

"Bird Chatter"



VOL. 4

APRIL 5, 1945

NO. 3



GUSTAVSON

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



BIRD CHATTER



AMERICAN BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Vol. 4

APRIL 5, 1945

No. 3

Movie Shorts on Badminton Definitely Assured

As announced last issue, Ken Davidson has gone "Hollywood" and badminton in the movies is now an accepted fact. The latest information indicates that one of the films will be a Pete Smith speciality to be produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, with Ken Davidson, Joe Watters and Ben Blue, a comedy star.

According to Ken "from a badminton viewpoint only, it will not be purely instructive but will give an idea as to how the game should be played, for I showed the grip, the serve and the basic shots—the forehand and backhand. The game itself is built up for excitement and entertainment and should be very good when Pete Smith's dialogue is added to the action."

This particular film will be released only through the theatres and it will be approximately four months before it can be seen on the screen. Any closer date of actual showing will be given in our next issue.

Showing of this film only through the theatres was a bit of a disappointment to "Bird Chatter" but additional information has reached us that this is being remedied by still another film under negotiation that is definitely planned for release to clubs and private individuals. Details of this newer project cannot be given at this time, except to say that it will be produced by another studio and our June issue should be able to add more up to date information on this latter project.

Tournament Calendar

- April 4, 5, 6, 7
Missouri A. C. 6th Annual
Invitation
- Middle April
New Rochelle Mixed Doubles
Invitation
- April 21
Mass. Junior Tournament.

Inter-Allied Friendly Matches

Proposed For Play In England

Leading American and Canadian players, now in the European Theatre, may shortly find themselves competing in friendly Inter-Allied matches or tournaments if the hopes and plans of Mr. H. A. E. Scheele come to pass.

As acting Secretary of the International Badminton Federation and the Badminton Association of England, Mr. Scheele has been studying postwar resumption of badminton in England, according to information received by "Bird Chatter" from Major H. F. Chilton of the British Army Staff, Q. M. G. Branch, presently stationed in Washington, D. C. Major Chilton was Secretary-Treasurer of one of the County Badminton Associations of England at the outbreak of the war and in this capacity was an ex-officio member of the committee of the Badminton Association of England. Having kept in touch with his friend, Mr. Scheele, his information can be considered as first hand and is evidence of the trend of thought in badminton planning across the water.

The English Association is anxious to "play host" to the many American and Canadian players now in this overseas theatre as a preliminary phase of their postwar resumption of play. Apparently "one or two of the better known and more enthusiastic American players" have already been contacted and have expressed a desire to see such a proposed plan put in operation.

There is probably no doubt that this idea would meet with utmost enthusiasm and cooperation on the part of any of the players from both our own country and our good neighbor Canada. Difficulties are unquestionably many for the whereabouts of military personnel in war time is not only a generally accepted military secret, but also it

is quite evident that the majority of our boys are most strenuously engaged in events that are taking them further from England rather than nearer, at the present time.

To be sure, those taking rest periods from the front lines, those convalescing from battle wounds, and those stationed reasonably nearby could be considered as possible competitors.

"Bird Chatter's" mail records indicate some 50 - 100 on overseas status. All of these cannot be considered to be near London, but to them through these columns, we eagerly dish out this proposed plan and suggest they make contact with Mr. Scheele at 13 Sandford Road, Bromley, Kent, England to obtain more news.

Information of a more complete nature is eagerly awaited by "Bird Chatter" and we hope our readers will keep us informed of any further developments. Perhaps some similar matches or tournaments may be developed in Belgium or France, but not being anywhere near these areas, "Bird Chatter" is obviously at a loss to offer any suggestions that could be considered other than fantastic or just wishful thinking.

U. S. Sports Rule Book

The U. S. Sports Rule Book recently published by Crewdson and Custer, Publishers, 360 East Grand Avenue, Chicago, Illinois is a 32 page booklet containing the condensed rules on 22 popular American Sports, together with a short section titled "Comments and Suggestions".

The condensed rules on Badminton maintain the general sense of the official rules, nothing important has been omitted and the entire copy has been approved by our ABA Rules Committee.

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

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Wellesley Hills 82, Mass.

Editorial

The management of "Bird Chatter" has practically had its hand forced to expand to 20 pages for this, the third issue. Previous seasons' plans had set the pace for three issues of 16 pages and a final, of 20 pages; and following precedent in this respect it was our planned policy to do the same for this season.

The primary purpose and justification for "Bird Chatter" is that it is a means for disseminating information, instruction, and news to the players and friends of Badminton, with particular concern to the members of the American Badminton Association. Therefore only so much space can be properly allocated to advertising, as copy and picture space must always remain sufficient to cover the normal dissemination of your activities and the usual other information that your National Association properly feels it should include. When we reached a point where we had six full pages of advertising it was deemed the maximum that should be accepted and still fulfill our ideas on copy space.

But, evidently "Bird Chatter" has been interesting to others in the advertising of their products to our readers. Unsolicited we received a request for space from one of the largest companies of its kind, the A. G. Spalding Co.

After due deliberation it was agreed to accept this proposition, and also that of the Hood Rubber Company, a Division of The B. F. Goodrich Company who, for years have been wholeheartedly backing Badminton activity.

In order to continue our policy of sufficient space we have hereby increased our next two issues to 20 pages.

This will permit us much needed additional copy space for the many news items and pictures that have been recently pouring in from our correspondents and friends.

Perhaps this is an indication of what we fondly hope is the start of a real full sized magazine exclusively devoted to Badminton, that will take its place in the sporting publications of this country.

Cover by Gustavson

"Bird Chatter" is indebted to Lea Gustavson for the excellent cover design shown in this issue. Lea has many times in the past turned his outstanding talents to donating badminton scenes and "Bird Chatter" is grateful for this contribution.

Army and Navy Use Badminton In Reconditioning Program

From two known sources "Bird Chatter" is informed that the Army and Navy reconditioning programs are seriously including badminton as a major factor in their plans.

The Newton J. Baker Army Hospital in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and the Portsmouth Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, N. H. use badminton as a regular activity in helping our sick and wounded on the road to physical and mental recovery.

Former National Champion Mary Whittemore Schlemm reports an amazing interest on the part of the Staff and the patients of the Baker Hospital. She has recently assisted them in the preparation of copy and pictures which we hope to present in our next issue.

At Portsmouth, Dave Freeman and a group from Boston were recently invited to give an exhibition. Both the Admiral of the Yard and the Captain in charge of the hospital attended as an evidence of their interest and backing of this game for those stationed at this post.

Badminton Play Overseas French Nationals in April

Recently "Bird Chatter" received two letters from well known Badminton figures commenting on overseas conditions and play. Capt. Henry Heffernan, former ABA Director, states that he has played frequently, but that in France it is virtually unknown except in Paris. Sgt. T. Wynn Rogers writes very interestingly about his experiences and parts of his letter are here quoted. "We were stationed in England for a while and during that time I went to London and played a little Badminton at the Wimbledon Squash and Badminton Club. It was a very nice club and the people there were very hospitable to me. Most of the better players are in the services. They told me that the Danes are very good players, in fact the last English Championships, held in 1939, were won by a Dane. While we were in Holland I was again quite fortunate to be able to go to Paris. While there I met a lieutenant in the French Army who is ranked about third in France and had some enjoyable games with him though the conditions weren't as favorable as those in London. Most of their clubs, halls, etc. where they used to play have been destroyed or damaged so that they now don't have any good places to play. He invited me down to play in the French Nationals which are to be held in Paris on April 21 and 22."

Germania Badminton Club Founded

The Germania Club of Chicago, at 108 W. Germania Ave. has recently become very badminton conscious. A group of its members led by Mr. Horace Hunt, and aided and abetted by George Geever as coach, have founded the Germania Badminton Club.

To work up enthusiasm and spread publicity, these neophyte badmintoners gave a party at the club on March third. Friends interested went out for dinner there, and then watched some fine demonstration badminton games played by seeded players from the Chicago district.

(Extract from "Bird Cage" publication of Chicago Badminton Club.)

Janet Wright, Erickson and McCay Star at Southern California Championships



(reading left to right in all pictures)

1. Helen Noble, Janet Wright, Ken Davidson. 2. Committee group. 3. Ken Davidson, Skeeter Erickson, Barney McCay, Joe Watters. 4. Skeeter, Barney, Don Buchanan, Roy Lockwood. 5. Moon Mullins, Larry Cole, Louis Waterfall, Ted Starr. 6. Howard Taylor, Connie Horner, Virginia Hill, Irl Madden. 7. Helen Zabriskie Ough, Helen Noble and Ken. 8. Tody Rahm, the two Helens, and Janet.

National ranking No. 2 Janet Wright of San Francisco, Skeeter Erickson and Barney McCay of Pasadena, leading West Coast stars annexed two titles each in the 13th Annual Southern California Championships held at Burbank, California on March 3 and 4. Helen Noble, one of the country's best younger players became a 3 time runner-up, while the Ladies' Doubles partners of both girls, Helen Ough and Tody Rahm, each came out with one title and a runner-up place. Skeeter Erickson came from behind to win a hard fought 3 game Singles from Barney McCay, but the latter reversed an earlier season Mixed Doubles defeat by also coming from behind to annex the Mixed Crown.

Ken Davidson and Joe Watters took time away from their "Ken Murray Blackbirds" show and ably assisted the refereeing staff. Over 800 attended the finals.

RESULTS

Ladies' Singles

Janet Wright defeated Helen Noble, 11-9, 11-3.

Men's Singles

Skeeter Erickson defeated Barney McCay, 7-15, 15-11, 15-10.

Ladies' Doubles

Janet Wright and Helen Ough defeated Helen Noble and Tody Rahm, 15-17, 15-13, 15-8.

Men's Doubles

Skeeter Erickson and Barney McCay defeated Roy Lockwood and Don Buchanan, (Burbank B. C.) 15-11, 15-3.

Mixed Doubles

Barney McCay and Tody Rahm, defeated Skeeter Erickson and Helen Noble, 6-15, 18-13, 15-11.

Veteran's Doubles

Ted Starr (Burbank) and Louis Waterfall (Pasadena) defeated Moon Mullins and Larry Cole, Manhattan Beach B. C. 15-12, 11-15, 15-10.

Correspondent — Bob Noble

News from Multnomah A. C.

Seventy teams comprising 120 players recently completed a handicap tournament at Portland, Ore.

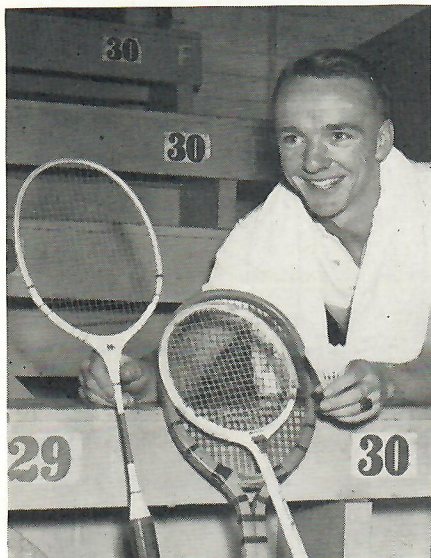
One of the former stars of this thriving club, Corporal Richard M. Hoard, a member of the famous 346th F A Bn of the 91st "Powder River" Division in Italy has found time to keep up with his game. Reports are that he has beaten all comers in both Rome and Florence while on pass.

Another former champion, Stanley Cicerich, whose wife won the highest honors in the recently played handicap tournament and in the Portland City Champs, was last known to be on Leyte.

Both boys are anxious to return and have expressed desires to those playing back home that they would like to do a little whaling of their friends for a change.

Correspondent — Al Brown

Freeman — What a Gut and Wood Man!



Reproduced below is a recent article by Harold Kaese of the Boston Daily Globe. It is such an excellently written character sketch and story of our talented National Champ that we had no hesitation in asking permission to present it, feeling that many of our readers would enjoy it as thoroughly as we have. Perhaps our good friend, Harold, and his walled-in-squashers would do well to take up this "panty-waist" game — who knows, it might help their squash.

Hub Squashmen Weep as Freeman Departs — Weep Tears of Joy

by Harold Kaese

It is too bad that Pfc David Freeman returns to his native California after ending his studies at Harvard Medical School in June. Freeman won the Middlesex Bowl squash racquets tournament a few days ago. He certainly would be national squash champion after the war, says Jack Summers, the M. I. T. coach, if he remained here and continued to play the game.

Yes, it certainly is a shame Dave must go. Nevertheless, a certain small and congenial group of Bostonians, including Messrs. Holden, Barnaby, Parker, Waring, and led by myself, will be at the station to see that Freeman does not miss the train which is to take him home and out of squash racquets forever.

After all, it's bad enough to lose to your friends, but to lose to a Californian who has only played the game for three years, and who is four-times champion of that panty-waisted game of badminton — that is degrading. Good-bye, Dave. May you never lose another badminton or tennis match.

Standout as Athlete For His Versatility

Freeman is one of our most remarkable athletes. He is the duration national badminton champion, the No. 1 ranking tennis player in New England, and the best amateur squash player in this section.

In 1938, unseeded, this blonde Pasadena youth won the national junior tennis title beating favored Welby Van Horn in the final. The California L. T. A. seeing in him a future Davis Cup player, wanted Freeman to concentrate on tennis. He refused, saying: "I play for the fun of it." The L. T. A. didn't approve.

The next year, when 18 years old, Freeman won the national badminton title, beating Walter Kramer, defending champion, in 24 minutes. He defended his title the next three years without losing a game. Then competition was suspended. By 1942, Freeman could beat any badminton professional, including Jack Purcell, on this continent.

Freeman first became interested in squash racquets when he entered the Harvard Medical School three years ago. A natural with a racquet, he learned the game with incredible speed. This Winter, after losing his first match to Jack Barnaby, former Harvard coach, Freeman won 14 matches in succession. Unfortunately, he and Barnaby did not meet again.

Maintains Pace That Kills Off Opposition

What characterizes Freeman's play in squash, tennis and badminton is his swiftness and stamina. His squash shots are neither orthodox nor particularly effective, yet he maintains such a fast pace

and makes so many impossible returns that he kills off his opposition. When Summers, former national pro champion, taught Freeman to volley and intercept every shot he could reach, the Californian had the key to success. There was little he couldn't reach.

Freeman, who is 24, five-eleven, and about 150 pounds, comes by his stamina naturally. He used to be a cross-country runner at Pomona College, outside Los Angeles. If he ever returns to Boston, I hope he enters the B. A. A. Marathon, and avoids the squash courts.

"He can beat anybody in the country right now," says Summers. Yet I doubt if Freeman could beat H. Sherman Howes, Jr., Germain Glidden, or Charlie Brinton, leading pre-war amateurs, at their best. He'd have a chance, on his retrieving ability, but he might not be able to cope with their hard-hitting up-and-down games. Bill Holden's near success in three matches hinted at this.

Freeman, who is married and the father of a year-old son, will look back with pleasure on his three years in Boston. "I had more fun playing squash this Winter than since I won the California badminton tournament in 1938," he said. He liked the fierce competitive aspect of squash.

A few years hence, Messrs. Holden, Parker and Kaese may remember the Freeman incursion with something akin to pleasure. More likely their chief joy will be that some 3000 miles separate them from the flash who made a squash court seem about the size of a pantry.

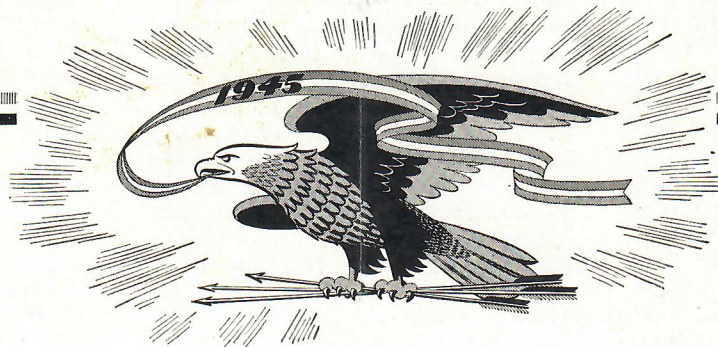
Smallest New Jersey Club Carries On

The Bonnelltown Badminton Club of New Jersey, the smallest known organized club in the New Jersey Association, still keeps an active interest though 25% of its members are in the Service. This 25% represents 3 members, as its full membership normally only totals 12. Robert Ekings, Charles Niebling and Gordon Needham are the servicemen in question but many of the others find it difficult to maintain active contact due to war work. However, the courts are kept going and the club expects to hit full stride when the emergency is over.

Correspondent — J. Ernest Lautie

SPORTS--

Active Partner of VICTORY



TODAY 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*.

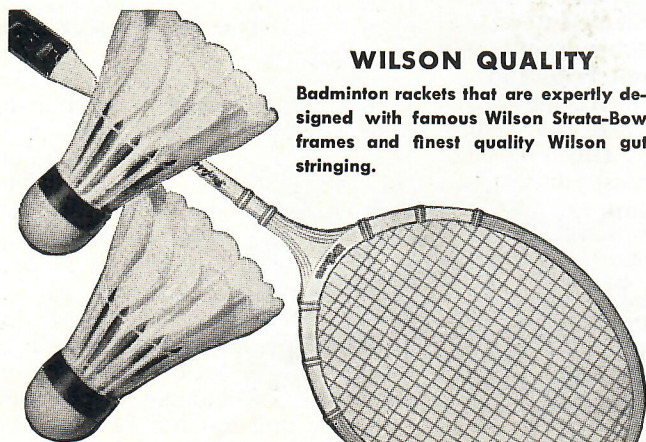
Let us resolve that football, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, badminton, golf, boxing, swimming, bowling and all other games and recreation, including hunting and fishing, be boosted to the highest level of national participation in history during the coming post-war "recovery" years.

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.

L. B. Gealy
President

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IT'S WILSON TODAY IN SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Prominent National Players Dominate N. Y. City Eastern Doubles Events

Led by Mrs. Mary Whittemore Schlemm, Nationally ranked No. 3, Miss Helen Gibson former National Ladies' Doubles Champion and Lea Gustavson, National Veteran's Doubles Champion, the Annual Eastern Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championship produced some of the best inter-sectional badminton on the East Coast this season.

The Ladies' Doubles was perhaps the most spectacular as it required the rounded out ability and experience of the two former National Champions to overcome the surge of Patsy Roberts and Virginia White in the final game. Baltimore Patsy, one of our new crop of younger players showed ability which bids fair to find her among the leaders in the coming years.

The Veteran Mixed Doubles Combination of Helen Gibson and Lea Gustavson of Westport, Conn. was too smooth for the rest of the field and the "Furious" Franks, Williamson and Jasensky of Fleetwood, N. Y. and Greenwich, Conn. carried too much power for the local team of Shields and Taral.

Hugh Forgie and Carl Whiteford put on a Singles exhibition that

was full of trick shots, clowning and, incidentally, some very fine badminton.

National Champion Dave Freeman was entered in the Tournament, but at the last minute, Uncle Sam had other plans for him.

Among the out-of-towners who were able to compete were: Stanley R. Anderson, Waban, Mass., Bill Shreve, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Baker, Major Humphrey Chilton, Washington, D. C., Pete Snyder, Bill Mackie and Miss Ruth Strong, Philadelphia, Miss Daphne Suba and Miss Virginia Bourquardez of Texas. Great Neck's Lt. Bruce Bielaski got leave from active duty in the Navy in time to compete. Eighty-eight teams participated.

Ladies' Doubles

Mrs. Schlemm, Boyce, Va., and Miss Gibson, Westport, Conn., defeated Miss Roberts and Miss White of Baltimore, Md., 15-4, 18-16.

Men's Doubles

Frank Williamson and Frank Jasensky defeated Edward Shields and Fred Taral 15-6, 18-15.

Mixed Doubles

Miss Gibson and Lea Gustavson defeated Mrs. Stella Storm and James Danaher, all of Westport, Conn., 15-13, 15-6.

Correspondent — Harold Wheaton

Northern California

Jim Crafts, our genial and popular ABA President, visited the San Francisco and Oakland district a few weeks ago. His visit was all too short, but he managed to meet quite a few of the local Badminton people, and we still think that the Association is very fortunate in having him "frozen" on the job for a while. Jim had a brief workout at the Athens Club; his forceful follow-through impressed everybody, and particularly his partner, Lt. Comdr. Earl Pound (Badminton commissioner of the Club) who was heard to mutter over his beer, later in the evening, that Jim's next partner should be equipped either with more hair or with a football helmet!

As will no doubt be reported elsewhere in this issue, Helen Zabriskie Ough and Janet Wright won the Ladies' Doubles title at the Southern California Championships early in March.

Mrs. Shirley Lander Blanchet, one of our better local players, may have the distinction of being the first Badminton "pin-up" girl. Our scouts tell us that four airmen in Corsica, after looking over a San Francisco newspaper, wrote to Shirley solemnly informing her that she had been voted "the Number One and Only Pin-up Girl" in their tent, and would she please send four full-length photos to put in their planes; they added naively in a postscript that they were not Badminton fans — in fact, they knew nothing about the game! We are trying to get the rest of the story from Norman Blanchet (Y 1/c), the husband in the case and, incidentally, present holder of the Bay Counties and 12th Naval District Singles Championships.

Recent visitors, who made many new friends in this district, were Lt. R. O. Yeager, USNR, co-holder of the National Men's Doubles Championship in 1938 and 1939, and Lt. (j. g.) W. C. Wilkinson, USNR, both formerly of Seattle. Dick and Bill played all the Badminton they could at the California Club during their brief stay. Lt. Svend Knudsen and Sgt. Bob McDonald were home recently and looking fit. S/K1/c John Holman shipped out a short time ago.

Correspondent — Bill Morrison

Massachusetts News

Class B and lower players provided plenty of fireworks in the Massachusetts Badminton Association Open Doubles Tournament held February 26, 27 and March 1 at the University Club, Boston. Consolation events caused many C and D players to present the largest wartime tournament to be held in this area.

RESULTS

Men's Doubles

Albert Marsh and Philip Nay defeated Walter Bonnell and John H. Clarke, 8-15, 15-6, 15-12.

Ladies' Doubles

Ruth Kohler and Theo Wood defeated Jean Pipes and Mary Pilliard, 15-11, 15-5.

Mixed Doubles

Janet Eaton and William Duby defeated Philip Nay and Jean Pipes, 8-15, 15-4, 18-14.

Men's Consolation

John H. Clarke and Charles Rolfe defeated C. Christiansen and James Quinn, 15-5, 18-13.

Ladies' Consolation

Barbara Cuthbert and Gladys Voye defeated Marjorie Sinclair and Eleanor Cuthbert.

Mixed Consolation

Ruth Kohler and Charles Beverlander defeated Clarence Christiansen and Gladys Voye.

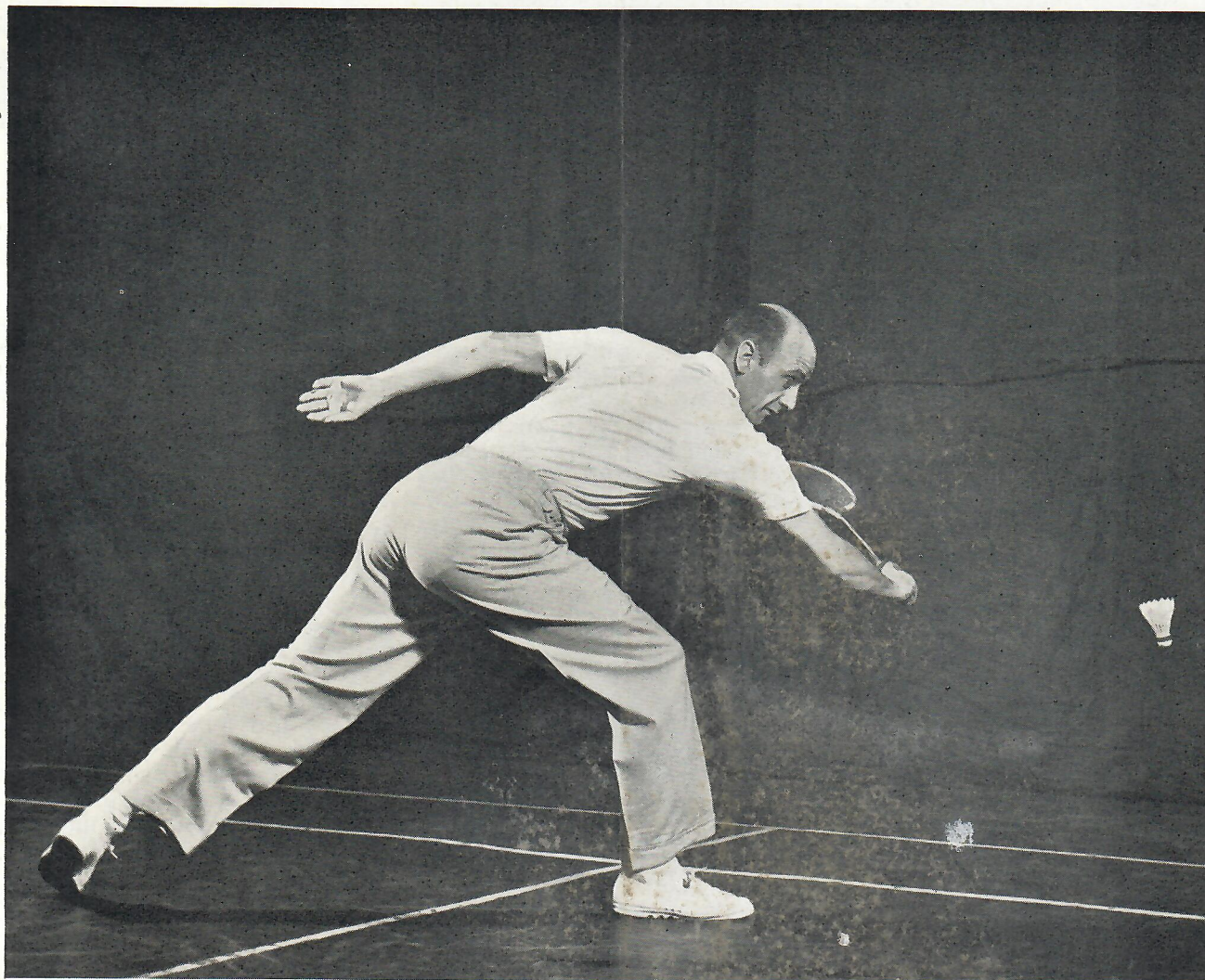
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Lt. Col. Tracy B. Mallory, on leave from Italy, enjoyed a few games of badminton at the Maugus Club. He reports that the Special Services Section of the Army functioned excellently in providing badminton equipment but that gut broke easily and substitutes were difficult to obtain so that much activity became curtailed.

* * * * *

Exhibitions at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Wellesley College, and McLean Hospital have found Dave Freeman and Evelyn Boldrick in action assisted by Lt. and Mrs. Wayne Schell, Theo Wood, Molly St. Amant, Robert Wright, Major Don Richardson, John Garrod and Nelson Howard.

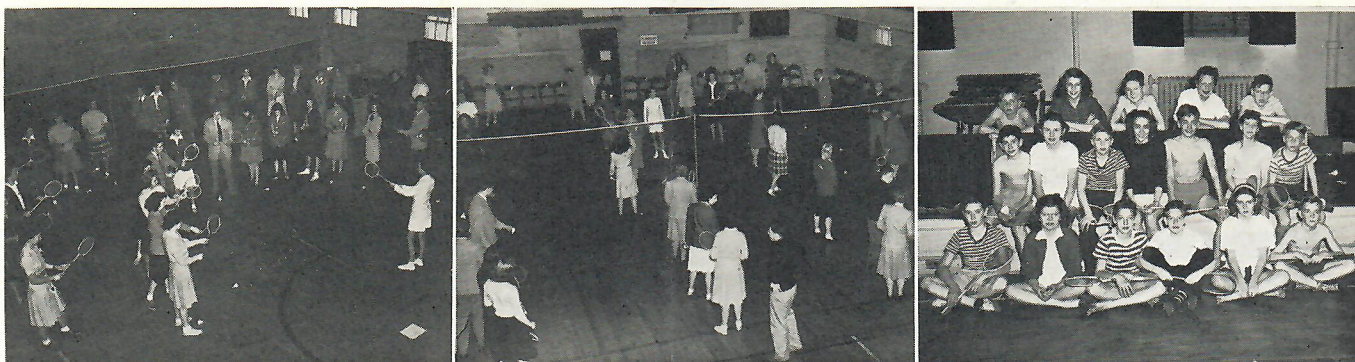
Still Available



"KEN DAVIDSON" BADMINTON RACKETS

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Sportcraft

Juniors — Our Players and Stars of the Future



Left and center pictures — Junior group instruction and mass participation under the tutelage of Miss Helen Gibson (in white badminton costume). Right picture — Atlanta youngsters, left to right — Front Row, Jim Alsobrook, Nancy Morgan, Ed Warren, Bill Glenn, Katherine Verdery, Charles Schoen. Middle Row — Charles Harrison, Caroline Schoen, Jim McDonald, Berl Beck, Spencer Boyd, Sundra Hardin, Bill Wilkes. Top Row — Andy Rocker, Lorette Taylor, Charles Farnsworth, Dorothy Glover, Hike Allen.

“Bird Chatter” has recognized for some time that one of the most important phases in the numerous aspects of Badminton development is inevitably bound up in the present and future players in the Junior ranks.

The conception of a junior player unquestionably differs to some degree in the various parts of our broad country though boys and girls from the ages of 8 to 18 are generally classed as juniors. With one known exception the ABA has not attempted to legislate to the Associations and Clubs holding tournaments, the line of demarcation which must be determined regarding entry of a junior player in a so-called senior or regular event.

For the Annual National Championships there is a national ruling that all entrants must be over 16 years of age on January 1st in the year in which the tournament is held. It is sincerely believed that this is the wisest minimum age level for any contestant in this most physically exhausting contest and mentally strenuous tournament in the country. There are many factors contributing to the selection of this ruling, but debating this question at this time is not the purpose of this article. The comments above are for information of a background nature only. Perhaps, if desired, this topic can be considered in some future issue.

We do wish to give the picture of some of our present Junior activities as reported by correspondents from various localities. Needless to say we know that all

sections are not covered herein. If yours isn't, contact your correspondent or secretary. Last issue the request for junior news was printed for all to see and somewhat prior to that practically all correspondents were personally solicited for special news for this issue. But, let's get on with the interesting picture of our players of the future. Perhaps this may provide a germ of an idea to some, or a further inspiration to others, to consider this junior problem in its true light — the source of your champions whether club, sectional or national, and potential members for your club when we ourselves fade out of the playing ranks.

With incomplete authentic information available, but gleaned from contacts with representatives from all major sections at various intersectional tournaments and especially at five of our six national tournaments we name as the No. 1 enthusiasts and developers over the longest period of time the team of Lea Gustavson and Helen Gibson of Westport, Conn. and the Connecticut Badminton Association. For years Lea, as a National Director, has consistently brought the subject of juniors to the floor of every national convention Directors Meeting he has attended. Helen has devoted hours and hours to working with the youngsters and has lectured to many teachers of physical education in the Conn. schools. The two pictures at the head of this article are proof of their work in their area. A most amazing article on the subject of class instruction

by them has been reviewed by “Bird Chatter” and we sincerely hope it will be available in published form in the near future.

On the West Coast, the Hillsborough Racquet Club of the Northern California Badminton Association holds regular Saturday A. M. classes for those from 8 to 15 and has an adult member on hand to organize and coach. Seattle Tennis Club recently held its 2nd Annual Handicap Badminton Tournament for Juniors and Seniors (see article on page 12). Oregon State Badminton Ass'n reports that their Junior Tournament this year was highly successful and while this event was held some time ago, for the records the names of some of the finalists are herewith mentioned. Billy Amburn won the Boys' Singles from Carl Davis, and teamed with Loren Miller to win the doubles. The 14 years and under event was won by Don Amburn from his doubles partner Don Koepke who defeated Don Anderson and Don Douglas in the pair event.

(Ed. Note — this corner on finalists by “Dons”, my correspondent friend, Grace Bell, is it a gag or the gospel?) The Girls' Singles went to Frances Gannon over Gladys Gonzales, who teamed to win the Doubles over the young Misses Ward and Peterson (no first names, Grace!).

Coming eastward the 10th Annual Minnesota District Tournament (see page 12) ran two Junior Girl events with Shirley Casey edging out Betty Munden in the Singles 11-4, 10-11, 11-9 and these two losing the doubles to Nancy

Jensen and Shirley Townsend 17-14, 15-7.

The Greater St. Louis Championships last fall sponsored three events open to junior players, boys' and girls' singles and a Father and Son doubles, so that it is evident that this area is definitely junior badminton minded.

New England, in addition to Connecticut already mentioned, is represented by Springfield, Vermont and Boston, Mass. At the former, Miss Root, the recreation director at the Community House, has been the guiding light in promoting interest among the younger fry. In Boston, the Mass. Badminton Ass'n is holding its 4th Annual Junior Tournament this month. Some of the junior players who started 4 years ago are already making a definite inroad in the senior events, notably Jean Pipes of Wellesley.

Heading south we hear of classes of 40 being held by the Maryland Badminton Association at the Gilman Gym every Saturday with Mrs. Pete Hurst and Mrs. Grace Devlin in charge.

The Southern Ass'n at Atlanta,

Ga., via correspondent Mel Chamblee, sent us the third picture shown with this article and reports tournament results as follows:

Girls' Singles

Lorette Taylor defeated Caroline Schoen 11-5, 6-11, 11-8.

Girls' Doubles

Daughtry Hardin and Caroline Schoen defeated Lorette Taylor and Donna Laura Vaughn 8-11, 11-2, 11-7.

Mixed Doubles

A. Hardin and S. Hardin defeated J. Harris and C. Schoen 11-8, 11-6.

Boys' Singles

(over 13 years) Scrapy O'Sullivan defeated J. Harrison 11-8, 10-12, 11-6.

Boys' Singles

(under 13 years) Sonny Schoen defeated Jimmy Taylor 11-7, 7-11, 11-8.

Boys' Doubles

O'Sullivan and Hardin defeated J. Harrison and C. Harrison 11-2, 11-1.

A Father and Son event is planned within a short time as well.

This is the brief picture as presented to "Bird Chatter". There must be many other clubs and associations where interest and activity is worth reporting and a subject as inspiring as this one will be added to by "Bird Chatter" on receipt of some data.

Chicago Badminton Club Ends Season with Handicap Event

Recent monthly issues of "Bird Cage", 8-10 page publication of this live wire club, indicate a real bang up, wind up affair. Publicity Editor, Dorothy Riech, has developed a real interesting house-organ that easily indicates a well knit club definitely tuned to maintain the interest and participation of all its members. President Fred O. Hindle states that over 60 entries were received by the first of April, an excellent sign of an active and interesting group.

Evansville Club Issues "News"

Another club to adopt a news sheet for membership distribution is the Evansville Badminton Club. President Madge Heugel keeps her members periodically informed on various items of specific interest. Marie Schneider and Ralston News recently became the State delegates from Southern Indiana.



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Jack Purcell

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Watertown, Mass.

Peacetime manufacturers of Jack Purcell Badminton and Tennis Shoes

Midwest Tournament Titles Have St. Louis Tinge

Winning 4 of the 6 major titles, players from St. Louis, Mo., carted away the major part of the prizes at the 8th Annual Midwest Badminton Tournament held at Evanston, Illinois on March 10 and 11.

Dick Casey made it his Third Singles win, edging Russell Smith 18-17 in the third game. The latter teamed with his wife to annex the Mixed Doubles event. She in turn partnered Marie Bytnor to a straight game doubles win, while Miss Bytnor gained her second title by coming from behind, losing the first of a three game match with defending Champion Eleanor Coombs of Chicago, but handing out only 7 points to her opponent in the last two games. Junior Boys and Girls Events added to the interest and the final of the Girls' Event was an unusually close one.

Correspondent — Harry Wheary

Pasadena Mixed Shows Novel Flight Arrangement

Forty teams battled through 70 matches in a novel flight tournament held February 11 by the Pasadena Badminton Club.

Eight matches were played in a set-back allowing a full 32 draw. In the first play off, losers dropped to "C" flight; second round losers in "Championship" flight dropped to "B" flight; first round winners in "C" flight went up to "B" flight; and quarter final losers in the "Championship" flight formed the "Achievement" flight.

(Ed. Note — this requires a bit of thinking out but looks good and might be considered by other clubs).

Helen Noble and Skeeter Erickson emerged the Mixed Champions but only after a spine-tingling 3 game battle with Tody Rahm and Barney McCay.

RESULTS

"Championship"
Noble and Erickson defeated Rahm and McCay, 15-14, 7-15, 15-12.

"B"
Gott and Leonard defeated Adams and Osborne, 15-3, 15-7.

"C"
Larner and Cole defeated McNulty and Allen, 15-9, 15-8.

"Achievement"
C. Horner and Taylor defeated Hill and Madden, 17-16, 18-17.

Correspondent — Bob Noble

Men's Singles

Casey defeated Smith, 8-15, 15-10, 18-17.

Ladies' Singles

Marie Bytnor defeated Eleanor Coombs, 3-11, 11-6, 11-1.

Men's Doubles

Footo and Riday (West Allison, Wisconsin) defeated Bolle and Russell (Skokie Club) 15-5, 15-12.

Ladies' Doubles

Miss Bytnor and Mrs. Smith defeated Miss Coombs and Thelma Burdick, 15-6, 15-11.

Mixed Doubles

Mr. and Mrs. Smith defeated Thelma Burdick and Lyle Shortz, Chicago, 18-14, 15-8

Veteran's Doubles

Bill Lenhart and Jack White, (Skokie Club) defeated Harry Frazer and Henry Wilson (Skokie Club) 15-11, 15-12.

Junior Girls' Doubles

Lois McAllister and Betsey Vaughn, Chicago B. C. defeated Jean Billor and Carol Dempsey, Glencoe B. C., 15-9, 3-15, 18-13.

Junior Boys' Doubles

John Colbrunn and Ted Moehlmann, Webster Grove B. C., defeated Bill Kellogg and Jack Taylor, Glencoe B. C., 15-8, 15-0.

St. Paul — Minneapolis

The Tenth Annual Minnesota District Badminton Association Tournaments were held at Cooke Hall of the University of Minnesota on March 2 and 3 and 86 entrants participated.

Two new events were added, one for Juniors under 18 in which four high schools had entries, and the second for Men 50 years of age or older. For this Men's Senior Doubles event the "Erdman Trophy" was donated by the members of the St. Paul Athletic Club in memory of Carl Erdman.

Results were as follows:

Men's Singles

Harvey Nakano defeated Leo Cassidy 15-6, 15-8.

Men's Doubles

McDonald and Nakano defeated Pass and Krinkie 15-5, 15-5.

Ladies' Singles

Lt. Jean Pitts defeated Mrs. Fred Moore 11-7, 11-8.

Ladies' Doubles

Ethel Bowman and Jane Guest defeated Leda Wood and Blair Egley 15-4, 15-2.

Mixed Doubles

Dorothy and Mel Pass defeated Ethel Bowman and Norm MacDonald 15-5, 14-18, 15-4.

Men's Senior Doubles

Phil Brain and Lou Keller defeated Joe Armstrong and A. E. Peterson 15-9, 15-4.

Correspondent — Arlo Bryce

(Ed. Note—Junior results on page 10)

Seattle Holds Handicap Event

The Seattle Tennis Club has just completed the second annual Handicap Badminton Tournament for Juniors and Seniors. By again encouraging a mixed sign-up of the youngsters and the crutch bearers 46 players competed in four events. Although only one junior player reached the finals, three gained the quarter finals and the tournament produced many closely contested matches with the majority running three games.

In the finals of the Ladies' Doubles, Dorothy Prusoff, wife of the late Hank Prusoff, a former national ranking tennis player, teamed with Lois Beckman to erase Irene Church and Joan Frayn, a junior.

The tournament was followed by a reception and tea, arranged by Mrs. John Phillips and her assistants, Mrs. Lois Beckman and Miss Ann Cook. The tea was attended by all participants and was highlighted by the presentation of prizes to the winning players. The combination Junior-Senior Committee under the chairmanship of Ed Boyer, and the excellent handicapping Miss Ann Cook's committee are highly complimented on producing such a splendid event.

Final results were as follows:

Men's Singles

Glenn Borgendale defeated Dick Hayden 7-15, 15-9, 15-4.

Men's Doubles

Doug Ball and Dick Hayden defeated Ross Williams and Roland France 15-3, 12-15, 15-13.

Ladies' Doubles

Lois Beckman and Dorothy Prusoff defeated Irene Church and Joan Frayn 15-12, 15-5.

Mixed Doubles

Irene Church and Ed Boyer defeated Lois Beckman and Ross Williams, 9-15, 15-11, 15-13.

Correspondent — Ed Boyer

Missouri A. C. Holds Sixth Annual Tourney

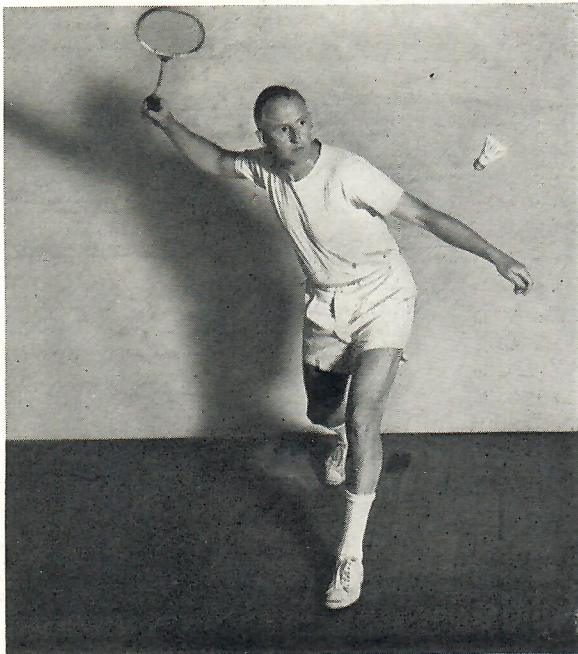
April 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th are the dates set for the 6th Annual Invitational Tournament of the Missouri AC of St. Louis, Mo., a member of the greater St. Louis Badminton and Midwest Badminton Associations. Seven events will be played, including two, opened for junior boy players. Results will appear in next issue.

Correspondent — Roy W. Jordon



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SPALDING

SETS THE PACE IN SPORTS

Connecticut News

With the largest entry in its history, the ninth annual Connecticut Badminton Association State Championships were successfully held in the New Haven Y. M. C. A. Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25; 132 individuals took part in 247 events.

* * * * *

Helen Gibson of the Westport Club was the only three event winner, repeating her past performances in the Women's A Singles, teaming with Lea Gustavson to take the Mixed A Doubles, and with Elizabeth Maffuci, also of Westport, to win the Women's A Doubles.

* * * * *

Pearl Kurtzman of Norwalk, won the Women's B Singles; Miss Hollingsworth and Mrs. McCarthy of the New Haven Y won the Women's B Doubles; Ed Janis and Mrs. Agnes Hersam of Norwalk, took the Mixed B Title, and Ed Graham of Waterbury won the Men's B Singles and teamed with Joe Sullivan, also of Waterbury, to take the Men's B Doubles.

* * * * *

The annual Spring meeting and Luncheon of the C. B. A. was held prior to the finals in the matches, with a good attendance. Reports were heard from various committee members, including a report by Lea Gustavson on the doings of the American Badminton Association, and a good report from Miss Helen Gibson on Junior Badminton activity.

H. W. Chapman, President; Al Crockett, Vice-President; Richard Banning, Treasurer; and Don Post, Secretary, were all reelected at the meeting. Named to the executive committee were Al Crockett, Miss Helen Gibson, and H. P. Sharpe of the Bristol Club of Waterbury. Miss Gibson was also appointed Chairman of Junior Badminton.

* * * * *

Mel Lutz, after a stay in the hospital, returned to play, and was elected captain of the Norwich Badminton Club.

* * * * *

Cliff Massey, who pulled a tendon at the State Tournament, made fast time on his crutches for the rest of the week-end.

James Danaher of Westport, won the Men's A Singles, and teamed with Fritz Jasensky of Greenwich to take the Men's A Doubles.

* * * * *

The Bridgeport Y. W. C. A. was the scene, on Saturday, March 17, of a Class B Tournament for Men's and Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles, and drew a large entry. It was open to the State.

* * * * *

The annual Stamford City Badminton Championships also drew a large entry in all classes of A and B. Joe Chiaramonte was in charge of the affair, and some of the better players in the State were on hand for the events.

* * * * *

Hugh Forgie, top pro, staged an exhibition at the State Championships. He played Steve Ogilvy of Westport and Fritz Jasensky of Greenwich. The latter has been teaming with Hugh in Red Cross camp and hospital exhibitions.

* * * * *

The former Evelyn Wheeler and Warren Sharples, both members of the Norwich Badminton Club, were married secretly in June 1944, it has been announced.

Correspondent — Don Hersam

Stamford Conn. Annual Champs

On March 8th, 9th and 10th, Stamford, Conn. held its Eighth Annual City Tournament under the auspices of the Stamford Y. M. C. A. Badminton Club. This tournament yearly is thrown open to residents and members of clubs in Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Stamford, Darien and New Canaan. This year, Walter Raymond, ranked No. 2 in Conn., won the Class A Men's Singles crown for the third consecutive year, defeating Pete Raymond of New Canaan.

As was expected, Helen Gibson beat Eleanor Ross again in the Women's A Singles. Well, maybe next year, Ellie!

Pete Raymond teamed up with Bill Chapman, who is the President of the Connecticut Badminton Association, to beat the Stamford team of Walt Raymond and Carl Whiteford in the Men's A Doubles. Roger Peterson, better known in Stamford for his prowess on the tennis court, won the Class B Singles title.

The tournament had all the earmarks of success — with 50 individuals participating in Class A and B Men's and Women's Singles, Men's and Women's Doubles, and mixed Doubles, totalling 111 entries in all!

Correspondent — Joe Chiaramonte

Atlanta A. C. Annual Tourney

Correspondent — Mel Chamblee

The Annual Atlanta Athletic Club Badminton Tournament was held February 8, 9, 10, and 11, with huge crowds being on hand every night to cheer the players.

Leonard Dobson and Jim Taylor put on a good match for the Men's "A" Singles title and not one person left the gym until the last point was over. Dobson won after three strenuous games 7-15, 15-11, and 15-12.

One of the biggest upsets was the dethroning of Jim Taylor and Henry Lane as Men's "A" Doubles Champions after two years domination of that title. They were beaten in straight sets by Ted Zuber and "Shorty" Roberts.

Bill Rucker was Chairman of the Tournament Committee. The matches were well arranged and everything was on schedule.

Men's "A" Singles

Dobson defeated Taylor, 7-15, 15-11, 15-12.

Men's "A" Doubles

Zuber and Roberts defeated Taylor and Lane 15-10, 15-10.

Men's "B" Singles

Hardin defeated Norman 15-2, 2-15, 15-7.

Men's "B" Doubles

Guiffida and Hardin defeated Norman and Whitaker 15-14, 15-8.

Mixed "A" Doubles

Dobson and Chamblee defeated Wynn and Fuggit 15-3, 15-3.

Men's Novice Singles

Barham defeated Allen Hardin 15-8, 15-5.

Men's Novice Doubles

Barham and Franklin defeated Mahon and McCrory 15-8, 15-3.

Esquire Match (men over 40)

Hollowell and Taylor defeated Farnsworth and Lane 18-15, 15-6.

We were delighted to see Mr. James Crafts in Atlanta a few weeks ago. He stopped in on one of our Wednesday night sessions and quite a few of our players met him.



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Oregon State Tourneys

With a married couples' mixed doubles, the annual Junior event and the State Association Handicap Tournament, Oregon players have enjoyed some excellent tournament play.

The husband and wife affair became the "warm up" event as the Directors of the Oregon State Badminton Ass'n thought it well to put this on early so that the married players could really relax and get down to real serious play. But, all joking aside, that tournament was one of the most "fun" events sponsored, for Loth players and spectators. New champions were crowned in Loth the A and B divisions. Chuck and Norma Cleveland led the A group, eliminating both finalists of last year's tournament, although Dick and Adelaide Newton did put a scare into them by forcing their match into a three game affair. Mr. and Mrs. John Carter played well in reaching the finals but the Cleavelands had too many guns. A friendly battle in the B division found Mr. and Mrs. Merle McDade taking the honors from Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hoffman.

The State Handicap Tournament results show that Louise Cicrich and Russ Hill of MAC were each three time winners and their partners in the doubles were Ila Marlatt and Elmer Brown respectively.

Playing with the tourney's severest handicaps both Mrs. Cicrich and Mr. Hill displayed fine form and headwork to power through to victory in all their events. Perhaps the highlights of the tournament were the two singles finals. Mrs. Cicrich came from behind a number of times to earn a hard fought win over Mrs. Helen Phillips of the Sellwood club, 11-10, 11-9. Possibly Louise's incentive for achievement was her desire to be able to send her husband Stanley Cicrich some good news from the old home town. Stan, a State and Northwest champion before answering Uncle Sam's call, is now with MacArthur's forces in the Philippines. Needless to say he will be plenty proud of his "better half" when the word gets to him on Leyte.

Russ Hill, playing at minus twelve to his opponent's plus nine, not only overcame the physical handicap of the score but quite a mental hazard as well. Behind in the first game at game point,

4-14, he took matters into his own hands to eke out a well-earned one point victory, 15-14, and went on to take the second gruelling game from Elliot Pulver by a score of 15-12. And don't let anybody fool you that this Pulver can't hit that old bird.

The ladies' doubles showed little Ila in a real comeback as her clever serving was an outstanding factor as she and Louise snagged the title. Word has it that in the men's doubles Elmer Brown was the effective front court man for Russ Hill to blast their opponents with the latter's potent smash.

In a very large measure the success of the tournament was due to the courtesy of Al Tauscher and Jimmy Richardson in permitting the club to act as host. Their generous offer of Multnomah Club's fine courts was a distinct asset to the quality of play and contributed greatly to the ease of running off the long list of matches. It was a particularly welcome gesture on their part and one which greatly relieved the tournament chairman's worries.

The above four winners, along with Adelaide and Dick Newton, Norma and Chuck Cleveland, Harold Muntz and Charles Dolphin will join other Portland players in competition with a number of outstanding Tacoma and Seattle players on April 7-8 at Oswego Country Club.

Junior activities will be found in another part of this issue.

*Correspondents — Grace Bell
and Elmer Brown*

*From Capt. Henry Heffernan,
Claims Team 17, APO 228 c/o
P. M. New York City.*

"I was formerly identified with the ABA as a director. Since entry into the Army (July 1942) I have played Badminton frequently. However the game is virtually unknown in France except Paris. I have been informed that racquets and birds can be made available if a suitable court could be set up. My survey of this town has disclosed no satisfactory available building. But we have hopes for some exercise soon."

(Ed. Note — Thanks, Capt. for the two 20 franc notes and one 10 franc note. When the bank got thru with these we had 20c in money and one 10 franc note N. G. which we are taking the liberty of adding to our souvenirs. But, don't worry about the balance.

News from Baltimore, Md.

Play in Baltimore has been curtailed in the same manner as so many of the East Coast Cities. However, the Towson Club, St. Paul's Club, the Young Men's Hebrew Association and the Gilman Club are all enjoying more or less play. Many of the British Overseas Airways Corp. have been playing on the Gilman courts particularly Capt. Craig R.A.F.O., Squadron Leader Ross Stainton R.A.F.B.R. and his wife, Capt. Bernard Frost and his wife and other members of the B.O.A.C. staff. National Director Ray Scarlett and his wife are inevitably found at any Badminton gathering. The Dept. of Public Recreation has introduced the game in the public and high schools and intra-city high school tournaments are regularly held.

*Correspondent — P. T. Mackie
(Ed. Note — This news was unable to be printed last issue due to lack of space. Junior activities will be found on page 10.)*

Cleveland Met. Ass'n News

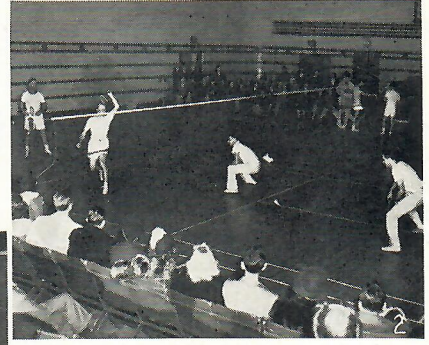
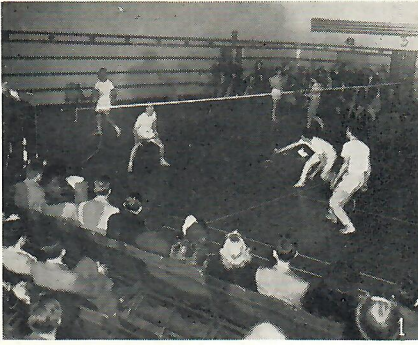
The Cleveland Metropolitan Badminton Association, organized two years ago to coordinate Badminton activity in the Cleveland area, has been sponsoring a series of regular Sunday Round Robin Tournaments.

One of the problems caused by wartime irregularity of attendance was solved by playing the Round Robins as mixed doubles, the men and women playing sides. In this way the experienced women players could develop their game, a sizeable number of teams was always available and the more experienced players from all groups in the Cleveland area could participate and get acquainted. The plan has worked so well that it will be tried again next year on a somewhat larger scale.

The annual Cleveland Metropolitan Tournament, also sponsored by The Cleveland Metropolitan Badminton Association, will be held Saturday, April 7. Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles will be played and there will also be a Consolation Tournament.

Correspondent — D. P. Armbruster

Eastman Kodak Club Sponsors First Tournament To Large Field



(1) and (2) Finals of Men's Doubles, Muir and Henry, right court. (3) Left to right, Lois Patchen (*Kodak*), Barbara Ince and Marian Armstrong (*Strathgowan Club, Toronto*), Helen Woods (*Brighton Club, Rochester*). (4) Committee, left to right, Everett Moses, Lois Patchen, Tom Miller, Harry Irwin, Jim Fuess. (5) Mary Ann Ball, Larry Green, and Marguerite Cieri (*Kodak*) look over some of the prizes.

The First Annual Kodak Office Recreation Club Invitation Tournament was held March 10 and 11, on the four spacious courts of the Eastman Kodak Company's main office in Rochester, New York. Believed to be the first such affair sponsored by an industrial group, it attracted a total of 220 event entries including leading players from Toronto.

The tournament, consisting of doubles matches only, was divided into two sections, one for the class A and class B players and the other for the class C group. Trophies and merchandise prizes were awarded to winners and runners-up in all events making a total of 48 prizes in all.

Preliminary rounds were started at 1:00 P. M., Saturday, and by 11:30, Saturday night, all matches up to the semi-finals were completed. A buffet supper was served to all contestants during the even-

ing, and the Company's attractive lounges adjacent to the playing courts provided a resting and meeting place.

The Toronto delegation, which included a dozen players from the Royal Canadian Navy, was headed by such well known stars as Jack Muir, Evelyn Effnert and Joan Hennessey. The Buffalo group pinned their hopes on Patsy Donovan Starrett, Dewitt Kittinger and Jack Buddemeyer, while the locals were led by Phil Michlin and Cliff Schmidt.

Jack Purcell and Petty Officer Joe Noble, RCN, former Granite Club professional, added their usual bit to the meet, both as spectators and in an informal exhibition match which delighted the gallery of 350 just prior to the finals.

In charge of the tournament were Harry Irwin, Lois Patchen, Everett Moses, James Fuess, and Tom Miller of the Kodak group.

Class A - B Ladies' Doubles

Evelyn Effnert and Joan Hennessey of Strathgowan Club, Toronto, defeated Audrey Upton and Barbara Ince of Strathgowan Club, Toronto, 15-6, 15-8.

Men's Doubles

Jack Muir and Grant Henry of Strathgowan Club, Toronto, defeated Cliff Schmidt and Phil Michlin of Kodak, Rochester, 17-15, 15-10.

Mixed Doubles

Evelyn Effnert and Grant Henry of Toronto, defeated Alice Brown of Mercury, Buffalo, and Cliff Schmidt of Kodak, Rochester, 18-15, 15-9.

Class C Ladies' Doubles

Ethel Marshall and Evelyn Scharmach of the Triad Club, Buffalo, defeated Marjorie Maynard and Marcelline Smith of Kodak, Rochester, 15-9, 15-12.

Men's Doubles

Bob Traquair and Carl Foss of the Triad Club, Buffalo, defeated Pete Arva of Kodak, and Glen Cushman of Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, 12-15, 15-5, 15-13.

Mixed Doubles

Grace Wendt and Carl Foss of Triad Club, Buffalo, defeated Evelyn Scharmach and Bob Traquair of the Triad Club, Buffalo, 15-12, 6-15, 15-8.

Badminton for Beginners

by Jack Brewer

The accompanying article is the second and final installment which was started last issue. While this instruction is primarily for beginners a review by those of more experience might be of real value.

The Strokes

There are several strokes in Badminton — the lob, the drop shot, the drive, the smash and net shots.

The lob is a defensive shot and its advantage is that it clears the bird into the back of your opponent's court, and so gives you more time to recover your position. The bird should drop vertically on the back line, and the higher the bird goes, the more time you have to get back to position, (before your opponent receives it).

It is important to remember not to hit the bird too hard. If you do, it interferes with what would otherwise have been a very easy stroke. If you hit the bird too hard, you get a feeling of futility, for it only flies high and has no power at all. No matter how much you strain your arm muscles, the bird only sails harmlessly, but if you hit it easily with the elbow in front of the face and the head of the racquet facing the net, the bird flies hard and straight.

Lob shots should be hit directly over the head, with the head of the racquet facing high over your opponent's court. This will have a tendency to make you complete the stroke with the wrist and fingers, as you should. Hit the bird as high as possible with the racquet facing square to the opposite court. You don't grip the racquet on the completion of the lob shot. Let your fingers pull the racquet down to hit the bird a quick light stroke. Be very careful not to stop the racquet with a snap.

The drop shot is a tricky little shot which often catches your opponent unawares. It is exactly the opposite of the lob, for its purpose is to let the bird fall as close to the net as possible.

The drop shot requires control of your arm force. Unless you merely pat the bird with the racquet, it

will not fall close to the net, but will land in the middle of the opposite court. And remember to hit the bird *down*. All the other strokes require you to hit high, to make the bird sail. In the drop shot, you must be sure that the bird is under the head of the racquet. You must take time for this stroke. Your arm should be extended at full length and should be in front of your face. Your last three fingers and your thumb should pull the head of the racquet down to pat the bird.

The drive, although not used as much as the other strokes, can be very effective to return a bird hit low over the net. The arm is fully extended about shoulder high. In driving, the arm does more work than the wrist, particularly the forearm. The drive shot, if used to excess, speeds up the game considerably.

The smash is much like the drop shot — the only difference is in the wrist control. Visualize yourself as throwing a ball and you will have the motion necessary for the smash. All the power of the "wind-up" should come into the head of the racquet as your wrist snaps it on the bird. Don't wait too long before hitting the bird in this stroke. Hit it out in front, for it is then that the full effect of the snap of the racquet is most powerful.

In making any overhead stroke the head of the racquet should be directly over the head. This affords the highest possible reach which is absolutely essential for good stroking. The fingers should relax on the racquet. The thumb and forefinger control the stroke. The stroke starts from the bend of the elbow and is carried through by straightening the elbow out and forcing the head of the racquet over with the third and fourth finger. This enables the head of the racquet to come through faster without any undue strain upon the wrist. At the same time it causes the wrist to function correctly. The little finger and the third finger bring the wrist into action by tightening the grip. This can be best practiced by trying to hit the bird without any movement of the upper arm. Always remember to hold the racquet loosely.

In making a backhand stroke the front of the hand is toward the face. Fingers are loose, tightening only previous to contact

with the bird. The butt of the racquet rests in the heel of the hand. The arm should be completely straight when the racquet hits the bird. The right foot is forward. Beginners forget that the racquet reaches a long way and that it is not necessary to stretch to the side after the bird.

In the overhead strokes the flexible wrist is the most important feature. In the backhand, although the wrist is just as important, the elbow comes into play. At the beginning of the stroke, the elbow is directly in front of the body and follows through, as the wrist turns, until the arm is fully extended and the racquet contacts the bird.

How to Serve

Serving is one of the hardest things to learn in Badminton because it is so difficult to send the bird across the net in a way that will be advantageous to you.

There are three schools of thought with regard to getting the bird into play on service. Most advanced players hold the shuttle either loosely by the feathers or with the cork gripped between the thumb and forefinger. In either case the bird is tossed upwards slightly from the waist and also slightly forward. It is stroked as it falls and after it has reached a vertical position. This method of delivery probably permits more deception but may be hard for some beginners to master. It should be tried, but if you do not find it easy, you may hold the bird in the left hand by the feathers and drop it, simultaneously hitting with the racquet. The beginner should probably try the method that seems simplest to him, and if he reaches an advanced stage his general skill will make it possible for him to shift to the thrown service.

The method of serving is primarily the same for all services, stand with the right foot forward; facing the side of the court; bend the knees a little. Hold the bird in the left hand and drop it. As you drop it, hit simultaneously with the racquet.

In conclusion let me again remind you that the first thing to learn is to relax. Don't tighten yourself into a knot of useless muscles. And after you have relaxed, be enthusiastic. Get into the game and give it all you've got.

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The Name to Remember When You Buy

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BALLS • AUTOMOBILE TIRES • TUBES • BATTERIES

PENNSYLVANIA RUBBER COMPANY, PENN-CRAFT PARK, JEANNETTE, PA.

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friendly
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