



THE HISTORY OF

BADMINTON

Formation of The Badminton Association, 1893



All England Championships, 1902



Competitors at Dieppe, 1912

At the end of the 19th century badminton was becoming more and more popular throughout England, but there were no official rules for the game. Clubs played to their own rules often governed by the size of courts with sometimes up to five persons each side of the net.

In 1893 Major Seymour S.C. Dolby, honorary secretary of the Southsea Club convened a meeting at his home Dunbar, Southsea, inviting all known English badminton clubs to attend and founded the Badminton Association. Major Dolby was elected Honorary Secretary and Treasurer and served until posted to South Africa in 1899.

The Badminton Association, the governing body for the game worldwide, adopted a set of rules in use by the Bath Badminton Club, which had been drawn up by J.H.E. Hart.

The game became organised, competitions were set up and in 1899 the Badminton Association Championships (from 1901). The All England Championships were first played at the London-Scottish Drill Hall in London. In 1903 the first international match was played: England beat Ireland 5-2. The first open tournament outside England was played in Dieppe in 1908