

O. D. B. A. 1931 - 1932

THE DISTRICT

The 1931/32 season opened with great promise, fanfare and not but a little conflict. A new facility, a new junior championship and a storm brewing over restrictions as to who could play in the District league.

The league controversy arose over restrictions initiated by the District where "B" level players were prevented from playing in both the District League and the Church League. Church League players however were being encouraged to move up into the "B" level competition. There is no rationale available for this move, but it would not be unreasonable to assume that the young District was attempting to exert their new found power to bring the Church League under their control. It is worth noting that during this same period, a very strong Church League existed in Toronto which was totally independent and far better supported than the local governing District Association. The result of this conflict was that the Church League, profiting from an early start, managed through the season with 7

teams, while the District became mired down, managing only a single team championship tournament competition to decide the cup.

On November 28, 1931 the Rideau Winter Club was officially opened, by Governor General Bessborough, with its modern 6 court badminton facility complete with California redwood floors and a membership of 300. The former Rideau B.C. facilities were quickly taken over by the Capital B.C.. This gave the city three dedicated private facilities, the military clubs anchored by the Garrison Club at the Drill Hall, plus the Church League for a total of 25 functioning clubs within Ottawa proper.

The Wilson Cup, donated by Supreme Court Justice Cairine Wilson to the YWCA for Ladies doubles play, was again captured by the BCO represented by Ruth and Marg Robertson, competing against teams from Garrison BC and the YWCA BC. This was the fifth consecutive successful defence of their ownership.

THE PROVINCIAL SCENE

Things were relatively quiet on the Provincial scene from a District perspective. This season saw the first mention of the Western Ontario Badminton Assoc. as well as the first proposal for the division of the O.B.A. into District Associations only. At this point any group could be a member of O.B.A., who's membership was comprised of 42 club and district member.

THE NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SCENE

While the provincial scene may have been quiet, the national level was at full boil. Ottawa played a predominant roll in what could be the greatest controversy in Canadian Badminton history. November 11th may be considered remembrance day for two reasons for on that day in 1931 W.O. (Bill) Stewart, president of BCO and president of the C.B.A. announced that Jack Purcell of Toronto and C.W. Aikman of Quebec would be banned

from competing in sanctioned competitions for violating their amateur status. Aikman, was suspended for accepting a position as sporting secretary of the Carlton Club of Toronto. As such he would be making money from an activity associated with the sport of badminton. Purcell, three time national champion at the time and probably the greatest male player Canada has ever produced, was banned on two counts.

First he accepted money for a series of newspaper articles on badminton and he allowed himself to be associated with a company prominent in the manufacture and sale of badminton equipment. While ludicrous by today's standards and even harsh by the standards of other sports of that era, in 1931, the purity of the sport had to be maintained. Even today the sport still has trouble in overcoming tradition. Today (1990s) whites are still the rule in all but the Olympics and similar team events, despite the moves by most other sports towards better marketing.

At the national championships held in Winnipeg the week of March 2/32 a crowd of 1,000 watched as Jack Underhill of Toronto defeated Ottawa's George Goodwin Jr. 15-8, 15-9 in the Men's Singles. Underhill then teamed with Noel Radford also of Toronto to defeat Goodwin and Bill Stewart. Upon returning to Ottawa, Goodwin finished out the season by taking all three District titles.

On the return trip home, Bev Mitchell and a number of other returning players, laid over in the Lake Head and performed a number of exhibition matches at the Port Arthur Badminton Club.

DISTRICT DATA 1931 - 32

District Executive:

President - John B. McRae
Hon. Secretary - E.C. Forrest
Hon. President - H.S. Southam

Vice-President - W.N. Keenan
Hon. Treasurer - Maj. C.R. Scott

Executive Committee:

Frank W. Potts (Church League)
H.A. MacFarlane
E.A. Smith

Mrs. H.F. Wright (BCO)
Sqd. Ldr. J.H. Tudhope

Member Clubs:

Badminton Club of Ottawa
 Capital B.C.
 P.L.D.G.

Rideau B.C. Church League
 Garrison B.C.
 Rockcliffe B.C.

Number of clubs - 7

Membership - 1250

O.D.B.A. Open Championship:

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
MS	George Goodwin Jr.(BCO)	Bev. Mitchell (BCO)	15- 5, 15- 0
LS	Ms. Phyllis Rykert (BCO)	Mrs. R. Burchnall (Rid.)	11- 3, 11- 0
MD	George Goodwin Jr. W.O. Stewart (BCO)	Dr. H.T. Douglas (BCO) V.L. Eardley-Wilmot (BCO)	15- 5, 15-10
LD	Mrs. K. Stewart (BCO) Phyllis Rykert	Mrs. F. Ahearn (BCO) Ms. Pheobe Greerson (BCO)	15- 2, 17- 14
XD	Ms. Marion Charleson George Goodwin Jr.	Mrs. W.N. Keenan (Rid.) W.N. Keenan (Rid.)	15- 10,12- 15, 15- 8
Cons			
XD	L. Jackson (Ch.L.)* Ms. Lillian Jeans (Ch.L.)*		

* (Ch.L.) - short for Church League

O. D. B. A. Junior Championship:

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
MS	Bill Newson (BCO)	George Grant (BCO)	17- 15, 15- 6
LS	Beverly Dick (Rid.)	Elizabeth Lloyd (Rock.)	11- 0, 11- 6
MD	Bill Newson George Grant	Terry Giles (BCO) Allen Harris (BCO)	16-17, 17- 14, 15- 5
LD	Beverly Dick Alice Narraway (Rid.)	Helen Lloyd (Rock.) Elizabeth Lloyd	15- 11, 15- 10
XD	No Event		

O.D.B.A. "B" League: Conducted as an elimination team tournament.

Results:

Winner - Rideau B.C. (Gold) **Runner Up** - Badminton Club of Ottawa (Red)

Other competing teams:

Rideau B.C. (Purple)	Badminton Club of Ottawa (Blue)
Capital B.C.	Garrison B.C.
P.L.D.G.	Church League (combined team)

Church League:

Results:

Winner - St. George - 33 points

Others	St. John's	- 29 pts.
	First United	- 22 pts.
	St. Paul's-Eastern	- 22 pts.
	Dominion	- 21 pts.
	Unitarian	- 20 pts.
	Chalmer's	- 15 pts.