

Badminton – History and Facts

- 1. Badminton claims to be the second most-popular participation sport in the world. Only football beats it.**
2. It's officially the fastest racket sport in the world. The shuttle is smashed around the court at speeds of up to 200mph - the same speed as Eurostar!
- 3. Its Olympic debut was in 1992 in Barcelona. Since 1992 Asian players have won 106 of the 121 Olympic medals.**
4. 1.1bn people watched the first Olympic badminton tournament on TV
- 5. Simon Archer and Jo Goode won Britain's first Olympic medal in Sydney 2000 - a bronze in the mixed doubles. Gail Emms and Nathan Robertson went one better in Athens four years later, winning a silver medal in the same event. Team GB's most recent medal was in Rio in 2016 where Marcus Ellis and Chris Langridge won bronze.**
6. During an average top-level match 16 shuttles are used with players hitting it roughly 400 times each. It's a tiring business - they can travel several miles around the court!
- 7. The record for the shortest match? Six minutes. Ra Kyung-min (South Korea) and Julia Mann (England) hold the record. Peter Rasmussen (Denmark) and Sun Jun (China) hold the record for the longest match - 124 minutes.**
8. In Malaysia and Indonesia, crowds of up to 15,000 people regularly fill the stands to cheer on their heroes
- 9. The International Badminton Federation was established in 1934 and now has 196 member countries including England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.**
10. Celebrity fans include snooker player Mark Williams and golfers Pdraig Harrington and Nick Faldo. You can even buy Barbie a racket and shuttles.
- 11. The Duke of Beaufort held parties at his estate, Badminton House in 1863 is guests were invited to play a game with shuttlecocks - and so the official game of badminton was born.**
12. The origin of the shuttlecock is a bit hazy. One theory is that writing feathers were stuck in corks when they weren't used. During quiet moments the 'pen' store would be thrown, or whacked, around.
- 13. Shuttles are made of 16 bird feathers, string and very strong glue. The Kansas City Museum is home to the world's largest shuttlecock - 48 times bigger than normal.**
14. While most players choose synthetic strings, some still use gut made from the dried stomach lining of animals such as cows or cats.
- 15. A shuttlecock travels faster than a formula 1 car!!**