

Chatter Bird

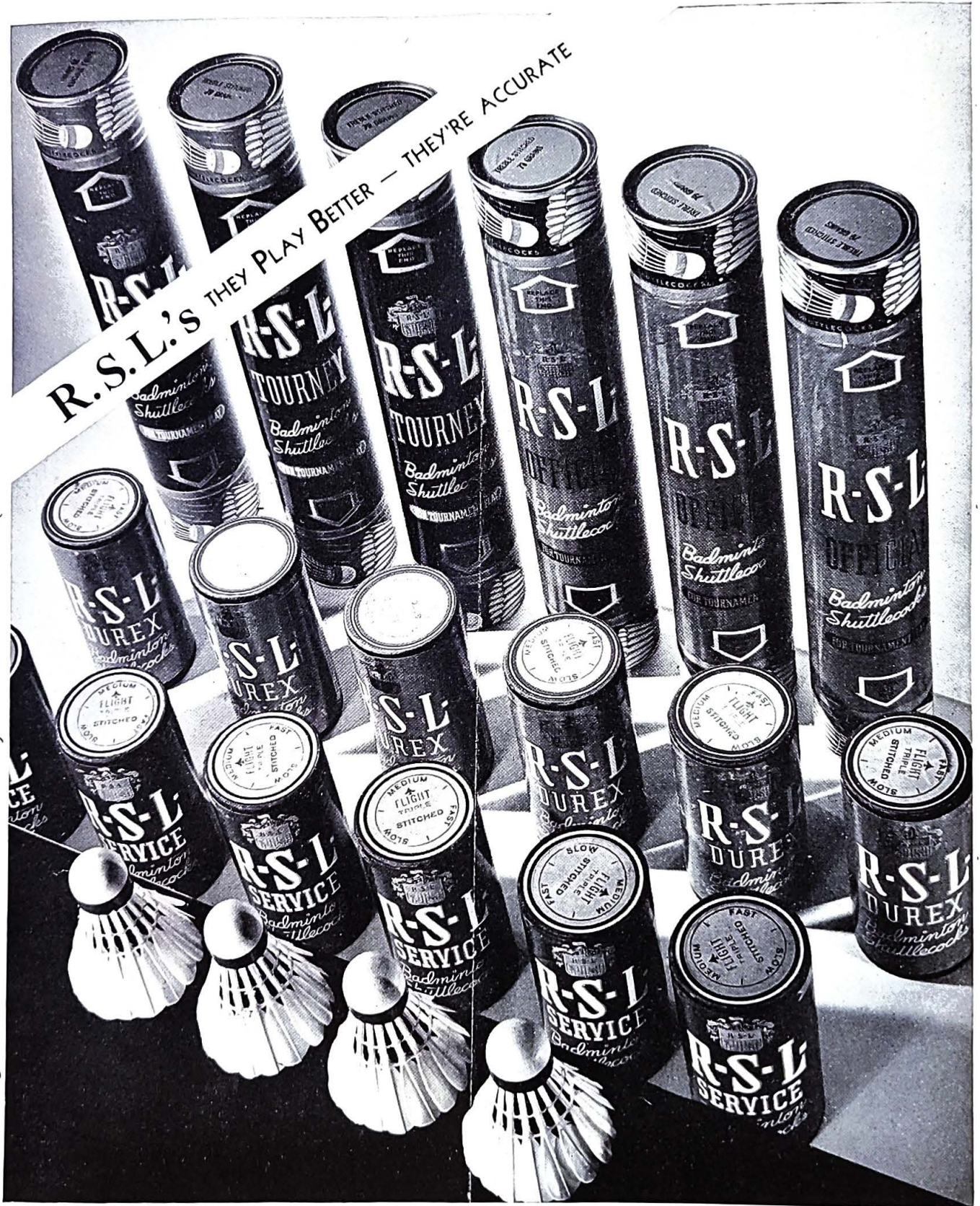


VOL. 5

FEBRUARY 1946

NO. 2





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BIRD CHATTER



AMERICAN BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Vol. 5

FEBRUARY 1946

No. 2

'46 Nationals Off — Bids for '47 Pour In Important Directors Meeting at Buffalo April 5-7

"There will be no 1946 National Championships," announces National Secretary John E. Garrod, "and this decision was reluctantly made by the Executive Committee after exhaustive study of all pertinent factors involved. The tremendous interest aroused these last six weeks, however, assures us of a super affair in 1947. To date the ABA has received tentative bids from eight sources. While these can not be officially released, it can be mentioned that one is on the East Coast, one in the Southwest, three on the West Coast and three in the Northern Middle Region States. Some of these would have liked the event this year but certain local conditions would not have been in proper shape by tournament time. The Executive Committee has considered it absolutely essential to hold a Directors Meeting, however, and this date is set for April 5 - 7 at Buffalo N. Y. during the time of the Western N.Y. Open Tournament. I can't stress too strongly the need for all Directors, who can possibly do so, to plan now to attend.

Complete details of the Buffalo Meeting will be forwarded to each National Director in ample time for discussion with his constituents of some of the major items to be presented. In order to have all pertinent subjects to be discussed disseminated to the Directors in this connection it is earnestly requested that each Director forward any problems he wishes brought up to the National Secretary at the earliest possible date. Entry blanks for the tournament play and matters pertaining to hotel reservations will be forwarded to each Director by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee "at an early date."

Executive Committee Report

Badminton started its postwar revival with a rush immediately following V-J day and your National Executive Committee had high hopes of reviving the National Championships this season. A ballot of the ABA Directorate in the September meeting showed general interest and enthusiasm for reinstatement of the Nationals throughout the country but reorganization of Class A Associations had not progressed sufficiently for any definite bids to result, despite several expressions of interest.

By the time of the November Directors Meeting, time was running out and an early decision imperative. Notice of a dead line on January 10th was given together with a reprint of President Crafts letter of December 19th, reporting no bids to date and urging the Directors to check once again all possibilities in their areas.

By this time local reorganization in various sections had reached a

stage which made it possible for some enthusiastic groups to make definite inquiry. For the record, those willing and able to make the effort of at least tentative bids included Baltimore, Cleveland, Indianapolis and New Haven. They are to be commended for their interest in reinstating our Championships for the good of our game. By the time of the dead line, Baltimore and Indianapolis had found it impossible to overcome some major requirement so that definite bids were received from Cleveland and New Haven. A recital of the effort expended by these groups to surmount the various difficulties encountered would fill several pages. A detailed record of correspondence, phone calls, telegrams, etc. is in the files. It is sufficient to say in this report that they are to be highly commended for their interest and ingenuity in finding ways and means to at least make definite bids. However, a hurried survey of the probable field of contestants

indicated that it would not be a Nationally representative group. This major factor combined with the existing transportation problem and the even more ominous railroadwise, the difficulty of accommodating a National gathering and the strain on the recently reorganized and still undermanned local groups forced your Executive Committee to regretfully conclude that we had best postpone the Nationals for this season and concentrate on 1947.

The problem of the administration of the association, election of new officers and revamping of committees, etc. so that we will be in A-1 shape for a big season next year will be handled by a special meeting of the Directors in conjunction with the Western New York Open Tournament at Buffalo on April 5-7. A large number of Directors have indicated that they will be able to attend personally or send representatives; all others will be asked to make complete written reports and recommendations for consideration.

Your Executive Committee will recommend at this meeting immediate positive action on a regular National Championships and Annual Meeting for the Spring of 1947 with the aim of announcing location and date very early (not later than September) so that the entire American Badminton Association may be able to concentrate on the biggest and best gathering ever held as a mark of our start on peacetime development.

For this season we are encouraging the holding of regional open tournaments as the best available step in our comeback to a normal tournament program. The Ohio State open at Cleveland, February 16-17, Eastern open at N. Y. City, February 29-30-31, Western N. Y. open at Buffalo (plus Directors meeting) April 5-7, a possible New England Tournament, the Pacific Southwest in May and others being considered, will do much to stimulate Badminton interest.

Bird Chatter

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Editorial

Tournament season is here and with it, perforce, the trials and tribulations of tournament committees with special emphasis on the judges, referees, umpires and linesmen. Many clubs and associations have given little or no real thought to the study of our playing rules and the necessity for their proper and consistent interpretation by not only the committee but also by their field representatives the referee and his hard working cohorts, the umpires and linesmen. To be sure, these gentlemen and ladies do not usually assume their duties until the latter rounds of any tournament play, the quarters perhaps, but usually from the semis on.

At this stage the tension is apt to be pretty terrific and partisanship inevitably reigns high. The older playing groups have generally developed certain individuals whose services are in constant demand but the list is astonishingly short of true and tried judges. Too often the referee in desperation is forced to call on a mere score-caller. This chap in many cases becomes the proverbial skunk at a lawn party to all and sundry partisans of the losers and second-guess spectators thru lack of knowledge of when, what and how to make quick and proper rulings. In many sports requiring judges, the position is one that carries high esteem and full recognition of true worth and value to the respective sport. Judging by these persons is assumed as a challenge for them to be as good in their field as the persons they are judging are leaders in theirs. Many former players and reputable spectator enthusiasts should be enlisted to form a corps of judges, with training in this activity reasonably comparable to the training of the more active tournament player.

By and large, most professionals and former stars will do a creditable job with no thought of favoritism. They readily admit and are contritely aware when a split-second decision may have been incorrect. Some of the most difficult infractions to call arise in the case of carries or double hits, incorrect serves (high or foot lifting) and improper actions by the receiver (moving forward or backward before the server hits the shuttle.)

Scoring is relatively simple, though for some strange reason even the best players of both sexes invariably get confused as to position or service in mixed doubles and thus the umpire must be constantly alert. The main feature of scoring is the non-uniformity of calls and this is found primarily in the different words or sequence of them used by umpires from the various sections of the country.

Perhaps all these phases of the rules of the game should be nationalized by the National Rules Committee but "Bird Chatter" believes that better action might be taken by those who are particularly interested in this non physical part of this game by a different approach. We would like clubs, associations or the individuals themselves to give us an opinion on the forming of a Judges Corps and we'll take it upon ourselves to start the ball rolling for a round robin letter to those eager and willing to form such a group for the "promotion of good judges, the adoption of a code of proper calls and interpretations of knotty problems".

The formation or non-formation of any such group, however, in no way relieves the tournament players from learning and observing not only the rules but the common courtesies of the sport. Too often informal play prior to the tournament season develops unconsciously, we sincerely hope, bad habits in both courtesy and observance of the common playing rules. In this non-umpired type of play the good sportsman will refrain from action on the court to call his opponent on infractions or seeming infractions of the rules and yet will carry a lasting impression of these violations. They inevitably crop up in subsequent Badminton discussions by both the resentful player and many spectators who, though not active players themselves are in many cases

better versed in the technicalities of the game than the player who operates under them.

If there is a moral to this discussion or a thought to be gained and put into practice it must be yours to determine and/or apply. No amount of words will make the consistent violator or the on-the-border-line player perhaps change his spots BUT the decisive, correct decisions by respected judges can go far to properly impress the wilful or unknowing violator that the game has a definite standard of playing rules and courtesies that should and must be observed.

Is Chivalry Dead?

For a long time it has been one of our pet thoughts to project a little campaign to eliminate the use of the term "Women's". This has been widely used in listing the events in which our fair sex participate without the benefit of any help (or hindrance) from us stalwart (?) males. Most tournament entry blanks and reports list "Women's Singles" and "Women's Doubles". Your editor has tried consistently to blue pencil all such and write in "Ladies" before the make-up man gets his copy, believing that the constant reader, especially the Tournament chairman, will see the light. Alas, we still see the unchivalrous, not too complimentary word, "Women's", consistently popping up from all sides in reports for our columns.

So with prancing steed and shiny lance, we open the visor wide and shout to one and all TO THE LADIES, fair, fat or forty, but TO THE LADIES. What say you, Knaves?

A B A Dues

Returns to date indicate a substantial increase in the number of clubs over last season. Class A Association Treasurers are requested to send dues for present membership promptly. Additional dues should not be delayed just to make one complete report.

Roy Jordan — New Director

Announcement is made by the National Secretary, John Garrod, of the appointment of Roy Jordan, 320 North Central Avenue, Clayton 5, Missouri, to fill the unexpired term of the late R. Ward Starrett. Missouri clubs please note, and welcome to the ABA Directorate, Roy.

Wanda Bergman Celebrates Return to Connecticut Play by Winning Mixed Title



Left to Right — Leo Rewinski and Hope Smith, New Haven, Class B Champs; Walt Raymond and Eleanor Ross, Greenwich, Class A Runners-up; Wanda Bergman and Fred Fullin, Westport, Class A Champs; Marnee Raymond and Duke Domonkos, Class B Runners-up.

Separating the Mixed Doubles play from the Ladies' and Men's Doubles and Singles, and running the Mixed as a tournament in itself, proved to be a success when the Connecticut Badminton Association held its championship play at the Stamford YMCA January 12 and 13. There were more than fifty teams entered in Class A and B competition.

Wanda Bergman former National Ladies' Doubles Champion, and Fred Fullin of the Westport Badminton Club defeated Walt Raymond and Eleanor Ross of the Greenwich Badminton Club in the finals to take the Class A championship, 15-9, 12-15, 15-8. Leo Rewinski and Hope Smith of the New Haven Badminton Club won from Duke Domonkos and Marnee Raymond of the New Canaan Badminton Club in the Class B finals, 15-9, 15-12.

Lea Gustavson and Helen Gibson, 1945 Class A titleholders did not defend. The 1945 Class B

champs, Ed Janis and Agnes Hersam, went out in the quarter finals.

In the A matches:

Semi-finals

Fullin and Bergman defeated Shields and Hellwig, 15-11, 9-15, 15-6. Raymond and Ross defeated Chapman and George, 18-15, 15-12.

Quarter-finals

Chapman and George defeated Danaher and Herbert, 9-15, 15-10, 15-11. Raymond and Ross defeated Massey and Alling, 15-5, 15-8. Shields and Hellwig defeated Raymond and Chapman, 8-15, 18-13, 15-13. Fullin and Bergman defeated Flewellyn and Stouter, 15-9, 15-3.

In the B matches:

Semi-finals

Rewinski and Smith defeated Rathgeber and Black, 17-11, 15-12. Domonkos and Raymond defeated Holloway and Sullivan, 15-12, 12-15, 15-1.

Quarter-finals

Holloway and Sullivan defeated Ellis and Beaver, 18-13, 5-15, 15-10. Domonkos and Raymond defeated Peterson and Vogt, 15-10, 8-15, 15-9. Rewinski and Smith defeated Smith and Reid, 15-8, 12-15, 17-16. Rathgeber and Black defeated Janis and Hersam, 15-9, 18-15.

Westport defeated Waterbury in Class A and New Canaan defeated the Bristol Co. of Waterbury in Class B in the Mixed Doubles team play-offs at the New Haven Lawn Club, Sunday, January 20.

* * * * *

The State Tournament is scheduled for March 23 and 24. Men's and Ladies' Doubles and Singles in Classes A and B will be played. State league team matches got underway February 1.

* * * * *

The Bridgeport Badminton Club's Annual Class B Tourney will be held March 9 and 10 in the Bridgeport YWCA.

* * * * *

New officers of the New Haven YMCA Badminton Club are, President, Ewald Nickel; Vice-President, Colin Rathgeber; Secretary-Treasurer, Harold Shaw.

Correspondent — Don Hersam

New Jersey Doubles Teams Vie in Keen "Ladder" Competition

Enthusiasm in favor of reorganizing the New Jersey Badminton League produced a novel competitive idea when several of the leading clubs were unable to enter full teams in both "A" and "B" league competition.

Men's and Ladies' Doubles divisions, of the New Jersey Badminton Ladder were formed. Every other Monday Morning the Ladies play on the four spacious courts of the Montclair Athletic Club where they challenge and play for ladder positions.

Interest is very keen, and the number of teams has been doubled since the first session.

The first 10 Ladder positions as of December 17th were:

POSITION	TEAM AND CLUB
1.	Mrs. J. F. Callanan and Mrs. Howard Brand Montclair A. C.
2.	Mrs. A. Moth and Mrs. E. H. McFarland Hackensack Badminton Club
3.	Mrs. Jos. Haura and Mrs. L. McDonald Hackensack Badminton Club
4.	Mrs. John Teeter and Mrs. J. M. Arthur Plainfield Badminton Club
5.	Mrs. T. Leggett and Mrs. Geo. Smith Plainfield Badminton Club
6.	Mrs. J. Thomson and Mrs. Wm. Slocum Westfield Badminton Club
7.	Mrs. H. Blank and Mrs. J. Emery Racquets Club of Short Hills
8.	Mrs. B. Storey and Mrs. G. E. Burford Hackensack Badminton Club
9.	Mrs. J. W. Gould and Mrs. F. Bushman Hackensack Badminton Club
10.	Mrs. E. Hausman and Mrs. A. Lang Hackensack Badminton Club

The Men's Doubles division recently started with play on the same courts on alternate Sunday mornings.

Junior Activities

Classes for Juniors are held at the Montclair A. C. every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 6:00 P. M. Never is more serious Badminton played as these youngsters challenge for positions on the teams and promising talent is very evident. Matches were arranged with the Badminton Club of the City of New York during the Christmas holidays by Howard Brand who gives professional instruction to both groups. The Montclair group won the majority of matches but the first singles and doubles went to New York with the following results:

Barclay Gordon defeated Bobby Boyd, 15-12, 18-16.

Ed Bogardus and Bob Maull defeated Warren Pollock and Bobby Boyd, 15-10, 15-12.

Loveday Returns

Carl Loveday, No. 2 ranking player of the United States, recently returned from overseas duty as a sergeant in the Signal Corps. He is expected to knuckle down to the game and regain that form which made the last two National Singles events terrific battles between himself and Dave Freeman.

Correspondent — Howard Brand

Seventeen Events Listed For St. Louis Tournament

Leading all tournaments in the country in the greatest number of events scheduled, is the Annual District Indoor Tournament to be held March 8, 9, 10 at the St. Louis University Gymnasium. This location is outstanding in its ideal accommodations for both players and spectators.

Events to be played are —

Main Event: Men's and Ladies' Singles, Men's and Ladies' Doubles, Mixed Doubles.

Junior Events: Boys' and Girls' Singles.

Class "B" Events: Men's and Ladies' Singles, Men's and Ladies' Doubles, Mixed Doubles.

Novice Events: Men's and Ladies' Singles, Men's and Ladies' Doubles, Mixed Doubles.

Special Events: Father and Son Doubles, Esquire Doubles (for Men 35 years of age and older).

The Seventh Annual Invitational Badminton Tournament of the Missouri Athletic Club is tentatively planned for April. This event is looked forward to with perhaps more interest than any other tournament in the district, since invitations are sent, not only to the best players in the district, but to the best players in the country. Besides providing excellent playing accommodations, the MAC acts as host to all the competitors, who eat, sleep and play at the club and are wined and dined as well at the end of the tournament.

There is always one complaint from the ladies though, at the end of each tournament. The MAC is a man's club and the ladies are not included in the match play, though they may be spectators at all except the Saturday matches. As the courts are located next to the swimming pool it's the ladies opinion that the "no ladies permitted" sign on Saturday is due to "bath" day and who can argue against that.

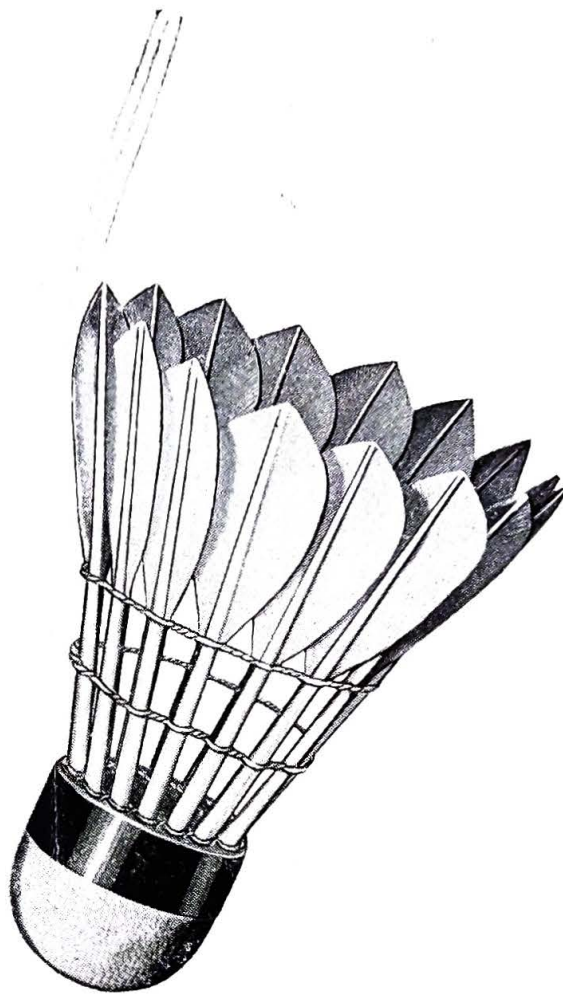
On the whole, Badminton interest in St. Louis and St. Louis County has increased by leaps and bounds since indoor play started, when most of the clubs found they were up to their prewar roster, with most of their players now out of the service and trying hard to get back into trim before the tournaments start.

Correspondent — Betty Carpentier

Springfield, Vt. Club Orders First ABA Die



The first ABA letterhead die, as shown above, and introduced in the December issue, was procured by the Springfield Badminton Club. The electro cost is \$1.50 f.o.b. Boston, Mass., and it is recommended for all member clubs.



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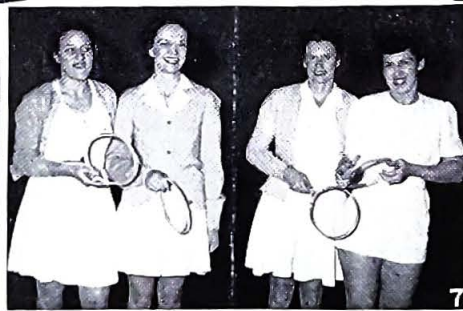
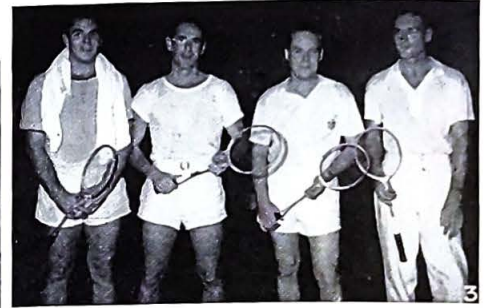
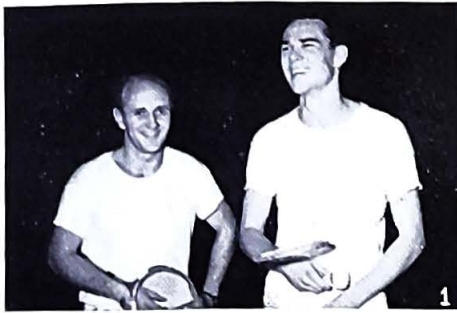


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Freeman and Janet Wright Star at Manhattan Beach, California



1: Gil Buford, Bill Busby — 2: Group from Northern California (Bay Area) — 3: Marsden, Leigh, Mays, Blatz — 4: Murphy, Freeman, McCay, Erickson — 5: Townsend, Jones, Hann, Marsden — 6: Ough, Wright Gott, Hann — 7: Esterbrook, Dugan, Smalley, McNulty — 8: San Diego Group, Freeman, Mitchell, Mendez, Morrison, Stevenson, Murphy, Zweiner, "Bumps" Freeman.

National Champions, Dave Freeman and Janet Wright dominated the field in the Manhattan Beach tourney play held December 7, 8, and 9, each winning two events. No less prominent in the prize winning group were Barney McCay, who copped one winner and two runner-up positions and Helen Noble Tibbetts who came out with one of each. Skeeter Erickson with McCay had too many guns for Freeman and Murphy in the doubles though the youngsters Gott and Hann showed that they are real fighters and to be reckoned with in future tournaments. An entry of 213 made plenty of play and a consolation "B" was played in all events.

Results:

Championship Flight

Ladies' Singles

Janet Wright, California B. C. defeated Mrs. Helen Noble Tibbetts, Pasadena B. C., 10-12, 11-1, 11-7.

Men's Singles

Dave Freeman, Pasadena B. C. defeated Barney McCay, Pasadena B. C., 15-6, 15-5.

Ladies' Doubles

Janet Wright and Mrs. Helen Zabriskie Ough, California B. C. defeated Marianna Gott and Dotty Hann, Hollywood Sport Center, 15-4, 15-2.

Men's Doubles

Skeeter Erikson and Barney McCay, Pasadena B. C. defeated Dave Freeman, Pasadena B. C. and Capt. John Murphy, San Diego, 12-15, 15-3, 15-8.

Mixed Doubles

Dave Freeman and Mrs. Helen Noble Tibbetts, Pasadena B. C. defeated Barney McCay and Tody Rahm, Pasadena B. C., 15-8, 15-10.

"B" Flight

Ladies' Singles

Emma Madden, California B. C. defeated Dotty Britt, Manhattan Beach Club.

Men's Singles

Bill Busby, Manhattan Beach Club defeated Gil Buford, Pasadena B. C.

Ladies' Doubles

Smalley and McNulty, Southwest B. C. (L. A.) defeated Esterbrook and Dugan, Burbank B. C.

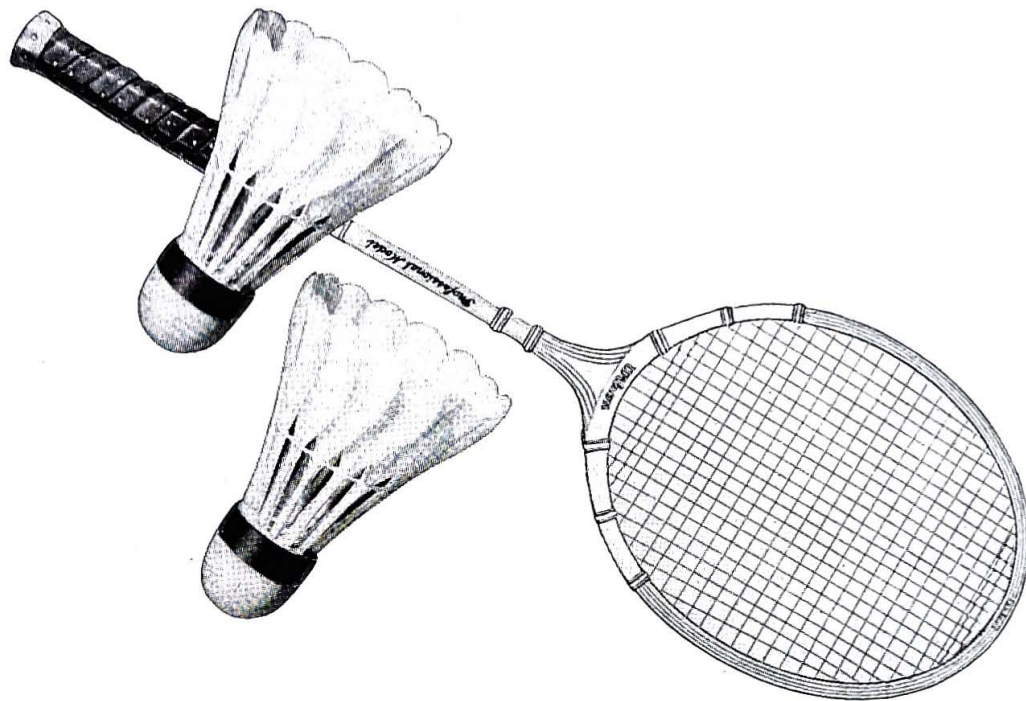
Men's Doubles

Al Blatz and Tex Mays, Manhattan Beach Club defeated Warren Marsden and Chet Leigh, Hollywood Sport Center.

Mixed Doubles

Warren Marsden and Dotty Hann, Hollywood Sport Center defeated Albert Townsend and Betty Jones, Southwest B. C. (L. A.)

Correspondent — Bob Noble



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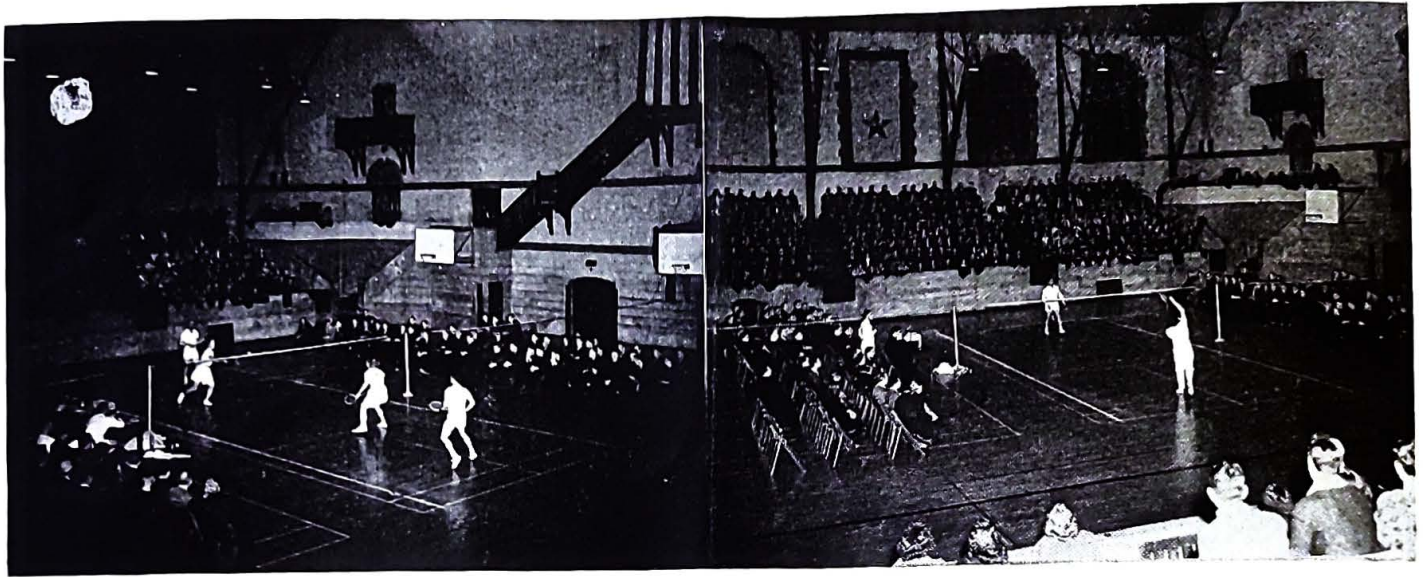


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Above at left — Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Howard, Miss Mary Piliard and Maj. Donald Richardson.

Above at right — Lt. Wayne Schell and Jack Brewer.

Group at right — Maj. Donald Richardson, Jack Brewer, Miss Mary Piliard, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Howard, Lt. Wayne Schell.

Schell Triple Winner

Lt. Wayne V. Schell, runner-up in the last National Men's Doubles in 1942 and former Mass. Champion, has been playing in pre-war form during two intersectional tournaments and one Mass. event conducted this season. His first major win was the Westport, Conn. Eastern Invitation Men's Doubles where, teamed with Robert Wright, also a former Mass. and New England Champion, they defeated Frank Hines, New York City and Frank Williamson, New Rochelle, N. Y. He followed this by partnering Mrs. Hazel Wightman of International tennis fame, to a victory in an informal member-guest affair at the Badminton and Tennis Club, Boston, and completed his third triumph with C. Raynor Hutchinson, former National Men's Doubles runner-up at the Gut'n Feathers Club, Marblehead, Mass. This last event was the strongest Men's Doubles event on the East Coast to date and representatives from New York City, various cities in Conn. and the leading players in Mass. participated. Runners-up were Robert Wright and Fred Bogardus of Swampscott, Mass. former New England Doubles Champions.



Before some 700 naval and civilian students at Tufts College, the above group performed in the best of exhibition style. Jack Brewer, professional at the University Club of Boston, and Mrs. Evelyn Boldrick Howard, present National Ladies' Champion, were at their best on this occasion.

* * * * *

The Mass. Class "D" Championships will be held at the Dedham High School on February 15, 16 under the auspices of the Dedham Badminton Club and advance entries indicate a banner field.

* * * * *

The Wellworth Badminton Club of the American Optical Co. Southbridge has become a member of the Association and has focused attention on play in Western Mass. Other clubs are being considered for membership in this new area. Eastern and Western team matches are being planned for later on in the season and interest is running high over this new feature.

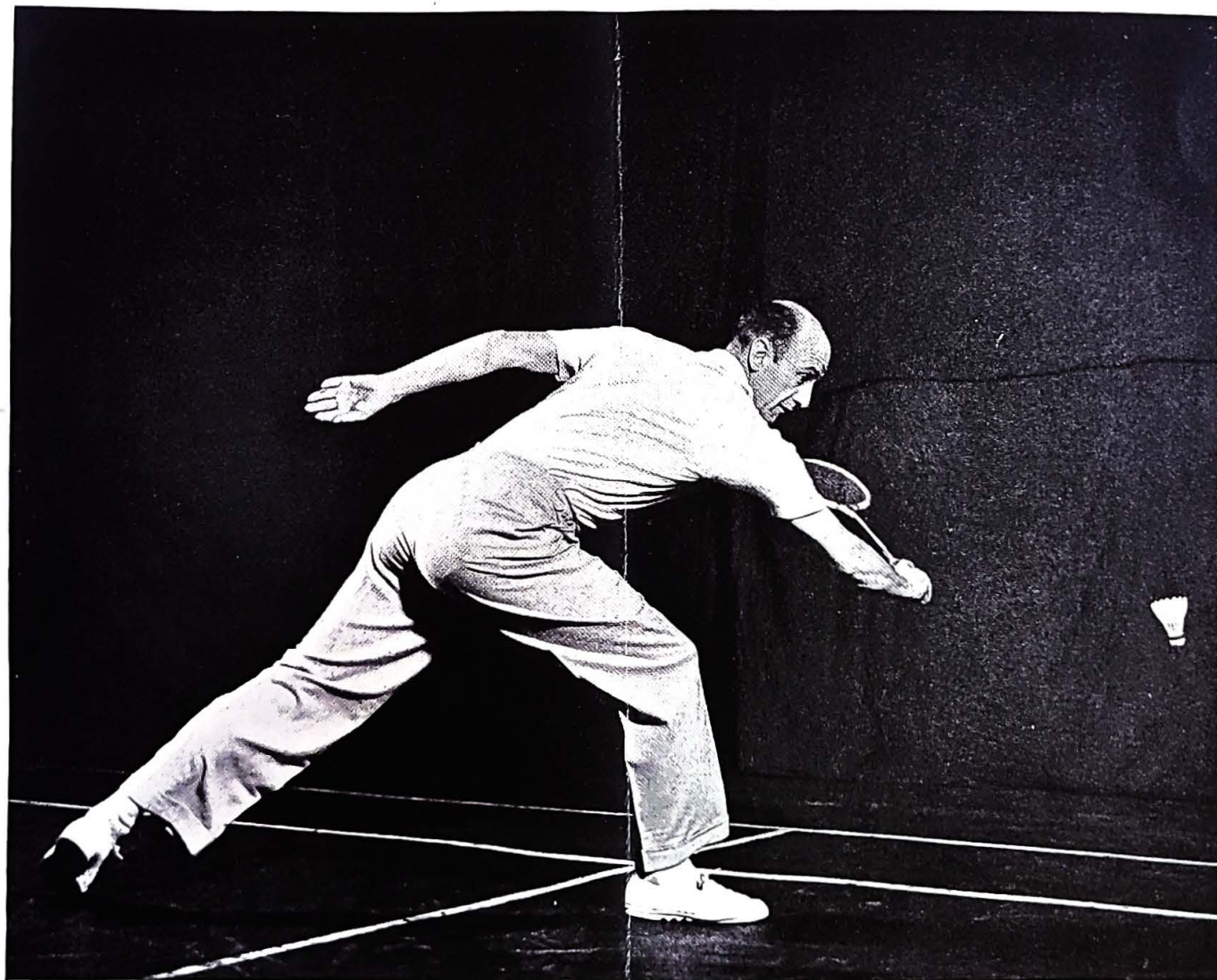
Davidson "Badminton" Short Released

The Pete Smith "Badminton" short mentioned in our December issue has been officially released in certain sections of the country. Reports reaching us indicate its acceptance by Badminton players and the general public in a big way. It hasn't reached the home of "Bird Chatter" so no review is yet possible by the Staff.

Lowell Douglas in Fatal Accident

A fatal automobile accident to Captain Lowell N. Douglas, Medical Corps, Army of the United States, in North Carolina on January 12th has removed from our ranks one of our most active and interested Directors of the ABA. "Fuzzy" was a player of no mean note and was instrumental in the formation of the Texas Badminton Association and the Western Region. Always one of those real grand guys, he gave unstintingly of his time and energy to both his hobby, Badminton, and also to that most important of army medical work, the rehabilitation of men wounded in the service of our country. That he gave his life in the pursuit of his duties is the greatest service that one can give to his country and his fellowman. The ABA mourns his loss and extends heartfelt condolences to his family and close friends.

PLAYED BY CHAMPIONS.



"KEN DAVIDSON" BADMINTON RACKETS

by Sportcraft

Serving

by Jack Purcell



The following is another one of those fine, instructive articles obtained through the courtesy of the Canadian Sports Monthly, and Jack Purcell, who is rated as the leading professional on this continent.

How many badminton players have stopped to consider the importance of the return of service? One can hardly say of any stroke in the game of badminton, that it is THE most important one of all, but I think I am safe in saying that there is no stroke which is more important or more likely to affect the result of a match than the return of service.

As the service in badminton must be regarded as a defensive stroke, there is to the receiver of service an ever-present opportunity to make of his first return an offensive shot, and thus take the offensive from the outset of the rally.

The receiver must not lose sight of the slight advantage which he holds over the server as the shuttle is put into play, and must realize that on his return of the service depends whether or not this advantage is to be maintained or passed quickly over to the serving side.

To the high singles service there are three sound replies—the smash, the clear, and the drop. Each may, and should be varied in direction, having in regard to the strength and weakness of your opponent and his position in the court.

If the high service is not deep near the baseline, the smash is the most effective return. If, however, the service is deep in the court, the smash should be used rarely, for an opponent with only a mediocre defence will have little difficulty handling a smash delivered from so far back in the court.

Smashing off the service from near the baseline against a player whose defence is good is plain suicide, for he will look after your shot with ease and the return will be consistently awkward for you.

The drop shot is a very sound reply to a well delivered high service, especially when the player making the drop plays the stroke with the same preliminary action as for the smash, and who, consequently, does not disclose until the last possible moment the nature of the return or its direction. Played across the court or straight over the net, the drop is equally effective.

Do not hesitate to use the high clear to return a deep high service, for if the clear is well executed it places your opponent in a much more disadvantageous position than his service places you. Direct your clears consistently to your opponent's backhand, the vulnerable spot of practically all badminton players, and mix them up occasionally with clears deep to the forehand.

In variation lies the effectiveness of your returns off the low drop service in singles. Well executed drop shots just over the net and low drives or clears deep to the opposite half of the court to where the server is standing, are the most effective replies to this type of service.

To my mind, not enough severity is used by most players in making the return off service in doubles play. Too many "loose" serves are allowed to go unpunished, as it were, through the receiver not being on his toes to take advantage of the slightest error on the part of the server.

When receiving, one should be ever on the alert to jump quickly forward and deal with a poorly made low service, by driving it sharply down into the court or pushing it back directly at the body of the server or his partner.

Similarly a high service that does not travel deep to the back boundary line should be smashed in no uncertain manner, so that even though the rally is not ended then and there, the return from the opposition will be a defensive shot which allows your side to retain the offensive position.

In making the most of the chances which are given him, the receiver, by his aggressive tactics, usually has a disorganizing effect on the serving of the opponents.

If you are receiving in either the right or the left court, stand close to the centre line and vary your distance back from the short service line according to the position the server takes up, and your own ability to move quickly.

Above all, though, at every opportunity take a forward position in the court and adopt an "on-your-toes" posture so as to convey to the server the impression that you are going to pounce on any low service that does not absolutely "hug" the net.

Here, of course, it is necessary for me to sound a note of warning not to overdo this forward stance. You must really ascertain for yourself just how far forward you can stand and still effectively deal with other than low services.

When the server takes up his position in the right court at the outside boundary line, and thereby gives himself the opportunity to drive down your backhand or throw up a high lob deep to your forehand, in addition to using the low service, you will be putting yourself in difficulty at once if you crowd too far up towards the net. Good common sense should show you how far forward you can stand and it is well to remember that when receiving in the left court you can stand closer to the net than when in the right court, for your opponent has not the opportunity to expose your backhand.

The low drop service is used in doubles principally to draw a high return from the receiver and when the clear is used in reply to this type of service, the receiver is actually doing just what the server wishes him to do. For this reason, therefore, I think the high clear return off the low service should be rarely used. It gives the serving side a chance to make an offensive reply in the form of a smash or drive and consequently allows the attacking position to pass into the hands of the side which started the rally on the defensive or at least at a disadvantage.

The short drop shot is the most effective return off the low service, for it is a safe stroke and very often forces your opponents to send the shuttle back high, and thus present the opening you are looking for. The drop shot made by the receiver should go as nearly as possible to the tape of the net and should fall closely to the net on the other side.

The receiver of the service will make the drop shot much more accurately by stepping forward and playing the shuttle as quickly as possible after it has crossed the net. Even at the risk of "taking" services which might have been "short", the receiver is better off stepping up to play the shuttle.

As a variant to the short drop, the low drive straight down the sideline can be used very effectively off the low service especially from the right court when the shuttle can be sent quickly deep to the backhand of the server's partner. In making the drive, or low clear, the shuttle should not travel much higher than the opponent's head and should be kept well towards the outside boundary line of the court, so that no opportunity is given the server's partner to intercept the shuttle half way back in the court with a "round-the-head" smash.

Many men, but women especially, are guilty of the very bad habit of "lofting" the shuttle off the low service. There is very little purpose to the stroke and its effectiveness cannot be compared

to the low drop or low drive. To my mind, a doubles team should always strive to make the opposing side be the first to "clear" the shuttle.

The majority of players experience difficulty in dealing with the low drive service which is made from the outside boundary line of the right court and is directed along the backhand of the receiver.

Earlier in this article I have advised standing close to the centre line to receive and I think the shuttle should be played by a forehand round-the-head stroke if possible, the shuttle being driven quickly back at the server or dropped just over the net. If the stroke is played off the backhand, it is best to use the drop shot and the shuttle should be "taken" as high up as possible.

At the risk of being criticized for repetition, I am going to again mention the advisability of smashing nine out of every ten high services which are made to you. This smashing is not necessarily done to win points outright, but to allow your side to go on the

attack, the aim of all successful doubles combinations.

I have in a previous article stressed the necessity of the server making sure that he delivers his service in accordance with the official rules. I would now caution the receiver to be just as careful to observe the rule which sets out that no movement on his part may be made until the shuttle has been struck by the racquet of the server. One has only to witness a friendly doubles match in progress, to see how many times this important rule is broken.

In nine cases out of ten, the rule is broken quite unintentionally but the fact remains that fouls in this regard occur far too frequently through the over-anxiousness of the receiver to unnerve the server by his "rushing" tactics.

A "loose" short service can be successfully "put away" by quick action on the part of the receiver AFTER the shuttle has been struck by the server, and I would impress upon every player the importance of remaining still and doing nothing to unsight the server until after the service has been delivered.

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Ham Law and Virginia Suggs Lead Seattle Play

Interest in Badminton in Seattle is steadily growing after four lean war years. With the return of ranking players from the service, the city is again ready to make a bid for national prominence.

Ham Law, former National Doubles Champion, has returned from his hitch in the Army. He has been Washington State's leading star since 1934 when he garnered Washington, Oregon and California Championships only one year after he had taken up the game.

Ham, playing for the Queen Anne Badminton Club, is favored in the Seattle City and Washington State Tournaments which are being planned for this Spring.

Virginia Heaton Suggs, Washington and Oregon Ladies' Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles Champion is expected to repeat her performances this year. She defeated Zoe Smith, former National Doubles Champion, to capture her state title and should figure high in the next few National Tournaments. Both are members of the QABC and Virginia the Washington Athletic Club also.

Other top players who should figure high in the two tournaments coming up are Fred Walke, Rupe

Topp, Paul Blugard, Gladys Malory, and Ruth Nelson. Another top performer, Lt. Col. Dale Seeds is back in town after service in Italy and after a few weeks practice may show up as a dark horse.

The QABC and the WAC are both using the Queen Anne Hall so that play is being scheduled for every night and also in the afternoon on Sunday.

The proximity of Seattle's two top clubs makes keen competition possible.

* * * * *

A Tri-Club American Handicap Tournament was held at the Queen Anne Hall last December 9th with the largest turnout since the war seeing members of the WAC, Seattle Tennis Club, and the QABC vying for top honors.

After all the broken shuttles had been swept up, Helene Madison Melver, former Olympic and National Swimming Champion, of the WAC and QABC, and her partner, Phil Aaron, of the QABC, were awarded top honors.

Second spot was won by Pearl Jones, WAC, and Dick Hayden, who belongs to all three clubs. Third winners were Helen Tyler, QABC, and Don Jones, WAC.

Ladies' Champion of India Interested in American Play

Miss Tara Deodhar, champion of India for the last three years, has been in this country for the last three to four months and is eager to participate in any of our tournaments. This information was obtained from a delightful letter from the lady in question and stirs the interest of "Bird Chatter" as to the relative merits of play of the ladies of these two countries.

She is presently residing at 1717 Kendall Ave., Madison 5, Wisconsin and it is recommended that the nearest club or association take immediate steps to contact her. Welcome, Miss Deodhar, and we hope to see you on our courts enjoying the game with our own players.

Midwest Association Publishes Pamphlet

The first issue of NEWS LETTER, a house organ of the Midwest Association, was presented to the Midwest clubs during December. Stanley G. Flitcraft, editor, plans to issue two more of the pamphlets during the season. The 4 page first issue is most interesting, particularly the listing of member clubs. Good work, Midwest.

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CANADIAN Sport MONTHLY

Empire Life Bldg., Montreal, P. Q.
Official organ of the
Canadian Badminton Association

Canadians Star at Buffalo Tournament

Grant Henry and Reg Little of Toronto repeated their victory of last year as Canadian players annexed two of the three doubles events at the Buffalo A. C. Annual Invitation Tournament held January 18, 19, 20.

Two exhibitions enlivened the finals with Ken Quigley, ranking No. 3 United States player defeating Don McLean of Toronto 15-7, and Hugh Forgie and Stig Larson entertaining with a comedy act.

Results:

Men's Doubles

Henry and Little, Toronto, defeated Clinton Stephens and Ed. Shields, N. Y. C., 15-5, 15-5.

Ladies' Doubles

Mrs. Patsy Donovan Starrett and Lenora Smith, Buffalo, defeated Alice Brown and Dorothy Ralph, Buffalo, 18-13, 15-7.

Mixed Doubles

Barbara Ince and Harry Whelan, Toronto, defeated Mrs. Pat Starrett and Bobby Williams, Buffalo, 18-13, 18-13.

Correspondent — Jack O'Bannon

Oklahoma Plans Major Tourney

The Annual Oklahoma Open is being planned for the last of March or early April and the Committee is hoping to have players from all over the nation attend. The exact date will be announced to Class A Associations or the individual players as the situation may determine.

The Annual Club Tournament of the Continental Oil Co. was held on January 26, 27 and the results are as follows:

Men's Singles

A. V. Archer defeated Burnys Thompson, 13-15, 15-2, 17-15.

Ladies' Singles

Janette Summers defeated Carmen Thompson, 1-7, 11-3.

Men's Doubles

John Wolfe and Archer defeated Gene Carton and Wayne Glover, 15-12, 15-10.

Ladies' Doubles

Patsy Harman and Margaret Morley defeated Eleanor Round and Carmen Thompson, 12-15, 15-11, 15-9.

Mixed Doubles

Patsy Harman and Burnys Thompson defeated A. V. Archer and Mrs. Archer, 15-0, 15-13.

Correspondent — George Harman

Malaya Sends Greetings

Through Mr. Fred W. Russell, President of the Midwest Association, the National Secretary has exchanged letters with Mr. Tan Pan Tai, Vice-President of the Selangor Badminton Association, and Badminton Association of Malaya. Mr. Tai writes "As Vice-President of the Selangor Badminton Association and Badminton Association of Malaya I send hearty greetings from Kuala Lumpur and Malaya. Now that there is peace all over the world we are very happy to rejoice and to give our heartfelt thanks to GOD. We hope that the game of Badminton will begin in the near future and international matches etc. may be played as early as possible. We shall be thankful if photos, handbooks, etc., from your country could be sent in exchange for handbooks, photos etc. from Selangor and Malaya. I am writing to the 17 countries of the world interested in Badminton."

Copies of "Bird Chatter" were sent and a copy of the Barnes' Official Guide is on its way.

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Former American and French Champs Defeated at No. Calif.

The First Annual Athens Athletic Club Open Badminton Championships held December 1 and 2, made history when the 1941 United States Ladies' Champion, Mrs. Thelma Kingsbury Scovil, and the present French Men's Champion, Ozzie Hilton, went down to defeat before the outstanding play of Janet Wright and Norman Blanchet. Most of the finalists are members of the California Badminton Club excepting Bob Abbott, Tom Ough, Dave Copenhagen and Mildred Jude of the Oakland Badminton Club and Corrin and Horn from the Oakland YMCA Badminton Club.

Norm Blanchet, who pulled off a grand slam in the August meeting at the Oakland YMCA, repeated the performance in this tournament, even under the handicap of officiating as tournament manager. (This district is sorely in need of some non-playing enthusiasts willing to assist in running tournaments — step right up, folks!). It was good to see so many of our ex-service men back on the courts and also, on the umpire's stand, Frank Gliebe and Bob McDonald, still willingly doing more than their share of game-calling.

The NCBA directors, after a hurried and astonished look at the kids who won the Veteran's Doubles, raised the age of that event from 35 to 40 for the Northern California Championships. Johnny Smart, as a director, very sportingly voted himself out of the event.

Ex-Lieut. Svend Knudsen, a former Northern California Singles Champion, surprised his friends by returning home with a bride.

RESULTS

Ladies' Singles

Janet Wright defeated Thelma Scovil, 11-8, 11-6.

Men's Singles

Norman Blanchet defeated Ozzie Hilton, 15-5, 15-9.

Ladies' Doubles

Helen Ough and Janet Wright defeated Shirley Blanchet and Jean Kirby, 5-15, 15-9, 15-10.

Men's Doubles

Bob Abbott and Norman Blanchet defeated Dave Copenhagen and Tom Ough, 15-8, 15-13.

Mixed Doubles

Norman and Shirley Blanchet defeated Mildred Jude and Bob Abbott, 15-8, 17-11.

Veterans' Doubles

Jack Boegle and John Smart defeated Merle Corrin and Art Horn, 15-11, 15-7.

Correspondent — Bill Morrison

Tournament Sanctions

Membership in clubs is showing rapid growth and the number of clubs is increasing constantly. This situation has stimulated the desire for more tournaments, exhibitions and increased entries in these affairs. BUT, complications are beginning to show up because of either the lack of knowledge by the individual of how to protect his or her amateur standing or the same lack of knowledge by the Tournament Chairman of how to properly plan his dates for tournament play.

The rules are simple and definite and have been built for two purposes: to protect the sport, which means YOU and YOUR CLUB, and to provide the necessary information for proper publicity, seeding and ranking.

While rules pertaining to Amateur Status and Exhibitions are to be found in the ABA Rules Booklet, Wilson's "How To Play Badminton" and Barnes' Badminton Guide — 1946, those involving sanctions have not been as widely published. At this time of year the question of proper tournament sanction plays a most vital part and for this reason the present regulations as to sanctioning are printed below.

Rule 2, Section i, of the "Rules for Amateur Standing" states that a player may forfeit his, or her, amateur standing "by participating in an exhibition or tournament that has not been truly authorized or sanctioned".

Protect yourself by being certain that the tournaments you enter are properly sanctioned. There are no fees and only a minimum of red tape is required. It is only necessary for the sponsoring club to fill out a simple form and send it to the proper authorizing body for official approval. Along with this Official Approval, they will receive a simple "Result Form", which they return, properly filled out, when the event has been concluded.

Simple enough but every bit of it necessary to avoid conflicting dates which detract from maximum attendance and enjoyment, protect amateur status, insure availability of records of performance and in general promote a smoothly functioning program of tournaments.

Tournaments require sanction as follows:

1. Local Tournaments.

a. Sanction by your own Class

A Association Tournament Chairman (who will notify the Regional Chairman) for events limited to players of one association.

b. Sanction by Regional Chairman direct or through Class A Chairman if players from two or more associations are eligible to participate. (To avoid conflict of dates between associations.)

2. All Class A State and Regional Championship Tournaments:

a. Sanction by both Regional and National Chairmen. (To avoid conflict between states and regions on open tournaments and to consolidate closed tournaments whenever possible on the same weekends to leave more open dates.)

b. All Championships below Class A should be cleared through the Regional and National Chairmen to avoid conflict though sanction by the Regional Chairman is sufficient.

3. Inter-regional Tournaments.

a. All Tournaments where players from two or more regions are eligible either open or by invitation must be sanctioned by the National Chairman. (Check first with your Regional Chairman to be sure your dates are "all clear" in your own region. His O. K. on the application will save checking by the National Chairman.)

Application Blanks and Result Forms are available from your Class A Tournament Chairman or Regional Chairman. Nothing to it! Yet every bit of it is vital to a well run tournament season.

National Tournament Chairman:
Adon N. Smith II, 131 Brevard Court, Charlotte 2, N. C.

Regional Tournament Chairmen:

1. New England: John E. Garrod, 47 Colburn Rd., Wellesley Hills 82, Mass.

2. Middle Atlantic: Herman Oppenheim, c/o New York Trust Co., New York 15, N. Y.

3. Southern: Edgar Forio, c/o Coca Cola Co., Atlanta, Ga.

4. Midwest: Fred W. Russell, 164 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago 4, Ill.

5. Western: George D. Harmon, Continental Oil Co., Ponca City, Okla.

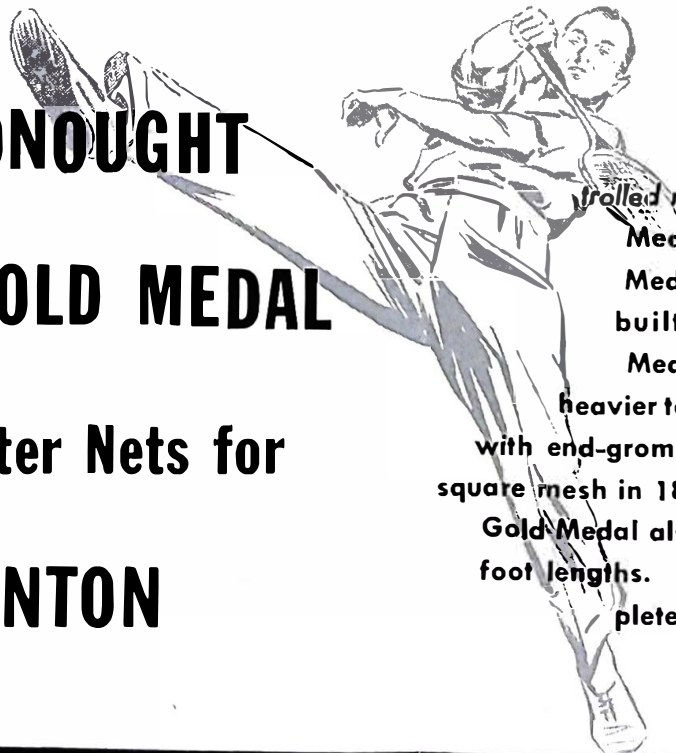
6. Pacific: John A. Fleming, 5658 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 36, Cal.

"Bird Chatter" would like to place one more semi-official requirement on the "broad shoulders" of each Tournament Committee Chairman. Namely, see that your committee or regular "Bird Chatter Correspondent" sends in a copy of results and a short story.

Tournament Calendar — Season of 1945-46

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| February 1, 2, 3 | — 11th Annual Northern California Championships, Athens A. C. |
| February 9, 10 | — Western New York "B" and "C" Championships, 174th Armory, Buffalo |
| February 11, 12, 13 | — Private Schools Invitation Tournament, Girls Latin School Gym, Baltimore. |
| February 15, 16 | — Mass. Class "D" Championships, Dedham, Mass. |
| February 16, 17 | — 11th Annual Ohio State Open Championships, Cleveland. |
| February 23, 24 | — Niagara Falls Country Club Annual Invitation, Western N. Y. Assn. |
| February | — Los Angeles Recreation Dept. "B". |
| March 1, 2 | — Mass. "C" Championships Univ. Club, Boston. |
| March 2, 3 | — 6th Annual Ohio State Closed Championships, Cincinnati. |
| March 8, 9, 10 | — 10th Annual Championships, Greater St. Louis B. Assn., St. Louis Univ. Gym. |
| March 9, 10 | — Maryland State Junior Tournament, Gilman School Gym, Baltimore. |
| March 9, 10 | — Kodak Badminton Club Annual Invitation, Rochester, N. Y. |
| March 9, 10 | — Annual Midwest Championships Closed. |
| March 15, 16, 17 | — Gilman School Invitation Mixed Doubles, Baltimore. |
| March 16, 17 | — Metropolitan Handicap Doubles, Old 69th Armory, N. Y. City. |
| March 19 - 23 | — Maryland State Championships, Gilman School Gym, Baltimore. |
| March 23, 24 | — Conn. State Class "A" and "B" Men's and Ladies' Singles and Doubles. |
| March 21, 22, 23 | — Mass. State Closed Championships, Univ. Club, Boston. |
| March 29, 30, 31 | — Eastern Badminton Tournament, Old 69th Armory, N. Y. City. |
| March | — Southern California Tournament. |
| April 5, 6, 7 | — Western N. Y. Open Championships, Buffalo A. C. |
| April 5, 6, 7 | — California State Tournament. |
| April | — 7th Annual Invitation Missouri A. C. |
| April | — Oklahoma Open Championships, Continental Gym. |
| May | — Pacific Southwest Championships. |
| May | — Southern California "B" Championships. |

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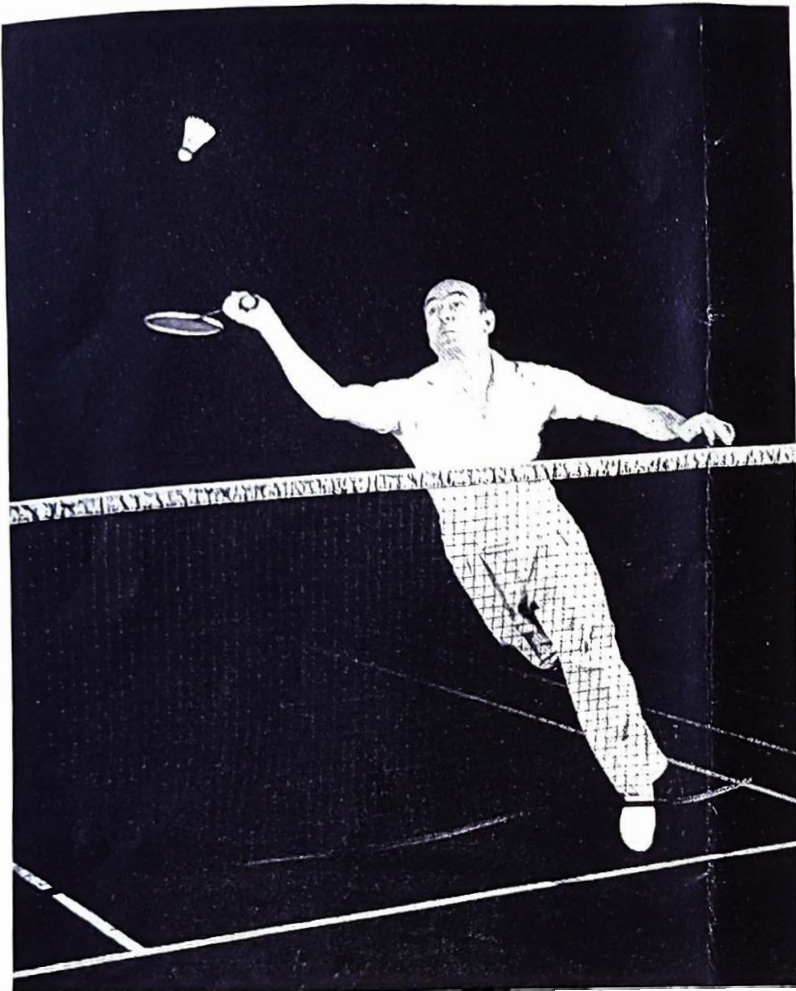
Action Pictures

by Ken Davidson

Left

— Forehand "Put-Away" at Net.

Note the effort to reach the shuttle before it drops below net level.



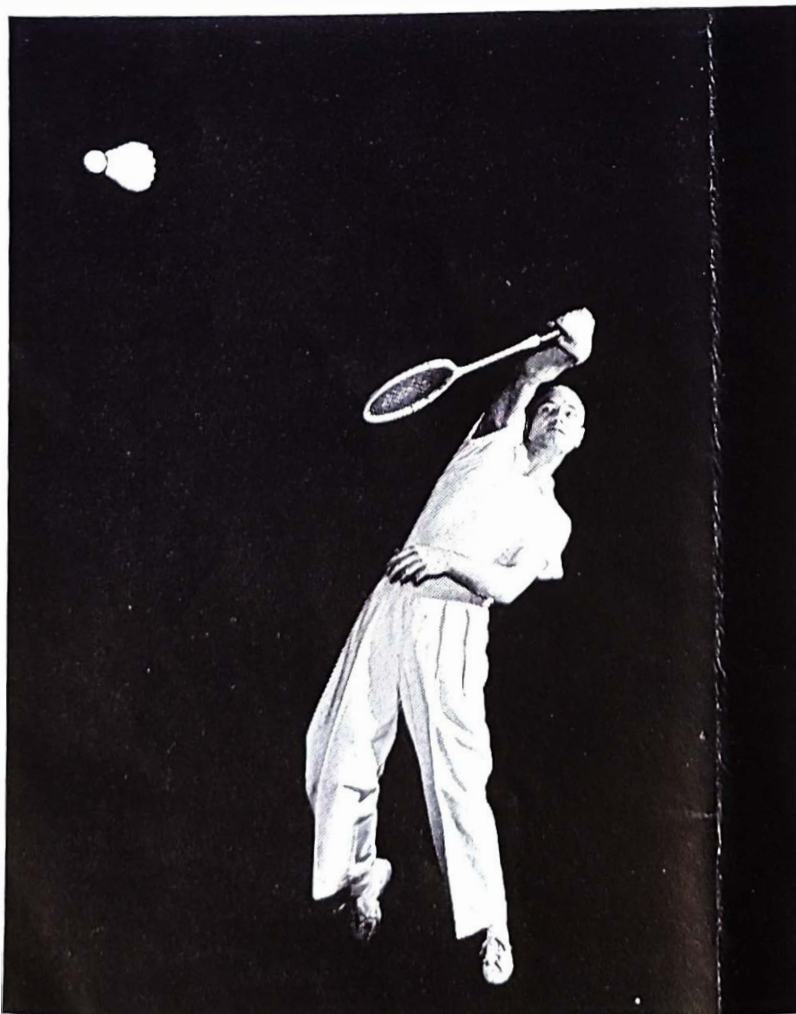
Above

This striking photograph shows Ken Davidson making a forehand smash. Note the wrist is well back as the arm is straightening out — thus assuring full power and correct follow through.

Left

— Finish of "Around the Head" Smash.

Note the fine follow through of the wrist, with body well balanced to play any succeeding shot.

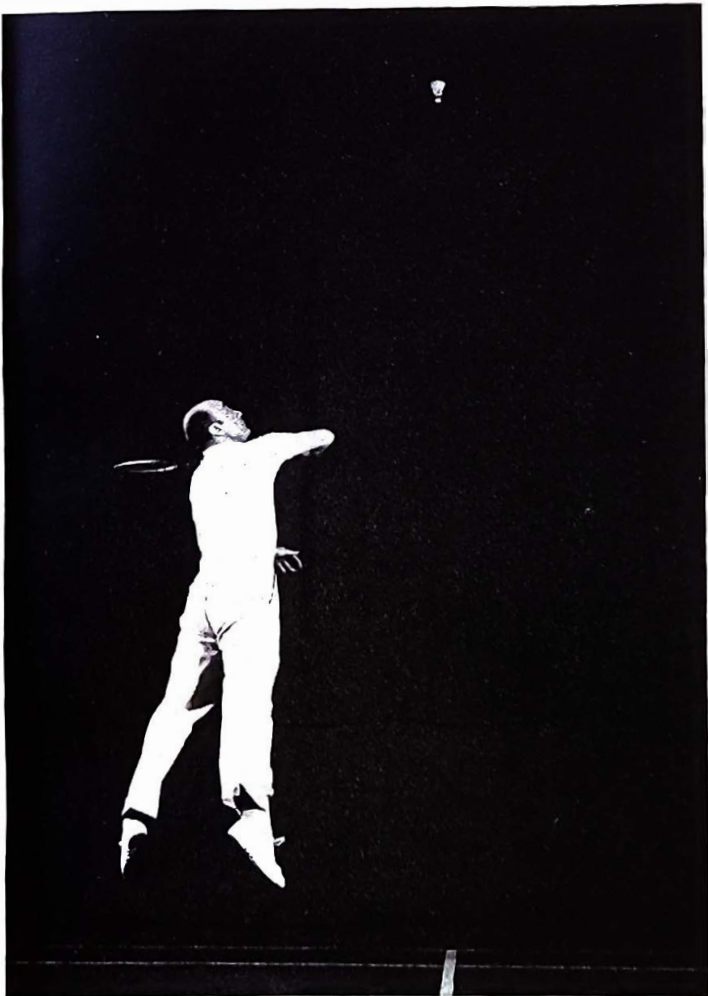


Three of these pictures appear in the American Badminton Association OFFICIAL BADMINTON GUIDE, 1946 — Published by A. S. Barnes & Co., New York. Available at leading sporting goods stores.

Right

— High Backhand Smash from Mid-Court.

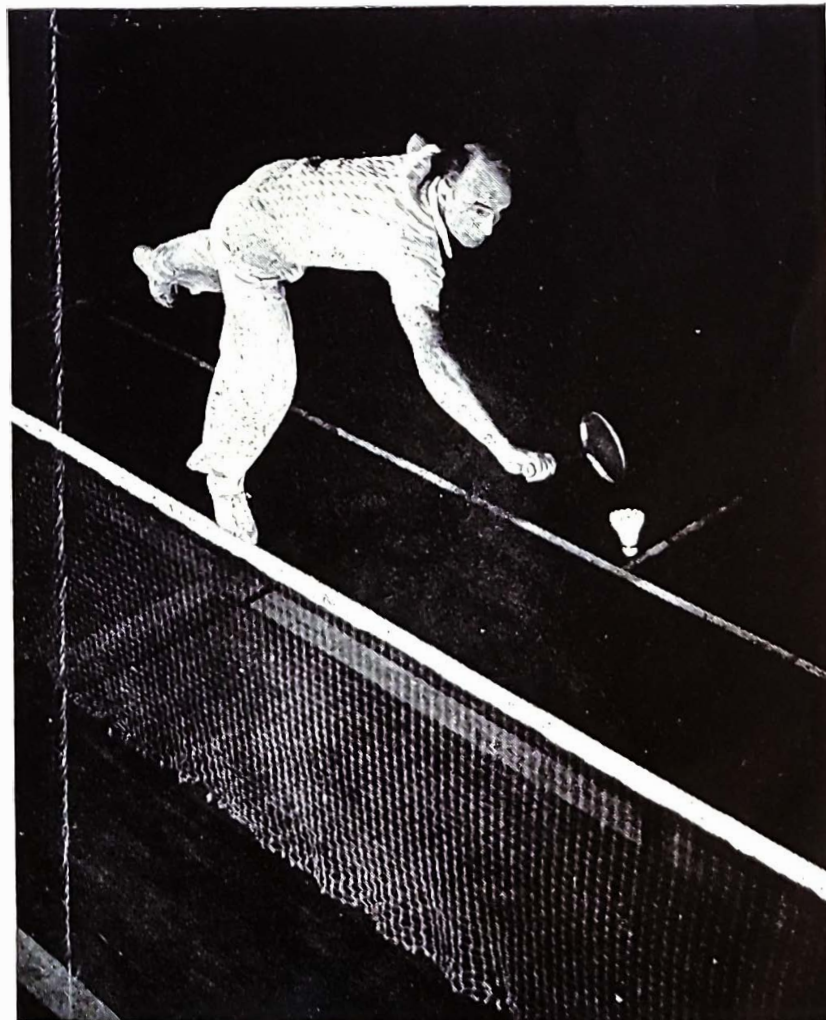
Note the effort to get in back of the shuttle and the arm well out from the body so as not to cramp the follow through.



Above

— High Back Hand Clear.

Note full back swing even in the air, right elbow well up and eyes glued to the shuttle.



Right

— Back Hand Drop Shot at Net.

This shot is played below the net level. Note wrist well back even as the arm straightens for contact at the highest possible point.



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The "World's Professional Title" Tangle

In the October issue of the Canadian Sport Monthly an article by John Chartier "Grant Challenges Jack Purcell for World Pro Badminton Crown" roused a storm of comment in Canadian circles and stirred the interest of many American players to whom the names of Purcell and Grant produced many memories. Doug Grant was mostly a legendary name to those who followed Canadian Badminton in print but to the states bordering Canada he was known to many, particularly New England, where he had competed successfully in the 1934 Open Tournament. Jack Purcell, on the other hand, spent many years in America playing in all parts of the country and had officiated at many major tournaments including the first Nationals at Chicago in 1937. He had and still has an enviable reputation as one of the real promoters of American Badminton, giving advice, counsel and instruction to players and organizers in many cities from coast to coast. Believing that readers of "Bird Chatter" are interested in stories concerning professionals as well as the story behind this "world's professional title" enigma, contacts were made with both of the above and discussions held with a number of other persons who had certain knowledge pertaining to the subject and the facts and opinions are herewith presented.

Following the challenge issued by Grant a statement was issued by Purcell to the Canadian press in December. "After much serious consideration, I have decided to announce my retirement from further competitive Badminton play. With my forty-second milestone just around the corner, I feel it would be unwise to engage in any more serious singles competition as my present duties in the stock brokerage business will not allow me to devote the time and energy to keep myself in the top physical condition that Badminton singles demands. This does not mean that I am hanging up my racquet as I am still intensely interested in the game and expect to continue to play regularly and help promote the game whenever I am able to do so. My regret in not being able to accept Doug Grant's challenge for a world's professional

title-match is somewhat tempered by the fact that I met Grant in several exhibition singles matches four or five years ago and at that time not only defeated him in six or seven different American cities but won all the matches from him without the loss of a single game. There is no question that Grant is accurately described as the most complete player developed in Canadian amateur ranks during the past ten or twelve years. He is strong in all departments and has developed his touch and deception to a greater degree than any of the other players. However, I do think that any claim Grant might make to supremacy in the professional ranks would be seriously challenged by Stanley Cutts, 33 year old professional from Toronto's Carlton Club. Were I to nominate the leading contender for head man among the professionals, I'd be inclined to name the smooth stroking Cutts. He has everything that goes to make up a great player and a match between him and Grant would be a 'natural'."

The December issue of the Canadian Sport Monthly carried a full page story on this abdication, except the complete text of the announcement, giving a relatively complete history of both personalities and the details of the posting of successive challenges by Grant since 1937.

On January 5th Grant advised "Bird Chatter" that he was engaging in two matches with Stanley Cutts, professional at the Carlton Club of Toronto and this was subsequently confirmed in the Montreal press on January 16th. The first match will take place in Montreal on February 20th and the second, in Toronto, February 22nd. A third match, if necessary to determine the ultimate winner will return to Montreal at a date to be subsequently announced.

These are the facts that have reached us from various sources. At this point your editor will assume his editorial prerogative and wishes to go on record that the following statements are his and not to be considered as the official opinion of the American Badminton Association. Rather they merely demonstrate the ease in which the chin can be presented in a forward

position. Strangely enough the writer's opinion of this title tangle is almost in direct contrast to his personal opinion and feeling for the headliners, Purcell and Grant. He has the greatest respect, esteem and friendship for both and sincerely hopes the latter will not be compromised by this out-in-the-open subsequent comment.

In the years 1932-38 the term "world's professional champion" was used by at least three professionals, only one of which, Jack Purcell, had any reasonable claim to its use. If the fact that one professional can consistently meet and defeat every one he plays, either in informal matches or highly publicized exhibitions and matches then there is some basis for considering him a champion. That he may be dubbed or consider that he may assume a world title when his professional competition is limited to a relatively small section of the Badminton playing world and players can be open to grave question. But, granting that the public is always right, there can be little question that, at least in America and Canada, Purcell was almost universally recognized as the best in the world, if for no other reason than the lack of knowledge of any reasonable contender in any place. It may be perhaps unfair to infer that Purcell gave himself this title, rather it would appear more probable that it was his enthusiastic supporters or the desire for crowd-pulling publicity on the part of newspaper reporters or the local chairman of the committee sponsoring exhibitions or matches in which he was competing. In the early days of promotion of Badminton in America it was undoubtedly deemed permissible for the ultimate result desired — the build up of Badminton interest to the uninitiated public, but the errors of the past should not be the course of action for the present or the future.

That such an imposing title without legal or official substantiation could be equally assumed by others is evidenced by the fact that at least two other professionals likewise laid claim to it and used it in their personal publicity. These two were Jess Willard, originally of the University Club, Boston, and Noel Radford, former Canadian amateur star and likewise one time professional at Boston's 400 Badminton and Tennis Club. Both

of these gentlemen subsequently trekked across the country to the West Coast claiming the title at various and sundry times during the period 1932-38. The basis for such claims is practically forgotten at this moment though recollection has it that the former vanquished some touring English and Canadian players and the latter in turn edged the aging Willard before some partisans at a benefit exhibition. The above reasons may be far from the actual facts but it is distinctly remembered that whatever their claims were the Boston brethren were somewhat amazed as the claims for the title were first advanced. Both in turn became croppers before Purcell who played each twice in challenge matches.

In 1938, exact date unknown, an open tournament was held in Canada and a galaxy of professionals and amateurs competed. Here it was that Purcell met his first real competitive defeat when Billy Markham ranking No. 2 U. S. player in 1938, played brilliantly in defeating the master. The tournament was won by the late George Goodwin of the Quebec Winter Club. Previously Purcell had met Goodwin in a challenge 3 out of 5 match. This was one of those real thriller-dillers where with two sets down Purcell came back to win decisively, literally crushing Goodwin in the 5th set.

The title under discussion was not given to Goodwin as a result of the Open Event win as it was not placed in competition. It can also be mentioned that Markham never laid claim to it by his defeat of Purcell.

Soon thereafter Grant joined the professional ranks following an outstanding record of three Canadian National Singles wins and numerous tournament victories. Comments in the Canadian Sports Monthly would indicate that he challenged first in 1937 where it was tabled for two years and then postponed during the war, but other information received would not substantiate any formal challenges until the one in October. It is a matter of record that in a series of exhibitions in the United States during 1939 and 1940 the two had some interesting and exciting matches though they were all won by Purcell.

The latter's retirement statement indicated the grudging admission of the champion that to regain the

necessary condition for the strenuous defense of a title would be inconsistent with his added years and the business position to which he had striven for many years, and the press release is consistent.

The assumption of the title by the challenger, Grant, however, can in no way be considered authentic nor reasonable. A strong contender for the top professional position, yes, the champion with full rights to the title, no. To agree that anyone who challenges for a title and therefore has the right to assume the title in the event of retirement of the present titleholder is belittling the title: and the public, with due right, can readily view the proceedings with a mixture of raised eyebrows and a feeling that the professionals can take a leaf out of the amateur books and organize for the protection of retaining their esteem amongst the laymen.

The logical result is for recognized contenders to compete for the crown, but before the actual title, "world's professional champion" can be assumed it must have some official standing. Pending a professional organized body it would be reasonably logical that the American and Canadian national amateur bodies appoint a joint committee to express their opinions on the determination of a logical professional champion on this continent and perhaps in turn the matter could be presented to the International Federation for the nearest approach to a world opinion. That the start of determining the top man of this continent might well be the match between Grant and Cutts is logical.

Now that Purcell has retired let's get this naming and holding of "strange" titles on a logical and sound basis. If the professionals can't or won't do it themselves then the amateur reigning bodies should force the issue by refusing to recognize these unsound titles and where exhibitions are concerned withhold any mention of them in their publicity.

Whatever the result of this chin-sticker-out the writer is all agog at the coming matches in Montreal and Toronto and assures its readers that it will report the results in the next issue of "Bird Chatter". A limited space for any comments pro or con on this subject will be made available so express your opinion if you so desire.

(Ed. Note — as we were going to press the following anonymous letter was received from New York.)

A group of us, Badminton enthusiasts over a period of several years, wish to draw attention to the danger of the use of self-styled titles which some professionals give to themselves.

Badminton owes a lot to many of these professionals who have worked hard in the promotion of the game but there should be a curb placed on titles which do not fool any seasoned Badminton player but which is misleading to local players and newcomers to our game. These newcomers believe they are seeing "the world's leading professional" when such is definitely not the case.

These self-given titles became almost ludicrous a few years ago and almost placed Badminton in the same category as wrestling with "champions" springing up all over the country.

We note the conflicting reports given out by official Badminton publications. First, the "Bird Chatter" mentions in the December, 1945, issue about a "world's professional singles title" match between Jack Purcell and Doug Grant, no doubt a match arranged by themselves and using the world's title as bait. Then there is the case of the Connecticut State Mixed Doubles Tournament official programme, issued in January, 1946, stating that an exhibition will be played by the "world's leading professional" meaning neither Purcell or Grant nor a professional with the top grade experience of these two or such outstanding professionals as Ken Davidson, Frank Devlin, Noel Radford or others in organized competition.

Until such time as there is a properly organized professional tournament run by the ABA or some other equally responsible group, for the "World's Professional" title or "United States" or "Eastern" titles with all professionals having an equal opportunity to play, then we feel that the ABA should warn the State Associations and all its members not to subscribe to the fooling of spectators by advertising matches or exhibitions given by professionals with fictitious titles nor allow offending professionals to continue spreading false data and information about themselves.

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