

O. D. B. A. 1942 - 1943

The world was in turmoil. On November 11, 1942, the National Book of Remembrance was officially unveiled in the Peace Tower of the Parliament building, to honour those who died in the First World War. Dieppe would become part of the glory and tragedy of Canadian history. The battles of Midway, Tobruk and Stalingrad would mark the beginning of the end for Hitler's Germany. The RCMP patrol vessel St. Roc would victoriously enter Halifax harbour, after a two year journey to successfully complete the first west to east travail of the Northwest Passage. The arts world would be saddened by the death in November of George M. Cohen "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy" at the age of 64.

THE DISTRICT

Professional sports throughout the country were having a hard time making any effort at maintaining a national profile. The cost of travel and to a greater extent, possibly, the morality of expending the resources, time and energy, with the war raging, resulted in the cancellation of most top level national championships. The one exception to this was the competition for the Alan Cup, for supremacy in senior hockey. Professional hockey was operating, but was a mere shadow of itself, with many minor and junior league players filling the rosters.

On the local scene, sports were still operating quite well. In fact local sports were taking the place of the major leagues. In football, the CFL had been replaced by provincial leagues such as the Ontario and Quebec Rugby Football Leagues. City level, leagues were operating in baseball, basketball, curling and bowling. In fact, while it had been present for some time, in around 1941, five pin and duck pin bowling, seemed to explode in popularity.

While the loss of the major facilities can account, in part, for the decline of badminton, it is hard to imagine how, during this period where other sports were all maintaining and in some cases increasing in popularity, badminton was disappearing. In the spring of '42 a District

executive was elected.. In November of '42, the Commerce BC announced the beginning of their playing season, with the intention of participating in league and tournament play with both the District and the Church League. All Saints BC began the year on the optimistic side, mentioning that several national level players were joining their club for the coming season, including Marg Robertson, as well as Rod Phelan and Jack Underhill, national champions who had been transferred to Ottawa. In addition, St. Paul's Eastern, St. Barnabas and the YMCA all began the season playing two and three nights a week. Despite the flurry of activity in the fall, there was not a single mention of badminton for the remainder of the year. It would appear that the District and Church League failed to organize any activities and there were no club championships, at least based on the newspapers anyway. All that was missing was an article in the obituaries.

Part of the explanation may have been the conversion of facilities to serve the war effort or the fact that during these times, feathered birds were the only form of shuttlecock available and the supply of same may have been precarious.

DISTRICT DATA 1942 - 43

District Executive:

President - W.J. Roe (Comm.)

Vice-President - G.C. Marshall (All Sts.)

Sec./Treasurer - Earl K. Hanlon (All Sts.)

Honorary President - W.F. Loathian

Executive Committee:

R.A.; Bell (Comm)

W.F. Loathian (Comm)

John Richards (All Sts.)

Rev. D.H. Woodhouse (Arn.)

Brian Dingle (Ch. L.)

A.J. Gibbard (Ch. L.)

District Representatives to OBA - W.J. Roe

- Earl Hanlon