

BADMINTON.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE annual general meeting of the Badminton Association was held on the evening of March 2, and was preceded by a dinner at Armfield's Hotel. The attendance was good, and the discussions prolonged and useful. The accounts showed a very prosperous state of affairs, although the number of clubs which have forgotten their liabilities for the season now closing is unusually large. The result of the election of the committee for 1905-6 was as follows:—President, Mr. P. Buckley; hon. sec. and treasurer, Mr. G. W. Vidal; members, Messrs. C. P. R. James, A. D. Prebble, Ralph Watling, H. L. Mellersh, E. P. Harrison, C. Agnew Turner, C. Dudfield Willis, Norman Wood, and G. A. Thomas. An additional member will be elected, as usual, by the Irish Badminton Union.

The fate of the amendments to rules and laws was as follows:—Clubs affiliated to the Irish Union will in future pay a reduced subscription, *i.e.*, half the amount paid by other affiliated clubs.

Mr. Turner's proposal to abolish the long service lines in the Doubles game, was allowed to stand over in order to give clubs a full opportunity of testing the change suggested. A further proposal to substitute "Lets" for "Faults," in the case of service out of turn, or from the wrong court, and to make it a "Let" also when the service is returned by a player standing in the wrong court, was lost by one vote only. Mr. Joyner's proposal that the first service in the Singles game "shall be from the court that the score shows the server should be in," was also negatived. The same fate met Mr. Massey's amendment prohibiting the "baulking" of an opponent by holding the racket over the net.

A necessary addition was, however, made to Law 8, at Mr. Joyner's instance, providing that players shall cross over in handicaps in the third game of the rubber "when either side has scored half the total number of aces required to win the game." This brings the Law in conformity with existing practice.

Club Notices.

CHANGES IN NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF HON. SECRETARIES.
DEVONPORT (UNITED)—Lieut.-Col. J. H. Swanton, R.M.L.I.,
Royal Marine Barracks, Plymouth.

OBITUARY.—Brinscall.

Open Tournaments.

THE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT.

The seventh annual meeting for the All England Championships was held in London on the first four days of March. By kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel Bingham and the officers of the London Rifle Brigade, the spacious drill hall in Bunhill Row was again placed at the disposal of the committee, and presented a very animated scene throughout the tournament. Mr. Prebble once more officiated as hon. secretary, and with valuable assistance from Mr. C. D. Willis, Mr. J. H. Hart, and other members of the committee, the success of the tournament was fully assured. Much sympathy was felt for Mr. F. H. Ashhurst, the popular referee, who met with an accident on the second day in playing off a match in the Veterans' event, and was reluctantly compelled to give up his post. Mr. Willis, however, came to the rescue, and successfully filled the gap. The number of spectators was large, and the general public interest shown in the various matches very satisfactory. The attendance would have been, no doubt, larger still had the programme included, as last year, the English and Irish International match. This match,

however, was played in Dublin this year, and the Irish contingent reserved their energies for their local fixture.

With the exception of Miss D. K. Douglass, who, in partnership with Mr. H. N. Marrett, won the Mixed Championship in 1904, all the present holders defended their titles. Miss E. Thomson and Miss M. Lucas for the third time, and more easily than ever, won the Ladies' Doubles, the runners-up being Miss Hardy (who won this event with Miss D. K. Douglass in 1903) and Miss D. P. "Harvey," who had previously beaten Miss Bateman and Miss Drake, and Miss Hogarth and Miss Murray.

Mr. H. N. Marrett defended his title with equal ease in the Men's Singles. In the same event Messrs. G. A. Thomas (the runner-up last year as well as this year), Ralph Watling (champion in 1902 and 1903) and N. Wood played with their usual skill, but were outclassed by the winner.

In the remaining championship events the holders had to acknowledge defeat. The chief surprise of the meeting was the victory of Miss Lucas over Miss Thomson in the Ladies' Singles. By the luck of the draw these well-known champions met in the second round. Miss Lucas, after losing the first game at 12 to 15, succeeded in equalising matters by winning the second, after a very close and exciting tussle, at 18 to 16. In the third and last game Miss Thomson started well, but Miss Lucas responded gamely, and profiting by a few mistakes in her opponents' usually unerring placing, scored rapidly towards the end, and won a great match by 15 to 9 in the deciding game, and thus becomes the holder of the valuable new Challenge Cup presented by Mr. J. C. Llewelyn to replace the similar one given by him last year, and won outright by Miss Thomson.

In the Men's Doubles the chief interest was in the finals between the holders, Messrs. Marrett and Prebble, and Messrs. Massey and Barnes. The latter pair have been playing brilliantly throughout the season, and their victory was well deserved. The match was, although played in a waning light, a fine exhibition of the game, and the result was in doubt up to the last ace. Mr. Massey has previously won this event with Mr. Oakes in 1899, and with Mr. Huson in 1903, and Mr. Barnes on this occasion proved himself to be an equally strong partner. Messrs. Buckley and N. Wood also made an excellent combination, and were only defeated by the holders after a close three games match.

The Mixed Doubles, as usual, seemed to be a very open event, but was won, without the loss of a game, by Mr. Marrett and Miss Hogarth. The combination of the "lady in waiting" close to the net, with an exceptionally active man behind her, succeeded admirably. Mr. Thomas and Miss Thomson, the winners of 1903, came through to the finals, after beating Mr. Watling and Miss Lucas, but could make no stand against Mr. Marrett and Miss Hogarth. Mr. L. U. Ransford and Miss Hardy, and Mr. Massey and Miss Bateman, both fell in the second round. Mr. Ransford, owing to a recent attack of influenza, was not in his usual form and condition.

The new championship event, for veterans of 45 and over, with one ace given for every two years in the average age of competing pairs, was won somewhat easily by Messrs. C. A. Turner and G. W. Vidal, the runners up being Col. H. C. Wright and Mr. C. G. Eames.

The handicap events were, as usual very popular, and keenly contested. In the Ladies' Doubles, Miss Hogarth and Miss Murray, the Cheltenham pair (owing 5), came through, after beating successively Miss Hardy and Miss "Harvey" (owing 6), Misses Gregory and Gowenlock (1), and Miss Bateman and Miss Mathew Lannowe (owing 2). The latter pair had hard work to reach the finals, having to play three games in each of their matches before meeting the winners. For the Men's Doubles, Messrs. Thomas and Cowley (owing 10) were thought to have an excellent chance. They had little difficulty in reaching the finals, but were beaten, after a very close match, by Messrs. C. A. Turner and Wood (owing 6). The latter pair played extremely well throughout, though