

# "Bird Chatter"

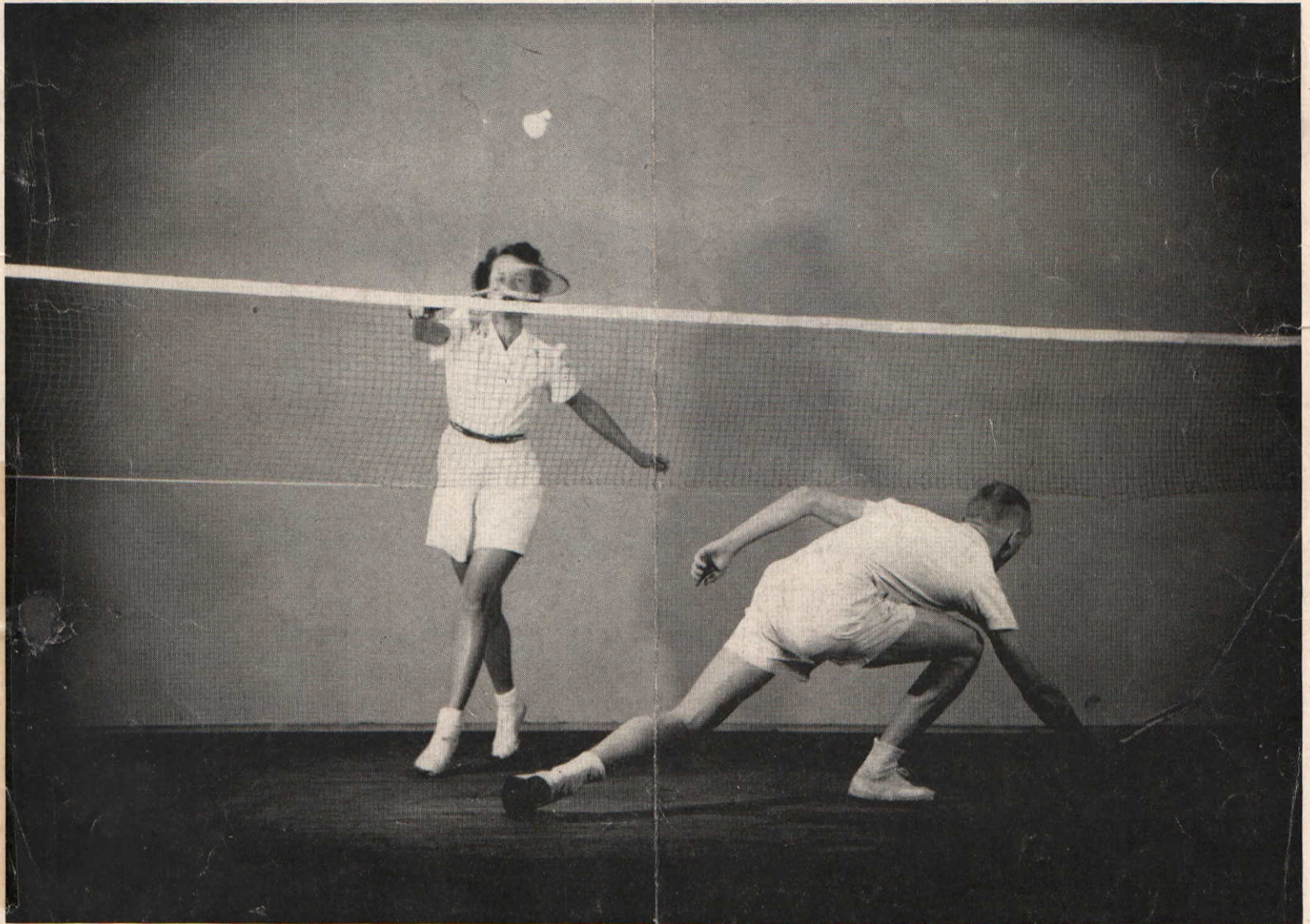


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NO. 2

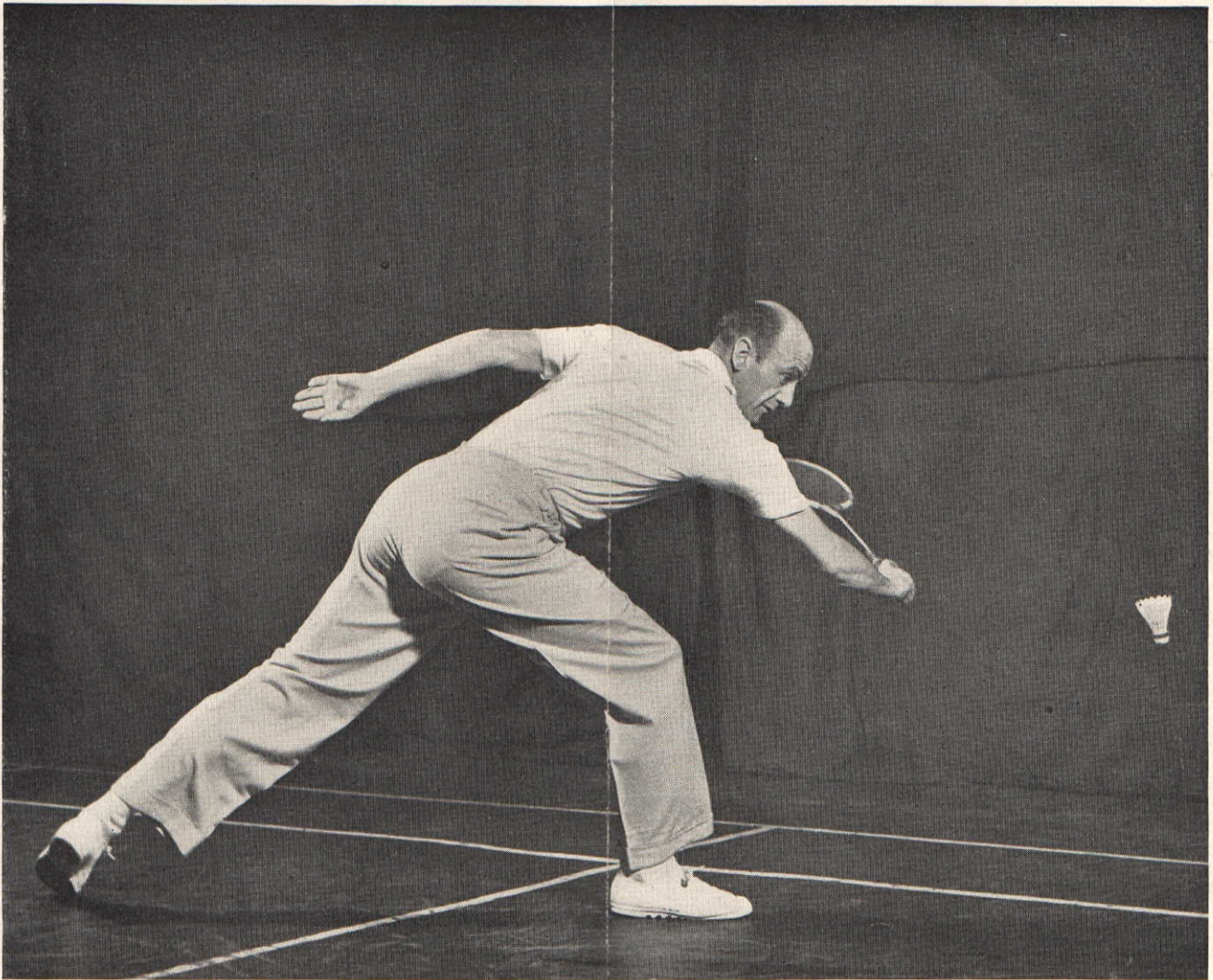
The United States National Badminton Champions



Evelyn Boldrick — Dave Freeman

Photograph taken by Gjon Mili to dramatize outstanding ads of Farnsworth Television and Radio Corp. — See page 4.

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# BIRD CHATTER



AMERICAN BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Vol. 4

FEBRUARY 5, 1945

No. 2

## Early Prospect for Badminton Movie Short

Announcement has just been received that by the time this issue goes to press that arrangements will have been made for a brand new movie short on Badminton.

None other than Ken Davidson, perhaps our best publicity man and definitely the outstanding showman of Badminton, working with Joe Watters, will shortly present a combination of Badminton and entertainment under the direction of the outstanding short-making outfit in the moving picture business. A first class job is promised and "Bird Chatter" is eager to see the results.

Movies of Badminton have been very few and far between in the past so that this attempt to produce something more for the instruction of Badminton players receives our hearty support.

## ABA President Loses (?) Dinner

In a recent letter to the presidents of all Class A Associations, James F. Crafts, president of the ABA issued a call for whole-hearted support of "Bird Chatter". Each association head was requested to contact the presidents of the member clubs of his Association and have him or a duly qualified enthusiast push the support in his own club.

Confidential sources reveal that our Prexy is getting jittery about a bet he made with his tireless secretary on the number of new subscribers that could be obtained. Present returns indicate that a substantial number of new readers have been added this year, but that the goal of our optimistic president has yet to be reached.

The Staff of "Bird Chatter" watches the result with an equal division of interest — a sincere hope for this requested support closely allied to a desire for a dinner invitation. Well??

## Army Special Services Division

### Calls On Association for Badminton Data

Telegraphic messages from the Special Services Division of the U. S. Army, following the National Secretary from Wellesley Hills to New York City, recently set in motion a full scale conference that may portend a real place in Army athletic activities for Badminton play and all its additional ramifications.

Lt. Horton Smith, well-known professional golfer, might easily become a leading authority on Badminton, says Johnnie Garrod, our busy secretary, for many words in conversation and on paper have been aimed in his direction.

Assumption that the Army is vitally interested in the game as a definite form of recreation and means of providing for the enjoyment of our boys and girls in service finds an eager and willing response from the ABA officials.

Requests for such information as a history of the game, rules of play, outstanding players in the service, type of equipment, methods of instruction, exhibitions, and tournaments open to the armed forces have been given to Lt. Horton in as much detail as is possible.

For some months now the leading manufacturers of birds have been advising us that a large part of their production has been going to the Army and Navy, and certainly from the fact that the supply of birds has become more and more a problem for the local clubs may well be considered as additional evidence that "something is doing".

No later than two weeks ago a request to ship 400 Rule Books to an Air Force Training School, as a starter, was received for one whale of a hurry.

Many athletes, outstanding in other sports, have religiously turned to Badminton as a means

of conditioning. Joe Cronin, manager of the Red Sox baseball team and Eddie Shore, one of the most famous defense players in hockey when he was a member of the Boston Bruins, turned year after year to Jack Brewer at the University Club of Boston for real rugged play on the Badminton court for their real strenuous exercise. Interesting to note is that Eddie never would play singles within the normal court bounds but insisted in playing his singles using the doubles court. Anyone who has even attempted this may well realize why most top notch players consider they have plenty to cover in the singles boundaries, but friend Eddie, who was far from being a dub, having learned his Badminton in Canada, considered the doubles court the best means to obtain that condition for which he was so famous.

This episode directly fits in with one of the policies of operation of the ABA for this year as announced in the last issue of "Bird Chatter" so that we take great pleasure in announcing this information to our Badminton readers and wish to assure them that the Association will be as eager to serve other branches of our armed forces as it has so recently done with the Army.

## "How to Play Badminton"

"Bird Chatter" extends its apologies to the Wilson Sporting Goods Company for announcing somewhat prematurely last issue that this interesting booklet had been reprinted and was ready for distribution. The correct date of issue, however, is March 1st. All "Bird Chatter" subscribers are on Wilson's mailing list and will receive a copy.

## Bird Chatter

Published by the American Badminton Association for its members and those interested in the game.

*Issued four times per season*

Subscription (voluntary) \$1.00

Editor — Donald Richardson  
37 Stanton Rd., Brookline, Mass.

All communications  
should be addressed to —

John E. Garrod, 47 Colburn Road  
Wellesley Hills 82, Mass.

## Editorial

As we come into the period when the majority of tournaments of major calibre are played and when leagues (if there are any such still operating) are getting into full swing, it behooves those who wish to properly compete in these highly competitive events to take stock of themselves.

The troubles which ail our game will inevitably become the target for our opponents and disgust or chagrin or both will be the ultimate reactions of many. A few sessions with a Badminton pro, or a helpful competent player where the pro situation is affected by our war time effort, might do inestimable good, even for the upper strata in the Badminton game, who cannot see themselves as others see them.

While those who have permitted wrong or careless habits to become entrenched will of course suffer everytime they participate in a strictly and consistently refereed tournament two facts must also be considered. Many tournaments or matches may not be so refereed or quite possibly the quality of officiating may not properly penalize those who depart from the true interpretation of the rules.

With many of our at least reasonably qualified judges either now in the service or too busily engaged in our main effort these days, matches or tournaments must inevitably be by-passed in the way of judges.

There is perhaps nothing more certain to arouse the ire of your opponent than for him or her to believe that you are continually committing breaches of the rules. Too often this situation is equally seen and recognized by the spectators and a consequent feeling of poor sportsmanship can spread like wild fire against perhaps an entirely

innocent player who has not taken the necessary precautions to acquaint himself or herself with the proper understanding of what's right and what's wrong.

While many friends are made in the playing of this sport it is equally true that others have become catalogued as undesirables from a good competitor angle. In these days when the spirit of pulling together in harmony should head the list we can't reiterate too strongly the thought of taking stock of your habits and make the proper corrections before it becomes too late.

Perhaps one of the best things your club could do is to have a remember-your-court-manners-night. Such a checkup would involve not only the abandoning of those habits that can be definitely set down as rule infractions but also those more nebulous ones that are hard to describe and hard to stomach from an opponent.

Do you serve high? Do you "carry" or "throw" your shot and fail to notice to call it? Do you try to do the refereeing on your opponent's side of the net?

Good court manners are just as important to the player who may never play in formal competition as they are to the champion. And good court manners are not something to put on like a green tie, come St. Patrick's Day.

On the playing side, it is probably true that our court manners, on the whole, are good. However, every reader of this comment will recall more than one of his playmates whose service is eccentric and at least dubiously close to being unfair.

How many of us are scrupulous in the calling of "carry" shots on himself or herself? This type of fault can usually be detected only by the player who commits it and where doubt may exist in your mind as to whether your shot was a wood shot or a fault why not ask for a replay of the point.

The failure to call a "carry" may entail no ultimate unfairness in any ordinary match. But the man or lady who does not call them day after day will not call them in a tournament.

Interpretation of the rules themselves has led to many an heated argument but this question of interpretation is one of the functions of our Association as the

governing body of the sport and we have a working Rules Committee that is available for this service. Send your requests in and we'll guarantee an answer, direct or through these columns.

AND NOW IT'S UP TO YOU.

## Our Cover — The National Champions

The cover design in this issue is a recent kodachrome shot of our present national champions as crowned at the last National Championships held at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, April, 1942.

This photograph was obtained for our use through the courtesy of N. W. Ayer & Son, advertising counselors for the Farnsworth Television and Radio Corp.

Other pictures taken at the same time are expected to be seen in a large national magazine and the American Lawn Tennis Magazine. If the situation permits we may publish some of the latter's pictures in a later issue.

## To Correspondents

The deadline date for news for next issue is March 20 and your copy should reach us in advance of this date in order to give us enough time to edit your material. How about some pictures of your activity, leading players, junior and senior groups, and maybe a picture of your club?

## Association Treasurers — Dues?

The National Treasurer has received dues from only the following associations: Connecticut, Metropolitan, Oklahoma, Northern California, Southern California, Southern, and three Class B clubs — Albany, Erie and Newcastle. Where do you fit in this list? Send in your check for those clubs paid up to date and then do a little hounding yourselves, BUT DON'T FORGET THE ABA.

*From Lt. Charles B. Law, Sr  
Btry 176 FA Bn, APO #403 c/o  
Postmaster, N. Y.*

Greetings from an unknown admirer of a worthy cause. I trust that your campaign proves a great success and I shall be looking forward to those copies of "Bird Chatter".

## Leading Players in Massachusetts Badminton



2nd Lt. Wayne Schell; John Garrod, National ABA Secretary; Robert Wright

## Hugh Forgie Visits Western New York

The Western New York Badminton Association had the good fortune to obtain the services of Hugh Forgie during the week of December 3 through December 9 for a series of appearances at several of the District Clubs. A full time war worker in New York City, Hugh took his one week vacation and made many new friends among the area players and enthusiasts.

The Directors of the W. N. Y. Association are carrying out a plan of an annual week-long series of clinics by the best of the recognized professionals and teachers of Badminton. The idea is to conduct the project early in the season and to include appearances at many of the district clubs, clinics with Junior players and with physical education teachers. This is to be topped off with a final evening of matches with available amateur champions and open to the public. Last year we were favored by Frank Devlin.

This year we heard that Hugh Forgie might be available. He was, and we quickly arranged for his appearance. Hugh was formerly known to us as an exhibitionist but we had heard this was the lesser of his abilities and that he is really a great teacher and coach. It was for this purpose that we were anxious to have him here.

Sessions were held at the Niagara Falls Country Club, the Niagara Falls-Ontario Badminton

Club, the Buffalo Seminary, the Buffalo Badminton Club, the Mercury Club, the Triad Club, the Buffalo Athletic Club, and the Kodak Club in Rochester. At each appearance Mr. Forgie gave demonstrative talks on Badminton which lasted from one to two hours each and then participated in a program of scheduled matches.

On Saturday evening, December 9, the Buffalo Athletic Club presented a program of exhibition matches open to the public. A full house attended. The list of champions appearing was headed by Walter Kramer, 1937-1938 National Singles Champion, Patsy Donovan Starrett, number four ranking U. S. Ladies' Singles and runner-up to the National Doubles Title in 1941 headed the feminine list, Bobby Williams and Harry Keating, present Eastern States' Champions and Western New York Champions appeared. Other W. N. Y. and Ontario Champions included: Phil Michlin, 1939 W. N. Y. Singles Champion and present President of the W. N. Y. Association; Earl Davey, Bill McCallum, Jean Davey, Dorothy McCallum, and Lenore Smith, all of Ontario, Lorraine Kittinger of Buffalo, and Clifford Schmidt of Rochester. Many fine matches were played to an appreciative audience.

To those who only know Hugh Forgie as an exhibitionist, we would like to say that "you haven't seen anything yet." Hugh has burst forth with a system of teaching Badminton which is the

culmination of his years of coaching and expert analysis of all parts of the games of the best players in the world. He has many champions among his pupils of individual instruction. Now he also becomes an instructor of groups as well. His system may be applied to all types of players. He taught some of our juniors between 8 and 15 years of age, he taught club players, tournament players and even non-players during his recent visit. Mr. Forgie's very skillful presentation of his material, his impressive demonstrations, and his very pleasing personality made a lasting impression on the players of Western New York.

Hugh has been and is now appearing at schools, summer camps, Army and Navy camps, and Service hospitals. He has been known as one of the best exhibitionists, one of the five best players in the world, and now we nominate him as one of the best instructors in the world.

*Correspondent — Charles Herter*

## Tulsa Badminton

The Tulsa Badminton Club, through arrangements with the YWCA who took over the old University Club during the war period, continues its Badminton activities on two fine courts. Play is held on Monday, Wednesday and Sunday nights from 7.30 p. m. to 11.00 p. m. Out of town players are welcome to join with the members of the club at these playing times.

*Correspondent — John L. Walsley*

## Triad Holds First Annual Tourney

In spite of Player shortage, Bird shortage and Western New York blizzards The Triad Racquet and Shuttle Club chose this year to inaugurate a new Tournament, a "B" and "C" Invitation that will be an Annual affair.

The Tournament was held at the 74th Armory with 150 event entries. Twenty-four courts were used with Men's and Ladies' Doubles starting at 7:30 P. M. and progressing to the Semi-Finals. Mixed Doubles were started at 9:30 P. M. with the Semi-Finals finished and the lights out by midnight. The entries closed the previous Wednesday and the Grant system was used to notify the players as to the starting time and court number of their first game.

There were entries from Niagara Falls, Rochester and East Aurora, besides every Buffalo Club being represented. Trophies and a Johnson mono-chrome gut string job were presented to the twelve winners with runners-up getting medals. Everyone voted this a grand addition to the already established Tournaments.

### Results:

#### Class B Events

##### Men's Doubles

Koener and Swerdfeger, Triad, defeated Miller and Fehrenbach, Rochester Kodak, 15-12, 5-10.

##### Ladies' Doubles

Dorothy Haas and Dora Staby, Mercury, defeated Jean Davis and Lorraine Pulo, Niagara, 18-16, 9-15, 18-16.

##### Mixed Doubles

Ethel Marshall and Wiley, Triad, defeated Betty McNeill and Allenburg, Triad, 15-12, 12-15, 15-8.

#### Class C Events

##### Men's Doubles

Zittel and Dimmick, East Aurora, defeated Brown and Foss, Niagara Falls, 15-12, 15-8.

##### Ladies' Doubles

Eve Scharmach and Ethel Marshall, Triad, defeated Florence Everson and Grace Allenburg, Triad, 15-2, 15-3.

##### Mixed Doubles

Aileen Ireland and Bowling, Buffalo B. C., defeated Grace Allenburg and Brodnicki, Triad, 3-15, 15-5, 15-6.

Correspondent — Elmer Koener

From Mr. W. V. Hodge, American Lawn Tennis, Inc.

We have a copy of your issue dated December 15, of "Bird Chatter" and want to compliment you on the big improvement.

## Southern California Holds Major Tournament

The Fourth Annual Badminton Tournament of the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club, one of the strongest competitive events of the early season was held the 9th and 10th of December.

Consolation rounds were run in all events except Veteran's Doubles, this event being added to the tournament for the first time.

Results were as follows:

#### Ladies' Doubles

Helen Noble and Tody Rahmn, Pasadena Badminton Club defeated Connie Horner and Ruth Jett, Hollywood Sport Center, 15-12, 3-2 default. Miss Jett sustained a serious foot injury at this point.

#### Men's Doubles

Skeeter Erikson and Barney McCay, Pasadena B. C., defeated Don Buchanan and Roy Lockwood, Burbank B. C. 15-16, 15-5.

#### Mixed Doubles

Helen Noble and Skeeter Erikson, Pasadena defeated Virginia Hill, Burbank and Barney McCay, Pasadena 17-14, 15-9.

#### Veteran's Doubles

Gene Elms and Leo Goode, Hollywood Sport Center defeated Louis Rutison and Howard Taylor, Hollywood Athletic Club 15-8, 15-8.

#### "B" Ladies' Doubles

Adams, Pacific Coast Club and Brill, Manhattan Beach Club defeated McNully and Smalley, Westside B. C. 15-10, 9-15, 15-10.

#### "B" Men's Doubles

Fuller and Scofield, Pasadena B. C. defeated Busby and Cole, Manhattan B. C. 12-15, 15-4, 15-6.

#### "B" Mixed Doubles

Adams and Osborne, Pacific Coast Club defeated Alden, Los Angeles and Cole, Manhattan Beach Club 13-15, 15-9, 5-3.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Southern California Championships will be held in Burbank March 3rd and 4th.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Pasadena Badminton Club will hold a warm-up Mixed Doubles event in three flights starting February 11th.

Correspondents —

Bob Noble and Ray Lockwood

Latest mailing address for Comdr. R. H. G. Mathews is Brendonwood R. R. 15 Indianapolis 44 Indiana. While the Comdr. is now in Australia it is requested that the above address be used when writing to him.

## Leading Professionals and Their Doings

(Ed. Note — Continuing the series of notes on where and what of leading professionals, past or present, finds two new names this issue. Please keep us informed of anything you hear or know about our instructor friends.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Hugh Forgie** — See articles pages 5 and 12.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Noel Radford** — Information via Dave Freeman reveals that Noel, now Lac. Radford of Force "E" is presently stationed with The British Forces, Azores. That all is not work is indicated by the fact that Noel is finding time to keep his tennis up to high calibre. Not too long ago he led a team playing at Angra in an exhibition against the best Portuguese players. Noel blasted his opponent off the court in such a splendid match that the local sport writer stated that it "was worthy of Wimbledon".

\* \* \* \* \*

**Joe Watters** — formerly at the Manhattan Badminton Club, New York, has become Ken Davidson's sidekick in their show with Ken Murray's "Blackouts" at Hollywood.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Frank Devlin** — (correcting the information given in last issue) is living with family in Baltimore and has a responsible position with Crosse & Blackwell Company.

## A New Club for the ABA

One gong for the ladies on this one, for the Evansville Badminton Club of Indiana is ready to join the nearest Class A Association. A recent request by Mrs. M. Heugal, president, indicates a real desire to be affiliated with the ABA and the Midwest Badminton Association has a deluxe customer ready for admission.

Competition is also desired from neighboring cities, and entrants for the Midwest Tourney are for the asking.

Clubs near Evansville should contact Mrs. Heugal at the Nation Wide Service Bureau, 611 Court Building, Evansville, telephone 3-3165 for local matches. George Field and Camp Breckinridge are two places that may expect challenges from this energetic group of ladies.



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# Our Friendly Neighbor Canada — Her Present Badminton Situation

As Told by

Douglas Grant, Badminton Editor, Canadian Sport Monthly

*(Ed. Note — The following article was written at our request by Doug Grant, the only player to have won the Canadian Singles Championships three times. His first victory was obtained by defeating Charlie Jones in 1933 and he repeated the following year, defeating Dick Birch in the semis and Beverly Mitchell in the finals. His greatest performance was his final victory in 1936 when in successive matches he eliminated Joe Zaharko, Jack Underhill, Rod Phelan and Dick Birch. His first appearance in the United States was in 1934 when he headed a strong contingent of Canadian players competing in New England Open Championships and annexed three titles.)*

In answering your request for a few words on current Canadian Badminton activities, I am putting myself on the spot. As editor of Canadian Sport Monthly I have received several complaints from our many American readers on exactly that selfsame score. Namely, lack of Canadian Badminton news.

This may sound like some kind of an admission. Actually it means that Badminton is being played in Canada on only a very informal, limited basis and the major tournaments we used to take so much delight in describing are no longer being held.

We might sum up the situation by saying Badminton has gone into semi-retirement from which it will emerge stronger than ever as soon as birds can be obtained and tournament schedules resumed.

True, many of our most modern clubs have been sold to the government for the use of the services but there is every possibility for their recovery after they have served their present purpose.

The real fly in the ointment is the scarcity of birds which have been on the restricted list for over a year. Manufacturers are reported to still have some reserves on hand and the continuation of the game next fall will be dependent on government permission to release these or a rescinding of the law which now forbids importation from the States. What little competitive play we now

enjoy has been due to those most impatient with the last named possibility.

Since inspiration is lacking in this rather bleak reality I am in preference, going to give a general impression of the development of the game in Canada.

Because Badminton received no real publicity until after the last war there is a tendency to mistake it for a new game. Actually Badminton was played in Canada before 1900 and the first tournaments soon after. It was introduced by English Army Officers and played almost exclusively by them and their friends in armouries and drill halls only to be found in half a dozen military centres throughout the country.

Regarded more as a social amusement than a competitive sport it retained the former role until stimulated by publicity attendant on the staging of the first Canadian Championship in 1922.

From the first our National Championships produced fine Badminton but the number of contenders were so limited that up and coming players had far too few examples from which to model their games.

The result was a general lack of technique which found no source for improvement until a representative English team toured Canada in 1925. These players were considered to be the outstanding exponents of Badminton in the world at that time. Naturally we absorbed a terrific trimming but those defeats clearly mirrored our imperfections and showed us the direct road to improvement.

The finished artistry of the visiting stars woke the press up to the fact that Badminton was a real game and as soon as this realization was relayed to the public there was an increased demand to enjoy the sport on a wider basis.

This of course meant that new clubs had to be built. The half-way Johnnies said it was financially impossible but the erection of first class clubs in every centre of Canada proved to be the greatest shot in the arm the game had ever been given.

Overnight Badminton graduated from an exclusive pastime to a National Sport. Here at last was an opportunity to play and watch in comfort. Memberships quickly doubled and tripled.

For the first time youngsters set their athletic sights on Dominion Championships and when the old country team returned in 1930 the changed status of our players was reflected in several doubles and many singles victories. Among the Canadians to score Canadian triumphs were Jack Underhill, Jack Muir, Charlie Jones, Jack Aikman and Jack Purcell who played all the invaders without the loss of a match.

Purcell's feat represented a new achievement for Canadian Badminton and gained such recognition from the Canadian Badminton Association that our champion was elected to challenge for the All-England Championship.

Jack started auspiciously by beating England's best to take the West of England singles and doubles continuing his winning march to the semi-finals of the All-England where he came a cropper against Dick who later fell to Frank Devlin in the final.

I still regard this one blot on Purcell's amateur record as "one of those things of sport" which inevitably catch up with every champion sooner or later no matter how infallible he may appear.

Although the English players were quite satisfied with this result their joy was short-lived as our lady champion Mrs. Dorothy Walton of Toronto proved how well we had been taught, by walking off with the female counterpart of the trophy sought by Purcell. Through this feat, Mrs. Walton was chosen Canada's "athlete of the year" marking the first time this honor had ever been accorded to a Badminton player.

Although the number and average calibre of contestants striving for the Dominion Championships have progressively risen every year it would appear that the Badminton produced by Purcell and Mrs. Walton has never been excelled before or since in this country and that their play will remain a



standard for judgment just as Dave Freeman's triumphant record has set a mark for aspiring players in your country.

Of course we have many fine players who have on occasion risen to almost equal heights.

Dick Birch, our most consistent winner of mixed doubles titles has taken a set from Purcell and extended him in many practice encounters. Johnny Samis who also held the Canadian title at one time, is one of the few players to hold a straight set win over Jack even if the latter was handicapped with a strained ankle at the time.

In upsetting both Samis and Birch for the 1941 Canadian Championship Jimmy Snyder played some of the hottest Badminton seen in Canada. Very fast with a terrific smash and a deceptive drop I would pick him as the Canadian with the best chance of ending Freeman's long winning streak.

Jim and his brother Paul who gave his life with the R. C. A. F. over Europe proved themselves the greatest team ever produced in Canada by winning the Dominion doubles and crushing Radford-Markham and Purcell-Sibbald for the World's Open Doubles Championship.

The late George Goodwin who won the singles title from Bill Markham was also one of our best as he proved when he captured the first two sets from Purcell only to lose the next three in a challenge match for the professional title. Like Paul Snyder, Goodwin was also killed in action with the R. C. A. F.

In assessing the growth of Badminton in Canada I believe the game reached its peak before the war and further expansion from this point on will be governed by a gradually increasing population and a possible increase of earnings upon which the extent of play depends more than anything else.

That Badminton should have risen to the proportions of a major sport in so short a time has been due mainly to the foresight of officials in realizing the game must be played under good conditions and their energy in supplying the finest facilities for this purpose. These centrally located clubs have attracted thousands of spectators from which a large proportion of the present players have been drawn.

The type of club devoted almost exclusively to Badminton with a high ratio of members per court has fared the best and produced the most outstanding players while the larger clubs with a surplus of courts and too many other counter attractions have not been so successful.

While Badminton has reached the point in Canada where further progress will be gradual I believe it could be greatly stimulated by a much more intensive tournament schedule, especially of an international type. I would like to see Canadian and American players entered in our respective National Championships and also an Annual International team match between our two countries which might be expanded to include Britain and other challengers.

Badminton is one of the few sports played under conditions which permit Americans and Canadians to meet on an equal footing and the healthy competition ensuing from such contests should do more than anything else to place the game where it belongs — in the forefront of the sport world.

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### Massachusetts Juniors Underway

Under the tutelage of that popular teacher, Jack Brewer, professional at the University, and an able Junior Development Committee, headed by Molly St. Amant, juniors from 8 to 17 are working out each Saturday morning at the University Club in Boston. Approximately 25 boys and girls regularly swing their racquets at birds donated each week by their older Badminton enthusiasts. The Annual Junior Tournament will be held the early part of April.

\* \* \* \* \*

An Open Tournament for players below Class A calibre with Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Doubles events with consolation rounds will be held February 26 and March 1 at the University Club. Players not members of a club belonging to the Massachusetts Badminton Association are eligible to enter if amateurs.

\* \* \* \* \*

Informal mixed doubles team matches are beginning to get underway in clubs in the Metropolitan area, with the Maugus Club of Wellesley and the Waban Neighborhood Club leading the way.

### Atlanta News

The Atlanta Athletic Club entertained a group of Naval Officers from the Preflight School at Athens Monday night in a series of Badminton matches, both singles and doubles.

A Badminton clinic on Saturday afternoons has been organized for the children of members and junior members of the AAC with 51 players enrolled. Coach Joe Bean and Junior Badminton Chairman Carroll Schoen are doing a remarkable job in stimulating the interest of these young people and a tournament will be held in the Spring for all classes into which the players will be placed according to ability. The ages range from 8 to 15. There will also be a Father-Son classification in this tournament.

On February 8, 9, 10, and 11 the Annual Club Championship Tournament will be held, with the following classifications. "A" Flight, "B" Flight, Novice Flight, and Esquire. The first three include men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles. The Esquire is a men's doubles contest participated in by those over 40. Trophies will be awarded the winners at a dinner on February 11 following the last match.

A welcomed newcomer to the Atlanta Badminton Group, and one furnishing quite a bit of competition, is Donald Kerr of New Orleans who with his partner won the men's doubles title there this year. He is at present stationed at Lawson General Hospital.

*Correspondent — Mel Chamblee*

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### Pasadena Keeps Swinging

The fine club of the Pasadena Badminton Club has been rented to an aircraft manufacturer for war work but its present membership of 60 still keeps swinging at the birds on the floor of the California State Guard Armory at 145 North Raymond Avenue, Pasadena. A return to a membership of 135 members is fully anticipated upon the return of its service members and those whose duties require out of town activities.

*Correspondent —*

*Louis N. Waterfall, President*

## From Junior Ranks to a National Title?



Miss Shirley Fry, whose picture is shown above, is by far the outstanding junior to have graduated into the senior ranks since our last National Championships held w-a-y back in 1942 at Durham, North Carolina. Even during the year this last National Championship was held, Shirley had demonstrated her coming ability by winning many of the strong major tournaments and toppling over some of the members of the select ten in the country, determined at the end of our 1941 activities. In spite of the desires of many throughout the country she was not permitted to participate in the 1942 show because of her age. The wise heads of the Association had determined many years before that it was inadvisable to permit the strain of a national championship to be undergone by any of our junior boys or girls.

These junior days are now behind Shirley and those that have seen her play or have played against her are eagerly looking to the day when national championships will return and our most prominent girl of the past years can join the battle-scarred senior veterans who have struggled through the heartaches and ecstasies in the process of reaching the ultimate of all Badminton in these United States.

It is the hope of "Bird Chatter" that the spontaneous enthusiasm with which Shirley really took to the game back in 1941 and 1942 will rekindle itself when we next all gather for another one of these unforgettable national shindigs — and we do mean "digs."

### The Mail Bag

*From Whitney Warner Jr., 570 Union Commerce Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.*

Believe it or not, we are still alive and playing some Badminton — Ralph Goodwin is in the Navy, Red Nichols is working in a defense plant full time and Seymour Colton is extremely busy doing war work. Late last season we organized the Cleveland Metropolitan Badminton Association in the hope of better coordinating our local activities and further promoting interest in Badminton. I am confident that this organization will be an asset to Badminton around Cleveland, and you may hear more when we really get going.

\* \* \* \* \*

*From Sam Massey, Trinity Church, New Haven, Conn.*

Receiving "Bird Chatter" reminded me of the enclosed subscription which has been on my desk for some time. With 240 parishioners in the service our Badminton program is not quite the same, however we have been carrying on, and this season has seen quite a bit of renewed interest.

### Novel Tournament Outstanding Connecticut Activity

Imagination in evolving all types of tournaments that will attract the customers has ever been a forte of Badminton Tournament Chairmen and perhaps one of the outstanding of its kind has been the Westport, Connecticut Invitation Handicap Doubles. Starting last year it created such interest that there was no hesitation on the part of the committee to "break it out" for another year. It offers no bar to sex or ability, though primarily for the better players, for the committee goes the whole gambit in its handicapping with particular emphasis on putting the men on the spot by handing out substantial credits to the ladies, even to limiting the teams to only one serve.

Last year the ladies' team of Mrs. Wanda Bergman and Helen Gibson, former National Ladies' Doubles Champions ran many a team to the ground before succumbing in the finals. This year, however, the men held sway and Bill Chapman and Pete Bowen eked out an 18-13, 18-13 win over Tad Bowen and Stephen Ogilvy on December 9th.

Enthusiasm for Badminton continues to run high in Connecticut during this, the third year of

the war. Difficulties in travel, the some time lack of suitable shuttles, and other minor troubles have been taken in stride, and all clubs report good turnouts on almost every scheduled time of play.

Classes A and B, in both men's and women's divisions, have almost completed sectional play, and the State play-offs have been set for early in this month, (February). B play-offs in Westport, and A play-offs at the New Haven Lawn Club.

The Annual State Tournament has been set for March 24 and 25, probably at the New Haven Y. M. C. A. Titles in classes A and B will be decided.

The Fairfield County Tourney will probably be played early in April again this season, with the Stamford City Tourney shortly before that time.

Mrs. Roy Bergman of Westport, Wanda to you and you, is recovering nicely from recent operation and is expected to resume play soon.

A recent inter-club mixed tourney in Norwalk was won by Stan Pickering and Marnee Raymond.

*Correspondent — Don Hersam*

**NOT**

**ALL BIRDS**

**GO SOUTH . . .**

There are plenty of Badminton Birds flying now on indoor courts — as well as the busy outdoor birds down South. In fact, as the days grow longer and warmer, there'll be more and more Badminton Birds flying everywhere.

Like their winged counterparts in Nature, Badminton Birds carry names. Just as we all know robin and sparrow, it's natural for you to know the name MUNRO among shuttlecocks.

**Keep Badminton Birds flying**

**. . . use MUNRO**

**KEEP WAR BIRDS FLYING . . . BUY WAR BONDS**

## Metropolitan Shuttlesquawks

Attention Easterners! (that includes all those east of Alcatraz.)

The Eastern Doubles and Mixed Doubles Tournament will be held in New York at the Old 69th Regiment Armory, Lexington Avenue and East 26th Street, on Saturday evening and Sunday, February 24th and 25th.

Hugh Forgie, the Bob Hope of Badminton, spent a busy summer and fall entertaining servicemen at the local hospitals and camps. Not being fast enough to play on both sides of the net, he was ably assisted by a group of top-ranking players from the New Rochelle Badminton Club. All felt amply rewarded by the enthusiasm with which these exhibitions were received.

At the Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Badminton Association, the following officers were elected for the coming season:

### President

Herman Oppenheim

### Vice-President

Alfred Conlon

### Vice-President

Herbert Swinarton

### Secretary

Harold Wheaton

### Treasurer

Kenneth MacDonald

The Schedule Committee reports the following entries for Team Match Tournament play:

Ladies' Class A 3 teams

Ladies' Class B 5 teams

Ladies' Class C 6 teams

Men's Class B 4 teams

Men's Class C 4 teams

Mix\* All Handicap

Doubles 7 teams

The popularity of Mix\*All play (consisting of 2 Men's Doubles, 2 Ladies' Doubles and 4 Mixed Doubles) is probably due to the fact that it eliminates those rapidly increasing Shuttlesquawks: "Me play singles? That's for kids!"

Singles, for MBA's aging civilians, are getting as scarce as porterhouse steaks. Also, they take too many points.

Correspondent — Harold Wheaton

From Doug Grant, Badminton Editor of the Canadian Sport Monthly.

Congrats on the splendid production of "Bird Chatter" with its newsy, intimate coverage of the American field.

## Northern California

The 12th Naval District Championship Tournament was held during November. Each Naval activity in the District held elimination matches, and the winners and runners-up in each event took part in the tournament proper.

The results of the finals were as follows:—

### Ladies' Singles

Betty Livingston, Sp. G. 2/c, defeated Barbara Brown, S 1/c — 11/4 11/9.

### Men's Singles

Norman Blanchet, Y 1/c, defeated Lt. Comdr. Earl Pound — 15/9 17/15.

### Ladies' Doubles

Maureen Mallory, SK 2/c, and Ensign Virginia Mynard defeated Lt. Irene Williamson and Ensign M. E. Work — 15/7 3/15 15/6.

### Men's Doubles

Lt. (jg) K. Sharpe and Norman Blanchet Y 1/c, defeated Lt. Ted Rivers and Lt. M. Shuey — 15/9 15/1.

Norman Blanchet and Earl Pound are present holders of Bay Counties titles, Norman in Men's Singles and Earl in Veterans' Doubles.

An Inter-Gymnasium tournament is planned for early in February by the Recreation Department of the City of San Francisco. It will be held in school gymnasiums, and Mrs. Rose Fogarty, Supervisor of Women's and Girls' Athletics, is largely responsible for its promotion. The usual events will be played in four classes, which sounds like lots of fun for a large number of players. Mrs. Fogarty reports over three hundred adult enrollments for Badminton in the San Francisco school gyms, a very healthy sign.

A round-robin series of matches has been arranged by the Athens Athletic Club, the Oakland Club and the Oakland Y. M. C. A., and in the first match Oakland defeated Athens. Oakland will next entertain the Y. M. C. A., and that organization is hereby publicly urged to join the NCBA and the ABA!

It is proposed to hold the Northern California Championship Tournament on the Athens Club courts on March 23, 24 and 25. Notices will be mailed to those

## Tournament Calendar

Feb. 8-11

Atlanta Club Champ's

Feb. 11

Pasadena Mixed Doubles

Feb. 24, 25

Eastern Doubles (NY)

Feb. 26 and Mar. 1

Mass. Open (under Class A)

Mar. 3, 4

Southern Cal. Champ's

Mar. 10, 11

Midwest Tournament  
(probably in Chicago)

Mar. 23-25

Northern Cal. Champ's

(Ed. Note — we are sure there are more events scheduled than shown above. How about keeping us informed of the latest situation.)

interested as soon as definite arrangements are made.

A penguin friend of ours reports that, so far as he can ascertain, the Armed Forces Badminton Champion of Alaska is none other than T/5 Ben Ross of the Oakland Club. Ben, whom we remember as a lean and wiry lad, is reported to have gained umpty pounds — hi'ya, Fatso, and how about that rumor that the only other competitors were polar bears?!

Lt. O. H. Hilton, USNR, reports briefly from England, he took part in the Normandy and Riviera invasions and spent two months in Italy. Ozzie played a few games with Carl Loveday in England last May, and he has heard that Wynn Rogers is now in England.

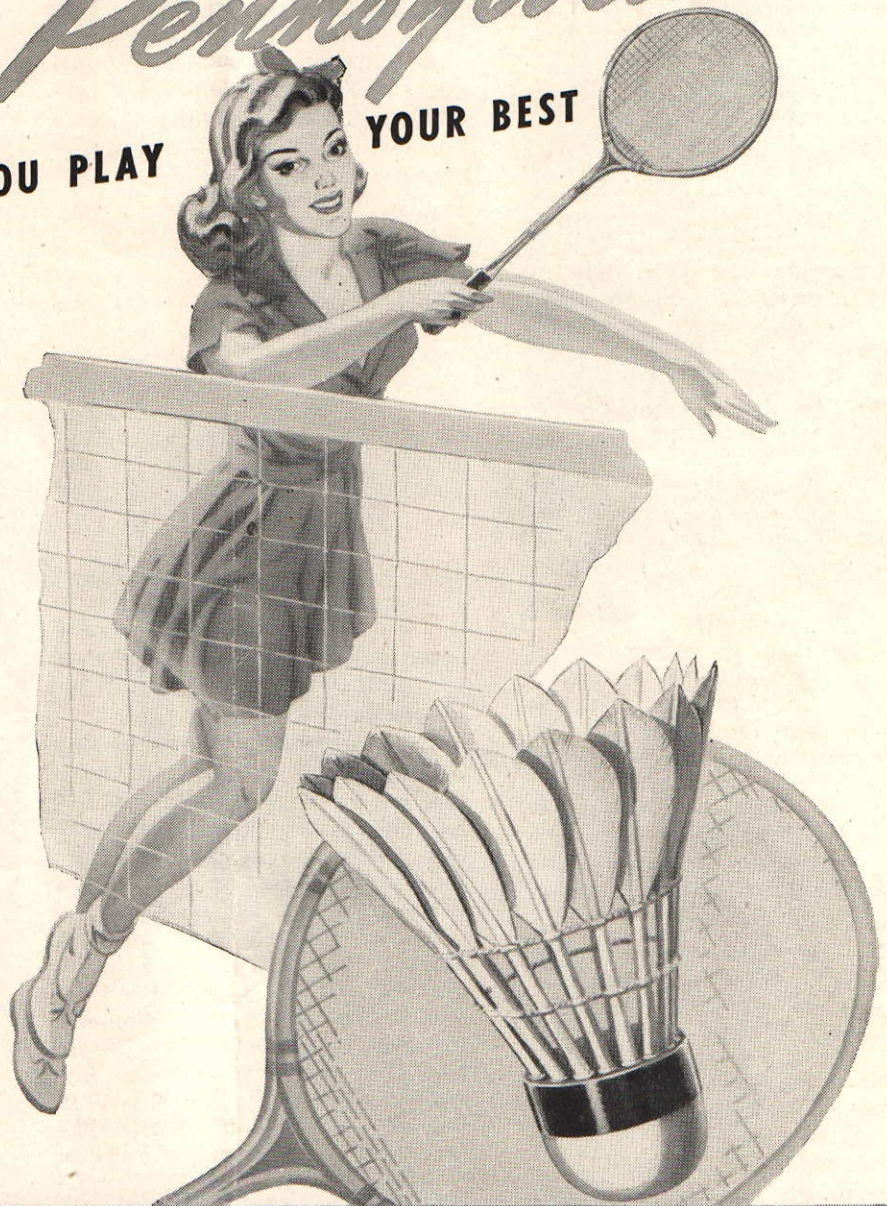
**Brevities:** It's now 2/Lt. S. P. Knudsen of the U. S. Engineers — commissioned early in January — congratulations, Svend, and good luck! Capt. Frank Gliebe, our enthusiastic and efficient umpire, is now stationed in Santa Barbara — he has been in Honduras, Nicaragua, Canada and Alaska during the last two years. Jack Boegle, FC 2/c, is seeing action in the South Pacific on, we think, a destroyer. Lt. Comdr. E. Le-Clercq, formerly president of the NCBA and the California Club, has been transferred to New York, and reports getting in a few games.

Correspondent — Bill Morrison

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## Badminton for Beginners by Jack Brewer



Badminton is one of the oldest games in the world and yet few players have any idea of the technique which goes with the game. I have found that by making certain of the fundamentals, Badminton takes on a new meaning even for those who have complained, "I think I've gone as far as I can go."

These simplified suggestions are, therefore, just for beginners. It must always be remembered that in Badminton, as in any other game, the form of the expert players can seldom be copied in toto with success. As a rule, every expert has some flaws in his form due to personal idiosyncrasies. As a matter of fact, the players with the most perfect form are seldom the greatest, for the great have found that their own physical make-up inhibits the production of certain strokes in the most correct way and have accordingly developed their own versions which may in some cases even be awkward. The beginner, therefore, should try to develop the correct method of making his shots. He may be confident as he develops that he will arrange his own personal modifications, but he cannot do this with intelligence until he knows what the right way is and has made certain that this right way is not the best way for him. This conclusion cannot be

*The accompanying article was written by Jack Brewer, professional at the University Club, Boston, long recognized as one of the outstanding teachers and players in the United States. He has many wins over such well-known professionals as Noel Radford and Basil Jones, and has appeared in exhibitions in cities all over the Eastern States.*

*This article is primarily for beginners and can be put to excellent use as a text for junior players or others who are neophytes at this game.*

*It was originally produced in a booklet titled "Badminton Guide" published by the N. J. Magnan Corp., of North Attleboro, Mass., through whose courtesy the permission to republish has been obtained.*

reached in the first few months, and any beginner who neglects a serious try at the fundamentals, described here, in favor of a personal style will merely be restricting his potential developments.

For example, the beginner will undoubtedly find it easiest to hit the bird and keep it in play merely by holding his racket at head height and shoving at every bird that comes his way. This will work very well for a while, but ultimately will result in overhead strokes that will always be restricted and will never be fluent. The beginner will thus have dug his own pit in which he will lie forever. It is far better to be willing to miss birds for a while, not perhaps even to play games, and to keep persistently at proper stroking until the player is hitting freely and with confidence. It will be surprising how short a preliminary period will be needed if the novice will really give these suggestions an honest try and not suffer early discouragement to drive him back into habits which become harder to break with every volley.

### How to Hold the Racquet

Hold the racquet so that the knuckle of your first finger is on a line with the edge of the head of the racquet. Your fingers should be spread along the handle. Hold the racquet as naturally as you hold a hammer and be careful not to bunch your fingers too tightly. Your thumb and first finger have to be spread along the

handle to control the stroke. Never grip the handle too tightly. If you do, it will be fatal to your stroke. Keep your wrist and fingers loose.

### Footwork

Put your left foot ahead of your right about eight inches and keep your knees bent a little for balance. You can't throw a ball if you thrust forward with your right foot, nor can you hit a bird correctly unless your left foot is forward. This applies only to right handed players. (The procedure is reversed for those who are left handed.)

For backhand strokes, the right foot is forward, usually across the left. Footwork in Badminton can be a beautiful bit of rhythmical perfection, and once you have mastered it, you can play a long time without tiring. The movement then is like this: stand in center of your court, feet apart; forward and across with the left foot, swing overhand; back to center position; forward and across with right foot, swing backhand; back to center. Thus the continuous flowing motion keeps you relaxed, yet you can reach a bird in any part of the court with a few quick easy steps from the original position.

Never jump for a bird. It will fall in a definite curve and you must learn to gauge this curve.

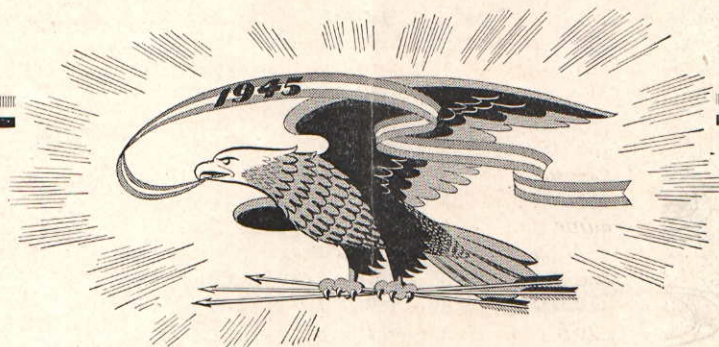
The most important principle of footwork is to remember not to try to anticipate where your opponent is going to hit the bird. If you do guess wrong, you will find yourself on the wrong foot and will consequently miss a perfectly easy shot. *Always bring your feet back into position before your opponent hits the bird*; then you will be ready for any shot he may try. And learn to take your time. You will have plenty of time to reach the bird *after* your opponent hits it. Ninety percent of the people learning to play Badminton hit the bird too quickly. They instinctively make a grab for it because they have been thrown off balance by anticipating its line of flight. Badminton is not only a game of strokes and footwork — it is a game of timing and accuracy in gauging distance.

If you are moving almost noiselessly over the court in an easy gliding motion, you can be pretty sure your footwork is correct.

*(To be continued in next issue)*

# SPORTS--

## *Active Partner of VICTORY*



**T**ODAY all Americans, from the leaders of our nation and our fighting forces down to the newsboys on the street corners, know of the heroic deeds of many of our great athletes.

In land fighting, in sea fighting, in air battles, these American athletes—boys who have participated in one or more of our major competitive sports—have demonstrated the priceless value of sports training to the fighting man.

Not only in their physical condition, but in skills and agilities—in aptitude for anything involving physical and mental coordination—in teamwork—and above all in fighting spirit and will-to-win, these American sports-trained men are the best fighting men in the world.

This does not mean that only the boys who have competed in our rugged combative sports are doing a job in this war. There is many a hero today whose

most vigorous sport prior to the war was a fast game of table tennis or a few frames of bowling.

*It does* mean that the records of this war are showing that boys who have participated in our vigorous, competitive sports, either before or as a part of military training, develop qualities that are making them the best fighting men in the world.

This is the season for making good resolutions.

**Let us resolve** then, that what this war has *proved* about our competitive sports shall not be forgotten when war has ended.

**Let us resolve** that henceforth all America's youth shall be offered training in a nation-wide program of our competitive sports, to the end that our American standards of physical fitness shall be *raised*.

**Let us resolve** that football, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, badminton, golf, boxing, swimming, bowling and all other games and recreation, including hunting and fishing, be boosted to the highest level of national participation in history during the coming post-war "recovery" years.

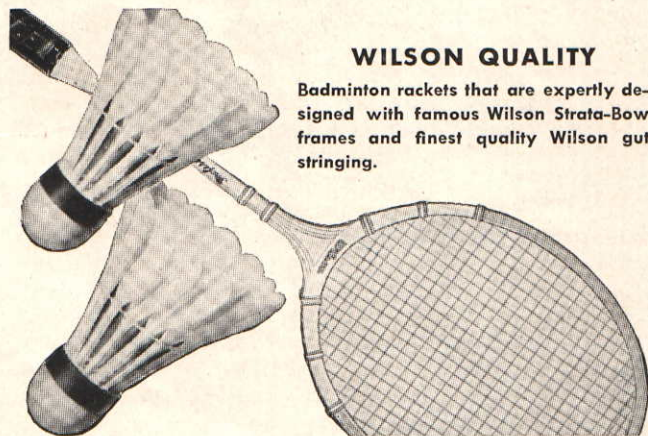
America's competitive sports have been the "active partner" in the winning of thousands of decorations for outstanding service in this war.

**Let us resolve** that America shall not forget this lesson in the value of our sports to physical fitness, physical health and physical efficiency.

*Bob Gealy*  
President  
Wilson Sporting Goods Co.  
Chicago, New York and other cities

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