

REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PADDLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION - OCTOBER 20, 1938.

With a new paddle tennis season about to start it seems worth while to review the events of the past season and the progress of the game to date.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION

The American Paddle Tennis Association started in November, 1934 with three clubs as charter members. The present membership consists of eleven clubs as follows:

MEMBER CLUBS

Field Club, Greenwich, Conn. *
Manursing Island Club, Rye, N. Y. *
Fox Meadow Tennis Club, Scarsdale, N. Y. *
Tremont Pl. Paddle Tennis Club, Orange, N. J.
Ardsley Country Club, Ardsley-on-Hudson, N. Y.
Bronxville Field Club, Bronxville, N. Y.
American Yacht Club, Rye, N. Y.
Amackassin Tennis Club, Yonkers, N. Y.
The Paddle Tennis Club of New Canaan, Conn.
The Englewood Club, Englewood, N. J.
The Weeburn Country Club, Darien, Conn.

* Charter Members.

During the 1937-38 season three new clubs were added and it is expected that several more clubs who have recently installed courts will apply for membership during the coming season.

Membership in the Association is open to clubs having one or more paddle tennis platforms and approved by the membership committee and Board of Governors of the Association. Each club is entitled to one or more representatives on the Board of Governors, which meets annually on the last Friday in October. An Executive Committee of three acts for the Board between the annual meetings. Regardless of the number of representatives on the Board, each club is entitled to as many votes as it has paddle tennis court installations and annual dues are paid on this basis, being \$5.00 minimum per club plus \$1.00 for each court. (NOTE: Courts belonging to club members may be considered club installations in considering the number of votes on the Board of Governors to which a club is entitled. The same basis is used for dues as for voting.)

The Association has three main committees, in addition to the Executive Committee:-

- (1) Tournament Committee
- (2) Rules and Equipment Committee
- (3) Publicity Committee

ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The principal activities of the Association are as follows:

(1) The conduct of championship tournaments open to members of clubs belonging to the Association and sometimes, if there is room, to other paddle tennis players on invitation. In addition the Association sponsors sectional tournaments, or aids in the conduct of invitation tournaments where desired.

(2) The improvement and standardization of paddle tennis platforms and equipment. In this connection the Association serves as a clearing house among members for ideas as to improvements in courts or equipment. It also maintains close contact with the makers of courts and equipment for this purpose.

(3) The furnishing of aid to individuals and clubs interested in putting up paddle tennis platforms.

(4) Furnishing and arranging for paddle tennis publicity to aid in the development of the game.

1. CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS.

During the 1937-38 season three championship tournaments were held, with results as follows:-

<u>Date of Start</u>	<u>Tournament</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners-up</u>
<u>Jan. 26</u> <u>1938</u>	<u>Women's</u> <u>Doubles</u>	<u>Fox Meadow</u> <u>T.C. Scarsdale, N. Y.</u>	<u>Mrs. T. E. Beck</u> <u>Mrs. C. H. Walker</u> Score 9-7, 6-3	<u>Mrs. P. S. Fuller</u> <u>Mrs. C. M. O'Hearn</u>
<u>Feb. 12</u> <u>1938</u>	<u>Mixed</u> <u>Doubles</u>	<u>Field Club</u> <u>Greenwich, Conn.</u>	<u>Mr. & Mrs.</u> <u>C. M. O'Hearn</u> Score 6-2, 6-2	<u>Mr. C. E. Grafmueller</u> <u>Mrs. Edward Selden</u>
<u>Mar. 5</u> <u>1938</u>	<u>Men's</u> <u>Doubles</u>	<u>Fox Meadow</u> <u>T.C., Scarsdale, N. Y.</u>	<u>C. M. O'Hearn</u> <u>J. N. Hynson</u> Score 6-8, 6-2	<u>A. K. Eaton</u> <u>D. White</u> 6-3, 3-6, 6-4

Entries in these tournaments reached a peak in Association history. The singles tournaments were omitted, on account of the much greater interest in doubles and the fact that the demand for courts in most of the clubs gives very little opportunity for singles play. Instead, a sectional, class B, tournament was sponsored in New Jersey and a number of special tournaments were run by member clubs.

The men's doubles tournament was featured by the upset of the second seeded team of C. E. Grafmueller and James Landauer of Scarsdale by the much improved Englewood team of Benjamin P. Tichnor and W. Reinmund, who then went on to the semi-finals. The champions, O'Hearn and Hynson, who had had an easy time in the finals the year before, were severely pressed in the finals by A. K. Eaton and D. White who came rapidly to the forefront during the past season. In the mixed doubles the young team of Sally Childress and Keith Eaton, Jr. gave the champion O'Hearn team their hardest match. Miss Childress with her sister, Mrs. Moore, also did well in the women's doubles against the finalists, Mrs. Fuller and Mrs. O'Hearn.

The tournament committee of the Association during 1938 consisted of K. B. Ward (Chairman) of Manursing Island Club, H. D. Holmes of Tremont Place Paddle Tennis Club, and L. H. Welling.

The women's doubles tournament was run by the following committee: Mrs. P. S. Fuller (Chairman), Mrs. C. P. Couch, Jr. and Mrs. C. M. O'Hearn.

W. L. Barclay, Jr. and F. S. Blanchard ran the men's doubles, and Douglas Bomeisler the mixed doubles.

The tournament committee for the 1938-39 season will announce later the schedule for the coming season.

2. COURTS AND EQUIPMENT

The improved backstop (with the uprights set back from the wiring and the adjustable tension bars) has now become standard for all new courts and several old courts have changed to the new backstops. It has now been definitely established that the wiring used at the ends of the platform should be one inch mesh in order to provide satisfactory bounces off the backstop (1½ inch mesh has proved too large) 18 gauge wire has proved satisfactory for the thickness of the wire. For some of the latest courts the side wiring has been set up on the same principal as the new backstops. This is an improvement but is not considered nearly so necessary as at the ends. Players who have once used the new backstops have found the improvement in the game so great that they are seldom satisfied to go back to the old variety. It is hoped that squash players who may like to get out doors on week ends will try out the new backstops and note the improvement.

The sanding of court surfaces has now been definitely proved a success. It greatly increases the number of days on which paddle tennis can be successfully played. About 100 pounds of fine sea sand is sprinkled on the platform during painting, while the paint is wet - sprinkling it section by section as the platform is painted.

The present standard dimensions of the platform are 60' x 30', with the backstops 12' high. The height of the net at the center should be 2 ft. 10 inches and at the side posts 3 ft. 1 inch. The rules of play are similar to those of tennis except that only one serve is allowed and a ball may be taken off the back or side wiring after it has first hit inside the court.

Standard courts approved by the Association and embodying all the latest improvements may be obtained as follows:

Plans and specifications (\$10.00) for permanent court to be erected by local carpenters from J. K. Cogswell, residence 105 Old Army Road, Scarsdale, N. Y.

business 65 Worth Street, New York, N. Y.
(Tel. Walker 5-8080)

Portable platforms - delivered and erected complete from Gates Sports Platform Co.
Oak Pt. Avenue and Barry Street, Bronx, New York.
(Tel. Intervale 9-2592)

Platforms - (permanent or portable) erection undertaken and supervised from the Paddle Tennis Co., 17 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.
(Tel. Murray Hill 2-2679) Plans are also sold.

Paddles, balls, nets, etc. are also furnished by the Paddle Tennis Co. and sold through leading sporting goods store.

PUBLICITY.

A number of magazines and newspapers have carried articles about paddle tennis. A very interesting scrap book containing pictures and articles is

maintained by the Secretary and is usually on display at leading tournaments throughout the season. During the past year one of our most interesting events was a series of exhibition matches at the Fox Meadow Tennis Club in which leading squash tennis players joined with paddle tennis players in exploring the possibilities of paddle tennis. Harry Wolff, Rowland B. Haines, Philip Moore and Earl Fink - the squash stars - all expressed keen interest in the game and two of them later played in the men's double championship and made very good showings. Mr. Haines has now become associated with the Paddle Tennis Co. and will undoubtedly prove a great aid in the development of the game with his wide circle of friends and high standing in the sports world.

GROWTH OF THE GAME

This has gone on steadily and at an increasing pace each year. It is no longer possible to keep account of the new courts which are going up, but we continue to hear of new clubs and private individuals who are building courts and the Association is constantly being asked for advice on this matter. Scarsdale, N. Y. continues to have the largest number of courts with 26 in all, including 6 at the Fox Meadow Tennis Club. The Manursing Island Club of Rye will have the largest number of courts of any club when it adds the two proposed new courts to its present 6 courts. Greenwich, Conn. is second to Scarsdale in number of courts, with over 15. New Jersey has now become an important center of the game, with Englewood leading in the number of courts but not exceeding Orange in the enthusiasm and ability of its players.

In addition to the rapidly growing number of courts around New York, the game is spreading throughout the country, with courts in or near Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Dan River, Virginia, Los Angeles, etc. Miss Lumb, the English squash racquets champion and Wightman cup tennis player, has put up a court in England. A court has gone up in Nova Scotia which proved a great success last summer, for with its sanded surface, it could be played upon in foggy weather and light rain, while tennis was impossible. An inquiry has even been received from Natal, South Africa, and plans have been sent there.

Additional copies of this report are available to interested members, as are copies of the printed and illustrated circular on "Platform Paddle Tennis."

FESSENDEN S. BLANCHARD
President and Secretary
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