

RACQUET-PEERING

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Jack Purcell again won the men's singles, proving once more his right to premier position in Canadian badminton. In the semi-finals he met and defeated J. Underhill, of Vancouver, in straight games by a score of 15-7, 15-7. In the other bracket of the semi-finals, Noel Radford, of Vancouver, defeated C. W. Aikman, of Montreal, 15-7; 15-9. Radford showed form and deserves commendation for continuing to play in all his events and getting to the finals in both men's singles and mixed doubles despite the fact that he had the misfortune to tear a ligament in his right leg which rendered it almost useless, during a preceding match. Watching him walk with a pronounced limp, it was unbelievable to see the way he managed to cover the courts.

The final of the men's singles went to Purcell in straight games by a score of 15-11, 15-5. It was unfortunate that Radford's injury prevented him from giving the Carlton man a real fight. He played to the limit as far as his leg would permit, but in his condition he was no match for Purcell. The fact that after scoring only one point in the first set, he managed to run his score up to five in the second, speaks for his stamina and ability. Partially incapacitated, he yet managed to let the champion know that he was very much in the game and several times evoked recognition from the spectators by taking strokes that would have done credit to a player with the full use of both legs, and, by making wonderful smashes and placements, to beat Purcell.

I think that Purcell would have won, even had Radford been uninjured but it was disappointing not to have the opportunity of seeing the Vancouver man at the top of his form. If Radford comes east next year for the championships, the result may be different.

An Ottawa entry reached the finals in another event when Mrs. Wright and Miss Ruth Robertson met Mrs. Woodman and Miss George, of Vancouver, for the ladies' doubles title. Both teams had to meet stiff opposition before reaching the finals. Mrs. Wright and Miss Ruth Robertson defeated Mrs. Coke and Mrs. Boone, of Badminton and Racquets, in the quarter finals in straight games by a score of 15-9, 15-12. Which was an unexpected result. In the semi-finals, the Ottawa ladies eliminated Mrs. Archibald and Mrs. Malcolm, also of Ottawa, in two much more decisive games by scores of 15-3; 15-5, while in the other half, Mrs. Woodman and Miss George met the strong Oakville team of Mrs. Whittington and Miss Crossley from whom they wrested a victory, after a tremendous battle, in straight games, 15-8; 18-17. That the Oakville team played a hard game is indicated by the score of the second set.

The final went to Mrs. Woodman and Miss George whose smooth game overcame the Ottawa team in straight games by a score of 15-6; 15-10. Mrs. Wright and Miss Robertson played to take a set against the teamwork of the Vancouver ladies. The Ottawa team played a harder style and got overwheeled. It is difficult to say whether Mrs. Wright or Miss Robertson plays

a harder smash; Miss Robertson plays them more often.

Mrs. Woodman and Miss George played a finished game and seemed to outguess their opponents to the extent that they were invariably waiting to receive the strokes that came over from the Ottawa side of the net. Certainly, it took the Vancouver team very much less energy to win the game than it took the Ottawa team to lose it.

It was unfortunate that P. A. Wisener was unable to travel to Ottawa to partner Arnold Massey and Terry Sheard, who took his place, has not played often enough with Massey to make the two a strong team. In addition, I should have liked to see Massey and Wisener play Blackstock and Andrewes again. However, it was not to be and it is evident from the fact that they got as far as the finals that Sheard filled Wisener's place effectively.

Massey and Sheard, playing under the Carlton colors, opened the attack in the men's doubles final by taking the first set from Colonel G. G. Blackstock and C. K. F. Andrewes, of Badminton and Racquets, at 15-11. This was the best set of the three which were necessary before Blackstock and Andrewes succeeded in winning the match to retain their doubles title. Massey and Sheard started right off to push the game against the veterans with such effect that although the Badminton and Racquets men used everything they knew, the Carlton team came out on the right end of the score. In the second and third sets, it was evident that the greater experience and courtcraft of Blackstock and Andrewes was going to smother the more forceful game of Massey and Sheard and both sets went to the former at 15-5.

Massey seemed to be a little off his game at times, possibly due to the fact of not being accustomed to playing with Sheard. Sheard gave everything he had and utilized every inch of his height to kill the bird effectively time and time again. He evoked a great deal of applause in the third game, when he ran up to the net to take a hard stroke of Colonel Blackstock's, and, despite the fact that he had lost his balance on that first shot, yet managed to hold on long enough to return two more terrific smashes before Blackstock finally got the bird past him.

Blackstock and Andrewes played their usual finished, hard, careful game and certainly worked for their victory. As tacticians on the courts they are apparently without peers. Their flexibility of position, based on a front and back formation with Blackstock at the net and Andrewes playing the baseline, gives them the maximum amount of protection and as both are capable of smashing hard, their game is a strong one all round.

Colonel Blackstock got several services in his favorite position—a few inches above the net—and treated them as he always does, jumping forward to smash them for a kill before they drop below his side of the top of the net. He is a hard man to serve to anyway, as he has a nasty return to the Jack Purcell, rafters-scraping type.

Another big surprise was presented in the mixed doubles when Miss Betty

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