



## Newsletter March 2025

Spring, nature reborn, a little more warmth and sunshine in some parts of the world, while geopolitics reminds us how fragile the world's stability is. We can also see from our programs how little life means, and how little help makes a huge difference in the field. The day after our Annual General Meeting, we decided once again that all donations and subscriptions from clubs, committees, leagues, federations and individuals would be sent directly to our programs. We'll have more to say about our financial results in the next newsletter, but we've had a great year of action, which we'll soon be presenting to you in our annual report.

In the meantime, we're concentrating on the Solibad days, from May 8 to 18, which we hope will be festive and creative, so that this tradition becomes part of the calendar for all badminton lovers who want to treat themselves to a moment of solidarity once a year.

Happy reading,

Raphaël

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### **HEADLINE – A YEAR FULL OF HOPE IN MADAGASCAR**

The year 2024 was marked by significant progress for our partner 2400 Sourires, who continues its commitment to street children in Madagascar. Thanks to their actions in the field and the support of Solibad, numerous projects have been launched,

improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable children and families.

One of the highlights of the year was the visit of the Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training, a key moment that strengthened the ties between the association and the local authorities.

At the same time, 2400 Sourires stepped up its work with children in very precarious circumstances. The association took charge of several seriously ill children, providing them with essential medical support. It has also stepped up its involvement in rehabilitation centers for minors, where educational and sporting activities have been set up to help these young people rebuild their lives. Badminton plays a central role here, particularly in developing the concentration and resilience of incarcerated children - who are often in prison for stealing food to survive...

In terms of the environment, 2400 Sourires has reached a symbolic milestone by exceeding 300,000 trees replanted by the end of 2024. These reforestation efforts are part of an awareness-raising and sustainable protection approach, carried out in collaboration with local partners.

The association also continues to support families in great difficulty, particularly single mothers living on the streets with young children. Socio-professional integration programs have been set up to offer them training and support on the road to self-sufficiency.



## **A project for the future: the Village des Sourires sports complex**



Alongside these initiatives, 2400 Sourires is pursuing a major project: the construction of a sports complex in the Village des Sourires. This complex will host several disciplines, including rugby, soccer, badminton, fencing, swimming and climbing. It will provide a structured environment for street children, enabling them not only to practice sport, but also to envisage a future in high-level courses of study.

A large proportion of the funds sent by Solibad are going towards this project, which represents a real hope for these young people. With the technical support of the SOBATRA company, the construction will enter an active phase at the end of the rainy season.



The other part of the funds sent by Solibad is invested in the night patrols, which take place every week. During these evenings, the association offers the children physical activities essential to their development, as well as hot meals. A medical team takes care of sick children and provides them with the necessary medication. It's also the perfect time to forge a bond with these children, some of whom will be joining the Village des Sourires.



Finally, a few days ago, 2400 Sourires received exceptional recognition. In collaboration with the Lycée Français d'Antananarivo, the association was awarded first prize in the Palmes de l'Engagement, a prestigious distinction placed under the patronage of the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron.

The ceremony, held in the emblematic setting of the Sorbonne, rewards years of hard work and daily commitment, while reinforcing the team's motivation to pursue its mission. Congratulations to 2400 Sourires!

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## NEWS FROM OUR OTHER PROGRAMS

## Supporting children in Rwanda with YOMADO!

As part of the “Rays of Hope” program for orphans and vulnerable children, our partner YOMADO continues to provide vital assistance to children in Rwanda.

Last month, a first action was carried out with 60 children from the Rilima site, in the Bugesera district. The afternoon began with an introduction to badminton, before the children were given school supplies including exercise books and pens, as well as community health insurance (mutuelle de santé). This initiative will enable them to study in better conditions, and to access healthcare when needed.

YOMADO's new director took the opportunity to reiterate the importance of protecting children against all forms of violence and defending their rights. He also stressed the impact of sport, and badminton in particular, as a motivational and personal development tool for these young people.

After this first day marked by smiles and joy, YOMADO continued its action and, a few days ago, 40 other children from the Ngeruka and Kamabuye sectors received the same support, with the participation of the Executive Secretary of the Ngeruka sector, who addressed a message to parents, encouraging them to remain committed to the education and development of their children.



## News from our program in India!

Our partner Objectif France-Inde (OFI) continues to promote badminton among young people in India. Recently, a distribution of equipment took place for their new partner, the Don Bosco Ashalayam School in West Bengal.



The distribution of rackets, shuttlecocks and string took place during a “computer camp”, an event bringing together children of different ages. The perfect opportunity to organize a sporting exchange where the older children could introduce the younger ones to badminton while enjoying this new equipment. A great way to reinforce the passion for sport and create links between children!

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## OTHER NEWS

### **Solibad's Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday March 25!**

We delayed sending out this newsletter to include the latest news discussed during the general meeting. We looked back over the year 2024 in terms of the association in general, the accounts and what has been happening in our various programs. The 2024 accounts were approved and the 2025 budget validated – more on this in the next newsletter. A few important points nonetheless:

- It was voted that club membership fees would henceforth be valid for the whole calendar year, and no longer for the sporting year – solidarity clubs will not have a fee to pay in September, but the next one in January 2026.
- The launch of membership fees and individual memberships will also take place in 2026, as we need to amend our articles of association.
- We have noted the resignation of our secretary, Colette, who has informed us of her wish to leave her post and the Solibad office. We would like to thank her for all the years she has worked alongside us, often in the background, but with a real desire to work for our programs.

**Discover Tom's story from Indonesia!**

A new article is online on our website! For three months, young volunteer Tom Navarre traveled around Indonesia with Solibad and Bintang Kidul, sharing his passion for badminton with the young people in the program. Between training sessions, tournaments and unforgettable encounters, he tells us about his unique experience, full of challenges and wonderful discoveries.



[Read it here](#)

## ACTION OF THE MONTH

Once again this month, clubs, committees and leagues are encouraged to prepare for **Solibad Days**. This event takes place just once a year, this year from May 8 to 18. It's a time to have fun in a unique way, while raising as much money as possible. It can be an opportunity to organize a fun tournament, for example, but also to get out of the gym and do something fun that brings together other sports sections. We'll help you prepare for Solibad days. Be creative! In particular, you can propose an action to companies close to your clubs (or to which your members belong).

## THANK YOU

This month, we'd like to thank...

The **Courçon Badminton club** for its Blackminton evening #4, which took place on March 8 and raised a lot of money!

The same weekend saw the 10th edition of the Badiévales organized by the **Tignieu club**. Thanks to them for their equipment collection and Solibad stand!

Thanks also to the **Comité 77 de badminton**, which had the good idea of renaming its major competition for new members the “Coupe Solibad”. It costs nothing, but gives our association great visibility!

Don't forget to report your action for Solibad in this form :

[complete the form](#)

Many thanks to the following clubs who signed the new Solibad charter on February 19, 2025:

- Groninger Studenten Badminton Club AMOR (Netherlands)
- Le Volant Salanquais (France)



## Calendar

**May 8 to 18, 2025:** [Solibad Days](#)

**August 25 to 30, 2025:** World Championships (we'll probably be there in one way or another to celebrate with our ambassadors).

**SOLIBAD**



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