

from the standpoint of interest, nationwide representation, standard of play and financial results.

The tournament at Merion Cricket Club was a distinct success. It was held during the week of July 4th, the finals being played on Saturday, July 9th. The courts were in excellent condition, the weather was ideal, and the players and spectators enthusiastic. Due to the qualifying system there were only seventy-six entries in singles and thirty-two teams in doubles, but each of the players had, through the qualifying tournaments, already proved his right to compete, with the result that even the first round matches were closely contested, with the calibre of play extremely high. The semi-finalists in singles were Lewis Wetherell of the University of Southern California, Morey Lewis of Kenyon College, Robert Harman of the University of California, and Frank Guernsey, Jr. of Rice Institute; the finalists were Guernsey and Lewis, and the winner was Guernsey of Rice Institute. The semi-finalists in doubles were McNeill and Lewis of Kenyon College, Murphy and Murphy of the University of Chicago, Hunt and Wetherell of the University of Southern California, and Kamrath and Weller of the University of Texas; the finalists were McNeill and Lewis, and Hunt and Wetherell, and the winners were Hunt and Wetherell of the University of Southern California.

Financially, the final event at Merion was a success, resulting in a net balance of \$302 which was applied as rental for the grand stands. A detailed financial statement is attached to this report.

With respect to the conduct of the event at Merion, there appears to be only one debatable question and that is whether the tournament be conducted on grass or clay. In the preliminary discussions held during the Fall of 1937, it was unanimously felt that clay should be the surface used, because all college matches are played on a hard surface, and that with the exception of the West Coast practically all college matches are held on clay, and that the use of clay for the Intercollegiate Championship is merely providing the players with approximately the same surface on which they have conducted their Intercollegiate matches. It is interesting, however, to realize that many of the players prefer grass surface, even though they have had no preliminary opportunity for practice.

For 1938 the N. C. A. A. committee, in addition to the chairman, was composed of three representatives from each of the eight districts, with the exception of the Eighth District and in that case four representatives. The chairman has addressed a questionnaire to each of these individuals, seeking some guidance on the debatable matters. Of the twenty-five questionnaires, replies have been received from twenty-two. In the matter of grass versus clay for the final event, twelve of the twenty-two expressed a preference for clay, nine for grass, and one was in favor of rotating both the location and the surface. Three favoring grass are from the Eighth District, and the reason therefor is that inasmuch as West Coast colleges do not play on clay, grass, being a neutral surface for all colleges, is therefore a fairer surface.