

BADMINTON.

Badminton Notes.

The prospectus of the Badminton Tournament, to be held at the Crystal Palace on May 20 and 21, in connection with the Sports Exhibition, has now been issued. The open events are Ladies', Men's, and Mixed Doubles, and there is one handicap (Mixed Doubles). Competitors must be members of clubs affiliated to the Association. Play will commence on each day at 2.30. It is hoped that the tournament will receive the support of players from all parts of the country. Prospectuses and entry forms may be obtained by application to Mr. L. U. Ransford, 145, Auckland Road, Norwood, S.E., who has kindly undertaken the duties of hon. secretary.

The All England Championship Tournament, of which a detailed report is given below, was carried through with complete success. Great credit is due to the hon. secretary, Mr. A. D. Prebble, and the committee generally, for the excellent arrangements, and to Mr. F. H. Ashhurst for his invaluable services as referee.

The following clubs have been added to the affiliated list: Middlesex, Ealing (Hamilton), Sussex, Bexhill-on-Sea.

THE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting was held at the L.R.B. Drill Hall on March 17.

After passing the accounts of the season 1903-04, which disclosed a satisfactory balance, an amendment of Rule 5 was proposed by Mr. Vidal, increasing the number of members of the committee, exclusive of the president and hon. secretary, from eight to ten, in view of the large increase in the number of clubs and the need of wider representation of local interests. This amendment having been carried *nem. con.*, the following were duly elected to serve as members of the committee for 1904-05, viz.:—Messrs. P. Buckley (president), G. W. Vidal (hon. sec. and treasurer), A. D. Prebble, H. L. Mellersh, R. Watling, C. Dudfield Willis, Norman Wood, E. Young, C. P. R. James, C. Agnew Turner, and E. P. Harrison.

The following new rule, proposed by Mr. Ralph Watling and seconded by Mr. A. D. Prebble, was discussed and carried as under:—

New Rule 13. "Past and present winners of championship events from 1899 shall be entitled to wear the All England colours of the Badminton Association."

A sub-committee, including Miss Thomson, Miss Lucas, Messrs. Prebble and Watling, with the president and hon. secretary as *ex-officio* members, was appointed to select the colours.

The recommendations of the sub-committee for testing shuttles were next considered, and Law 4 was amended as follows:—

"The shuttles shall weigh from 73 to 85 grains, and shall have 16 feathers fixed in a cork 1 in. to 1½ in. in diameter. The feathers shall be from 2½ to 2¾ in. in length, shall have from 2½ to 2¾ in. spread, and shall be firmly fastened and cemented, both at the base and at a height of about 1 in. above the cork, with thread. *Note.*—A shuttle shall be deemed to be of the correct pace if, when struck from one back boundary line by a full underhand stroke with a racket, by a player of average strength, at an approximate angle of 45 degs., it falls within a foot, more or less, of the opposite back boundary line."

The duty of hon. secretaries of affiliated clubs to notify changes in names and addresses, was emphasised by the following addition to Rule 5:—

Rule 5—add "It shall be the duty of each hon. secretary of an affiliated club, on vacating such office, to report

immediately the name and address of his or her successor to the hon. secretary of the Association."

Certain amendments of Laws 10 and 18, proposed by Mr. R. B. Joyner, C.I.E., hon. sec. Cheltenham (Drill Hall) B.C., were then fully discussed, with the following result:—

In Law 10 (A) the words "called or" were substituted for "claimed and" before the word "allowed," in order to empower umpires to call faults under the clause in question, read with Law 17, *without appeal being made.*

The further proposal to add a new clause 10 (c), making it a fault to receive a service out of turn, or from the wrong court, was negatived; as was also the proposal to add words to Law 18, directing that the first service of a side in each innings shall be made from the court that the score shows the server should be in.

The report of the sub-committee for testing shuttles, together with a letter on the subject from Mr. E. Browne and the resolution passed thereon by the general committee, was laid before the meeting. After full discussion it was resolved that the papers should be recorded, no further action being deemed necessary.



Photo by G. W. VIDAL]

MISS E. THOMSON AND MISS M. LUCAS.

The two Devonshire ladies in the above portrait group have taken a leading part in all the important Badminton tournaments held during the past five years. The following is a brief history of their most notable successes:—

Miss E. THOMSON: Ladies' Singles, A.E. Championship 1900, 1901, 1903 and 1904. Ladies' Doubles, ditto (with Miss Lucas) 1902 and 1904. Mixed Doubles, ditto (with G. A. Thomas), 1903. Ladies' Doubles, Irish Championship (with Miss Lucas), 1904.

Miss M. LUCAS: Ladies' Singles, A.E. Championship, 1902. Ladies' Doubles, ditto 1899 and 1900 (with Miss Græme), 1902 and 1904 (with Miss Thomson). Ladies' Doubles, Irish Championship (with Miss M. C. Hardy), 1903, and (with Miss Thomson), 1904.

Miss Lucas was unable to defend her title in 1903.