

Chairman's Note

Once again the Museum has had a solid year of progress. We have enhanced the racket and shuttle collection as well as trying to keep up with the latest information on events around the world. With the 100th anniversary of the ending of the Great War last year, a report has been written about how this conflict affected the Badminton Association and a brief summary is given later in this newsletter. It contains a surprising fact!

My sincere thanks to everybody who has helped the Museum this year in whatever form it has taken. Despite replacement hips, hospital appointments and family bereavements we have continued to improve the Museum to a high standard.

Chairman, Bill Andrew

BADMINTON England 125th anniversary

On the 13th September 2018 BADMINTON England celebrated its 125th anniversary. The Badminton Association, as it was then called, was formed when Major S.S.C. Dolby invited all badminton clubs to a meeting at 'Dunbar' 6 Waverley Grove in Southsea, Hampshire. At the meeting there were nine clubs represented, they unanimously resolved to form a Badminton Association and approved rules for the Association and for the game of badminton. It was the first National Badminton Association in the world. The popularity of the sport increased steadily with 300 clubs being introduced by the 1920s, rising to 9000 shortly after World War 2.

The Badminton Association governed world badminton until 1934 when its officers and committee members led by Albert Prebble and Sir George Thomas were the main architects in the creation of a new world badminton governing body. The new organisation was called the International Badminton Federation (IBF) now called the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

At the same time the Badminton Association relinquished its authority over the world game and became the Badminton Association of England with sole responsibility for badminton in England. In 2005 it again changed its name to Badminton England.



Major S.S.C. Dolby

*'Dunbar' 6 Waverley Grove,
Southsea, Hampshire.*



A letter from the President of Badminton England

Dear All

The old saying that "Life is full of surprises" is very true.

When I was elected as the President of Badminton England I did not realise that I would be a Trustee of the National Badminton Museum and I felt that this position was quite a daunting challenge.

I have never paid much attention to the history of buildings nor anything from the past. Badminton has always been an interest to me right from my own club play right to the other end of the spectrum with County, England and International play. In the early years I did not realise what went on behind the scenes of people trying their utmost to make the sport a success.

The research is performed by a small group of devoted people trying their utmost to research everything that has happened in our sport from the beginning, what a task they have undertaken.

The meetings are held at the Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes where the Trustees are informed of all the requests from the interested parties all over the world, some people with memorabilia to sell, others to donate articles to the Museum. This is very time consuming for all concerned.

The Museum is an important part of our heritage for the future generations ensuring that everything is recorded in the correct manner and all the rules and stipulations are adhered to. The Museum is working towards becoming an accredited Museum.

Many people from different countries and home request photographs from the Museum of various people- events - teams and many other pieces of information.

There are a considerable number of rules and regulations that have to be applied with being a charity and the copyright on photographs that have to be researched before anything can be released from the archives, which is very time consuming.

The National Badminton Museum at National Badminton Centre is organised by a small band of extremely devoted hard working volunteers, who spend many hours to keep the archives up to date in respect for our sport and the future generations.

I now realise the amount of hard work that has to be researched for the heritage of our sport for future generations to look back on.

Many thanks to you all. Diana Troke - President of Badminton England

Delegation from the Japanese Badminton Association



In August the National Badminton Museum received a delegation from the Japanese Badminton Association. The delegation also visited badminton historians in France, Ireland and Denmark.

They were interested in the organisation and systems of the National Badminton Museum also the badminton fan promotion part of Badminton England. They are sending a delegation of four students with two adults to the 2019 Yonex All-England Badminton Championships. During that period they want to visit the Museum and Badminton England headquarters.

Delegation from the Japanese Badminton Association with members of the Museum.

Marjorie Henderson

The Museum has recently put together a small exhibition on Marjorie Henderson. Marjorie was an All-England champion in the 1930s and with her doubles partner, Thelma Kingsbury, dominated woman's badminton during that period. They won the All-England woman's doubles title four times in a row 1933 to 1936; a record which stood unbeaten for almost 70 years. After winning the trophy on three consecutive years in 1935 they were awarded the trophies outright. Before 1978 if an All-England champion won a title on three consecutive occasions or four titles in total they were given the trophies to take home.

Marjorie Henderson at the N.B.M.



Marjorie and Thelma in 1937 repeated their winning streak in the Scottish Open Championships woman's doubles by winning for three consecutive years and were again awarded the trophies outright. Marjorie also represented England six times during which period the *Badminton Gazette* described her as a player without equal. She made a significant contribution towards the general development of badminton in Portsmouth over her lifetime.

In her home city of Portsmouth they have placed a blue plaque on the family home to celebrate Marjorie's badminton achievements.

When collecting Marjorie's badminton memorabilia from her two sons Terry and Roy the Museum discovered a new photograph to the Museum of four All-England champions from the 1930s.



All England Champions in the 1930s - L to R Betty Uber, Diana Doveton, Marjorie Henderson and Thelma Kingsbury.

Effect of World War I on the Badminton Association

November 2018, was the 100th Anniversary of the ending of the Great War and there was an increased interest in the way this terrible conflict affected the general public of the day. More than 704,000 people were killed from the British Isles and a further 252,000 from the Commonwealth. No record was kept of the number of badminton players killed but one dare not expect the war to have exacted a less heavy toll from the badminton community than from other circles.

The only information we had was from a limited number of Badminton Association Handbooks and the *Badminton Gazette*, the official organ of the Badminton Association, which started in November 1907 but suspended publication from April 1915 until October 1921.

In the first season following the formation of the Badminton Association in 1893, 14 clubs joined the Association. In 1897/98 however the number rose to 20 and in 1898/99 to 30 and in 1899/1900 to 45. In 1901/02 clubs from abroad affiliated to the Association with 18 from Ireland, one from Germany and 2 each from Scotland and Wales. By 1913/14 the total number had risen to 414. However in 1914/15 club numbers fell to 297, a drop of 30%, mainly because their courts were in drill-halls which had been requisitioned for army use.

The courts at Alexandra Palace were used as an asylum for the Belgian Refugees. Those at Crystal Palace were used as a Naval Training centre. Other clubs were completely bereft of men all of them having volunteered for military service. The eldest son of Col.A.Hill, Hon Treasurer from 1910-1927 of the Badminton Association, and later President, was killed in France in 1916.

The ladies, equally with the men were doing their share. Miss Bateman and Miss Hogarth, All England ladies doubles winners in 1913 went to France "On their own" in search of nursing work and got busily employed tending wounded Belgians at Houlgate near Trouville. Others were driving ambulances.

Three years ago Mrs Jill Brill, then Hon. Sec. of the National Badminton Museum got a telephone call from a Michael Chesterton, grandson of former All England Champion and England player, Frank Chesterton, asking if Badminton England had any records of those who died in the First World War. She was told by the Grandson that 2nd Lt Frank Chesterton died on November 11th 1916 at Mons the first time he went into action but she could not trace any mention of this in the badminton records. Certainly there appeared to be little if any mention of Frank Chesterton post war. Unfortunately she did not get a contact number for Michael Chesterton because further research in 2017 has cast doubts on Frank Chesterton's death at Mons. Results from the 1920 All England programme state that a Frank Chesterton partnered by no less a person than Sir George Thomas reached the semi-final of the men's doubles. He also reached the semi-final of the mixed doubles with Mrs Tragett, a well-known international, when he severely injured his leg and had to scratch. He did not play competitive badminton again. We will continue to search for more details.



Frank Chesterton

An early badminton photograph from India

The National Badminton Museum has discovered an early badminton photograph in a book with many different photographs from India.

The caption above the photograph says:- 'Badminton party, 1864. A relaxation for the ladies, brought from Europe. This group are playing up at the cool hill stations around Simla.'

If the date is correct this is one of the oldest badminton photographs published.



Why not arrange to visit the National Badminton Museum!

If you are interested in seeing the collection of posters on display in the restaurant or any other items held or on display we will be pleased to see you and show them to you. Just get in touch and we can arrange for someone to meet you and show you around, let you have access to the office and items in-store, please contact:-

museum@badmintonengland.co.uk to arrange a convenient date and time.

We look forward to seeing you.

Finance To maintain the Museum we are reliant on our Friends and donations and the very generous support of Badminton England. Counties and Associations are asked each year to support the National Badminton Museum with an annual subscription of £25 that goes towards the running costs of maintaining this unique sporting archive. For more information please contact:- **museum@badmintonengland.co.uk**

Membership Sadly there has been a drop in the number of Friends over the last few years - if you can, persuade any badminton friends to join us in our quest to preserve the history of badminton.

Providing a legacy for the National Badminton Museum

We owe special thanks to those who kindly remembered the National Badminton Museum in their Wills. These crucial gifts provide the major part of our total funding. Legacies have enabled the Museum to obtain important items that would otherwise be lost and to provide the display cabinets to preserve the rich history of badminton enabling visitors to see the development of the game from its very early beginnings.

People remember the Museum for many reasons: some love the game of badminton and had great times participating; others are conscious of the rich and varied

history of the sport.

Most do not want to see that history lost.

Whatever the reason, leaving a legacy won't cost a penny now and can even save tax on what you leave. Every gift, large or small, makes a real difference. After you have taken care of family and friends, please consider remembering the National Badminton Museum in your Will and help protect the history of this dynamic game of badminton.

If you do choose to remember the National Badminton Museum in this special way - thank you.

The National Badminton Museum Trustees

Bill Andrew, Chairman of NBM.

Geoff Hinder, Hon. Sec. of NBM.

John Herdman.

Di Troke, President of Badminton England.

Derek Batchelor, Chairman of Badminton England.

John Briggs, Ronnie Rowan

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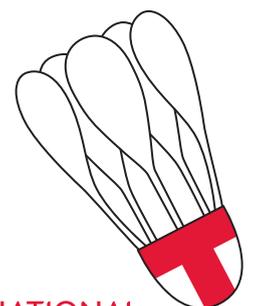
Email: museum@badmintonengland.co.uk

www.badmintonengland.co.uk/museum

The museum website is regularly updated and advertises all the open days and special exhibitions.

Supported by Badminton England

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