

W. H. PETT

Among the proponents of any sport there are those who advance the game by their skill and artistry, by the sheer excellence of their performance and at the other end of the scale, lies the vast body of ordinary players who do what they do for their own enjoyment or even merely to keep fit: these bask in the reflected glory of the stars and get their own satisfaction but without putting in anything like the same effort.

All these are the backbone of the sport, but somewhere in between there is another band without whom no sport could flourish. These are those who have reached a reasonable standard of achievement which brings them into touch with the mighty and who, at the same time, play the game, not only for their own enjoyment, but for the enjoyment of all. These are the men and women who hold the offices in the various organisations, who arrange matches and run tournaments, who see that the lesser fry are not neglected and who handle the business affairs. Very often they know a great deal more about the game than its best exponents and they are prepared to lend their wisdom and give their services long after anno domini has robbed them of the ability to participate physically in the sport. When to this they are able to add real business ability their worth is above rubies.

Such a man is Bill Pett, our President. Fifty years ago he was active in the Clove Club, the Old Boys' Association of the Grocers' School at Hackney Downs and in 1927 he was a sufficiently leading figure in that Club to be a Founder Member of the Rugby Fives Association and a member of its first Committee. There, indeed was a band of enthusiasts! And Bill Pett's enthusiasm has never waned. As the years advanced, and not until a great many had passed by, on the advice of the great man himself, the almost legendary Dr. Edgar Cyriax, he gave up playing Fives and devoted himself to the gentler art of Lawn Tennis. But his interest in Fives and in the Clove Club never diminished and a few years ago, following the death of his friend and contemporary, L. G. W. Puckle (father of Keith and Ian) he became their representative at the Annual General Meeting of the Rugby Fives Association. From there it was but a short step to his re-election to the Committee of the Association where he quickly became Chairman of Committee. When it became the custom to

elect a new President each year, succeeding Presidents were only too happy to sit back at Committee meetings and leave the conduct of the business in the capable and experienced hands of Bill: the results speak for themselves.

There are three surviving members of that first Committee of 1927, Harry Beevers, John Nye and Bill Pett. The first two had been honoured by being your President and when it came to the choice of a successor the support for Bill Pett could only be unanimous. He will hardly be able to do more for the Association as President than he has done as Chairman but, as every parliamentarian wishes he could remember to say at the appropriate moment: "You may rest assured that everything that is, or may be, necessary has been, or will be, done." And more!

We wish him every success.

J.W.N.