

Ottawa Region - 1925 - 1926

The Ottawa Region

According to a December article in the Ottawa Journal, this new sport was catching the interest of the community. At this point the reporter advises us, there are about 500 players on numerous courts throughout the city. While the Drill Hall facility is adequate most are not. One small club is playing in the basement of St. John's Church and three are known to be playing during the day in the banquet hall of the new "Auditorium", home of the world champion Ottawa Senators. According to the reporter the auditorium is an excellent dance and dinner hall, with a magnificent white ceiling. Great for dinner dancing, but not so hot for spotting that illusive shuttlecock. We also know that while the Garrison Club was being allowed to play two afternoons a week at the Drill Hall, a Department of SCR club with 100 members was forced to close when they lost their playing privileges. The reporter's recommendation

was that the Ottawa Amateur Athletic Association should seriously consider including badminton as part of its' two facilities. The fact that the recommendation was not acted upon and the loss of the Drill Hall by the SCR group may have explained the announcement, late in the year that the Badminton Club of Ottawa would become incorporated and construct a new facility for next season. It also explains why to this point in the sports short history there had been little or no junior development undertaken.

The Rideau BC would spend its last season, crammed into the Fine Arts Bldg. Its membership would struggle up from 100 to 120 by season's end. They would also expand their championships by adding Men's and Ladies Doubles to the Mixed venue of the previous year.

The Provincial Scene

The Provincial Championships and AGM were held February 11 - 13, 1926 at the Badminton and Racquets Club of Toronto. At the AGM Bill Stewart was elect OBA president for the coming season.

Ottawa was well represented in the Championship finals:

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
MS	W.M. Stewart (Ott)	Lt.Col. G.G. Balckstock (Tor)	15- 7, 18- 16
LS	Mrs. E.F. Coke (Tor)	Mrs. H.F. Wright (Ott)	1- 11, 11- 9, 11- 2
MD	W.M. Stewart	Lt. Col. G.G. Blackstock	15- 10, 15- 6
	H.F. Wright (Ott)	J. De N. Kennedy (Tor)	
LD	Mrs. E.F. Coke	Ms. Phyllis Rykert (Ott)	15- 6, 11- 15, 15- 2
	Mrs. C.A. Boone (Tor)	Mrs. H.F. Wright	
XD	Mrs. E.F. Coke	Mrs. W.M. Stewart	15- 7, 15- 5
	Lt.Col. G.G. Blackstock	W.M. Stewart	

The National/International Scene

Earlier in December, Ottawa would be treated to a visit from a touring team from Great Britain which included two of the greatest players of the time, Sir George Thomas, for whom the Thomas Cup for whom the Men's World Championship is named and Captain J.F. Devlin . The Ottawa stop would include 10 matches featuring both head to head games between the Brits and teams from Garrison and RBC as well as intermixed bouts, which featured

Men's Singles and Doubles as well as Mixed play. The Ottawan's were not found wanting by the crowd of 300 which filled the Drill Hall. In particular CBA MD Champions Col. Snell and Bill Stewart defeated the British Champions Swinden and Martin 15 - 10, 18 - 17. The six city tour apparently cost the Canadian Badminton Association \$6,000.00.

The Dominion Championships took place in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the week of March 3 - 6, 1926.

It was noted from the tournament results that Col. A.E. Snell had moved from Ottawa to Winnipeg but continued to play with his championship winning partner Bill Stewart. Ottawa was not represented in the finals, however Bill Stewart made it through to the semi finals of the Men's Singles, while Stewart and his old partner also went out in the semi finals of the Men's Doubles.

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
MS	W.C. Aikman (Mont)	Jack Muir (Van)	15- 11, 15- 8
LS	Mrs. E.F. Coke (Tor)	Eileen George (Van)	11- 5, 11- 4
MD	Robert Hill (Van)	___ McLaren (Mont)	u/a
	Jack Muir	W.C. Aikman	
LD	Mrs. E.F. Coke	Eileen George	15- 3, 15- 10
	Mrs. C.A. Boone	Mrs. __ Partington (Win)	
XD	Eileen George	Mrs. Archibald (Mont)	4- 15, 17- 14, 15- 5
	Jack Muir	W.C. Aikman	