

## **O. D. B. A. - 1937 - 1938**

By the end of the 1937 - 38 season, the storm clouds of Europe were turning black. The Italians were in Ethiopia, the Germans were in Spain fighting the revolution on the side of Franco against the communists and everyone else including hundreds of Canadians fighting illegally under the banner on the Mackenzie-Papineau Regiment (the MacPaps). The Japanese were busy in China. Canada saw the death of a legend with the passing of Grey Owl, the world famous Indian naturalist, who travelled the world preaching conservation. The legend took a bit of a shaking some years later when it was discovered that this famous Indian was in fact an Englishman. The worst ice jam in 30 years claimed one of the countries favourite tourist attractions. Thousands rushed to Niagara Falls to see mother nature crush the famous Honeymoon bridge. This year in sports saw the Black Hawks easily wrestle the Stanley Cup from the Maple Leafs.

### **THE DISTRICT**

The District was still in a state of flux for the 37/38 season. While it successfully conducted its second "B" level tournament, it failed to produce a Junior Championship. For the first time the Secretary/Treasurer became an appointed position, as opposed to the remainder of the executive who were elected.

The Journal Trophy continued to be hotly contested with the B.C.O. recapturing the coveted cup with a narrow 5 to 4 match victory over their rivals at the Rideau B.C.

In Hodgson Cup competition for women, BCO maintained their dominance of this trophy with a convincing 12 match to 6 victory over the Montreal Ladies Tennis and Badminton Club.

The Renfrew Militia B.C. won the Findley Cup tournament for clubs from the upper Ottawa valley over teams from Arnprior, Almonte and Carleton Place. Kingston B.C. ventured into the capital for a friendly competition at the RBC.

### **THE PROVINCIAL SCENE**

The OBA Championships and AGM were held at the Granite Club in Toronto the weekend of Feb. 11, 12 and 13. W.N. Keenan of BCO was elected President while EC Forrest also of BCO held the Secretary/Treasurer position. The ODBA was represented by Keenan, Forrest, Maj. H.O. Rolland and A.J. Hammond.

During the Championships, Ottawa players reached three finals, capturing two crowns.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>LS</b>	<b>Mrs. W.R. Walton (Tor)</b>	<b>Mrs. G. Perodeau *(Ott)</b>	11 - 4, 11 - 5
<b>LD</b>	<b>Ruth Robertson(Ott)</b>	<b>Mrs. G. Perodeau *(Ott)</b>	13 -15,15 -12,15 -5
	<b>Marg Robertson (Ott)</b>	<b>Betty Snell (Ott)</b>	
<b>SMD</b>	<b>W.N. Keenan (Ott)</b>	<b>W. Griffith (Tor)</b>	15 - 7, 15 - 7
	<b>R. Cramer (Guelph)</b>	<b>W. Millfat (Tor)</b>	

\* Mrs. G. Perodeau is former Isobel Bryson

## THE NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SCENE

The National Championships and AGM were held at the Winter Club in Quebec City and for the second time in a decade a CBA president from Ottawa was embroiled in a major controversy. In 1931 Bill Stewart was front and centre in banning Jack Purcell and C.W. Aikman from amateur competitions for earning a living from their sport. Now W.N. Keenan was at the centre of a movement to create open competitions where amateurs and professionals could compete against each other. The AGM boiled over when Ontario proposed sanctioning an Open

competition. Manitoba and the Maritimes supported the proposal, while British Columbia and Quebec, lead by Col. S.H. McKee, the CBA's founding president were very much opposed. At a closed meeting following the AGM, the CBA executive lead by the re-elected Keenan approved the proposal in principle and created a committee to lay down an acceptable format for conducting the event. It should be noted that the international community were at this time, very much against integrating amateurs and professionals. The event would not take place until the 1938-39 season.

### Ottawa at the National Championships

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
<b>LS</b>	<b>Mrs. W.R. Walton (Tor)</b>	<b>Mrs. G. Perodeau *(Ott)</b>	11 - 4, 11 - 4
<b>LD</b>	<b>Marg Taylor (B.C.) Vess O'Shea (B.C.)</b>	<b>Ruth Robertson (Ott) Marg Robertson (Ott)</b>	8 - 15, 15 - 5, 15 - 8
<b>Cons.</b>			
<b>XD</b>	<b>Betty Snell (Ott) T.H. Smith (Ott)</b>	<b>Mrs. W. Boyd (Tor) W. N. Keenan (Ott)</b>	17 - 16, 18 - 15

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George Goodwin Jr., the 23 year old, former Ottawa sensation and pro at the Quebec City Winter Club decided he couldn't wait and on March 12th posted a challenge to any and all to a competition and would back up his confidence with a side bet of \$500.00. The challenge was quickly taken up by the 34 year old Jack Purcell of Toronto, who had an undisputable claim to the title of World professional Champion. The 5 game match took place at the Carlton Club in Toronto on April 13th. George quickly validated his confidence by surging out to a two game lead with identical 15 - 12 wins. All he needed was one more and he would have proven his boast. We are not told whether the old pro had been laying back to pull Jr. into his trap or whether George over extended himself to buy his two game lead. What we do know is that Purcell went on to feast on George and his \$500.00 with convincing 15 - 7, 15 - 5, 15 - 5 victories. But George was not down for the count and his time was yet to come,

minus \$500. Two matches on the same card saw Joe Zaharko of Sudbury defeat Joe Noble of Toronto, two games at 15-5 apiece. Zaharko and Goodwin teamed up to defeat Noble and Purcell 15-12, 15-10 in a doubles matchup.

In February Purcell had beaten Noel Radford the US pro Champ in Los Angeles in three straight 18 - 13, 15 - 9, 17 - 14. It would appear pro singles matches were best out of five.

On the International Scene we saw the first U. S. National Championship.

## DISTRICT DATA 1937 - 38

### District Executive

President - Maj. H.D. Rolland (BCO)      Vice-President - W.F. Lothian (RBC)  
 Secretary/Treasurer - W.J. Roe (BCO)

### Executive Committee

Ned Sparks (Garr. B.C.)  
 W.D. Williams (RBC)  
 A.J. Gibbard (RBC)  
 F.K. Orme (BCO)  
 C. Henshaw (Naval Ordnance)

### Member Clubs

Badminton Club of Ottawa	Rideau B.C.	Almonte B.C.	Garrison B.C.
Naval Ordnance B.C.	Church League	All Saints B.C.	St. George's B.C.

There is also mention of clubs at Treasury B.C., Ottawa Public School Teachers Assoc. (OPSTA) and the Governor Generals Foot Guards B.C. We also hear of P.L.G.D. still playing out of a facility at Queen and O'Connor and of a friendly competition between St. Francis B.C. of Smiths Falls and the Athens B.C. Also mentioned was the victory of the Renfrew Militia BC for the Findley Cup over teams from Arnprior BC, Carleton Place BC, Almonte BC and Pembroke BC.

Number of Clubs - 8

Membership - 948

### District Championship:

Held at the BCO and RBC facilities January 27 - 30, 1938

The tournament, though an "Open" event was considered the District or "A" Championship It was classified "Open" to increase the challenge and level of play. Charges were 50 cents/event except Mixed Doubles which was 75 cents due to consolation round. Birds were provided.

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
<b>MS</b>	Bev Mitchell (BCO)	Max Epstein (N.Ont.)	15- 10, 15- 3
<b>LS</b>	Mrs. G. Perodeau *(BCO)	Ruth Robertson (BCO)	11- 4, 11- 3
<b>MD</b>	William Bruce (RBC)	Bev. Mitchell	15- 8, 10- 15, 15- 4
	Allan Hammond (RBC)	Earl O'Halloran (RBC)	
<b>LD</b>	Ruth Robertson	Mrs. G. Perodeau	15- 8, 15- 4
	Marg Robertson (BCO)	Helen Burns (BCO)	
<b>XD</b>	Marjorie Devine (RBC)	Ruth Robertson	7- 15, 15- 9, 18- 17
	Earl O'Halloran	Bev. Mitchell	
<b>Cons</b>			
<b>XD</b>	Hilda McColgan (RBC)	Edythe Templeton (St.G.)	15- 4, 15- 10
	W. Bruce (RBC)	E.C. Bradley (St.G.)	

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## District "B" Championship:

Held at the RBC facility February 23 - 25, 1938

Tournament had 200 entries. There were no Consolation events .

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
<b>MS</b>	Howard Ewan (RBC)	Jack Ashfield (St.G)	15- 12, 15- 8
<b>LS</b>	Diana Lyon (Garr.)	Betty Winlow (BCO)	11- 2, 11- 6
<b>MD</b>	Monty Meager (RBC)	Frank Patten (Ch.L.)	18- 17, 15- 11
	Cliff Williams (RBC)	H. Pullen (Ch.L.)	
<b>LD</b>	Alice Merrikin (St.G.)	Mrs. Jack Ashfield (St. G.)	18- 13, 15- 18, 15-3
	Clare Parsons (St.G.)	Edythe Templeton (St. G.)	
<b>XD</b>	Marg Rolt (Ch.L.)	Edythe Templeton	15- 9, 15- 7
	T.G. Sewell (Ch.L.)	E.C. Bradley (St.G.)	

## District Junior Championship:

There was no Junior Championship conducted in the 1937-38 season due to an apparent lack of interest on the part of the juniors. Two attempts were made at holding the event, but lack of entries caused both to be cancelled.

## District "B" League:

Competition for the Graham-Bryson Trophy was conducted the week of March 14, 1938 and again used a tournament format. For the first time, since its inception in 1931, the trophy was captured by one of the "recreational" clubs. It had been won 3 times by BCO, twice by RBC and one each by Capital and the PLDG B.C.s.

**1st Place** - St. George's B.C.

**2nd Place** - Rideau B.C. Purple Team

Additional Participants:

BCO - Blue

BCO - Red

RBC - Gold

Garrison BC

Church League

Naval Ordnance BC

## Church League:

The Church League was very active this season holding a full season of League play in addition to a tournament for players of those clubs with membership in the League. The Performance of the Commerce BC is quite impressive as this would appear to be their first year of operation.

League Results:

**First Place** - St. George's BC - 34 pts : **Second Place** - Commerce BC - 32 pts

- All Saints BC - 29 pts

- Unitarian BC - 28 pts

- Bell St. United BC - 20 pts

- OPSTA BC - 19 pts

- Blessed Sacrement BC - 15 pts

**Church League Tournament:**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>MS</b>	<b>T.G. Sewell (St.G.)</b>	<b>N. McCleary (Com)</b>	15- 6,15- 4
<b>LS</b>	<b>Marg Roe (St.G.)</b>	<b>Elizabeth Lloyd (Com)</b>	11- 4, 11- 8
<b>MD</b>	No event results available		
<b>LD</b>	<b>Elizabeth Lloyd</b> <b>Ann Seymore (Unit.)</b>	<b>Mildred Minter (OPSTA)</b> <b>F. MacDonald (OPSTA)</b>	15- 8, 15- 7
<b>XD</b>	<b>Elizabeth Lloyd</b> <b>Harry Pullen (Com)</b>	<b>Marg Malcolm (St.G.)</b> <b>T.G. Sewell</b>	15- 12, 15- 12