

Great Britain wins narrowly ahead of the Swiss team

The Swiss national railway badminton team competed in the Railway Euro Group country tournament in Brig from 28 to 30 April 2023 against the national selection teams from Denmark, Czech Republic, Great Britain and Germany.

At the Sportcenter Olympica, where we had not only optimal badminton courts in the new hall but also suitable accommodation, the participants were welcomed to the sporty and sociable competition shortly after the arrival of the teams.

To start with, Switzerland against the Czech Republic and Germany against Denmark put themselves in a good starting position with clear victories. In the 5-team match mode, one team had one break per round.

In the second round, the British team clearly prevailed in their opening match against the Czech team with a win by zero. The Swiss Team was strongly challenged against the German Team selection and achieved a great 5:3 victory with a close three-set victory in the last mixed doubles.

On the second day, the Swiss team faced the guests from Great Britain. Craig injured his thigh in the doubles against Flavio and Götschi. So, the British Team had to substitute Craig with coach Duncan during this encounter. The home team was able to take advantage of this situation and fought their way to a 4:4 draw with a strong performance. At the same time, the Danish team defeated the Czech team, who thus reached the final fourth place.

In the second round the German team won against the Czech team and the British against the Danish Team selection. The Swiss team had a break in this round.

In the 5th and final round of matches, the Swiss team won a men's double, the women's double, all three men's singles (two of which only in the third set), the women's single and the mixed doubles match against Denmark. Only the second men's doubles match was lost to the opponents.

Thus, the match between the German and the British Team had to decide the tournament victory. A draw or a win by the Germans would be enough for the home team to win. Our northern neighbours and the British won alternately, so the very last match provided great suspense. In the men's singles between Ross and Seppi, the Scot won the first set. The Bavarian Seppi became stronger and stronger in the second set and prevailed, thus forcing a third set. Unfortunately, he injured his calf shortly after the start and had to withdraw. The fact that this final match ended with an injury put a damper on the atmosphere in the hall. With a final score of 5:3, the British had the same number of winning points (7) as Switzerland, and both teams were even in the number of matches won (23). In the end, it was the sets won that decided the match for Great Britain (+28). The Swiss team (+24 sets) achieved a strong 2nd place with a fighting and committed performance and remains unbeaten for three national tournaments.

At the convivial final evening, the podium winners received well-filled gift baskets with specialties from the Valais region at the award ceremony. Afterwards, the get-together in the international badminton family was celebrated. Everybody enjoyed to dance to music.

With Silvia and Marco, tournament director Roger had two dedicated family members to support him. Further thanks go to EBC Winterthur as co-organizer and to all sponsors who also largely contributed to the successful completion of the tournament.

Roger Baumann
SVSE Responsible Badminton