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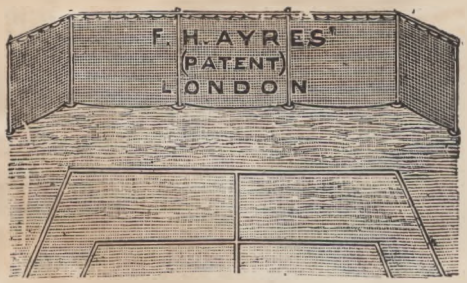

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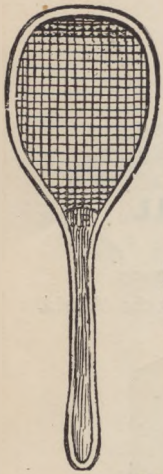

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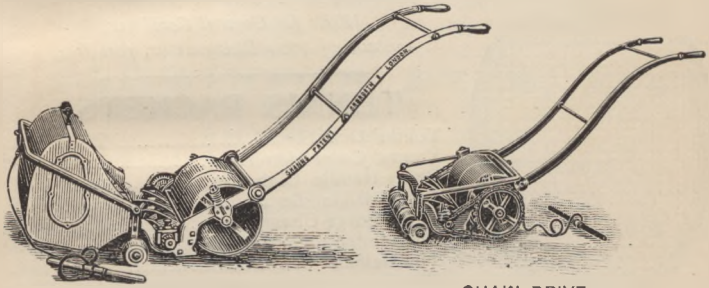

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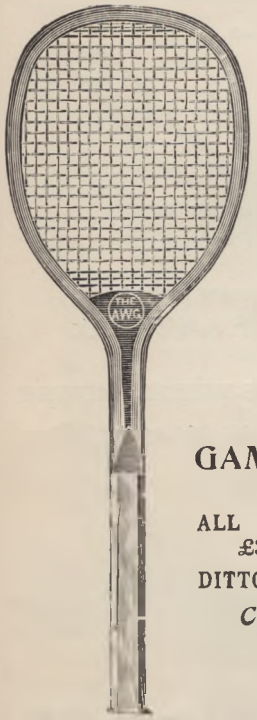

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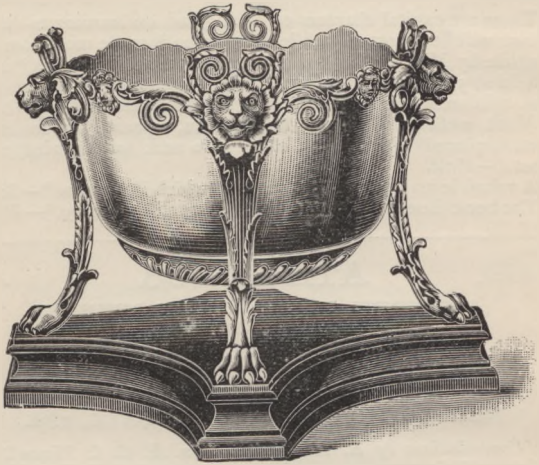

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PREFACE.

I HAVE followed in my arrangement of the subject-matter the same lines as Dr. Dwight—which, indeed, I think are the only lines compatible with at all systematic treatment.

My grateful acknowledgments are due to the many gentlemen who have been kind enough to assist me by communicating their views on the game. For the historical part of the subject, I am mainly indebted to Mr. Henry Jones and Mr. Daniel Jones. Messrs. Carter and Co., the well-known seedsmen, were good enough to place at my disposal much valuable information, of which I regret to say I have only been able to avail myself to a very limited extent.

For the omissions and imperfections of this work I apologize: they have partly been caused by the claims of other pursuits more serious even than lawn tennis. But I venture to hope that what I have written may yet prove of some interest to that great and ever-increasing body, the lawn-tennis playing community.

H. W. W. WILBERFORCE.

2, HARCOURT BUILDINGS, TEMPLE, E.C.,
May, 1889.

CONTENTS.

LAWN TENNIS.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

To that anomalous individual, the thoughtful observer, the success of lawn tennis, unprecedented alike in extent and rapidity, cannot have been a matter of surprise. *A priori* it is just the game to fill a want in human nature, or at any rate in the nature of English men and women.

Croquet was all very well in its way, but it gave no exercise; its social advantages are equally shared by lawn tennis; and it fostered (and for this reason principally it fell) the ascendency of the curate.

Cricket, on the other hand, requires more time than many people can give to a pastime, it takes a larger number of players, and even the best man can never be sure whether it will be his lot to spend the day in the most violent exertion or in lounging in the pavilion. To my mind this element of uncertainty is most unpleasant: there are times when one is possessed with a frantic desire for running about, and then it is very trying to have to sit still and watch the activity of others; equally annoying is it to be called on to go out and field in the hot sun just when one wants to "sport with Amaryllis in the shade."

However, whether these feelings are shared by others or not, the result has been that not only are England, Ireland, and in a less degree Scotland, white with lines of lawn-tennis courts, but in all the colonies, in America, in the south of France—everywhere, in short, where two or three Englishmen are gathered together, the game flourishes and tournaments abound.

Some places, in truth, seem to have been designed for the delectation of the lawn-tennis player. Let him go, for instance, to the Beau Site Hotel at Cannes. There he will find the most perfect courts of sand, where the ball bounds as true and as straight as the heart can desire. He can leave the fogs of a London Christmas behind him, and find himself in brilliant sunshine. He plays in a lovely garden, surrounded by a semi-tropical vegetation; the blue of the Mediterranean is beneath him, and a few miles to the West rise the heights of the Esterells. People say that good Americans when they die go to Paris; of a verity the Paradise of lawn-tennis players is Cannes.

Or if he pants for the struggle of a tournament, where can he spend a more pleasant week than at Dublin, in May? Let him stay at Kingstown, in a room looking over the quiet waters of the bay, with Howth lifting itself gently out of them in the distance. Twenty minutes by train and five on a car will bring him to Fitz-William Square, where the courts are a sight to see. He will be received with truly Irish hospitality, and Master Courtenay will anticipate every possible wish, whether it be for refreshment for a thirsty soul or a partner in the mazy whirl at one of club's delightful dances. The only danger he will encounter will be that of impairing his "form" by a surfeit of kindness. He will play surrounded by hundreds of Ireland's fairest daughters; and, when he leaves, it will be with the regret that a week

is so short and that it is so long to next year. And so it is that lawn tennis in Ireland is even more popular than in England : there is very little cricket, the rivers are unsuited to boating, and the roads generally too bad for bicycling ; but, above all, there is the great advantage of a club like the Fitz-William, which occupies a position and enjoys a reputation in Ireland superior even to that which the All England Club has held in this country ; and, in fact, most of the best English players are found willing, year by year, to attend the Dublin tournament despite the waves of St. George's Channel.

Not that there is any lack of tournaments on this side : far from it. Why, from the beginning of June to the end of September there is a series of these contests at all the more important towns and watering-places ; at the seaside the season is incomplete without one ; and they are becoming as potent in the cause of charity as bazaars and black bishops. Nay, there are to be found people who deplore the fact that so many tournaments are held, as being likely to lead to professionalism—a taint from which the game has hitherto happily remained free—and betting, which only exists to a very limited extent.

All I can say is that I see nothing which warrants such a conclusion ; undoubtedly the increase in the number of tournaments has very much raised, and is still raising the standard of play, and it would in my view be unwise to sacrifice so substantial an advantage for what I believe will prove a merely visionary danger.

CHAPTER II.

THE HISTORY OF THE GAME.

LAWN tennis, though in its present form a very modern creation, has had its prototypes in comparatively distant ages. In France, in particular, there existed hundreds of years ago, a very similar game called *la longue paume*. It was played over a bank of earth, 2 ft. high, with a cork ball struck by the hand. Subsequently, some ingenious person devised an instrument of wood and gut, which received the name of a racket, and in this shape the game penetrated to England. The scoring was by fifteens, for some obscure reason which no one, as far as I know, has been able to discover. So played, the game became very popular in this country, but died out completely some considerable time ago, and practically did not reappear till the year 1874, when a pastime closely resembling it was introduced by Major Wingfield, under the name of "sphairistikè."

The game, as the major played it, took place in an hour-glass court, 60 ft. by 30 ft., narrowing to 21 ft. at the net, which was 7 ft. high at the posts and 4 ft. 8 in. in the middle. The service was from a service-box in the middle of the court, and the scoring was the same as in the game of rackets. The disadvantages of the service-box were so obvious, that it was shortly abolished, and then the game daily became more and more widely played. But this curious state of things arose, that every player made laws for himself, and I have before me now a set of laws issued by George Lambert, which, among other oddities, contains a suggestion that in handicaps "a cord may be stretched between the posts at a height of 7 ft. or any other height

agreed upon" (the normal height of the net being 5 ft.), "and the giver of odds shall play every ball over the cord, or lose a stroke."

It was not, in fact, until the year 1877, when the first championship was held under the auspices of the All England Club, that a code of laws in any respect satisfactory was issued; and it was owing to the energy and foresight of one man alone, Mr. Henry Jones, that the championships ever came into being: to him lawn tennis-players owe a debt which can never adequately be repaid.

The laws of 1877 were drawn up by Mr. Henry Jones, Mr. C. G. Heathcote, and Mr. Julian Marshall (who, for so long and with such success, managed the affairs of the All England Lawn Tennis Club), and established the following important changes:—

1. The court was made rectangular.

2. The service-line was brought in to 24 ft. from the net (it is now 21 ft.).

3. The net was lowered to 4 ft. 9 in. at the posts and 3 ft. 3 in. in the middle.

4. Tennis scoring was adopted.

These laws, with some few alterations (several of which failed to stand the test of use) were republished in 1878, by the Marylebone and All England Clubs jointly, and endure almost unchanged to this day. The only amendment which demands any notice is the lowering of the net at the posts, in 1883, to 3 ft. 6 in.—a thing which greatly changed and, I believe it is generally admitted, improved the style of play. For this we have mainly to thank Mr. H. F. Lawford.

In addition, the All England Club drew up "Regulations for the Management of Prize Meetings," which were universally adopted; and until almost the other day that club

was, in right of its services, the sole arbiter of the game. It is not so now, and I am indebted to Mr. Chipp, the able and energetic honorary secretary of the new Lawn Tennis Association, for the following account of the genesis and constitution of that body, which it is to be hoped will preserve unimpaired those traditions which have been handed down to it by its predecessor.

The Lawn Tennis Association.

Towards the close of the year 1887, the desire to see a Lawn Tennis Association instituted begun to assume definite shape. The idea was not a new one. Some years previously an attempt to form an association had been made, but the times were not then ripe, and it came to nothing. Now, however, it was felt that the game had become so popular—one might, indeed, without exaggeration say, so national—that a more truly representative governing body than yet existed was needed. The All England L.T.C., to whom the game owes much, had, up to the time referred to, been tacitly recognized as the leaders in lawn-tennis matters; but the cry now arose for a new king, who should be invested with more ample authority and power. Accordingly, the first steps towards a new order of things were taken in November, 1887, by Messrs. H. S. Scrivener (then President of the O.U.L.T.C.) and G. W. Hillyard. These gentlemen issued a circular inviting support for the scheme, the result being, that on January 26, 1888, a very large and representative gathering of players and supporters of the game assembled at the Freemasons' Tavern, with the avowed object of forming a Lawn Tennis Association. The proposition to carry out this design met with almost unanimous support, and, in spite of a few dissentient voices, it was evident that the object of the meeting was attained.

A provisional committee was then and there formed, and, before the next meeting was held, those who had in the first instance opposed the idea were found to have allowed better counsels to prevail, and to have joined the ranks of the Associationists, the complete success of whose undertaking was thus assured.

For this result the lawn-tennis world is mainly indebted to the President of the Hyde Park L.T.C., Mr. Daniel Jones, who is also a prominent member of the All England L.T.C. This gentleman, whose name, in connection with the game, is "familiar in our mouths as household words," by his influence and tact was enabled to bring to a successful issue that which, in the hands of any one else, would probably have proved a well-nigh hopeless task. Much as Mr. Jones has done for the game in years past, it may well be doubted whether any service he has yet rendered it can be looked upon as so entirely beneficial to all parties concerned as this, his successful reconciliation of what at one time appeared to be divergent interests; for that which would almost inevitably have ensued—a division of the lawn-tennis world into two hostile factions—was thereby happily averted. All lawn-tennis players are under a deep debt of gratitude to him for having preserved them from such a state of things, and by none is the debt more freely and fully acknowledged than by the writer of these lines. Further, be it here recorded, in simple justice to the members of the premier club, that they, having once made common cause with the association, lost no time in promoting the success of the movement by making over to the governing body any claim they possessed to the copyright of the laws and regulations of the game—a not inconsiderable concession.

The first work of the council was to issue a set of rules, and

this body has also recently drawn up a very careful and comprehensive code of regulations for prize and other meetings.

The council, which is elected annually, consists of the officers (a president; six nominative and six elective vice-presidents; honorary secretary; and honorary treasurer), and of 36 members who are representative of the six divisions into which the United Kingdom has been divided. These divisions are: (1) North of England; (2) South of England; (3) Midlands; (4) Wales and Monmouthshire; (5) Scotland; (6) Ireland; and they return respectively 8, 10, 6, 2, 4, and 6 representatives to the council.

All the leading English clubs have joined the association, which numbers on its council nearly all the prominent players of the day.

Besides the single championship, a four-handed or double championship was started in 1879 by the Oxford University Club, who, however, handed it over in a most disinterested way, in 1884, to the All England Club, who thereupon established in addition a ladies' single championship, which however has not commanded that favour which might have been expected. An All-England ladies' and gentlemen's double championship was last year started by the Northern Lawn Tennis Association. The only other championship it seems at all necessary to mention is that of the covered courts, instituted by the Hyde Park Club in 1884. Originally a success, the entries have dwindled year by year until this year they only numbered three—a result no doubt owing to the peculiar characteristics of the court, to achieve familiarity with which requires long and patient practice. Whether any remedy for this unfortunate state of things can be found in the magnificent new courts recently erected at the Queen's Club it would be improper for me to conjecture.

CHAPTER III.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAY.

For the first few years that lawn tennis was played, and before it had time to originate a style of its own, those people who excelled at the kindred game of rackets naturally found the new game came comparatively easy to them, and had things more or less their own way. Mr. Gore, champion in 1877, Mr. Hadow, champion in 1878, Mr. Hartley, champion in 1879 and 1880, Mr. Lawford and Mr. Gould were all accomplished racket-players.

At that time the only object of a player was to return the ball over the net, and he necessarily remained nearly entirely indifferent to considerations of pace or placing. Volleying was a thing well-nigh unknown; in fact some people considered it an ungentlemanly thing to do; and I well remember playing in a club match in the country where one of the players threw down his racket and refused to go on playing against a low fellow who insisted on volleying his best stroke, a heavily cut tennis stroke, which had up to then been regarded by his fellow club-men as unreturnable. The result of this was that a match resolved itself into a trial of patience and endurance; the rests were of enormous length: in particular I recall a match at Prince's between Mr. Lawford and Mr. Lubbock in which there occurred a rest of no less than eighty-three strokes. With the net 4 ft. 9 in. at the posts, there was, of course, not much opportunity for severe strokes off the ground, but when, in 1880, the height was reduced to 4 ft. the play became much faster.

That year was a memorable one in the annals of lawn tennis. It marks the adoption of the volley as a winning

stroke—first, I think by Mr. Woodhouse, and then by the Messrs. Renshaw, with whose name that stroke has been chiefly and deservedly associated: and it also marks the beginning of that rivalry between the style of the Messrs. Renshaw on the one hand and that of Mr. Lawford on the other, the result of which can hardly yet be estimated.

The essential difference between these styles may be summed up in this way: there is always a spot in the court where a player is most at ease; a point from which he thinks he can best attack and also defend; a sort of stronghold to which he invariably returns as soon as possible after having for the moment been compelled to leave it. The spot selected by Mr. Renshaw was about a foot behind the service-line, that chosen by Mr. Lawford about the base line.

It follows that one style was formed principally on volleying and the other on back play, and from that time lawn-tennis players were divided, broadly speaking, into two classes, one adopting one style and the other the other; and it became a matter of controversy as to which style was the winning one.

For some little time it seemed as if volleying from the service-line would be the game of the future. The height of the net at the posts (4 ft.) prevented the base-line player from making anything like a certainty of passing the volleyer along the side lines: he was obliged to hit so gently that the chances were greatly in favour of the volleyer reaching and returning the stroke. If no change had been made in the laws of the game, it appears probable that hard back play would have gone out entirely; and I, for one, think that the game would have lost immensely in interest and variety.

Fortunately, however, as I have already stated, in 1883 the net was lowered at the posts to 3 ft. 6 in. The effect of this alteration became manifest in a very brief space, and

it shortly was patent to every one that volleying from the service-line could not by itself stand against good back play. The proof was supplied by the succession of victories obtained by Mr. Lawford over Mr. Ernest Renshaw in the first rank of players, and by the supremacy of Mr. Grinstead in the second class.

That Mr. William Renshaw maintained as he did his position is owing to his appreciation of the changed conditions; he succeeded in acquiring a stroke off the ground, hardly, if at all, surpassed by any one, which in combination with his, at that time, unrivalled powers of volleying made him the finest all-round player we are likely to see for some time to come. His unfortunate accident the year before last was a loss to the game, and it is to be hoped that the effects of it which were still traceable in his play last year may now have vanished.

It is a curious circumstance that for some years there was a group of players—Messrs. W. and E. Renshaw, Lawford, Richardson, and Browne—who could concede the odds of fifteen to any other player. There is much less difference between, say, the best twenty players now, and matches are much more open things than they used to be. The entries for the championship, at one time, I think in 1880, as numerous as sixty-four, shrank to about twenty a couple of years ago, but are again increasing in number; and there are several players, notably Mr. Lewis and Mr. Hamilton, who have risen to the first class.

The game is, in fact, it seems to me, in rather a transitional state at the present time. There is the present champion, Mr. Ernest Renshaw, who really, I think, attained his place by his wonderful skill in tossing. There is Mr. Lewis, now, in the opinion of many, the finest volleyer of the day; his game is volleying from quite close

to the net, a position from which that stroke is most deadly.

Again, there is Mr. Hamilton, who relies on his great activity and certainty to return nearly every ball.

Now, whether any of these styles, and, if so, which, is to be the style of the future, no one can venture to say. For my own part I shall be very sorry if it turns out that tossing is to become a predominant feature, as the game must in that event prove much less attractive both to players and spectators.

Further on I propose to examine more in detail what I conceive to be the advantages and disadvantages of the various styles here alluded to.

CHAPTER IV.

THE COURT.

One thing is absolutely necessary for a good court, and that is sufficient space.

Not only do the players actually run very far beyond the limits of the court, and require plenty of elbow-room for that purpose, but the imagination must also be taken into account. When a man is running towards, say, a wall with his head turned partly away from it, he is very apt to fancy he is much nearer than he really is. One often sees in a covered court a player putting out his left hand to save himself, as he thinks, from dashing against the back wall, when, in fact, he is perfectly safe; and this feeling of insecurity is responsible for the loss of many strokes.

The larger margin there is round the court the better; but at least there should be 12 ft. clear on each side, and 21 ft. at each end.

Open-air courts should run north and south, so that the sun may be as much as possible across the court.

The back-ground is a thing not to be neglected. The best thing to have is a wall of some colour not lighter than the grass, or else a dense mass of shrubs. High trees are very objectionable; they cast shadows over the court, and the light comes through the leaves and branches in patches, which is most trying to the eyes.

It is hardly necessary to say that the court should be perfectly level, with no suspicion of slope; hard open-air courts—that is, of asphalte or other similar material—are generally made with a crown to allow for drainage, and this I presume is unavoidable; but with grass it is not so. For purposes of draining, a foundation of about a foot of cinders, gravel, or chalk answers very well; above this, about six inches of soil and then the turf.

It is well to remember that it is far better to have turf too dry than too wet; there is no difficulty about watering a dry ground, but if it is insufficiently drained there is nothing to do but to take it up.

It would be beyond my province to enter into details about laying down courts, but a few words about keeping the ground in order may not be out of place.

Playing on a court is far better for it than mere rolling, but there should be no hesitation about resting it if it begins to get worn; trifling inequalities may be redressed by rolling when the ground is damp. Plantains and other weeds should be cut out with a knife. In the early spring the grass will be much strengthened by spreading some kind of manure over the ground; if stable manure is used it should be thoroughly rotten.

If worm-casts appear they should be bush-harrowed, which is much preferable to rolling.

Bare patches should be sown with a little grass seed.

When marking a court, it is useful to remember that in a single court the diagonal from the net to the corner of the court is about 47 ft. $5\frac{1}{4}$ in.; in a double court it is about 53 ft. $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

The worst form of hard court is the ash or cinder court. It is very difficult to keep in order; a frost upsets it for days; and, besides, it is dirty to play on, it ruins both balls and rackets, and fine particles of cinder, getting into the player's shoes, drive him to distraction.

A gravel court is good as a cheap court, and has the merit of drying very quickly after rain; but if expense is no object, black asphalte is far the pleasantest court to play on.

I am told that tar-pavement forms a very good surface, being about the same pace as grass and not getting slippery with wet; but of this I have no personal experience.

Brick-dust courts are generally too slow.

Round every court there should be a stop-net, 7ft. high if possible.

So much for open-air courts.

There are three well-known covered courts in or near London.

The Wimbledon court has a perfect floor of black asphalte, and, except on very dark days, the light is very good. Unfortunately there are serious drawbacks. There is not enough room either at the back or sides, nor is the court high enough to admit of tossing; and, lastly, in damp warm weather the floor "sweats," and renders play impossible.

The Hyde Park Court is loftier and lighter. There is also a little more room, though not nearly enough. But as against these advantages must be reckoned the floor, which is far from satisfactory. It is composed of boards laid on

joists ; the result being that the bound of the ball is untrue, and cannot be relied on. On the other hand, however, wood does not "sweat."

The new Queen's Club Courts are everything that could be wished for in the way of space and light. The only doubt with regard to them is whether the floor can be made quite true. At present the wooden blocks of which it is composed stick up in places—slightly, it is true, but enough to make a difference in the bound of a ball hitting one of these projecting edges. If this difficulty can be surmounted, there will, I think, be no fault at all to find.

CHAPTER V.

THE IMPLEMENTS OF THE GAME.

The ingenuity of man has been exercised to an alarming extent in devising various kinds of posts. I have no wish to say anything against any of them except this: I would advise every one to steer clear of posts which require guy-ropes: they are, it is true, cheaper than others, but the difference in price is dearly purchased at the expense of constantly having to adjust the net. Another point that should be attended to is that the posts must stand upright in any soil. One often sees in wet weather the posts leaning over, owing to the pegs, or whatever else they are secured by, not having a firm enough hold on the ground. Lastly, the posts should not be more than the regulation height, viz. 3 ft. 6 in. One does see occasionally little ornamental erections on the top of the posts, which, though perhaps pleasing to the eye, may cause a stroke to be lost by intercepting the ball.

There are two sorts of posts of which I have had a good

deal of experience, and both of them have satisfied every reasonable expectation. They both have the most convenient contrivance for adjusting the net, namely, the handle and ratchet, the cord of the net passing over a groove or pulley at the top of the post.

One is called the Cavendish post (made by Ayres), and has a long foot on the inside of the post: it is kept fast by either T-shaped pins, or, what is better for a light soil, a big screw with a very thick worm.

The other, Gardiner's club post, has a socket, like a piece of gas-piping rather over a foot long, in the ground, and the bottom of the post fits into this. One advantage is that the post may be lifted out and the ground mown without moving the socket.

The net should be tarred to keep it from rotting, and it is most essential that there should be along the top a binding of white canvas about two inches broad.

There should be a stay in the middle to keep the net at the right height (3 ft.); the best kind, I think, is a band passing over the top. Iron rods were formerly used, but not only did they tear the net, but a ball hitting the top would go in all sorts of directions.

It is most important to have the very best balls: to play with a bad ball is no practice at all, except for the temper, and certainly no pleasure: and yet it is the commonest thing in the world for people at lawn-tennis parties to produce without a blush articles which can only by courtesy be called balls at all. I confess, I feel somewhat strongly on this subject, and I pen these lines with the hope that they may meet the eyes of some of these, from whose malpractices so many lawn-tennis players have suffered, and may stir up resolutions to sin in this way at any rate no more.

FORE-HAND STROKE. *Page* 21.

Balls must be treated with some consideration; they must not be kept in cold damp cupboards, and if they are once touched by the frost, they are useless. As a rule, balls of a previous season are no good. The only balls now used are undersewn, and it is only just to say here that the credit of effecting this improvement is due to Ayres. There has lately been a controversy as to the comparative merits of the balls of various makers, into which I do not propose to enter; I merely record my own experience, which is that I have never tried any balls which I liked so well as Ayres'.

Uncovered balls are an abomination.

As regards rackets there are many snares cunningly baited for the unwary purchaser. There are rackets with doubly or even trebly twisted gut; with square heads and oblong heads; with fluted handles, cork handles, and leather handles; with grips for the hand, and with little machines for marking the score. Let him eschew all such.

It is essential that the gut should be good, the handle plain wood either round or octagonal, the splice well fitting, and the hoop free from knots, with the grain going all round. Just above the splice is where a racket generally goes first, and it is wise to see that that part is not too thin. Then sometimes one sees, instead of the splice fitting exactly, there is an interval between it and the body of the racket, filled up with something which looks like putty. Such a racket will be nearly certain to spring after the first few hard strokes. A racket should not be strung too tightly; one can generally tell at once whether the stringing is too loose, but it is necessary to play with a racket half a dozen times or so before one can feel whether there is sufficient "give" in the strands to make it a good driver. There is one maker in particular I have in my mind—it would be

hardly fair to mention his name—whose rackets are and remain like boards, so tight are they, and not an ounce of drive can one get out of them.

As far as weight goes, I think myself 14¼ oz. to 14½ oz. is heavy enough for any one; very few good players play with a racket heavier than 14½ oz. Of course it is less exertion to hit a ball hard with a heavier racket, but the extra strain on the wrist in wielding it, and the difficulty in manipulating it quickly turn the scale the other way. A racket lighter than 14¼ oz. would not stand the test of severe play.

The balance is an important factor; a badly balanced racket has the disadvantages of a much heavier or lighter racket without its advantages. Some players like their rackets to balance at the screw, but as different makers (and sometimes even the same makers) put the screw in different places, this is not an infallible test. The way I have always found to work well, is to hold the racket loosely by the but, and jerk or swing it up and down; if it comes up with difficulty, the head is too heavy; if too easily, it is too light.

This may be considered rather a rule-of-thumb method, but I am really unaware of any better plan.

A racket ought to be kept in a press in a dry place, if preserving it is any object; for my own part, although it may be fancy, a racket of the previous season never seems to me to be quite what it should be.

In shape, rackets have changed wonderfully in the past few years; and nowadays rackets are generally straight or very nearly so. A curve on the inner or lower side of the racket may perhaps assist the swing and keep it steady, but it must be very slight, so as not to materially change the position of the middle, which is always the part that should meet the ball.

For the last nine years the best players, almost without exception, have got their rackets from Tate; and I am bound to say that, having tried rackets from many other makers, I have never found any as good. At the same time, there are makers, whose rackets are sound, serviceable articles, who do not charge so much for them.

Most people on a dry ground or a "hard" court use brown leather or buck-skin shoes with thick, smooth, red rubber soles. They last an immense time, give a sure foothold, besides being not uncomfortable. I must own a preference for the ordinary canvas shoe with a ribbed sole, on account of its extreme lightness. It is, however, not ornamental, and some people find it too thin.

If the grass is at all wet or even damp, steel points should be used. They are short nails driven in so that only the square heads protrude. With steel points some find it preferable to wear boots, as being less tiring to the ankle and not really very much heavier than shoes.

The remaining articles of attire may be left to the discretion and taste of the individual player.

CHAPTER VI.

THE STROKE.

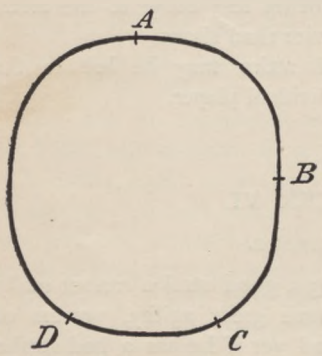
The importance of possessing a good stroke cannot easily be overrated; a man may have great agility, powers of endurance, and a good eye, and yet if he has a bad stroke he may never become anything more than a moderate player.

The first thing, of course, is to know how to hold the racket. Dr. Dwight, in his work on lawn tennis, has expressed the opinion that it is very necessary so to hold the racket that the grip may be the same for forehand and

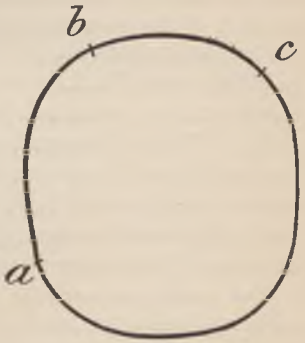
backhand strokes. In this I am bound to say I do not agree with him. The time taken up by changing the grip is infinitesimal, and with practice becomes purely mechanical. There is, I think, only one well-known player who does not change his grip; and I am firmly persuaded that with an unchanged grip there is less power of hitting, and moreover the racket is prevented from meeting the ball full, that is to say, without causing a twist. To put twist on a stroke is to sacrifice power without obtaining any corresponding advantage, those strokes only excepted where it is desired that the ball should drop close to the net.

For these reasons I strongly recommend that when the racket strikes the ball it should do so without any horizontal movement from side to side; and, with this view, the way I would suggest that the racket be held is as follows:—

Take the racket in the left hand by the splice, the blade being *vertical* and the handle *horizontal;* then, for the forehand stroke (the figure being a vertical section of the handle), the base of the right hand will just overlap the but; the knuckle of the thumb will be at A, the knuckle of the forefinger at B, the bend of the first joint of the forefinger at C, and of the second joint at D; the first joint will slope towards the blade, the other joints away from the blade; the thumb will slope very slightly towards the blade, its last joint jutting out from the handle; the first joints of the other fingers will lie across the handle at right angles.



For the backhand stroke, the knuckle of the thumb will be at *a*; the knuckle of the forefinger at *b*; and the bend of the first joint at *c*: the slope of the fingers will be exactly the same as in the fore hand stroke: in fact the change from the forehand to the backhand stroke is simply turning the hand back in the direction of the body, through rather more than a right angle.



The racket should be grasped as firmly as possible if it is intended to make a severe stroke: it may be held more loosely for a gentle one.

When about to make a forehand stroke, the feet should be apart, the left foot being slightly in front; the racket is swung back behind the shoulder to an extent varying with the strength of the stroke intended to be made, the weight of the body being on the right foot; in the act of striking the weight is transferred to the left foot, the body is bent forward, and the left knee is bent. Sometimes a step forward is taken with the left foot, but I am inclined to think that the stroke is more accurate without it.

For the backhand stroke the right foot is in front; the body is turned sideways to allow a clear swing for the arm; the weight is first on the left foot, and then transferred to the right.

The left arm should be kept quiet, and not waved about in the air.

The ball may be, and sometimes must be taken at all sorts of different heights, but the one which lends itself

best to a good stroke is from about two feet to a foot and a half from the ground, when the ball is falling. The position of the arm and racket will, of course, vary with the height at which the ball is taken.

I think it was Mr. Lawford who invented the form of stroke now most in vogue and which gives the happiest results for the striker. The ball is struck at such a height that the head of the racket is not above the shoulder; and instead of a plain blow being given to the ball, the racket, as it were, takes hold of the ball by moving along its surface in a vertical direction. This is done by a slight turn of the wrist.

The result is two-fold. The ball revolves forward on a horizontal axis, thus leaving the ground at a greater velocity and an acuter angle than if it had received an ordinary blow. Also it is possible to strike the ball with much more force, and to drive it much nearer the top of the net.

In making this stroke, the arm must be rather stiff.

After knowing how to strike the ball, the next point is to acquire what is known as a good length—that is to say, the power of propelling the ball to a point as near the opposite base-line as possible.

The advantages of this are enormous.

If a ball struck with a certain force drops, say, within a foot of the base-line, it is almost impossible for a man to make a stroke off it which his opponent will be unable to return: not only is there the difficult task of making the ball travel a long distance, but the time which must elapse gives the opponent a very good chance of reaching his return. One may often see a player who goes plodding on, returning every ball into the back of the opposite court, defeat another whose style is far more brilliant and taking to the eye, but whose strokes fall comparatively short.

Good length is the most important branch of the art of

placing; which consists of putting the ball in that part of the court which is most inconvenient for the opponent to reach, and which he least expects.

And now arises the question, What is the best way to learn the stroke?

Fortunately or unfortunately there are no professionals at lawn tennis, or at any rate they are so few in number that they may be left out of account, so that there is no chance of regular teaching of the game; and in a general way it is picked up at haphazard. The inevitable result is that habits are formed which it will take much trouble and more time to get rid of.

The truth is, that if any one wants to do a thing well, he must make up his mind to undergo a certain amount of drudgery and discomfort; and lawn tennis is no exception to this rule.

Some people, when they begin the game, find it difficult to hit the ball with the racket at all. In such extreme cases I agree with the advice that has been given before by writers on the game, namely, to play against a wall until there is no more mere beating of the air. I do not, however, think that, beyond this, much advantage can be got from this recipe, and I attach much importance to the familiarity with the length of the court and the height of the net, which can only be obtained by actual play or attempts to play. The wholesome feeling of emulation, too, which is caused by playing some one better is a considerable stimulus; but it is well to bear in mind that it does not follow that, because the other player is better, his style is perfect or one which can safely be copied. Watching really good play is a great assistance, and also inviting criticism, (which will be freely given) from people who understand the game.

Of course a beginner must not be too ambitious; he must at first confine his efforts to merely getting the ball over the net: afterwards he may awake to considerations of pace and placing.

CHAPTER VII.

THE VOLLEY.

It is so much more attractive to most people both to volley and to watch volleying than to play a stroke off the ground or to look on at back-play, that it is here necessary to emphasize the fact that a man must learn back-play thoroughly before he attempts to volley at all, otherwise he will be led to restrict himself entirely to the latter. The temptation is the greater because bad volleying is at once easier and more effective than bad back-play.

The volley has infinite varieties, but one rule applies equally to all—a step forward should always be taken, if the volley is forehand, with the left foot; if backhand, with the right. It should also be stated that it may be necessary to slightly alter the grip by sloping the thumb and forefinger more towards the blade.

Roughly speaking, volleys may be divided into two classes —pushes and hits. An example of the former is the volley of a ball coming down the backhand line just above the net where it is desired to return it down the same line. The racket is held horizontally across the body, and is moved out in that position and in the same plane to meet the ball, the elbow being well out from the body, the fore-arm horizontal, and the wrist stiff. There is a similar stroke on the forehand side. On the other hand, if the ball is a little higher the racket is swung back, the blade moving

FORE-HAND VOLLEY DOWN THE SIDE-LINE. *Page* 24.

faster than the hand, and a stroke like an overhand off-the-ground stroke is made. This I should call a hit-volley.

With these push-volleys a great accuracy of placing can be obtained both along the lines and across the court, but occasion for them arises comparatively seldom. All volleys which are made with the blade of the racket below the shoulder are much easier backhand than forehand, except those which are very low down in front of the body, and there is no time to step aside. Generally speaking, there is a longer reach backhand than forehand. When taking a low volley backhanded it is necessary to stoop considerably, otherwise it is impossible to lift the ball over the net.

Perhaps the most useful volleys at the present day are those short across the court from close to the net, either fore- or back-handed. The blade of the racket is a little higher than the hand, and by a sharp turn of the wrist meets the ball at an angle. They are very difficult strokes to keep in court, but when successful are most deadly. Any one who wishes to see them done to a nicety should watch the play of Mr. Lewis.

A form of volley which is peculiarly associated with the name of Renshaw is the smash. It consists of volleying a high ball with a very free arm and a considerable swing; the whole motion of the arm is very like that which takes place in throwing a cricket-ball. It is a very showy stroke, but can only be used with any safety quite close to the net. Sometimes it is necessary to leap into the air with both feet off the ground, and strangely enough when this is done the stroke is nearly always successful, though I hope it will not be inferred from this that I mean to suggest leaping into the air as a policy to be vaguely adopted in general. But commonly, indeed, an equally good stroke can be made with much less expenditure of strength and far less risk

by volleying the ball to one side-line or the other fairly hard and within the service-line if the opponent is at the back of the court, or far back if he is close up. These hard overhand strokes are very difficult to make backhanded with any degree of certainty.

Another very useful form of volley, but which one very seldom sees, is an underhand volley from the back of the court of a falling ball. The ball is struck very hard, the arm being stiff, just as in the underhand drive. The wrist must be kept very stiff, otherwise the force of the blow will force the blade of the racket down. It can, I think, only be attempted forehand with any hope of success.

There is another somewhat unusual volley, but one very useful on an emergency or to save time, which may be called lob-volley. The ball is volleyed gently up into the air either when the opponent is close up to the net or when time is required to get back into position.

Lastly must be mentioned a volley which was extensively used by that very fine player, Mr. Chatterton, now unfortunately lost to the ranks of lawn tennis. It may be called the drop-volley. It is made within three yards of the net, and, if successful, the ball drops dead just on the other side. The blade of the racket is vertically upwards, and immediately before contact with the ball it is drawn back, the wrist being perfectly stiff. I have never seen it done except on the forehand, but there is no reason that I can see why it should not be done on the backhand also.

BACK-HAND HALF-VOLLEY NEAR THE NET. *Page 27.*

CHAPTER VIII.

THE HALF-VOLLEY.

To half-volley a ball is to take it just as it is leaving the ground. It is a somewhat uncertain not to say fluky stroke, and therefore great care must be taken in using it. As a rule it is better either to go forward and volley the ball or to step back and take it off the ground; sometimes, however, there is either no time for either of these courses or the advantage to be obtained by a successful half-volley is so great that it is wiser to run the risk. If it is desired to send the ball up high—for instance, if the opponent is at the net—the blade of the racket should be in front of the hand; that is, the racket should lean from the ground away from the net: but if it is wished to keep the ball down, there should be a very slight slope the other way.

If a ball has passed the player on the forehand side, he may return it with a half-volley by stooping down low, balancing himself on his left foot with arm outstretched and racket horizontal; if on the backhand side, he should step across with his right foot, turning his back to the net. The position of the racket will vary with the place where the ball strikes the ground (*i.e.* either some distance from, or close to the body) from horizontal to vertical, the latter being an exceedingly difficult stroke.

The half-volley, too, is very useful occasionally in a rest of volleys where one drops short; a quick low half-volley to one line or the other will often win the stroke.

Akin to the half-volley is the rising ball—also a stroke not entirely to be relied upon. The ball must almost be allowed to meet the racket if it is going hard, as if more than a

slight impulse be given the ball will infallibly fly out of court. This is a useful stroke sometimes, as it takes the opponent by surprise. It is not quite so uncertain as the half-volley, for, the ball having completed part of its bound, its direction may be more accurately conjectured. No rule can safely be laid down as to how to hold the racket for either of these strokes: the position of the fingers and the tightness or looseness of the grip must be left to the inspiration of the moment, and will be governed by the attitude which the player will find himself obliged to assume. At times, indeed, to gain an extra inch of reach in a half-volley, the little finger will be outside the but, and the handle will only be grasped by three fingers and the thumb. In such circumstances, however, the stroke is evidently a sort of forlorn hope.

CHAPTER IX.

THE LOB.

The lob is strictly speaking a slow stroke, and it follows that to travel any distance it must rise higher in the air than a fast stroke.

Till within the last two years it was only used for two purposes—either to pass over the head of the man at the net, in which case it was not necessary that it should go very high into the air, or, secondly, to gain time when in a difficulty; in the latter case the higher the ball is sent, of course, the more time is gained, and, besides, the more difficult is it to volley.

High lobbing in a wind requires exceptional judgment.

If the sun is in the opponent's eyes, he will generally be obliged to take the ball off the ground. As it is much more

FORE-HAND HALF-VOLLEY NEAR THE NET. *Page* 27.

difficult to volley a high lob backhanded than forehanded, where there is a possibility of choosing, it is better to volley into the backhand corner. Some people find it easier to lob forehand, and some backhand.

As I have mentioned before, however, there is now a distinct lobbing game. If the opponent is a man who plays back very well, if he has a severe stroke off the ground, the tactics the lobber follows are simply to keep on returning the ball gently to the back of the court. The opponent may, perhaps, be making very fine strokes, but if the lobber has agility and certainty he will be able generally to return them, and the result, too often, as I think, is that the hard hitter kills himself, so to speak, by hitting the ball into the net or out of court.

This form of game was rampant during the season of 1888. It has been said, and it may be so, that this arose from the very wet and dead state of the courts throughout the summer, and that this game would not succeed on a fast dry ground. Time alone can tell. Possibly, too, another remedy could be found in volleying the lob hard underhand—a stroke which, I believe, will some day be considerably developed.

CHAPTER X.

THE SERVICE.

It is a curious thing that the service generally is so very bad. The number of players who have a good service can be counted on one's fingers, and even to them it is very often a disadvantage to serve: their service varies far more than the rest of their game. One day a player may really make many strokes by his service, and the next day he will hardly

have one first service which is not a fault. And, in spite of this admitted fact, one hears of some people who want to abolish the first fault. They forget that, nominally even, there is only about a quarter of the court to serve into, and that in fact the space where a fast service can drop is limited to a strip of certainly not more than two feet broad along the service-line. Fortunately, however, there does not seem the least chance of such a change being made in the laws of the game.

No doubt the feeling that if one fails with one's first service one has another to fall back on, tends to make one somewhat careless, and to lead one to attempt a much harder service than there is much probability of succeeding with: and also the present system causes a certain expenditure of time; but then there is no occasion for playing the game at railroad speed, and every one who has played a severe match remembers how, at some period of the game, he snatched at every excuse for a short pause. I confess that I do not myself think that there is the smallest ground for discontent with the present state of things, nor have I heard any single player of any experience express a different view.

The form of service almost universally used is the overhand service; but, like most other strokes, it may be played in a variety of different ways. Some players serve with a twist, others without; some with rackets raised to the full stretch of the arm, others with the arm half bent; some swing their rackets up and down before striking, after the manner of a pump-handle. In fact so much does taste in service vary that doubtless a philosopher could tell from a particular service what manner of man he was who delivered it.

In all of them alike, the first thing to be done is to put

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the toe of the left foot on the line; and there it must be kept until the ball has been struck.

Some little preliminary swing is generally necessary before the racket is brought back to strike. The ball is then thrown up to the height at which it is desired to strike it, rather to the right of the body and on a level with it—that is to say, not in front of it. If one analyzes one's motions while serving, it appears that the weight of the body passes from one foot to the other several times, swaying as if in a balance until just before the moment of striking, when it is finally thrown over to the left foot to give impetus to the blow; the right foot is then generally lifted up, there being now no rule to prevent this.

It is a moot point whether a player will find it worth his while to serve with all his strength or not. My own idea is, that the vast majority of players never get a sufficient number of very fast services over the net all right, that is without being faults, to repay them for the trouble and exertion; besides which they, having to recur to the second service, start the rest at a disadvantage in most instances. What I would therefore suggest is, that any player who honestly feels that his chance of serving a very fast service right is slender, should try and cultivate a moderate service with a good length, a quality which is as important in service as in other strokes. The result will be that although his service will never be such that a good player ought not to return it, yet it will be comparatively difficult to make a stroke off, and he will find his second service immeasurably improved, owing to the greater similarity there will be between them. It will be found advisable to strike the ball from as high a point as possible, so that it may bound far back into the court. Also it is better to serve, as a rule, to the opponent's back hand, especially from the

backhand court; from the other court a fast service in the forehand line drives the opponent some way out of the court, and gives a chance of placing the ball out of his reach down the other line at the next stroke. A service down the middle of the court sometimes may take the opponent unawares, and thus win a stroke.

A form of overhand service which is recommended by Dr. Dwight, and which I have heard favourably mentioned by some players, is called the reverse service. The ball is not thrown up to an appreciable extent, but held at the height of the face, slightly to the left and in front: the racket strikes it with a twist from left to right. The advantages claimed for it are that it does not bound so high as other services, and that it is easier to serve against the sun. This service is hardly ever seen, and, although it may show a great lack of enterprise, I must confess to never having tried it; but I cannot say I am fully alive to the alleged difficulties of returning it.

The underhand service, which may be either fore- or backhand, is very little used nowadays, but it is sometimes a good thing as a change. On the forehand, the racket is held with the head downwards, and swung obliquely from right to left, meeting the ball—which is dropped to the right and in front of the body—so as to impart a twist from right to left. At the moment of striking, the racket is inclined to the vertical at an angle of about forty-five degrees. The backhand service is similar. The forehand service should be from the backhand court to the opposite corner, and the backhand service from the forehand court. The advantage these services possess is that the twist carries the ball on the bound outside the opponent's court, and, to a certain extent, disturbs his position. But, as I have already said, they must only be used as a change, as a continuance they are too feeble for words.

SERVICE (NO. 2). *Page* 29.

As to the second service, little more need be said than that it should on no account be a fault. The care with which it must be delivered prevents in most cases any refinement of placing; but, as far as possible, it is well to send it to the opponent's backhand, and as near the service-line as it is safe to try for.

CHAPTER XI.

THE SINGLE GAME.

1. *Styles of Play.*

It is very much a matter of chance with most players what style of play they take up. In part, no doubt, it is determined by natural inclination and capacity, but, except with people of sufficient originality and independence to strike out a line for themselves, the persons a man habitually plays with in practice to all intents and purposes form his game. Of course the best way is to play with people of as many different styles as possible, if the object is to become a good all-round player; but as many of us play, partly at any rate, for pleasure, we naturally play more with our friends than with people we only know slightly, and in consequence faults and peculiarities become stereotyped. A great remedy for stagnation of this description is to play as much as possible in tournaments; one measures one's self against players of every hue and shade, and one always has the satisfaction of knowing, what very often is not the case in practice games, that both sides are playing their level best.

I have already adverted, briefly, to the different styles of play in vogue just now, and I here repeat that it is no use for a man to rely solely on volleying, or solely on back-play

—he must be able to do both; but whether his back-play is to be hard or lobbing, and whether his volleying is to be from the net or the service-line, are questions which cannot be disposed of in an equally summary manner. The advantages of lobbing are that it is less risky, and, being slower, gives more time to run up to volley when the opportunity occurs. Again, the player, not being obliged to stand so firmly on the ground (what has been called "fix" himself), he is better able to start in one direction or the other. This game, however, requires an exceptional amount of activity. Hard back-play, no doubt, ventures more; but, then, there is more chance of a positive win, not merely by the opponent's mistake, but by the excellence of the stroke itself; even if the stroke is returned, it will be comparatively gently, and may give an easy chance for a winning stroke. Further, it is a more interesting game to play; but, then, it is impossible to play it with any success unless the ground is in almost perfect condition—on a wet court, for instance, it is hopeless, or nearly so.

My own view, for what it is worth, is that the latter game ought to be the winning one; that is to say, a man who played it as well as it could be played would beat a man who was as good a game as possible in the other style. It occurs to me that I should here say that when, in a previous chapter, I stated that Mr. Ernest Renshaw had attained to the position of champion mainly by the lobbing game, I did not mean to suggest—as it would be contrary to the fact—that he had not a very fast off-the-ground stroke; all I mean is that, in the closest matches he has played in the last two years, he has found the lobbing game pay best to adopt.

As between the two forms of volleying, the case stands thus: it is easier to get to the service-line than to the net,

but, when there, there is not so good a chance of killing the ball; at the service-line it is less likely that a ball should be tossed over the player's head, and he is not so likely to take a ball which is going out of court: on the other hand, the man at the net covers far more of the court, and is not so likely to be passed, but the latter game is a more exhausting one. On the balance of probabilities my own impression is that the service-line volleyer does not stand such a good chance as a volleyer some way nearer the net. I cannot flatter myself that my views on these questions are likely to have much weight, but it seemed to me that it would be timorous to shrink from expressing them.

The conclusion I come to, then, is this—that the best game is that which combines hard back-play with volleying at the net. To put the matter in a more concrete form—combine Mr. Lawford's back-play with Mr. Lewis's volleying and you will be *facile princeps.*

2. *The server's game.*

It is very difficult to dogmatize about the best place to serve from, but, generally speaking, I should be inclined to say about a yard from the middle of the base line. Some of the finest players, however, serve with great effect from nearer the middle; others seem to like the forehand corner. If a player is serving with the wind, it is a good thing to serve from the corner, otherwise he will be apt to serve faults: on the other hand, if the wind is against him, serving from the middle will be better, as the ball will not have to travel so far.

If the first service is a severe one and comes off, he may perhaps be able to volley the return; but he should not start running to the net, as a rule, until he has some idea where the ball is coming to. Having delivered a hard service, it takes him a moment or two to recover his balance,

so that he will be unable to get established in a favourable position to volley before the ball is struck by his opponent, and he will probably either be passed outright or make a poor stroke and lose the next. If, on the other hand, he waits, then, if the return is in the nature of a lob, he may volley it either into the backhand corner or sharply across the court whichever side of him it comes. Either of these strokes would be difficult for the opponent to make much of. But if the return is too low to volley, supposing it comes to the player's forehand, he may either return it in the direction it came but at an acuter angle (which is a very effective stroke, especially if short though fast), or else down the opponent's backhand line, following it up to the net. Supposing the ball has come to the player's backhand, he may, if the opponent has come up to volley, pass him down his forehand line. This stroke, however, is a very difficult one, and generally it will be easier to pass him across the court. If the player can strike the ball so as to drop within the service-line and close to the side line, so much the better, only he must remember that if his return is not cross enough he is certain to lose the stroke; and, for my own part, I would always rather send the ball out of court than give my opponent a certain winning stroke Of course, if the player feels doubtful about doing either of these strokes, he may always lob. I have here assumed that the opponent has come up to volley: if he has not, the return, though of the same nature, would not be so difficult.

If the first service is a fault, after serving again the best place to go is about a yard outside the middle of the back line, there to await events. On a fast court with a hard back-player against one it is safer to go even further back, as it is much easier to run forward than back, besides which

BACK-HAND STROKE DOWN THE SIDE-LINE. *Page* 21.

a player running forward is meeting the ball, the natural way of the stroke; whereas running back he has to outrun the ball to get into position to strike.

To run up after the second service is generally to court defeat; I speak from bitter experience.

3. *The striker-out's game.*

The return of the service is the most important stroke in the game, and it is impossible to devote too much attention to it; on it very often immediately depends the result of the rest.

To return the first service (from the forehand court), the player should stand with his right foot on the side line produced about a yard beyond the base line. If the service comes from the opposite corner, the position should be a little further to the right, in the backhand court more to the left. He should hold his racket with the backhand grip, as most services will have to be taken that way. The feet should be about two feet apart, and the knees bent.

He may only just be able to get the service over anyhow, if it be very fast, when he should at once go to the back position—a yard behind the middle of the base line. If the pace be more moderate the two best strokes are down the line and across the court; these will be considered below.

To return the second service, the player may come in as far as two yards from the base line, and may stand almost midway between the middle line and the side line in the forehand court; in the other court he may even have his right foot on the side line, though generally it will not be quite safe to be so far on the left.

The racket should be held with the forehand grip, and the feet firmly planted.

From the forehand court the return will be either—

(*a*) Down the line. Here the player may, and in most

cases should, follow up his stroke to the net to volley the return; if it takes the form of an attempt to pass him on his forehand, he should volley it across the court so as to drop as near the net as possible, unless he can see the opponent running that way, in which case it is sometimes wise to volley back down the same line; always, however, remembering that if the cross volley is made at a sufficiently acute angle to the net, it is practically unreturnable. Similarly, if the return of his first stroke is across the court to his back hand. If, however, this return is a good one—that is, quite close to the corner of the net—the volley down the backhand line should have the preference, and if it has to be lifted over the net, it must either be hard enough to reach the back of the court or soft enough only just to drop over the net. Lastly, if he has to deal with a lob, he should volley it as hard as he can into the opposite corner, however far back he may be when he hits it. I believe to hit a lob hard, whatever its height has been, is merely a question of practice and determination. Of course, if the lob is a bad one, it is wiser to economize one's strength, provided there is a reasonable certainty of placing the ball out of the opponent's reach.

I have assumed that the player will be able to take the service on the forehand, but the same remarks will apply to the backhand stroke down the line, with this addition, that, with a high-bounding service near the net, it is possible just to drop the ball over close to the line. This stroke is more easily effected with a twist, and the player must bear in mind that an attempted short stroke which goes too far is practically making the opponent a present of a stroke.

(*b*) Across the court. A very difficult but exceedingly deadly mode of doing this stroke used to be displayed by

Mr. William Renshaw. The service was returned hard to the opposite side line, if anything rather nearer to the net than the service-line. For this, it is necessary to put a great deal of what is sometimes called "stuff" on the ball, otherwise it will fly out of court. The more usual stroke is to drive the ball to the opposite side line between the base and service-lines. It may be made with the full strength as it passes over the lowest part of the net. The opponent will often be driven too far out of the court to return down the side-line, and he must either attempt the very difficult stroke across the court or else lob. There only remains the cross drop stroke, to which additional effect may be given by a preliminary flourish, which often leads the opponent to imagine that a hard stroke is about to be made. A former champion, Mr. Hartley, still possesses this stroke to perfection, and I have myself time and again been the victim of his subtle artifice.

From the backhand court the return will be of the same nature, and only two remarks need be made, which are these. The forehand stroke down the backhand line is an exceedingly useful one, and very deceptive, as it is frequently impossible for the opponent to tell until the ball is struck whether it is going down the line or across the court. Also the cross-drop stroke is considerably easier to make backhand from the backhand court, and a very delicate accuracy can be attained in placing this stroke.

4. *Generally.*

When not actually engaged in a stroke, the racket may be held loosely to relax the muscles, the left hand holding it round the splice. I must here repeat that the position of the player in the court is most important: the net is the place to volley from, the base line to play off the ground,

the space between the service-line and the base line is only the place to lose from. It is well to play on the offensive as much as possible; it gives confidence to the player, and flurries the opponent, as he will probably not be able to play his own game.

Occasionally one must play a waiting game; for instance, against a very severe back-player it may be necessary just to keep on returning the ball, waiting for his mistake.

Certainty is an indispensable quality. In fact, I think what especially distinguishes first-class play from inferior performances is that easy strokes are so seldom missed; of course there is, besides, great brilliancy, but certainty is the foundation on which it is built. The opponent's movements should be carefully watched, and from them it is often possible to tell where he intends to place a ball before ever it is struck.

It is generally easier to pass a service-line volleyer across the court than down the side lines, and on his forehand than his backhand. Strokes should be started for, as soon as the direction of the ball is ascertained. If the opponent starts before one has struck the ball, the return may profitably be to the place from which he started; as he is running the other way it will be difficult for him to stop and run back again. Stick to a sore place is sound advice; by this I mean, suppose the player has sent a fairly hard stroke to some point which the opponent has shown difficulty in reaching, a good plan is to return the next ball back there again; not only will the second stroke be probably even better than the first, but the surprise will also aid, as the usual and expected stroke would be into the other corner.

Any weakness which the opponent shows should be taken advantage of; for instance, if he has not a strong backhand, opportunities should be given to him for practising the stroke.

LATE BACK-HAND STROKE. *Page* 21.

One should never allow one's self to be, as it were, caught on the run : if the player is running up, and finds he cannot get into position before the ball is struck by the opponent, let him stand still, otherwise he is in peril of having the ball put in the opposite direction to which he is running.

A good-lengthed ball should be followed up, unless the player is very far back, when he may not be able to get up in time.

If the opponent is at the net, it is generally wiser to lob, unless the player is as far up, say, as the service-line, when there will be a good chance of passing the volleyer ; it sometimes pays to hit straight at him, hard and low, when he is in this position.

CHAPTER XII.

THE FOUR-HANDED OR DOUBLE GAME.

THE standard of play in the double game is much lower than in the single game. There is nothing like the difference between well-known combinations that there is between the players singly ; and, unless this is a defect in the game itself, which I do not believe, there is great room for improvement.

Lawn tennis is, perhaps, rather selfish—everybody fights for his own hand ; and as the laurels are equally divided between a successful pair, that may partly account for people not playing the double game with so much energy, or studying it so carefully as they do the single ; and, of course, it is more trouble to get four players together than two. Again, to find a man whom you can play with is not the easiest thing in the world. Still, if two really good players could be induced to practise persistently together for a length of time, I

believe we should see an exhibition of double play which would astonish us. Not that there is much to improve in the theory of how the game should be played, at least in its broad outlines. It is now admitted that one man up and the other back cannot win against both men up, and for this we have to thank the Messrs. Renshaw; but even in their game one cannot help seeing there is a great waste somewhere. It is not sufficiently recognized, it seems to me, that each partner must play not for himself alone but for the partnership, and that it is often far better policy to force one of the opponents to send a ball to one's partner which he can kill than to try to kill the ball one's self if the latter stroke is a more risky one.

A circumstance which has had a prejudicial influence is that an undiscriminating public is lavish of its applause of a brilliant "smash" or a fluky half-volley, while a useful but unassuming stroke, perhaps requiring far more skill and knowledge of the game, is too often received in chilling silence. Lawn-tennis players are only too human, and they are consequently led to adopt a "gallery" style of play.

In many respects the four game differs from the single game: it requires less endurance, but even more equability, and the volley plays a much more important part; in truth, as it is at present played, it is practically all volleying.

The service is a distinct advantage.

The server will probably find it convenient to stand midway between the corner and the centre of the base line, or even nearer the corner. His best service will be into the opposite corner, as that will leave a very small portion of the court into which the opponent can return the ball without the risk of the server's partner being able to volley it.

The server should follow up his service, and especially the second service, to the service-line or a little beyond it;

if he runs up too far he may provoke the opponent to lob over his head, which with an easy second service will not be a difficult task.

If the first service is a very severe one, the server may find it difficult to recover in time to get up, in which case he had better stay where he is until he sees where the return is coming to: his partner may very likely be able to volley it, in which case running up would only baulk him; or it may be a lob for which either he or his partner would have to run back, in which case he saves trouble; or it may be a difficult cross shot which he would very likely have missed had he run up. If the return is an easy one he may still be able to go in and volley it, or make a good stroke off the ground. While he is serving, his partner should stand on the service-line or a little behind it, and about a foot from the inner side line, which will enable him to cover his own line—a most important requisite, as, if the ball passes him on the other side, he has his partner to look to, but if he is passed down his own line the stroke is lost past redemption, and moreover it gives his partner legitimate cause for complaint, because such a miscarriage will probably have arisen from mere carelessness.

In a double game, want of care is the worst form of bad play.

The server's partner will find it a good thing to turn round to see where the service is going to, so that he may prepare himself accordingly. If the service is all right he may move up a yard or so, with the hope of volleying the return. If his partner is not running up, he may prudently attempt a volley further on the right side than he might otherwise do, always supposing he feels pretty confident about it.

Should the return be a lob over his head, either he or

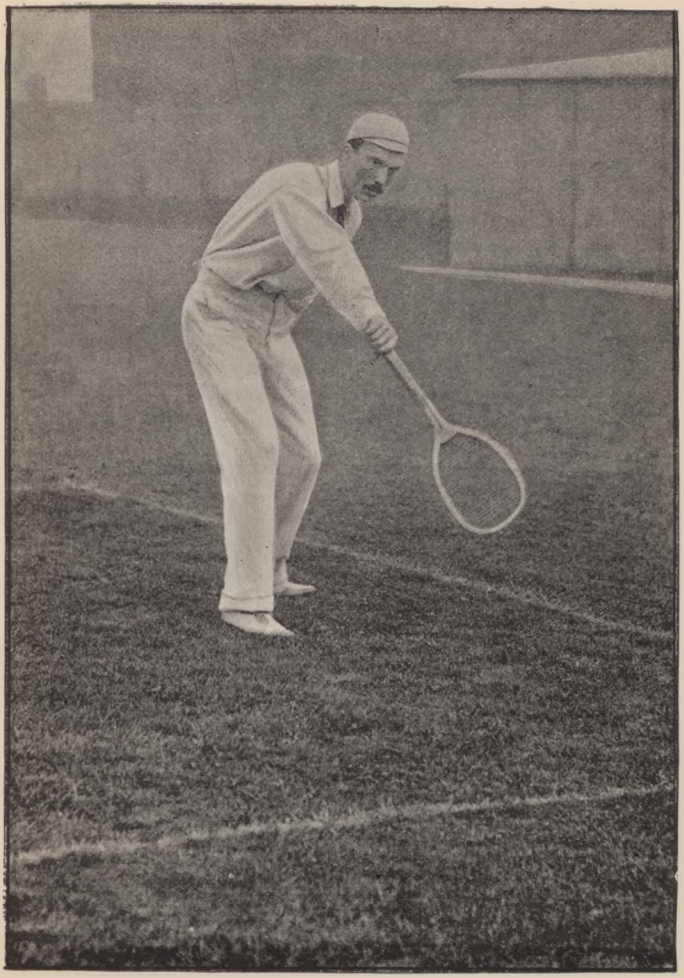
the server should run for it, but not both; there should be no hesitation in calling "yours" or "mine" in case of doubt, as long as the call is soon enough.

The great thing is to make up one's mind; few things are more aggravating to one's partner than to go for a stroke, change one's mind, and call "yours" when he is, naturally enough, quite unprepared.

If either man sends a short lob, both should run right back, the further the better, to try and take the hard stroke which will follow.

The striker-out takes the service in the ordinary position; in returning it, however, he cannot afford to "go for the stroke" as much as he would do in a single game: in the latter case he has only himself to consider, and may reckon to make up for a miss later on; but in the double game the chance may be indefinitely postponed. From the right-hand court he may either (if the service be fairly easy) place the ball in the angle between the server and the net close to the far side line, even if the server is running up, or he may put it between the two players if there is a gap—and this may tempt both opponents to try for it, especially if the ball is cunningly placed just within the reach of the server's partner; or, again, they may both leave the stroke alone;—or he may take the chance of disconcerting the server's partner and hit straight at him, if there is not (as there probably will not be) room to pass him; he may lob; or, lastly, he may try the drop-stroke across the court.

The stroke at the server's partner is particularly effective from the backhand court forehand: on which side, too, there is a very fair chance of passing the opponent by the forehand stroke down his forehand line, for which he may very likely be unprepared. This should only be tried as a change after returning the balls habitually some other way.



BACK-HAND STROKE ACROSS THE COURT. *Page* 21.

The striker-out's partner should be a foot or so behind the service-line, and not more than two yards from the middle line.

He should watch the first return very carefully, as if the server's partner manages to cut in he will most likely send the ball either at him or down the middle where his partner cannot get it.

The following observations are of general application :—

If possible it is better to play down the middle of the court.

One stroke which should be specially avoided is a cross stroke which reaches one of the opponents at the inner line higher than the net ; he is almost certain to pass the player's partner down the side line.

This leads up to another remark : if a man is in a hole and must make a stroke which will very likely be scored off, it is much better to play so that the difficult return will come to him and not to his partner ; no man likes to have an impossible shot given to him through his partner's mistake.

Not only is it prudent not to give one's partner cause for offence, but it is well to encourage him as much as possible : I don't mean by saying "Well played" in an inane manner whenever he gets a ball over the net ; but by showing appreciation of his good strokes, and, above all, no disgust at his bad ones. Swearing at one's partner, whatever else it may do, certainly won't make him play any better.

Another thing that may put one's partner off his game is running across and taking his balls. There are times, it is true, when no one would hesitate to take a ball in his partner's court ; for instance, an easy volley when the other man was at the back of the court : but these times are few and far between. If, however, a player does run across let

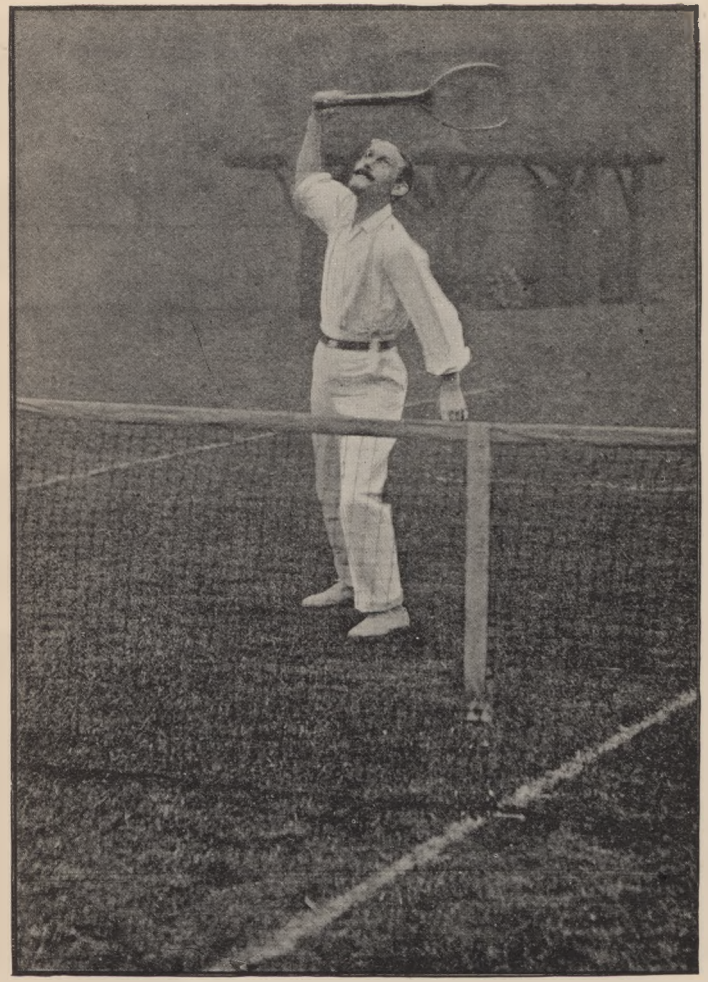
him take good care to get back to his own place again before the return.

If a ball is doubtful, it is a hard thing to say very often which man should take it. Dr. Dwight quotes the authority of Mr. William Renshaw for saying that in the middle of a rest the man who played the last stroke should play the next. This, I may say, I heartily agree with. If, however, it is the beginning of a rest, my own feeling is that the partner to whom the ball comes forehand should take it if it is high ; the other if it comes low : because it is easier to volley a high ball forehand and a low ball backhand.

It is unnecessary to say that the weaker of the opposing pair should be made to bear the brunt ofthe battle ; but to this may be added that, even if both players are about level, it is very disconcerting to one to have most of the balls played at him ; nor is it agreeable to his partner, especially if a ball is suddenly launched at him when he least expects it.

If one partner is not taking the ball, he is not therefore to remain stock-still : he should be always prepared to take the next ball ; neither his eye nor his attention should wander ; he should always be on the alert and ready to spring.

I should mention one stroke which is really not difficult and yet very effective. If the server, having run up, finds the service returned to him across the court, let him return it at an acuter angle with the net either fore- or back-handed. It is astonishing how often this stroke will win a rest. And although I mentioned the server particularly, because he has more opportunities of making the stroke, yet there are other chances at other times which should not be passed over.



"SMASH" (NO. 1). *Page* 25.

CHAPTER XIII.

LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S DOUBLES.

LADIES' and gentlemen's doubles, or mixed pairs as they are sometimes called, are no doubt very pleasant and charming from a social point of view, but looking at the game scientifically they are not of much value. A four game in which two good players are linked to two bad ones is at best a poor performance, resolving itself as it must do into a series of assaults upon the weaker players. Fortunately, however, science is not everything even nowadays, and there are few nicer ways of whiling away an afternoon than playing mixed pairs. So much I may perhaps be allowed to say, although a disquisition upon the moral advantages to be obtained from female society would be rather outside the scope of this work.

As mere exercise most men will find playing with a feeble partner against a strong pair perfectly satisfying, even if it does not improve their game to any appreciable extent.

In the system to be pursued, this game bears no particular resemblance to either the single or double games.

It is better to take the service, the lady's return of a good service being generally not quite what it should be. The sort of calculation a man goes through in one of these games is rather of this nature: his own service and the lady opponent's service he reckons on winning: he is resigned to the probability of losing his male opponent's service: his partner's service the chances are even about: any stroke he sends to the lady on the other side he is disappointed if he does not win.

Of course this is not strictly logical, but I believe repre-

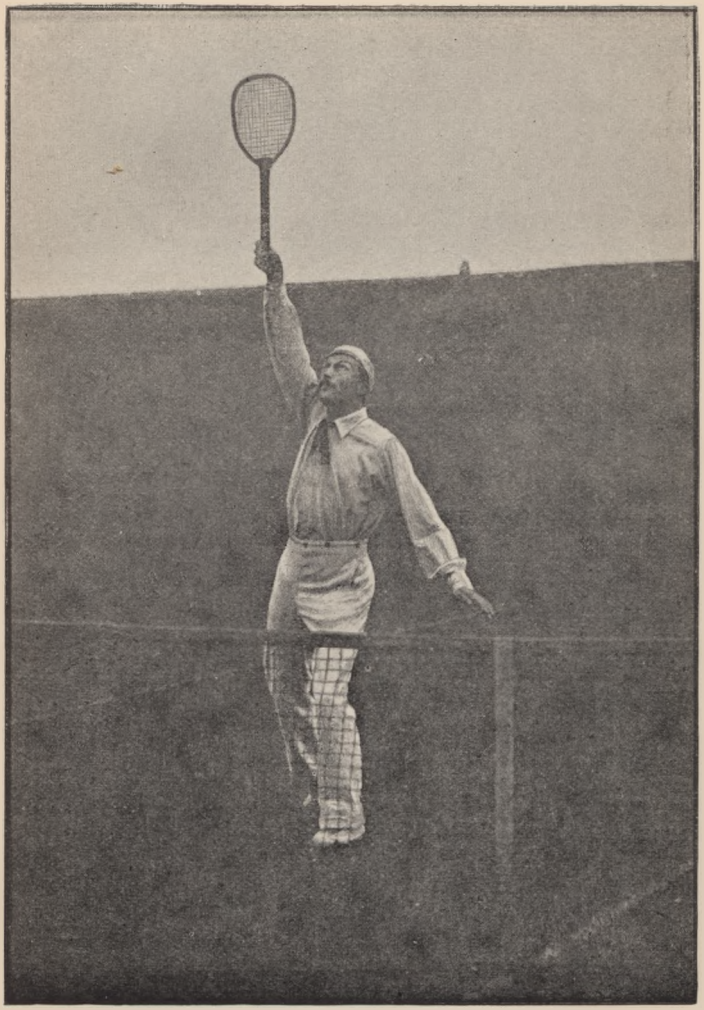
sents very fairly what passes through the minds of many men.

I should ask the lady to take the right-hand court; she is probably not very strong on the backhand, and the right-hand court is distinctly easier to play out of. The drawback is that one is generally one stroke behind, but I do not think this is so very important, and, besides, it makes one play more carefully. Add to which the fact that the only stroke most ladies have is across the court from the right-hand court.

It is no use running up after the service if it is to the man, as in a double court there is so much room to place a stroke, except in the rare cases where one's partner can volley. If she can, of course her best place will be at the net, and only about two yards off. If she cannot volley, the extreme corner of the court will be the best place for her.

If the service is to the lady, it will nearly always be safe for the server to run up and volley. While he must take care not to allow himself to be passed on his own side, it is sometimes a good thing to go rather far over, that is to the middle of the court, keeping himself prepared to spring back: in this way the lady may think she sees a chance of passing him, and may be diverted from returning the ball to his partner. If the server does not get the chance of volleying, and the ball goes to his partner, he had better, unless it is a very easy stroke, or his partner a very good one, run back to the base line out of his dangerous position.

When the lady is serving to the man, unless she has an unusually good service, her partner should stand near the middle of the base line, say from a yard to two yards from it. He cannot safely get nearer the middle, as he would then leave too much of his own court exposed. If the



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service is to the lady the man may be up about a yard behind the service-line.

As for the strikers-out: if the lady is returning the service, her partner should be at the back of the court; if he is returning it, she should be at the extreme corner: and this even if she is a good player, because, unless her partner is extraordinarily bad, he is bound to be better than she is, and therefore ought to have the large majority of the strokes.

In returning the lady's service the gentle cross-drop will be found exceedingly useful, as well as in the event of a poor second service of the man's.

As it should be the object of the man to keep the ball to the opposite lady, so it should be the object of the lady to keep the ball away from the man.

Sometimes, when the man is having a sort of duel with the lady, he will notice the other man edging nearer and nearer, preparing to cut in to his partner's relief; he may then suddenly place the ball across the man or down his line as the case may be, and take him completely by surprise.

Many ladies will be entirely nonplussed by a high underhand twisted service, and few can take them with much effect.

Let me say for their benefit that a forehand twist makes a ball bound to the left of the person who has to take it, instead of coming on; a backhand twist makes it bound backwards and to the right. The way to treat them is, instead of waiting for the ball to come to one, to go up quite close to where the ball will bound, and then no difficulty will be experienced.

CHAPTER XIV.

LADIES' CHAPTER.

I HAVE been asked to give a few hints on lawn tennis to lady beginners; but, before doing so, I should like to point out that more may be gained by watching good players than by anything that can be written on the subject. At the same time, every one is not so circumstanced as to be able to see first-class play, and it is hoped that the following suggestions may prove useful to such persons. I am well aware that my own style of play is in most respects not such as I should hold up as a model, notably the manner in which I play the backhanded stroke, which probably arises from not having been taught in the first instance the proper way of making this stroke. And here I would particularly wish to call attention to the immense importance of acquiring a good style at the outset.

The first important point is the holding of the racket at the extreme end, and not halfway up the handle, as novices invariably do. Greater pace and freedom of stroke are gained by observing this rule. The racket should be firmly but not tightly grasped, and the weight should not exceed 13¾ oz. Do not move your arm stiffly from the shoulder, but learn to use the elbow and wrist joints. This is a matter of considerable importance, and by paying attention to it your play will gain in grace no less than in efficiency.

Then, again, the tendency in the play of a beginner is to get too close to the ball. It is always easier to run forward than backward; therefore my advice is, keep a good distance off the ball. There being at present very little volleying in ladies' play, as compared with that of men, it is of the greatest

importance to stand well back in the court; indeed, I stand well outside the base line, and have always found this position in court the best.

The first object of the player is to hit the ball well in the centre of the racket, with such elevation as will carry it over the net and well into the back of the court. This is called a good length return. The nearer the ball is played to the top of the net, the more difficult will it be to return, but such strokes can be made with certainty only after much practice. The great matter for beginners (and these remarks are only addressed to such) is, in any case, to get the ball over the net. Severity of stroke and placing will follow in due course, and should not be attempted until the player has acquired some command of the ball. Another fault a beginner ought to guard against is, when a ball drops short, never to run forward and hit it very hard, or with exactly the same strength as if it had fallen on the base line, but to think of the position in court and to regulate the strength of the stroke accordingly.

There are two ways in which a ground-stroke may be taken, namely, at the top of the bound, and again quite late, when the ball is near the ground. Each way has its advantages; and while the present lady champion, in the majority of her returns, takes the ball very close to the ground, getting a good deal of "lift" on the stroke, I myself take it as high as I can.

With regard to the backhanded stroke, I am somewhat diffident in giving advice; but, in my opinion, a player could not do better than take Miss May Langrishe as a pattern; her backhand is generally acknowledged to be perfect.

Now, as to service, never have less than two balls in your hand, as you are more likely to serve a double-fault if you wait to pick up a second ball. Miss Martin is generally

considered to have the best service (hard, overhand) among lady players.

It is generally better to serve from near the middle of the back line rather than from the extreme corner, as is frequently done, and this for two reasons: first, because from the former position there is a larger portion of the opposite court into which it is possible to serve, and consequently there is less liability to make a fault; and, second, because in the middle of the court you will be in a much better position to take the return, which otherwise your opponent can easily place where you will find it impossible to get up to it in time.

Your position in the court is of much importance. I have already said that you should stand well back in the court, near the base line, and for similar reasons you will find it well to keep rather to the left than the right of the court; and in a double game, if you are in the left court, you had better stand quite near the outside line, otherwise your opponent will easily place the ball to your left, where it will not be possible for you to get to it in time. After making a stroke that takes you away from your ground, do not stand to watch the effect, but always get home again directly, to be ready for the return, or you will find, when too late, that it has gone past you.

It occurs to me that a few words on the subject of dress may not be out of place here. Nothing is more uncomfortable than a heavy narrow skirt; and I find that one made of the lightest possible material, not less than 2¾ yards in width, gives the greatest freedom in getting about the court.

I assume that the usual shoes with indiarubber soles will be worn, as it would, of course, be impossible to play in ordinary walking boots. The hat, too, should be one which, while shading your face, will not be inconveniently large.

In conclusion, there can be no doubt that lawn tennis is a most healthy and invigorating exercise for ladies, and is at present the one game in which a girl can to some extent hold her own with men; and I am sure, if only more ladies would take it up and play regularly, they would be far more healthy and strong.

CHAPTER XV.

PRIZE MEETINGS.

1. *Management.*

I only propose to enter very briefly upon this subject, treating it principally from the point of view of the player. About the preliminaries it is unnecessary to add anything to what is prescribed by the "Regulations" issued by the Lawn Tennis Association, except this—that in the present day for anything (or anybody) to at all succeed, extensive advertisement is absolutely indispensable.

I have already alluded to the courts, nets, and balls. The latter should be liberally if not profusely supplied, and should be easily accessible to all the players; it is a great nuisance to have to hunt about all over the ground for the particular person in whose charge they may happen to be.

Two ball-boys to each court add much to the comfort of a match, especially if they have been trained beforehand.

Many players dislike playing a single game on a court marked out for a double.

The time at which, and the number of the court in which, each match is to be played should always be fixed the night before. These fixtures should be rigidly adhered to. And in all cases every appearance of favouritism cannot

be too strongly deprecated. The player with a world-wide reputation and the novice of a first match should be treated exactly alike, and with evenhanded justice.

If the same player has to play both a single match and a double match on the same day, he ought to be allowed to play his single first, for two reasons—the single game requires more endurance, and therefore he should start fresh; and, secondly, it is disturbing to the eye to play in a smaller court after playing in a larger one.

Sawdust must not be forgotten.

Audible betting at any rate should be discouraged. For my own part, I should like to see no betting at all in the game. That, however, I fear is a counsel of perfection.

It is very essential to have good umpires. Few things are so distressing to a player as to have an incompetent or perverse umpire; and though they are a much-abused body, my experience is that they fully deserve all they get.

An umpire should know the "Laws" and "Regulations," and have copies in his pocket. He should also be familiar with the conditions of the particular match.

He ought to attend closely to the game, and give his decisions quickly and loudly. If he has not seen the stroke he should own it, and have it played again. Some umpires are shockingly dishonest in this respect.

He should not argue with the players, but be firm, and altogether disregard the remarks of outsiders, who are generally wrong and always prejudiced.

In the position in which the umpire is placed it is really impossible for him to see any line accurately. There ought to be as many line umpires as possible, and they should be put opposite the lines they are to umpire; nowhere else can they see properly.

It is very unfair to ask a player for his opinion on a stroke,

and neither the umpire nor the opponent should do so. Of course, if he volunteers it against himself, or the players voluntarily agree, it is quite a different thing, and the umpire, I think, would be right to accept the decision.

2. *Competitors.*

Few people ever go in for actual training for a match, still It is advisable to live moderately for a week or so before: for example, to go to bed not later than twelve; not to smoke more than, say, five cigarettes a day (as an eminent physician once expressed it to me—one after each meal and one to close and crown the night), and to be abstemious in the matter of drink.

It is bad to play too much. Five sets three times a week is plenty for a man in fair practice; otherwise one is apt to get stale.

It is a great thing in practice to leave off playing as soon as one begins to feel tired. I do not mean simply blown, but physically weary. It can only make one over-tired to play any longer.

Every player should make a point of being on the ground ready to play punctually at the time fixed; the motto of the better players should be *noblesse oblige*, and they should set a good example to others.

The anomaly which formerly existed under Law 4, by which the loser of the toss for choice of courts or service could make the service come from whichever end he liked, if the players were changing every game, has now been removed, and the winner of the toss may, if he prefer it, require the other player to make the first choice. This amendment has, no doubt, made the laws of the game more logical, but any other effect it might have had has been minimized by one of the changes in Law 23.

Formerly, the players might change ends every game throughout the match on appeal by one player before the toss, or throughout the odd and concluding set, if the appeal were made subsequently. This system has, on the whole, proved unsatisfactory. Obviously, if of two players one has considerably the better service, he may lose a great part of that advantage by having always to serve with the sun in his eyes; similarly with a player who has a very good first stroke off the service; and many other like instances suggest themselves. Now it was felt undesirable in the extreme that the fate of a match should depend further than was absolutely necessary upon the turn of a coin, and to eliminate the element of chance as much as possible, a new system has been adopted which has been in vogue in America for some little time. Shortly stated, the new rule provides that where players would formerly have changed every game, they shall now only change at the end of the first, third, and every subsequent alternate game of a set, and also at the end of the set if, and only if, the number of games in the set be uneven. The result is that the service never comes for more than two games running from the same end, and neither player occupies the same side for more than two games running. The reason for the proviso that sides are not to be changed at the end of a set if the number of games be even is that otherwise the service would come from the same end for three games in succession.

Another change in Law 23 is that either player may obtain, as a matter of right, from the umpire the direction to change sides in the way indicated above; whereas under the old law the umpire had a discretion to be exercised when, in his opinion, either side had a distinct advantage, owing to the sun, wind, or other accidental cause. I

should add that if either player wishes to change throughout the match, he must still appeal before the toss for choice.

The better player will now, of course, always insist on changing throughout, as the advantage to be obtained by the toss under the new rule is infinitesimal; and equally, of course, a worse player would not dream of suggesting to change, as, if there were any substantial difference between the two sides, he might win the alternate sets. This latter would more especially be the case if the worse player could last better than his opponent, as changing throughout has the tendency of shortening a match, except between even players, where it acts exactly the other way.

In a match moral qualities are of almost equal importance to physical ones.

A player should not become dispirited if he is behind, nor unduly elated if ahead. Above all, he should never lose his temper; if he does, he will play worse, lose the pleasure he might otherwise have had of feeling that he has made a good fight, and will become a laughing-stock to the spectators. Doubtless a wrong decision at a critical moment is very irritating, but the player must remember that it is part of the game that he should not only win the stroke in fact, but convince the umpire he has won it.

The player should always win while he can. I thoroughly disbelieve in the wisdom of saving one's self for the final set. It too often happens that in this way a man lets his game down, and then, when he wants to play up again, his stroke is gone. Several matches I have seen lost in this way; in particular I may instance the championship of 1885, which I am convinced Mr. Lawford would have won had he not relaxed his play at one time, fearful of Mr. W. Renshaw's

being fresher than himself in the fifth set. The result was that Mr. Lawford, after being a long way ahead in the fourth set, and allowing his adversary to creep up too near, found, when he wanted to play up again, that he was off his stroke, and there never was a fifth set at all.

It is just as well to see something of one's opponent's game beforehand, so that one may know what to expect.

Sawdust is a very useful thing for keeping one's hands dry, so that the racket should not slip, and it is well to see that there is a little heap at each end of the court. I do not know whether it is quite permissible, but it is a common practice for players to have recourse to the sawdust when they are very blown, and in this way get a little extra time to recover their breath. If a player can hold three balls in his hand while he is serving, it may save him trouble in the event of his serving a let.

It is far better not to drink at all during a match, but simply to rinse out the mouth with strong brandy and water.

CHAPTER XVI.

HANDICAPS.

HANDICAPS are most useful institutions, which every player, whatever his degree or standing, should patronize, or, rather, take advantage of.

Inferior players get the chance of meeting their superiors upon level terms, and enjoy the opportunity of feeling what it is like to have a good player on the other side of the net. I have already descanted upon the benefit to be derived from watching good play, but playing one match is better than merely watching a dozen. It is almost impossible really to appreciate the difficulties of making a particular

stroke unless one is actually taking part in the game, especially if it is played in good style. People often go away with the idea that lawn tennis is a very easy game, simply because they have seen a match between two first-class players in which both appear to play with consummate ease. For instance, when Mr. Ernest Renshaw is playing, any one might imagine from the way he handles the ball that the merest novice could cope with him ; but when one comes to try, one finds that the ball, struck without any apparent effort, travels with a most unpleasant speed into the one place which it is most inconvenient to get to.

Good players, too, by playing in handicaps acquire that certainty which is indispensable to a fine game. When one is owing forty, and giving away long odds beside, one careless stroke may imperil a whole set.

I am, however, bound to confess that the system of handicapping, although greatly improved by the changes which have recently been introduced, to which I will presently allude in detail, is unsound, and, it is to be feared, unavoidably unsound, in principle. The large number of players who enter for handicaps renders it absolutely impossible to assign the odds to them separately in pairs before each round, and recourse is compelled to an arrangement in classes which is permanent and unchanged throughout the competition. This system depends for its accuracy on the hypothesis that if A, say, can give B the odds of fifteen, and C and A are equal players, it necessarily follows that C can give B fifteen. Now, I have no wish to exaggerate, and will therefore only say that in very many cases this assumption is entirely incorrect. It ignores completely the difference between styles of play, the familiarity with the opponent's game, and other similar circumstances which exercise great influence in determining the odds

which lie between two individual players; in short, it looks upon men as machines. This, in my judgment, is a defect which is inherent in the system, and no plan is practicable by which it can be removed. In other respects, however, great improvements have been made by the amendments to Law 25. The abolition of the bisque—almost the last of the shackles to remain of those which had been imposed on the game by its fancied resemblance to tennis—it will not be disputed, is an unmixed good. The old method selected for its constant the bisque, than which there were few things more variable; attributed to it a fractional value of fifteen, which was notoriously inaccurate when odds were given, and still more so when they were owed; and finally created a number of classes, one-third of which were utterly meaningless and unnecessary.

For this is now substituted a division of fifteen into quarters—one-quarter, two-quarters, and three-quarters of fifteen, both given and owed: one-quarter of fifteen given being one stroke at the beginning of the second, sixth, and every subsequent fourth game of a set; two-quarters, one stroke at the beginning of the second, fourth, and every subsequent alternate game; and three-quarters, a stroke at the beginning of the second, third, and fourth games, and so on: while when odds are owed, quarter fifteen is a stroke at the beginning of the first and fifth games, and so on; two-quarters, a stroke at the beginning of the first and third games, and so on; and three-quarters, a stroke at the beginning of the first, third, and fourth games, and so on.

The differential odds between players with different handicaps are, of course, ascertained by a table as before. Perhaps at first some little difficulty may be experienced in mastering the new law, especially by umpires, who, as a rule, are not the most intelligent of beings; but I am con-

vinced that this will be merely temporary, and that the change will cause great relief to players at large, and immensely increase the accuracy of handicaps. Another result is that there is now very little to be said by way of advice as to how a handicap game should be played, as distinguished from a level game. As all the odds now work automatically, so to speak, there is, fortunately, no occasion for an elaborate investigation, such as used to be necessary to ascertain the period in the game at which a bisque could be taken with the most advantage.

I have already pointed out that a man giving odds will find it advisable to play more cautiously than he would otherwise do; it follows that a man receiving odds can prudently play in a more dashing manner than he is wont, and ought to go for strokes which it would be rash for him to attempt, had he not his points to give him confidence.

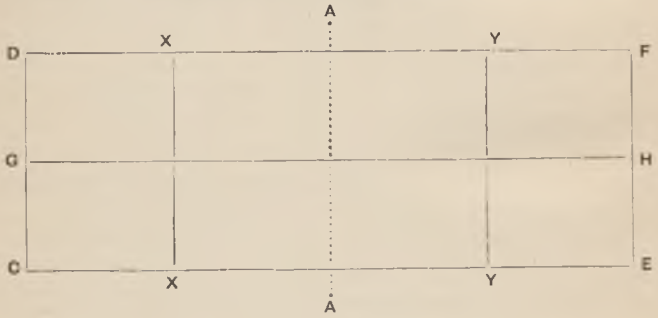
APPENDIX.

THE LAWS OF LAWN TENNIS,

Sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association.

THE SINGLE-HANDED GAME.

1. For the single-handed game, the court is 27 ft. in width, and 78 ft. in length. It is divided across the middle by a net, the ends of which are attached to the tops of two posts, A and A, which stand 3 ft. outside the court on each side. The height of the net is 3 ft. 6 in. at the posts, and 3 ft. at the centre. At each end of the court, parallel with the net, and at a distance of 39 ft. from it, are drawn the *base-lines*, CD and EF, the ex-



PLAN OF COURT.

tremities of which are connected by the *side-lines*, CE and DF. Half-way between the side-lines, and parallel with them, is drawn the *half-court-line*, GH, dividing the space on each side of the net into two equal parts, called the *right* and *left courts*. On each side of the net, at a distance of 21 ft. from it, and parallel with it, are drawn the *service-lines*, XX and YY.

2. The balls shall be not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., nor more than $2\frac{9}{16}$ in. in diameter; and not less than $1\frac{7}{8}$ oz., nor more than 2 oz. in weight.

3. In matches, where umpires are appointed, their decision shall be final; but, where a referee is appointed, an appeal shall lie to him from the decision of an umpire on a question of law.

4. The choice of sides and the right of serving during the first game shall be decided by toss; provided that, if the winner of the toss choose the right to serve, the other player shall have the choice of sides, and *vice versâ*; and provided that the winner of the toss may, if he prefer it, require the other player to make the first choice.

5. The players shall stand on opposite sides of the net: the player who first delivers the ball shall be called the *server*, the other the *striker-out*.

6. At the end of the first game, the striker-out shall become server, and the server shall become striker-out; and so on alternately in the subsequent games of the set.

7. The server shall stand with one foot beyond (*i.e.* further from the net than) the base-line, and with the other foot upon the base-line, and shall deliver the service from the right and left courts alternately, beginning from the right.

8. The ball served must drop within the service-line, half-court-line, and side-line of the court, which is diagonally opposite to that from which it was served, or upon any such line.

9. It is a *fault* if the service be delivered from the wrong court, or if the server do not stand as directed in Law 7, or if the ball served drop in the net or beyond the service-line, or if it drop out of court or in the wrong court: it is not a *fault* if the server's foot, which is beyond the base-line, do not touch the ground at the moment at which the service is delivered.

10. A fault may not be taken.

11. After a fault, the server shall serve again from the same court from which he served that fault, unless it was a fault because served from the wrong court.

12. A fault may not be claimed after the next service has been delivered.

13. The service may not be *volleyed*, *i.e.* taken before it touches the ground.

14. The server shall not serve until the striker-out is ready. If the latter attempt to return the service, he shall be deemed to be ready.

15. A ball is *in-play* from the moment at which it is delivered

in service (unless a fault) until it has been volleyed by the striker-out in his first stroke, or has dropped in the net or out of court, or has touched either of the players or anything that he wears or carries, except his racket in the act of striking, or has been struck by either of the players with his racket more than once consecutively, or has been volleyed before it has passed over the net, or has failed to pass over the net before its first bound (except as provided in Law 17), or has touched the ground twice consecutively on either side of the net, though the second time may have been out of court.

16. It is a *let* if the ball served touch the net, provided the service be otherwise good ; or if a service or fault be delivered when the striker-out is not ready ; or if either player be prevented by an accident beyond his control from serving or returning the ball in-play. In case of a let, the service or stroke counts for nothing, and the server shall serve again.

17. It is a good return although the ball touch the net, or, having passed outside either post, drop on or within any of the lines which bound the court into which it is returned.

18. The server wins a stroke, if the striker-out volley the service, or fail to return the service or the ball in-play (except in the case of a let), or return the service or ball in-play so that it drop outside any of the lines which bound his opponent's court, or otherwise lose a stroke, as provided by Law 20.

19. The striker-out wins a stroke, if the server serve two consecutive faults, or fail to return the ball in-play (except in the case of a let), or return the ball in-play so that it drop outside any of the lines which bound his opponent's court, or otherwise lose a stroke, as provided by Law 20.

20. Either player loses a stroke, if the ball in-play touch him or anything that he wears or carries, except his racket in the act of striking ; or if he touch or strike the ball in-play with his racket more than once consecutively ; or if he touch the net or any of its supports, while the ball is in-play ; or if he volley the ball before it has passed the net.

21. On either player winning his first stroke, the score is called 15 for that player ; on either player winning his second stroke, the score is called 30 for that player ; on either player winning his third stroke, the score is called 40 for that player ; and the fourth stroke won by either player is scored game for that player ; except as below :—

If both players have won three strokes, the score is called deuce ; and the next stroke won by either player is scored

advantage for that player. If the same player win the next stroke, he wins the game ; if he lose the next stroke, the score is again called deuce ; and so on until either player win the two strokes immediately following the score of deuce, when the game is scored for that player.

22. The player who first wins six games wins a set; except as below :—

If both players win five games, the score is called games-all ; and the next game won by either player is scored advantage-game for that player. If the same player win the next game, he wins the set; if he lose the next game, the score is again called games-all ; and so on until either player win the two games immediately following the score of games-all, when he wins the set.

NOTE.—Players may agree not to play advantage-sets, but to decide the set by one game after arriving at the score of games-all.

23. The players shall change sides at the end of every set ; but the umpire, on appeal from either party before the toss for choice, shall direct the players to change sides at the end of the first, third, and every subsequent alternate game of each set, provided that in such event the players shall not change sides at the end of a set if the number of games in such set be even ; but, if the appeal be made after a match has been begun, the umpire shall only direct the players to change sides at the end of the first, third, and every subsequent alternate game of the odd and concluding set.

24. When a series of sets is played, the player who was server in the last game of one set shall be striker-out in the first game of the next.

ODDS.

25. In the case of received odds :

a. One-sixth of fifteen is one stroke given in every six games of a set in the position shown by the annexed table.

b. Similarly, two-sixths, three-sixths, four-sixths, and five-sixths of fifteen are respectively two, three, four, and five strokes given in every six games of a set in the position shown by the table.

	1st Game.	2nd Game	3rd Game.	4th Game.	5th Game.	6th Game.
1/6 of 15.	0	15	0	0	0	0
2/6 of 15.	0	15	0	15	0	0
3/6 of 15.	0	15	0	15	0	15
4/6 of 15.	0	15	0	15	15	15
5/6 of 15.	0	15	15	15	15	15

EXAMPLE.—A player receiving four-sixths of fifteen receives nothing in the first and third games, and fifteen in the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth games of a set.

NOTE.—The table is not carried beyond the sixth game, as in the next and every succeeding six games the odds recur in the same positions.

c. The above odds may be given in augmentation of other received odds.

d. Fifteen is one stroke given at the beginning of every game of a set.

e. Thirty is two strokes given at the beginning of every game of a set.

f. Forty is three strokes given at the beginning of every game of a set.

26. In the case of owed odds :

a. One-sixth of fifteen is one stroke owed in every six games of a set in the position shown by the annexed table.

b. Similarly, two-sixths, three-sixths, four-sixths, and five-sixths of fifteen are respectively two, three, four, and five strokes owed in every six games of a set in the position shown by the following table :

	1st Game.	2nd Game.	3rd Game.	4th Game.	5th Game.	6th Game.
1/6 of 15.	15	0	0	0	0	0
2/6 of 15.	15	0	15	0	0	0
3/6 of 15.	15	0	15	0	15	0
4/6 of 15.	15	0	15	0	15	15
5/6 of 15.	15	0	15	15	15	15

EXAMPLE.—A player owing two-sixths of fifteen would owe fifteen in the first and third games, and nothing in the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth games.

NOTE.—The table is not carried beyond the sixth game, as in the next and every succeeding six games the odds recur in the same positions.

c. The above odds may be owed in augmentation of other owed odds.

d. Fifteen is one stroke owed at the beginning of every game of a set.

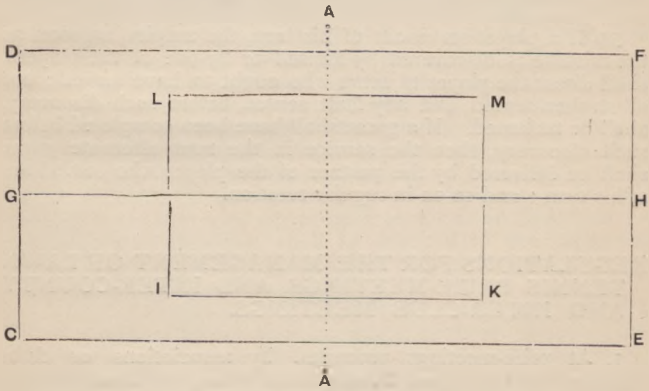
e. Thirty is two strokes owed at the beginning of every game of a set.

f. Forty is three strokes owed at the beginning of every game of a set.

THE THREE-HANDED AND FOUR-HANDED GAMES.

27. The above laws shall apply to the three-handed and four-handed games, except as below.

28. For the three-handed and four-handed games, the court



PLAN OF COURT.

is 36 ft. in width. Within the side-lines, at a distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. from them, and parallel with them, are drawn the service-side-lines, IK and LM. The service-lines are not drawn beyond the points I, L, K, and M, towards the side-lines. In other respects, the court is similar to that which is described in Law 1.

29. In the three-handed game the single player shall serve in every alternate game.

30. In the four-handed game, the pair who have the right to serve in the first game may decide which partner shall do so, and the opposing pair may decide similarly for the second game. The partner of the player who served in the first game shall serve in the third; and the partner of the player who served in the second game shall serve in the fourth, and so on in the same order in all the subsequent games of a set.

31. The players shall take the service alternately throughout each game; no player shall receive or return a service delivered to his partner; and the order of service and of striking-out once arranged shall not be altered, nor shall the strikers-out change courts to receive the service, before the end of the set.

32. The ball served must drop within the service-line, half-court-line, and service-side-line of the court which is diagonally opposite to that from which it was served, or upon any such line.

33. It is a *fault* if the ball served do not drop as provided in Law 32, or if it touch the server's partner or anything that he wears or carries.

34. If a player serve out of his turn, the umpire, as soon as the mistake is discovered by himself or by one of the players, shall direct the player to serve who ought to have served; but all strokes scored, and any fault served, before such discovery, shall be reckoned. If a game shall have been completed before such discovery, then the service in the next alternate game shall be delivered by the partner of the player who served out of his turn; and so on in regular rotation.

REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF LAWN TENNIS PRIZE-MEETINGS, AND INTER-COUNTY AND INTER-CLUB MEETINGS.

1. At prize-meetings promoted by associations or clubs affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association, the laws of lawn tennis for the time being sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association, and the regulations hereinafter contained shall be observed.

2. All details connected with any prize-meeting shall be settled by the committee of the club promoting the meeting or by a committee constituted for the purpose, of whom two, or such larger number as the committee may determine, shall form a quorum.

3. A circular shall be issued by the committee specifying the conditions of the competitions (see Recommendation 5).

4. No cheques, orders for money, or cash payments in any form shall be given as prizes, and the amount actually paid for each prize shall in no case be below the advertised value of the same.

5. The committee shall elect a referee with power to appoint a substitute to be approved by them.

6. The referee, or such other member or members of the committee as may be selected for the purpose, shall have power to appoint umpires, and the referee shall decide any point of law which an umpire may profess himself unable to decide, or which may be referred to him on appeal from the decision of an umpire.

7. The referee shall, during the meeting, be *ex officio* a member of the committee.

8. The courts shall be allotted to the competitors, and the competitors shall be called upon to play, by a member or members of the committee, to be selected for the purpose, and in case of disagreement the committee shall decide.

9. The committee shall help to keep order on the ground, and shall consult and decide upon any question arising out of the competition, if summoned for that purpose by the referee or by any two of their number ; and they shall have power, when so convened, the misconduct of a competitor having been reported to them by a member of the committee or an umpire, to disqualify the offender, and further to order him off the ground, should his misconduct appear to them to justify such action, but before such action shall be taken an opportunity of offering an explanation shall be afforded to the competitor whose misconduct has been reported to them.

10. It is the duty of an umpire,—

(*a.*) To ascertain that the net is at the right height before the commencement of play, and to measure and adjust the net during play, if asked to do so, or if, in his opinion, its height has altered ;

(*b.*) To call the faults (subject to Regulation 11) ;

(*c.*) To call the strokes when won, or when he is asked to

call them, and to record them on the umpire's scoring sheet;*

* Example:—

The strokes are scored by means of pencil-marks in the spaces beneath the word "STROKES," thus:—

Game.	Initials of Players.	STROKES.	Game won by.
1	A. B.	1 1 1 1	A. B.
	C. D.	1 1	
2	C. D.	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	C. D.
	A. B.	1 1 1 1	

The scoring-sheet shows that in the first game the score ran and would have been called, thus: "15—love, 30—love, 30—15, 40—15, 40—30, game (A. B.); in the second game, "Love—15, 15 all, 15—30, 30 all, 40—30, deuce, advantage (C. D.), deuce, advantage (A. B.), deuce, advantage (C. D.), game (C. D.)."

The score of the server should be called first.

In scoring handicap matches, the odds received should be marked by crosses on the right of the first perpendicular thick line before the commencement of each game, thus:—

Game.	Initials of Players.	STROKES.	Game won by.
1	A. B.	+	
	C. D.		
2	C. D.		
	A. B.	+ +	
3	A. B.	+	
	C. D.		
4	C. D.		
	A. B.	+ +	

Here A. B. is receiving fifteen and two-quarters of 15.

When odds are owed, they should be marked on the *left* of the first perpendicular thick line before the commencement of each game, thus:—

Game.	Initials of Players.	Strokes.	Game won by.
1	A. B.	1 1	
	C. D.		
2	C. D.		
	A. B.	1	
3	A. B.	1 1	
	C. D.		
4	C. D.		
	A. B.	1 1	

and crossed off one by one when the player owing wins a stroke, thus:—

Game.	Initials of Players.	Strokes.	Game won by.
1	A. B.	‡ ‡	
	C. D.		
2	C D.		
	A. B.	‡	
3	A. B.	‡ ‡	
	C. D.		
4	C. D.		
	A. B.	‡ ‡	

Here A. B. owes fifteen and three-quarters of 15.

(*d.*) To call the games and the sets at the end of each, or when asked to call them, and to record them on the umpire's scoring sheet ; *

(*e.*) To direct the competitors to change sides, in accordance with Law 23 ;

(*f.*) When appealed to, during a rest, whether a doubtful ball is "in play" or not, to call "Play it out," and at the conclusion of the rest, to give his decision (subject to Regulation 11) or direct the competitors to play the stroke again ;

(*g.*) To decide all doubtful or disputed strokes, and all points of law (subject to Regulations 11 and 12) ;

(*h.*) In handicap matches to call the odds at the commencement of each set ;

(*i.*) To sign the umpire's scoring sheets, and to deliver them at the conclusion of the match to such person as the committee may authorize to receive them ;

Provided, that no omission of any of the foregoing duties on the part of an umpire shall of itself invalidate a game or match.

11. It is the duty of a line-umpire to call faults and to decide strokes relating to the line for which he is appointed umpire, and to such line only.

12. The decision of an umpire shall be final upon every question of fact, and no competitor may appeal from it ; but, if an umpire be in doubt as to a point of law, or if a competitor appeal against his decision on such a point, the umpire shall submit it to the referee, whose decision shall be final.

13. The referee shall not bet on a match, nor shall an umpire on a match in which he is acting, and if an objection for this or any other reason be made to a referee or umpire, either before or during a match, by a member of the committee or a competitor, the match, if begun, shall, if necessary, be at once stopped by the referee or two members of the committee, who shall take the opinion of the committee on the objection, and the committee shall have power to remove or suspend the referee or umpire so objected to ; provided that the decision of the majority of the committee present shall be final, and that the referee or umpire so objected to (if a member of the committee) shall not be at liberty to vote on the question.

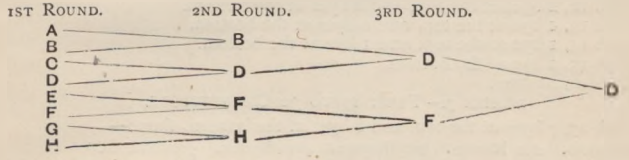
* At the end of each game the games should be called with the name of the player who is in advance, thus, "2 games to 1, B. wins," or "B. leads." If the games are level the score should be called thus, "3 games all," or as the case may be. At the end of each set the sets should be called in like manner.

14. No competitor may transfer his entry to another player.

15. Competitors shall have a right, by themselves or deputies, to be present at the draw.

16. The draw shall be conducted in the following manner: each competitor's name shall be written on a separate card or paper, and these shall be placed in a bowl or hat, drawn out one by one at random, and copied on a list in the order in which they have been drawn.

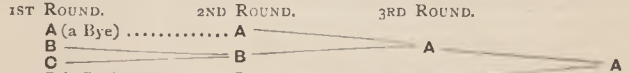
17. When the number of competitors is 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, or any higher power of 2, they shall meet in pairs, in accordance with the system shown by the following diagram :—



18. When the number of competitors is not a power of 2, there shall be byes in the first round. The number of byes shall be equal to the difference between the number of competitors and the next higher power of 2; and the number of pairs that shall meet in the first round shall be equal to the difference between the number of competitors and the next lower power of 2. The byes, if even in number, shall be divided, as the names are drawn, in equal proportions at the top and bottom of the list, above and below the pairs; if uneven in number, there shall be one more bye at the bottom than at the top. Thus, in

SERIES 1.—FROM 5 TO 8 COMPETITORS.

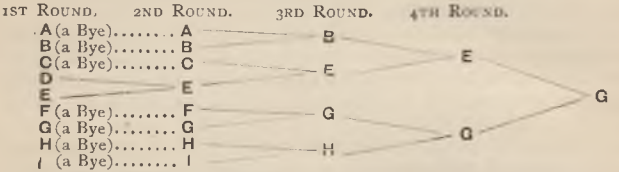
With 5, there will be 1 bye at the top, and 2 byes at the bottom of the list, thus:--



With 6, there will be 1 bye at the top, and 1 bye at the bottom.
With 7, 1 bye at the bottom.
With 8, no byes.

SERIES 2.—FROM 9 TO 16 COMPETITORS.

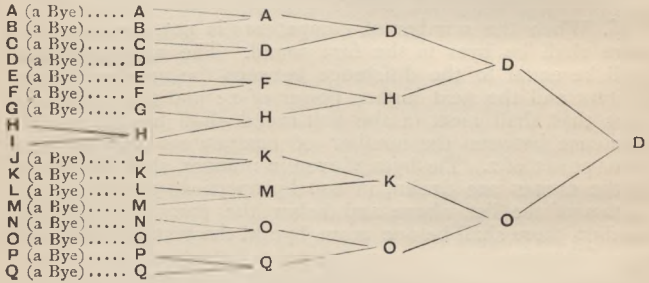
With 9, 3 byes at the top, and 4 byes at the bottom, thus :—



With 10, 3 byes at the top, and 3 byes at the bottom.
With 11, 2 byes at the top, and 3 byes at the bottom.
With 12, 2 byes at the top, and 2 byes at the bottom.
With 13, 1 bye at the top, and 2 byes at the bottom.
With 14, 1 bye at the top, and 1 bye at the bottom.
With 15, 1 bye at the bottom.
With 16, no byes.

SERIES 3.—FROM 17 TO 32 COMPETITORS.

With 17, 7 byes at the top, and 8 byes at the bottom, thus :—



With 18, 7 byes at the top, and 7 byes at the bottom.
With 19, 6 byes at the top, and 7 byes at the bottom.
With 20, 6 byes at the top, and 6 byes at the bottom.
With 21, 5 byes at the top, and 6 byes at the bottom.
With 22, 5 byes at the top, and 5 byes at the bottom.
With 23, 4 byes at the top, and 5 byes at the bottom.
With 24, 4 byes at the top, and 4 byes at the bottom.
With 25, 3 byes at the top, and 4 byes at the bottom.
With 26, 3 byes at the top, and 3 byes at the bottom.
With 27, 2 byes at the top, and 3 byes at the bottom.
With 28, 2 byes at the top, and 2 byes at the bottom.
With 29, 1 bye at the top, and 2 byes at the bottom.
With 30, 1 bye at the top, and 1 bye at the bottom.
With 31, 1 bye at the bottom.
With 32, no byes.
And so on, with larger numbers, in like manner.

19. If a competitor be absent when called on to play, or shall refuse to play, or shall have given previous notice to the referee or a member of the committee that he cannot play in his next round, his adversary shall win in that round.

20. In handicap matches, the competitors shall be handicapped by the committee, or a handicapper appointed by the committee.

21. Unless any other principle of handicapping be adopted, the handicap shall be by classes, as below :—

CLASS **O** (scratch).

Class		Class	
1	receives one-quarter 15.	**7**	receives 15 and three-quarters 15.
2	,, two-quarters 15.	**8**	,, 30.
3	,, three-quarters 15.	**9**	,, 30 and one-quarter 15.
4	,, 15.	**10**	,, 30 and two-quarters 15.
5	,, 15 and one-quarter 15.	**11**	,, 30 and three-quarters 15.
6	,, 15 and two-quarters 15.	**12**	,, 40.

When two players in different classes below scratch meet, the superior player shall start from scratch, and the odds received by the inferior player are as shown by the annexed table, No. I. To use the table, find in the diagonal line of figures the number representing the class of the superior player, then travel along the corresponding horizontal column until the vertical column is reached which bears at the top the number of the class of the inferior player. The odds specified at the intersection of the two columns are the odds required.

Example.—If class **3** has to meet class **9**, start from the figure **3** in the diagonal line of figures, and look horizontally until the vertical column is reached headed by the figure **9**. The odds given at the point of intersection of the two columns (viz. 15 and three-quarters 15) are the odds required.

When the difference between the best and worst players entered is great (say more than 30), it is desirable to handicap the best players at *owed odds*. The players above scratch (*i.e.* owing odds) should be classified as follows :—

Class		Class	
1	owes one-quarter 15.	**7**	owes 15 and three-quarters 15.
2	,, two-quarters 15.	**8**	,, 30.
3	,, three-quarters 15.	**9**	,, 30 and one-quarter 15.
4	,, 15.	**10**	,, 30 and two-quarters 15.
5	,, 15 and one-quarter 15.	**11**	,, 30 and three-quarters 15.
6	,, 15 and two-quarters 15.	**12**	,, 40.

When two players in different classes above scratch meet,

the inferior player shall start from scratch, and the odds owed by the superior player are as shown by the annexed table, No. II.

This table is to be used in the same way as the former, the class of the superior player being looked for in the horizontal line of figures at the top, and the class of the inferior player in the diagonal line of figures.

Example.—If class **12** (owe 40) meet class **6** (owe 15 and two-quarters 15), the former must give the latter the odds of owe 15 and one-quarter 15.

22. In championship-matches and handicaps by classes, as above, advantage-sets shall be played throughout the ties.

23. The committee may, whether appealed to by any competitor or not, postpone the meeting or any match or part of a match if, in their opinion, the state of the weather, or of the light, or the condition of the ground renders it advisable to do so.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. There should be, if possible, a clear margin of at least 12 ft. on each side and 21 ft. at each end of the court; or, between adjacent courts, 18 ft. on each side; but, should the courts be placed end to end, or end to side, there should be spaces of 42 ft. or 33 ft. respectively, and a stop net at least 8 ft. high between.

2. Should the referee be a competitor, a substitute should be appointed to act for him while he is playing.

3. If two or more prizes be given, the loser in the final tie should receive the second prize, and where more than two prizes are given, the losers in the last tie but one should receive prizes of equal value.

4. In important matches it is desirable to have seven line-umpires in addition to the scoring umpire, namely, one for each base-line, one for each service-line, one for the half-court-line, and one for each side-line.

5. The circular issued by the committee should include the following particulars :—

(1) The date, hour, and place of meeting ;
(2) The events, entrance fees, and value of the prizes ;
(3) The date, hour, and place of receiving and closing the entries ;
(4) The time and place of the draw ;
(5) The maker's name of the balls to be used at the meeting;

(6) The shoes to be worn, if there be any restriction in this respect ;

(7) The number of sets to be played in the various matches, and whether advantage-sets or not.

6. In handicap competitions the handicap should, if possible, be framed before the draw takes place.

REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INTER-CLUB AND INTER-COUNTY MEETINGS.

1. The Laws of Lawn Tennis for the time being sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association, and Nos. 10, 11, and 12 of the foregoing Regulations so far as applicable, shall be observed at all inter-club and inter-county meetings.

2. A referee shall be appointed by mutual agreement.

3. The balls used at all inter-club and inter-county meetings shall be selected by mutual agreement between the competing sides.

4. Provision for payment for the balls used at all inter-club and inter-county meetings shall be made by mutual agreement between the competing sides.

5. The hour for the cessation of play shall be fixed by mutual agreement before the commencement of play.

6. The number of single-handed or four-handed matches, or of both, to be played at each inter-club or inter-county meeting, shall be settled by mutual agreement between the competing sides.

7. All matches shall be the best of three advantage-sets.

8. The club or county which wins the greater number of matches shall be the winner at that meeting.

9. In case all the matches have not been played out by the time fixed for the cessation of play, or if play has been stopped by weather, the side having won the majority of matches shall be considered the winner ; should the matches be equal, the majority of sets shall decide, and if matches and sets be equal, the majority of games.

10. The qualification to play for a county shall be birth in the county, or residence therein for at least two years immediately preceding, but no one shall be entitled to play for more than one county during the same year.

11. For the purposes of lawn tennis, the boundaries of counties shall be deemed to be unaffected by the Local Government Act, 1888.

12. During the two years that a player may be qualifying to play for a county under a residential qualification, he may play for the county for which he has last previously been playing under a like qualification.

13. The qualification to play for a district shall be birth, residence, or business occupation within the district

14. The qualification to play for a club shall be *bonâ-fide* membership of that Club.

15. These Regulations shall be binding at all inter-club and inter-county meetings, and shall only be altered by mutual agreement between the competing sides.

TABLE No. I.

SHOWING THE ODDS AS BETWEEN CLASSES BELOW SCRATCH.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.2	15.3	30	30.1	30.2	30.3	40
1	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.2	15.3	30	30.2	30.3	40
	2	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.2	15.3	30	30.1	30.2	30.3
		3	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.2	15.3	30	30.2	30.3
			4	1-quarter of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.2	30	30.1	30.2
				5	1-quarter of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.3	30	30.2
					6	1-quarter of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.2	15.3	30.1
						7	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15.1	15.2	30
							8	2-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.3
								9	2-quarters of 15	15	15.2
									10	2-quarters of 15	15
										11	2-quarters of 15

15.1 means 15 and one-quarter 15, and so on.

TABLE No. II.

SHOWING THE OWED ODDS AS BETWEEN CLASSES ABOVE SCRATCH.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.2	15.3	30	30.1	30.2	30.3	40
1	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.2	15.3	30	30.1	30.1	30.2
	2	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.3	30	30.1
		3	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.2	15.3	30
			4	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.2	15.3
				5	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1	15.2
					6	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15	15.1
						7	1-quarter of 15	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15	15
							8	1-quarter of 15	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15	3-quarters of 15
								9	1-quarter of 15	1-quarter of 15	2-quarters of 15
									10	1-quarter of 15	1-quarter of 15
										11	1-quarter of 15

In using this table, supply throughout the word "owe" before the odds specified.

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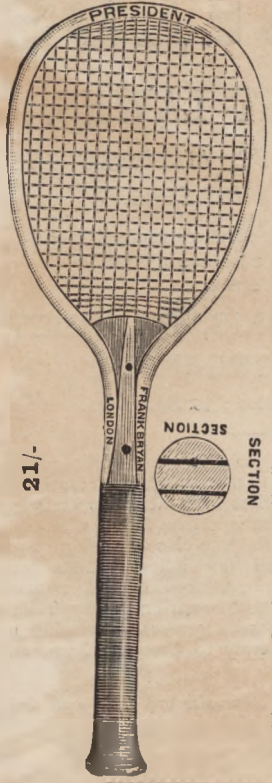

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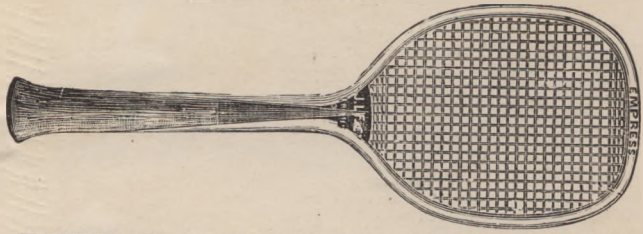

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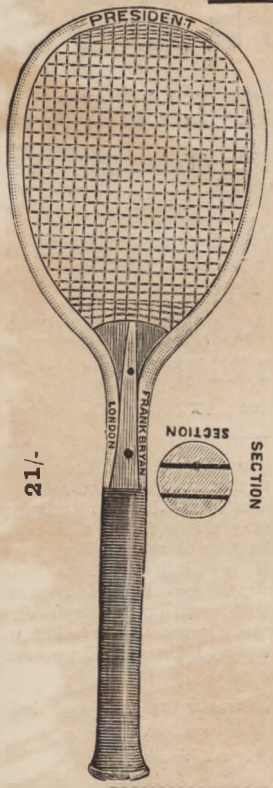

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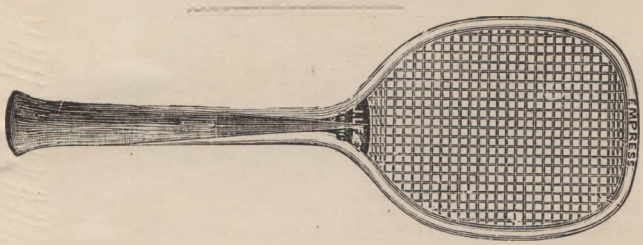

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