

## **O. D. B. A. 1940 - 1941**

The new Supreme Court of Canada building on Wellington street was opened. The war effort was reaching a fevered pitch. Jack Purcell of Toronto, World Professional Badminton Champion, was on a Canada wide tour to raise funds for the Red Cross. Dr. Frederick Banting, discoverer of insulin, was killed in the crash of a military aircraft in Newfoundland. On the west coast, eight men aboard the RCMP patrol vessel St. Roch embarked on a quest to be first to conquer the Northwest Passage from west to east.

### **THE DISTRICT:**

The war was about to envelop our sport. It was noted early in the year that military service had removed many of the top players and special provisions were approved to permit any former players who were home on leave, or players transferred into Ottawa, to play in District tournaments. In May/41 word would come that Allan Wright, an outstanding junior and promising senior player, was listed as missing in action in the Near East. Despite these pressures the District would conduct a full set of competitions. Unfortunately, entries were far below normal and they would be the last for some time. The District Open was reseeded and redrawn to permit the entry of Gordie Morgan who had made a special effort to return to Ottawa for the event. Gord won the Men's Singles title, for the only time. Ruth (Robertson) Storme, would marry and retire from active competition.

In May/41 the Badminton Club of Ottawa found itself between a rock and a hard. For several years the operation of the club had been marginal and they were not meeting their annual budget requirements. Their answer had been to issue bonds to cover the shortfall, most of which were purchased by members. Now the war was having an even more dramatic effect on things. The membership had dropped even sharper and costs were mounting. It should be remembered that badminton clubs were a seasonal, winter operation. In the summer it was too hot to play indoors and in the winter there were heavy expenses involved in heating the buildings which at this time was by coal. At this same time in the city there was tremendous growth, due to the war and building space was in great demand by the war department to accommodate the huge

increase in personnel coming into the capital. At one point it was even proposed that forced billeting would be necessary to meet the demand for housing. The government also needed recreation facilities and here in the BCO executive felt they had a short term answer to their problem. They would rent their building to the United War Services Committee, who would turn it over to the YMCA to be run as a military recreation facility. The rent would cover the operating and financial costs and when the war was over, they would be able to reopen the club with a fresh start. So in May the District lost its' major competitive club.

In June/41 the Rideau Winter Club held a meeting at which it was determined that the Rideau Badminton Club was unable to live up to its' financial obligations for the operating expenses and were going to have to cease operations at least for the duration of the war. There is no mention of any efforts made to bring in members from the BCO club. In the end the badminton facility was shut down redecorated and leased to Public Works Dept. for one year, plus an option year. The facility would be assigned to the National Registration Board, responsible for conducting the most divisive issue of the war, "Conscription". As important, was a transfer in power from a joint operation to one where the Winter Club was in fact controlled by the Rideau Curling Club.

Many members were involved with both clubs and it was easy to shift their loyalties from one activity to the other. Self preservation was the word and the curling club was prepared to sacrifice the badminton end of the operation to save itself.

With the loss of the Rideau facility the District now had lost the last of its quality court facilities for local play and for the hosting of tournaments. The impact was devastating.

The Church League was also having problems, mainly due to the lack of men. St. George's BC would officially disband, turning over its trophies to the church and its bank account to the Mayor's Fund for the relief of London. The league was reduced to a single division for "C" level players and reduced to a tournament format. Four teams which had published intent to join the league would fail to produce enough male players to form a team. The Church League Tournament was reduced to a single limited event with a poor turnout.

The Renfrew Militia club would also have its playing time reduced from three nights a week to

one due to the pressure on the facility for drill time. This scenario would be played out in churches and armouries across the country. In the short space of a year the District had moved from a vibrant active body with two full time dedicated facilities, a couple of part time courts and an expanding Church League, to a skeleton of itself. The Garrison facility with several incumbent military clubs ceased operation in the spring of 40. By the spring of 41, the BCO, the Rideau BC and St. George's BCs were gone.

There was a final competition for The Journal Cup, with the Rideau Badminton Club successfully defend against the Badminton Club of Ottawa with an 8 to 1 victory. It would be the last time the players of either club would appear on court, in competition. The sport was on the mat, but the count was not over and it still had a few more rounds in it yet.

### **THE PROVINCIAL SCENE:**

The provincial AGM and championships were conducted at the Granite Club in Toronto in Feb./41. At the meeting V-P. **E.C.(Ed) Forrest** of Ottawa assumed the Presidency of OBA when A.B. Taylor of Toronto entered the R.A.F. Mr. Forrest was elected President for the 41-42 season. The name Northern Ontario Badminton Assoc. (N.O.B.A.) became official. This area was previously the Nickel Belt District. The St. Lawrence District Badminton Association ceased to function.

The Provincial Championship was attended by only 6 players from the Ottawa District. **Diana Lyon** was the only one to make it through to the finals and was defeated in the Ladies Singles event 11- 5, 11- 1 by **Evelyn Effnert** of Toronto.

### **THE NATIONAL SCENE:**

On January 20, 1941 the Canadian Badminton Association announced that it would not conduct a Nation Championship this year. It had been scheduled to take place at the Rideau B.C. The association felt that, due to the war, it would not be able to conduct a fair and competitive event which would be national in scope. It stated that funding was not available, at the national and provincial associations, to assist in the travel of players from the west. It also felt that the massive increase of the military presence in Ottawa would make hotel accommodation and even billeting of players an extremely difficult task.

The Quebec Badminton Association announced that it was cancelling its provincial championships due to the gravity of the war situation

## DISTRICT DATA 1940 - 41

### District Executive:

**President - W. F. Loathian (BCO)**      **Vice-President - G.C. Medcalf (BCO)**  
**Secretary/Treasurer - Earl O'Halloran (All-Sts)**

### Executive Committee:

**J.B. Smith (BCO)**      **A.J. Gibbard (RBC)**  
**Norm McCleary (Ch.L.)**      **H.M.(Max) Epstein (All-Sts.)**  
**Rev. D.H. Woodhouse (Arn.)**      **W.J. Roe (BCO) - Playing Committee Chairman**

### Member Clubs:

Badminton Club of Ottawa      Rideau Badminton Club      All Saints B.C.  
Renfrew Militia B.C.      Arnprior B.C.      Church League B.C.

### Number of Clubs - 6

### Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_

Other Clubs mentioned in operation included Almonte BC and Carleton Place BC

### District Championship: Conducted as an "Open" event

Held Jan. 27-31/41 on the courts of BCO and RBC. Charge of 50 cents/event 75 for XD.

Entries: MS- 18; LS- 11; MD- 15pr; LD- 12pr; XD- 24pr. Charge of 50 cents for spectators.

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
<b>MS</b>	<b>Gord Morgan (RBC)</b>	<b>Allan Harris (BCO)</b>	15- 9, 15- 10
<b>LS</b>	<b>Marg Robertson (BCO)</b>	<b>Betty Snell (BCO)</b>	11- 8, 11- 8
<b>MD</b>	<b>Allan Hammond (RBC)</b>	<b>Allan Harris (BCO)</b>	6- 15, 15- 7, 15- 12
	<b>Bill Bruce (RBC)</b>	<b>Len Turner (BCO)</b>	
<b>LD</b>	<b>Betty Snell</b>	<b>Jane Caldwell (RBC)</b>	15- 6, 15- 13
	<b>Marg Robertson</b>	<b>Dorothy Renwick (RBC)</b>	
<b>XD</b>	<b>Betty Snell</b>	<b>Betty Murdock (RBC)</b>	15- 4, 15- 8
	<b>Allan Harris</b>	<b>Reg Bourne (RBC)</b>	
<b>XD</b>	<b>Dorothy Sheppard (BCO)</b>	<b>u/a</b>	
<b>Cons</b>	<b>Frank Orme (BCO)</b>		

### District "B" Championship: Conducted Feb. 27-31/41 on the courts of the Rideau B.C.

Entries: MS- 12; LS- 13; MD- 16pr; LD- 16pr; XD- 22pr.

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
MS	<b>Dave McMillan (RBC)</b>	<b>Eddie Ashfield (RBC)</b>	15- 10, 8- 15, 15- 9
LS	<b>June McCann (RBC)</b>	<b>Alice Narraway (RBC)</b>	11- 2, 11- 4
MD	<b>Jack Purcell (RBC)</b>	<b>Elwood Gary (RBC)</b>	15- 7, 8- 15, 15- 1
	<b>Dr. Elwin Macartney (RBC)</b>	<b>Ed Stone (RBC)</b>	
LD	<b>June McCann</b>	<b>Mrs. D. Palmer (RBC)</b>	15- 11, 11- 15, 15- 6
	<b>Mrs. Harold Ewan (RBC)</b>	<b>Leith Coxford (RBC)</b>	
XD	<b>June McCann</b>	<b>Kay Brown (RBC)</b>	15- 9, 15- 11
	<b>Ed Stone</b>	<b>Eddie Ashfield</b>	
XD	<b>Marg Rolt (All-Sts.)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	n/a
Cons	<b>Harold Atfield</b>		

**District "Junior" Championship:** Conducted Dec. 27-28/40 on the courts of the Rideau BC  
 Entries: MS- 11; LS- 4; MD- 4pr; LD- 8pr; XD- 6pr.

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
<b>MS</b>	<b>Dave McMillan (RBC)</b>	<b>Perry Jennings (RBC)</b>	7- 15, 15- 10, 15- 1
<b>LS</b>	<b>Joan Cracknell (RBC)</b>	<b>Janet Young (RBC)</b>	11- 9, 11- 6
<b>MD</b>	<b>Dave McMillan</b>	<b>Jim Hart (Arn)</b>	15- 11, 11- 15, 15- 10
	<b>Steve Sternberg (RBC)</b>	<b>Fraser Woodhouse (Arn)</b>	
<b>LD</b>	<b>Joan Cracknell</b>	<b>Kay McLean (RBC)</b>	15- 7, 15- 2
	<b>Dorothy Shields (RBC)</b>	<b>Janet Young (RBC)</b>	
<b>XD</b>	<b>Dorothy Shields</b>	<b>Gwen Gardner (Arn)</b>	(Default, Gardner sick)
	<b>Dave McMillan</b>	<b>Fraser Woodhouse</b>	

### District "B" League:

Tournament format competition

**Winner** - Rideau B.C. (Gold team)

**Runner Up** - Badminton Club of Ottawa

Others: Rideau B.C. (Purple); Church League; All Saints BC; Arnprior BC

### Church League:

Conducted as single tier format for "C" level players

**Winner** - Commerce BC

**Runner Up** - St. Paul's - Eastern BC

Others: All Saints BC YMCA BC

**Church League Tournament:** Conducted Mar. 25-27/41 at All Saints BC for B/C level players

Entries: MD- 11pr; LD- 8pr; XD- 13pr.

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
<b>MD</b>	<b>Howard Stevens (St.Pauls)</b>	<b>Don Palmer (All-Sts)</b>	15- 8, 15- 4
	<b>Tom Ridley (St.Pauls)</b>	<b>Tod Melbourne (All-Sts)</b>	
<b>LD</b>	<b>Mary Lefleur (Comm)</b>	<b>Peggy Edwards (St.Pauls)</b>	15- 17, 15- 5, 15- 1
	<b>Clemmie McDonald (Comm)</b>	<b>Katie Overton (St.Pauls)</b>	
<b>XD</b>	<b>Peggy Edwards</b>	<b>Mrs. H. Stevens (St.Pauls)</b>	18- 13, 15- 12
	<b>Tom Ridley (St.Pauls)</b>	<b>Howard Stevens (St.Pauls)</b>	