LIST OF COMMITTEES FOR 1949.

MEN'S TEAM SELECTION.

Messrs. J. S. Heaton, J. S. Harrison and E. Hampson.

LADIES' TEAM SELECTION.

Mrs. R. C. Middleton, Miss W. M. C. Bower, Mrs. M. J. Shardlow and Mr. E. Hampson.

JUNIOR TRAINING & COACHING.

Messrs. E. Hampson, W. F. C. Kitson, W. Charters.

SPECIAL FINANCE.

Messrs. H. H. Blackburn, C. W. Banks, J. S. Heaton and A. Turner.

INTER-CLUB COMPETITION.

Messrs. A. Heron, S. Longley, H. R. Marsland, F. H. B. Milner and C. G. Moeller.

SCARBOROUGH AUGUST TOURNAMENT.

Messrs. C. W. Banks (Chairman), E. Hampson, J. S. Heaton, W. A. Kay, H. Taylor, A. Turner and J. S. Harrison (Hon. Secretary).



C. W. BANKS.
(Our President).

THIS YEARS' YORKSHIRE PRESIDENT

A CAPABLE PLAYER AND ADMINISTRATOR.

Mr. C. W. BANKS.

By "THE TYKE."

Roll of Honour : Presidents, Y.L.T.A.

1921	...	G. R. T. Taylor.
1922	...	C. W. Wade.
1923	...	E. Fletcher.
1924	...	C. E. Fox.
1925	...	Reg. Webster.
1926	...	Alec Smith.
1927	...	C. Padley.
1928	...	F. H. Garnett.
1929	...	H. R. Starke-Jones.
1930	...	M. D. Hick.
1931	...	S. Watson.
1932	...	F. Bradbury.
1933	...	T. L. Taylor.
1934	...	Sir George R. Sitwell, Bart.
1935	...	Sir Robert Francis Dunnell. Bart.
1936	...	H. W. Mackrill.
1937	...	Colonel H. O. Wade, D.S.O., J.P.
1938	...	S. B. Learoyd.
1939-46		Joe S. Heaton.
1947	...	H. H. Blackburn.
1948	...	W. F. Dawson.
1949	..	C. W. Banks.

THE Yorkshire Lawn Tennis Association is proud of the fact that so many of its old stalwarts, still retain a real live enthusiasm in the County's well-being.

Year after year, a fresh name is added to the growing Roll of Presidents, and the Council, who make the choice are indeed happy in their selection of men, who have represented and upheld the high traditions of the County of their birth or adoption.

To many of the present generation of players, they are unknown, except by name, but the older members of the Association, still retain memories of their sterling sportsmanship and undaunted allegiance to the County of broadacres.

A Worthy Choice.

Mr. C. W. Banks, better known to his many friends as "Cyril" is this year's President of the Yorkshire Association—a right worthy choice, for he is known, much further than the confines of our own County, as a sound administrator, now that his active playing days are virtually over.

He was educated at Wilson's Grammar School and Eastbourne, where he gained 1st XI Colours at cricket and soccer.

He cannot recollect what aroused his interest in lawn tennis, but does remember in spring and summer months, when a boy of 16 and 17, getting up early in the morning, and playing tennis in the local park three times a week and swimming at the baths two mornings each week from 6-30 to 8 a.m. No tennis was allowed at school, except for masters.

A "Leg-Pulling" Story.

Our President's family moved to Leeds in 1907, and in that city, he has spent practically the whole of his business and sporting life.

He played soccer for Roundhay, and once toured in Holland, playing against several of the 1st Division clubs of that country; he also was in the Headingley hockey side for several seasons. However, lawn tennis was Cyril's best love, and he commenced his club life with The Leeds Athletic Lawn Tennis Club in Headingley.

The late C. E. Fox, a past President of the Yorkshire L.T.A. over many years, told the "leg-pulling story, of how, when at his best County standard," a young whipper-

snapper in knicker-bockers, complete with fishing net racket, and some dirty balls in an onion bag—came up to him, and said " Will you have a game, Sir ? " The reply was to the effect that he was sorry, but his opponent would be coming up shortly.

The subject of our sketch, still vividly recollects how he sat on a pavilion seat the whole afternoon, knowing no one, and eventually went home without a game that afternoon and evening, and so did C. E. Fox ! ! ! Of course, there was a vestige of truth in this story, but there were no knicker-bockers and no onion bag, and our President always possessed a reasonably good racket. Two or three years later, he was playing regularly with " C. E. " and much of his early progress at the game, was due in no small measure to the older man's helpful criticism and practice.

The Value of Practice.

A kind club member, affectionately called " Little Dixon " and his wife were the first club players to give him a game, and then a fortunate meeting with R. Stanley Johnson, who was equally keen on the game provided both a practice partner and a firm friend. This valued friendship has lasted over forty years and still continues.

1909 saw the pair at the Ilkley tournament and a win for " Cyril " in the 2nd Class Handicap Singles and also a win for the couple in the 2nd class Handicap Doubles gave them just the encouragement they both needed. After this, they decided to practice hard, and they certainly did, rarely missing an evening or weekend. Our President's game improved a little faster than Johnson's, and he was soon partnering George R. Coxon, that old stalwart of Yorkshire tournament tennis, as third pair in the Leeds Club first team, whilst later, in 1914, he was advanced to first couple, with Laurie A. Lowe, the Yorkshire County player, as his partner.

His War-time Activities.

Cyril's first county invitation was in July 1914, with Lowe against Lancashire—then lawn tennis was blotted out by the Great War for five years. The only game he played during that long period was a knock-up with the old Notts County player, Freddy Walker, at Bethune, in France 1916.

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Commisioned in 1914, in the West Yorkshire Regiment, he rose to the rank of Captain in 1916, and was twice wounded at Neuve Chappell, and Roclincourt near Arras. In 1918, he found himself in the Royal Air Force, acting as Brigade Major to the Balloon Section, which was the first stage of airship training. During this year, he several times experienced the somewhat doubtful pleasure of free-ballooning up 6/7000 feet, sitting in a small basket under a spherical balloon with no means of navigation, except to drop sand for rising and let gas escape for descending. He was often blown over London and once completed the trip from London to Lowestoft.

Quartered in the Polo Pavilion at Roehampton, during this period, with eight beautiful En-tout-cas courts at his door, and Fleming, the lawn tennis professional in attendance daily, " Cyril " bemoans the fact that he made one of the foolish mistakes of his life. If he had only had a couple of lessons on his backhand each week, it might have become a similar attacking shot as his forehand. Instead—he played golf.

An Active Business Career.

Out of H. M. Services, our President was back at business in December, 1918, and as Director and Secretary of the Norseland Canning Co. Ltd., plunged into the intricacies and technicalities of the canning of " Sardines ". Fortunately managing to weather the slump and storms of 1922, good fortune must have attended the hard work he put in, for by 1940, as Chairman and Managing Director of British Fish Canners Ltd., he was controlling the production of a chain of five modern fish canning factories around the coast, employing nearly 1000 workers with a production utilising 4/5 million silver fish daily. The activities of two subsidiary companies, the East Coast Packing Co. Ltd., and Aberdeen Canning Co. Ltd., were also under his direction.

He thus became the pioneer of the " Sardine Canning industry " and in 1937, was honoured by being elected President of the National Food Canning Council and became a Fellow of the Grocers Institute. A further honour came this year, in the election to the Junior Vice-President's chair of the Leeds Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, whilst he is also on the Leeds and District



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A Yorkshire Champion.

Returning to lawn tennis, the writer finds that Cyril joined Chapel Allerton L.T.C. in 1919 and soon had the privilege of playing with the famous Watson brothers, Sydney and Ernest, who were then in their prime. A few years later, the Y.L.T.A. policy was specifically to encourage young talent in the County and three veterans in M. D. Hick, H. W. Mackrill and C. W. Banks were given the job of partnering and breaking in, three very promising Yorkshire youngsters Colin Gregory, Jack Chamberlain and the late Reggie Knight, respectively, in County matches. Not many years elapsed before these three great youngsters were amongst the best players in the whole country.

Our President represented Yorkshire on the courts for more than 20 years, and managed to win two County Championships, the mixed doubles with Miss M. F. Harland in 1929, and the men's doubles with Dr. J. C. Gregory in 1930. He was also a finalist in the men's doubles, with five different partners between the years 1920 and 1934, was runner-up in the singles in 1927 and a finalist in the mixed in 1930.

Other honours were, being selected to play in one Northern Davis Cup Team Trial at Harrogate in 1923, playing at Wimbledon in the late 1920's and appearing in several Inter-County Hard Court Championship finals with Yorkshire.

Playing in practically every Yorkshire tournament of his day, there are few trophies that have not his name engraved once during those years.

Administrative Honours.

As I said at the beginning of this article, it is the administrative side of the game that mostly occupies Cyril's attention today.

He was elected a Leeds and District representative on the Yorkshire L.T.A. in 1928 and acted as hon sec. of the Yorkshire Inter-Club Competitions in which there were 21 different groups for some years before the last war. Made a Vice-president of the County in 1936, a further

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honour came in his election as one of Yorkshire representatives to the Lawn Tennis Association, in 1937. That body has elected him as a member of the International Selection Committee, responsible for the selection of Great Britain's Davis Cup, Wightman Cup and other international teams, a member of both the Finance and General Purposes Committtee and the International Match Committee, besides being chairman of the British Hard Court Championships at Bournemouth.

For several years past, he has filled the post of Yorkshire L.T.A. Chairman with dignity, whilst he is also chairman of the Yorkshire and North of England Championships at Scarborough. I know, too, that his latest honour has pleased him very much, viz. when his old club Chapel Allerton elected him, together with the Earl of Mexborough, as their joint President.

A Veteran's Championship.

On several occasions, Cyril has refereed tournaments, including the North of England Hard Court Championships at Scarborough, and has frequently, as L.T.A. representative been in charge of Davis Cup and other International matches. He has also written a series of weekly articles on the game for prominent newspapers and has been responsible for a number of fortnightly broadcasts on the wireless, once being charged with the broadcasting of a Davis Cup match.

This past few years, Arthur Heron has managed to drag him away from his golf to compete in the North of England Veteran Doubles Championship at Scarborough, and after victories in 1946 and 1947, last year the pair succeeded in making the handsome silver cups presented by Capt. Sir William H. L. Wordsworth, their own property, with a third win. It is a very dark secret, but Heron and our President hope to go into really serious training just once more to make a bid for the All-England Veteran Doubles Championship at Eastbourne. Curiously enough, another old Yorkshire player Gerald W. Chesterman of the Sheffield and Hallamshire Club and the evergreen M. J. G. Ritchie, are the holders of these cups. Then, if he is alive and it is not too late, he will make a serious attempt to reduce his present golf handicap of 10, down to single figures at Alwoodley.

A Closing Tribute.

The foregoing will show the type of man, the Council have as their President for this year, a thoroughly good sportsman, and the writer says this in the best sense of the word; a sound administrator, who is endeavouring to put back into the game, what he has taken out of it, an ardent man of business, and above all, one possessing a lovable trait in his character for his fellow-men, which all admire.

Such then is Cyril Wilfred Banks and all will extend to him and Mrs. Banks, the wish for many years of good health, and particularly to the former an enjoyable and successful year of office.

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