



THE HISTORY OF

BADMINTON

Battledore and Shuttlecock



Ladies playing battledore from Tatler, 1871

Battledore and shuttlecock was a favourite pastime recorded as far back as medieval times, played by children and adults in many countries. The object of the game was simply to keep the shuttlecock in the air being struck by two or more persons. It was played in many country houses, out of doors in the garden or any other suitable place. The main change that came about as badminton developed was that the object of the game was to end a rally rather than keep it going as long as possible. Battledores would be replaced by racquets, whilst the shuttlecock remained the item being struck, always based on feathers attached to a base. It is the shuttlecock that has been unique to both games.



Battledore and Shuttlecock – painted by Laura Alma-Tadema in 1895