 from Asia) and 13 WSF International Referees (of which 6 from Asia).

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