

THE BOW BROOK CLUB

FOR 1965 BICENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE

The Bow Brook Club, at present situated at Warren St. and Westbourne Road, has for some years been the state's outstanding tennis, squash and badminton club. It was founded in 1912 under the leadership of Frank J. Sulloway, Concord attorney, who persuaded 14 other young men in the city to put up \$100 apiece to purchase the lot and building still in use, the latter having been a schoolhouse erected in 1863-64. It was called the Bow Brook schoolhouse, and the club carried on the name; the property lies very near the underground course of Bow Brook, which rises in the high land near Little Pond Road and flows southward to reach the Merrimack River by the Bow-Concord line.

Mr. Sulloway had been a championship tennis player at Harvard (and at 55 won the national Father-and-Son Doubles title with his son, Alvah). Other charter members were James W. Remick, the first president; William A. Foster; Barton P. Jenks; Harry J. Brown; Edgar C. Hirst; Henry F. Hollis; Richard Sulloway; Thomas W. Streeter; Joseph W. Lund; Isaac Hill; Edward K. Woodworth; Frank W. Rollins; Dr. Robert J. Graves; Harry G. Emmons. They ~~were~~ were either leaders in the business and civic life of the city or young men who later became local leaders.

A tennis court and squash court were first fitted up; the covered badminton court wing was added in 1928. A second tennis court was completed in 1960. Combination of the badminton court space and the foyer of the original building provide space for annual spring and Christmas dances, the scene being adorned with an ancient stuffed deer head and a venerable stove. Although the parties are popular, generally with live music, buffet supper and ~~and~~ punch bowls of generous dimensions, emphasis is on racquet sports rather than a social organization. After World War I suppers featuring baked oysters were for some time the style, garnished by lengthy orations. The club now holds its annual business meeting and supper at the Snowshoe Club each October (it has a kitchen).

The club tennis courts are each year the site of the New Hampshire Open Tournament, one of the leading summer events on the New England amateur tennis circuit; the N.H. Closed Tournament, for the state championships in singles and doubles; the City Tournament; a Father-and-Son city tournament open to all residents of the area; and a "B" tournament for the less accomplished players.

Among the tennis, squash, badminton leaders over the years have been, not necessarily in order of competence, and besides the charter members, Gerald Hall, Charles Kunberger, Ruel W. Colby, Douglas W. Everett, Robert E. Foster, William A. Foster II, Roger Magenau, Charles W. Howard II, Harold Simpson, E.D. Toland, John Ransmeier, Daggett Williamson, John Amrol, Wes Noyes, Amos W. Blandin, Willis D. Thompson, Ted Moulton, Harry Hammond, Gardner Emmons, Fred H. Brown, Al Thomas, Harold Sawyer, Carl Evans, Stuart Holbrook, Homer LaBonte, Stan McCausland, Dr. Robert T. Whittaker. John Nelson deserves special mention for starting the N.H. Open Badminton Tournament in 1962 and is one of the best of the badminton players. (A late telephone call from a senior member adds the following as badminton players of note: Franklin Hollis, Rev. Theodore Forsberg, and Richard Mannion.) Special mention is also due John J. Healy, a former president in the 1960s who has contributed vitally to physical improvements and care of the courts, which seem to come naturally since he lives next door.

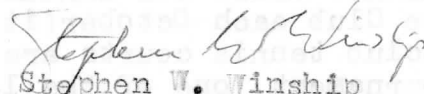
Chief of Police Walter H. Carlson is president at this writing; Thomas E. Perry, Jr., Treasurer and Frederick S. Hall, Clerk. Directors include Rob't E. Foster, John Amrol, Dr. Anthony D. Bower, Joseph

Ransmeier, Roger Magenau, Mr. Sulloway and myself. As vice-pres., Mr. Rob't E. Foster will be the next president.

In keeping with the club's aim of emphasizing racquet sports rather than social status, the membership is drawn from a surprising variety of backgrounds, from leading lawyers and doctors to a young policeman. Parties are also given for tournament players and their wives during tennis tournaments, and the Christmas party, for some time festooned with devices for gambling as a means of raising money, remains, in the contemporary phrase for emphasizing a vigorous good time, a "gasser."

Considering that all courts may be used at any time without extra charge, the dues at \$67 are ridiculously low; \$15 of this is a federal tax on memberships. The general rule holds that no one shall monopolize a court, tennis doubles take precedence over singles and one set is played before yielding the court. There had been a limit of 75 members until a directors' meeting this month voted to increase the membership to 85, there being a waiting list of some thirty men. Wives and children of members may use the courts when the men are not; Sunday is informally designated as the day for tennis mixed doubles. The leadership asserted to in the opening paragraph in this piece is supported by the large number of members who have won state and city doubles and singles tournaments as well as the records of those who have won or shown strongly in tournaments elsewhere. The club participates in the programs for teaching tennis to children established by the New England Youth Tennis Foundation (largely founded through the efforts of Mr. Sulloway who for some years has been a director of the National Lawn Tennis Association, and of the New England L.T.A.).

* August,
1965


Stephen W. Winship

Member, Board of Directors

PS--a commemorative booklet issued at the time of the club's 50th anniversary, in 1962, is at the Concord Public Library.

Special mention should also be made of Robert G. Pelren, who with Messrs. Nealy, Rob't Foster Anrol and Sulloway secured the N.E. Open Tournament for Concord.