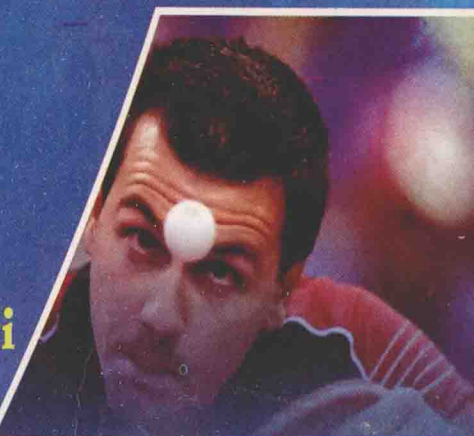


ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF SPORTS AND GAMES

(In 5 Vol.)

Arun Kumar Tyagi
Sunil Kumar
Vivek Solanki



Encyclopaedia of Sports and Games

(IN 5 VOLS.)

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Vol. IV

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PART-VII
BADMINTON

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PART-VII

BADMINTON

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INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY OF BADMINTON

Badminton is a racquet sport played by either two opposing players (singles) or two opposing pairs (doubles), who take positions on opposite halves of a rectangular court that is divided by a net. Players score points by striking a shuttlecock with their racquet so that it passes over the net and lands in their opponents' half of the court. A rally ends once the shuttlecock has struck the ground, and each side may only strike the shuttlecock once before it passes over the net.

The shuttlecock (or shuttle) is a feathered projectile whose unique aerodynamic properties cause it to fly differently from the balls used in most racquet sports; in particular, the feathers create much higher drag, causing the shuttlecock to decelerate more rapidly than a ball. Shuttlecocks have a much higher top speed, when compared to other racquet sports. Because shuttlecock flight is affected by wind, competitive badminton is best played indoors. Badminton is also played outdoors as a casual recreational activity, often as a garden or beach game.

Since 1992, badminton has been an Olympic sport with five events: men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles, in which each pair consists of a man and a woman. At high levels of

play, the sport demands excellent fitness: players require aerobic stamina, agility, strength, speed and precision. It is also a technical sport, requiring good motor coordination and the development of sophisticated racquet movements.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The beginnings of Badminton can be traced to mid-19th century British India, where it was created by British military officers stationed there. Early photographs show Englishmen adding a net to the



Battledore and Shuttlecock. 1854,
from the John Leech Archive



traditional English game of battledore and shuttlecock. Being particularly popular in the British garrison town Poona, the game also came to be known as Poonai. Initially, balls of wool were preferred by the upper classes in windy or wet conditions, but ultimately the shuttlecock stuck. This game was taken by retired officers back to England where it developed and rules were set out.

As early as 1860, Isaac Spratt, a London toy dealer, published a booklet, *Badminton Battledore — a new game*, but unfortunately no copy has survived.

The new sport was definitively launched in 1873 at the Badminton House, Gloucestershire, owned by the Duke of Beaufort. During that time, the game was referred to as "The Game of Badminton," and the game's

official name became Badminton.

Until 1887, the sport was played in England under the rules that prevailed in British India. The Bath Badminton Club standardized the rules and made the game applicable to English ideas. The basic regulations were drawn up in 1887. In 1893, the Badminton Association of England published the first set of rules according to these regulations, similar to today's rules, and officially launched badminton in a house called "Dunbar" at 6 Waverley Grove, Portsmouth, England on September 13 of that year. They also started the All England Open Badminton Championships, the first badminton competition in the world, in 1899.

The International Badminton Federation (IBF) (now known as Badminton World Federation) was established in 1934 with Canada, Denmark, England, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, and Wales as its founding members. India joined as an affiliate in 1936. The BWF now governs international badminton and develops the sport globally.



While set out in England, competitive badminton in Europe has traditionally been dominated by Denmark. Indonesia, South Korea and Malaysia are among the nations that have consistently produced world-class players in the past few decades and dominated competitions on the international level, with China

being the most dominant in recent years.

Badminton is a fascinating game. One moment you are striking the shuttle with all your strength, the next you are stroking it delicately with millimetre-upward accuracy. At top level, it is the most demanding of racket games, calling for a fencer's speed of reflex and a gymnast's agility. And yet a beginner can have a fun game the first time he plays.

The origins of Badminton add a touch of glamour to the game. Its gentle forerunner, was to keep a rally going, not to end it, was played in Ancient Greece and early Far Eastern civilizations. Medieval woodcuts show it being played with primitive, home-made rackets and shuttles. Nineteenth-century illustrations depict it was a languid game for the elegant and wealthy. And indeed it was played by the children of the Duke of Beaufort at his Gloucestershire mansion, Badminton House.



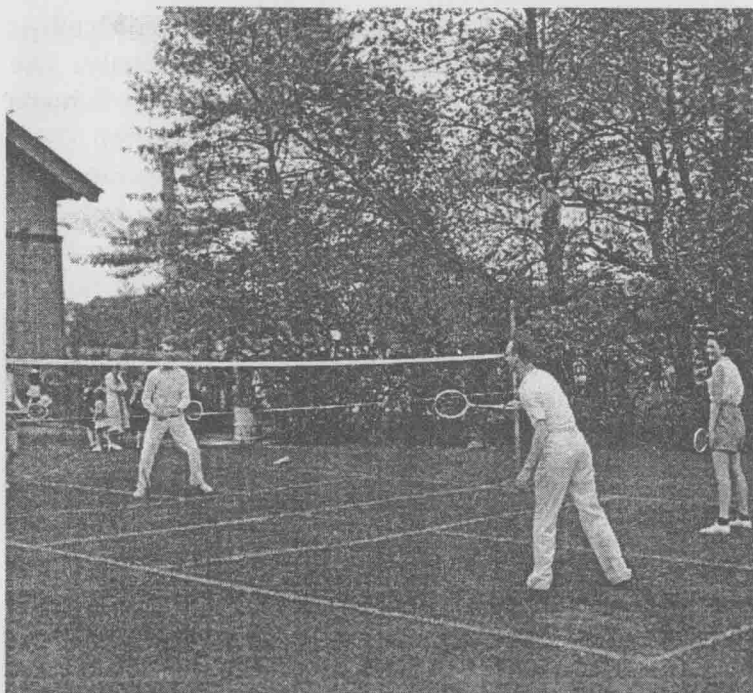
From the children's game it is though that badminton was born. Army officers on leave from India with nothing better to do on a rainy day picked up the children's toys and played the first competitive game. The first official rules were made in Poona, India, in 1877. It was not until 1893 that the Badminton Association was formed with just fourteen clubs. They realized that the rules and court sizes varying in length from 13.4 to 18m as well as shuttle speeds, ranging from cab-horse slow to rocket fast, must be standardized.

By 1914 there were 467 clubs, in 1923, 550 clubs and by 1934, there were 1000 clubs. Today, there are more than 5500 affiliated clubs. And double that number of unaffiliated clubs who enjoy the benefits of a well-organized game but are loath to pay the small fees.

It was in 1934 that the Badminton Association relinquished world-wide control of the fast growing game to the international Badminton Federation. It has continued, however, as the Badminton Association of England, to do an excellent job in England of popularizing and improving the game at all levels from club to international.

The All England Championships, which have become badminton's Wimbledon and unofficially, World Championships, started in the year 1899. After the IBF official World Championships, they are still the most prestigious and best organized championships in the world.

In 1928-29, came the Inter-Country Championships, the backbone of English badminton. Today, every country in England takes part, over a hundred. In their



own right County Associations have done much to further the game in their own areas by forming leagues and running a wide range of tournaments which can be enjoyed by players of varied levels of skill.

After Second World War, when life settled back to normal, the BA of E took another big step forward when they formed a Coaching Committee who organized courses for players, and for very necessary would be coaches. Today, in addition to top flight coaches, there are many hundreds of other trained coaches eager to help players at all levels in specially organized courses. This coaching led to the emergence at an early age of many brilliant players. The BA of E has done a