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Henry Jones - Cavendish

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JONES HENRY (1881-1899), known as 'Cavendish', writer on whist, the eldest son of Henry Derviche Jones of 12 Norfolk Crescent, was born in London on 2 November, 1831. His father was an ardent devotee of whist, and was in 1863 chosen to be chairman of the Portland Club committee, framed the 'Laws of Short Whist', edited by John Loraine Baldwin in May 1864. Henry was educated at King's College school (1842-1848), and proceeded as a student to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was a pupil of Sir William Lawrence. After qualifying in 1852 as M.R.C.S. and L.S.A., he practiced for some sixteen years in the neighbourhood of Soho Square. In 1869 he retired from practice, but retained a connection with his old profession as a member of the court of the Apothecaries' Company.

In 1854, at Cambridge, Henry's younger brother, Daniel Jones, joined a know of young men of considerable ability, who had at first 'taken up whist for amusement, but who found it offer such a field for intellectual study that they continued its practice more systematically with a view to its more complete investigation, and to the solution of difficult problems connect with it'. In London, a few years later, Henry was introduced to his brother's set, of which he soon became the most advanced member. He began to make notes upon difficult points and to record interesting hands, and he joined the club known as the 'Cavendish', situated at the back of the Portland Club, where he met James Clay. His first written contribution on the subject of whist appeared in 'Bell's Life' for March 1857. In January 1862, in an article in 'Macmillan's Magazine', William Pole (q.v. Suppl.) suggested the utility of a handbook embodying a series of model games at whist. After correspondence with, and encouragement received from Pole, Jones brought out in 1862 a small edition of such a manual entitled 'Principles of Whist stated and explained by Cavendish'. A fifth edition was called for in 1863 when the title was altered to 'The Laws and Principles of Whist'. The eighth edition of 1868 was recast, a ninth edition was dedicated to James Clay, the tenth contains new matter, while the eleventh, of 1886 introduces the subject of American leads, as promulgated by Nicholas Trist of New Orleans. 'Cavendish' very soon came to be regarded as the standard authority upon whist, and was (so the story runs) appealed to as such by, among other prominent players, Jones's own father, though the latter had no idea that the writer was his son Henry, of whose powers as a whist player he had formed a far from commensurate opinion. Its distinctive merit as a manual was not novelty of doctrine, but lucidity, literary skill, and above all theoretical coherence. He was, however, the first to lay down clearly the true principles of the discard, and of the call for trumps.

Two years after 'Cavendish' came the slender and less exhaustive 'Treatise on Short Whist' of James Clay. 'Cavendish' was certainly a great advancer upon anything that had gone before, on the book of 'Major A', published in 1835, and on the book from which the latter was plagiarised, Matthew's 'Advice to the Young Whist Player' of 1804. Before this came Payne's 'Maxims', of 1770, which for the first time laid down the principle of leading from five trumps; and before him was the 'immortal' Edmund Hoyle, who published his famous 'Short Treatise' in 1742.

Immediately upon the appearance of his 'classic' in 1862 'Cavendish' became whist editor of the 'Field', and he soon afterwards became the 'Pastime' editor of 'The Queen', producing at the same time numerous manuals on games. Upon the subject of which he was an undoubted master he produced 'Card Essays', 1879 (with a dedication to Edward Taverer Foster and a supplement of 'Card Table Talk'), and 'Whist Developments', 1885. He assisted Pole in his

article on 'Modern Whist' for the 'Quarterly Review', January 1871, and he also contributed to 'The Whist Table', edited by 'Portland'. He naturally was a member of the leading whist clubs such as the Westminster, the Portland, the Arlington, and the Baldwin. At one time he played a great deal at the Union Club, Brighton. He visited America (May to October 1893), and a banquet was given to him by the whist players of Philadelphia at the Union League club in June 1893. He played in several matches of the Chicago Whist Club. As a player he was surpassed by his father, and still more by Club, whose occasional criticisms upon his own performances he records with candour. Jones's personality is described as decided, not without brusqueness. He died at 22 Albion Street, Hyde Park, on 10 Feb. 1899, and was buried at Kensal Green. His will was proved on 7 April 1899 by Harriet Louisa Jones, his widow, and Daniel Jones, his brother, the value of the estate being £11,916. The testator gave his Indian whist-markers to his sister, Fanny Hale Jones, his books, writing, and manuscripts to his brother Daniel. His whist library was sold by Sotheby on 22 May, 1900.

'Cavendish', said the 'Times' in a leading article upon his death, 'was not a lawmaker, but he codified and commented on the laws which had had been made, no one knows by whom, during many generations of card-playing. He was thus the humble brother of Juntinan and Blackstone, taking for his material, not the vast material interests of mankind, but one of their most cherished amusements.' In addition to his works on 'Whist', Cavendish issued guides to croquet (1869), bezique (1870), écarté (1870), euchre (1870), calabrasella (1870), cribbage (1873), picquet (1873; 9th edition 1896), vingt-et-un (1874), go-bank (1876), lawn-tennis and badminton (1876), chess (1878), backgammon (1878), and patience games (1890). He was much interested in croquet, and helped to found the All England Croquet Club. He edited Joseph Bennett's 'Billiards' in 1873, issued a limited edition of 'Second Sight for Amateurs', a very scarce volume, in 1888, wrote articles upon whist and other games for the ninth edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica', and collaborated with 'B.W.D.' in 'Whist, with and without Perception' in 1889.

Mr. Henry Jones and The Wimbledon Tennis Championships

One association that is less well known, but deserves to be celebrated is that of Henry Jones. Samantha Farhall, Assistant Archivist at Barts, remembers the former Barts medical student who was instrumental in establishing The Championships.

Henry Jones was born in London on 2 November 1831, the eldest son of surgeon Henry Derviche Jones. He attended King's College School, Wimbledon from 1842 to 1848, and entered St Bartholomew's Hospital as a student during the 1849/50 session. His signature can be seen in the hospital's archives in the student signature book (a book that students signed when they began their studies) for the 1849/50 and 1850/1 sessions, where his address is given as 23 Soho Square.

Jones qualified MRCS (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons) in 1852 and practised medicine as a GP until 1869 when he changed tack and became a full-time writer on games and sport. His writing career can be traced back to 1857 when he began writing about whist. Jones's father had been a keen devotee of the card game, and under his tutelage, Jones had become a good player at an early age. He was a member of several whist clubs, among them the Cavendish Club, and in 1862 he published *Principles of Whist: stated and explained by 'Cavendish'*, which became the leading authority on the game. This work was followed by treatises on the laws of the card games piquet and écarté. Jones became widely known as 'Cavendish' (his nom de plume), and wrote extensively in *The Field*, the world's original country and field sports magazine, which was founded in 1853.

In 1869, Jones joined the All England Croquet Club, which had been founded the previous year. He was later voted onto the club's committee, and was Secretary for a brief period in 1871. In 1875, Jones proposed that one of the club's croquet lawns should be set aside for the playing of lawn tennis. This proved to be a significant step. In 1877, the Club Secretary John Walsh proposed that a lawn tennis championship be held, and 'The Championships' were born. Henry Jones and two other prominent men, J. Marshall and C.G. Heathcote, formed a sub-committee to frame the rules, many of which survive today, and, from 1877 to 1885, Jones was referee at The Championships.

The only event held in that first year was the Gentlemen's Singles, which was won from a field of 22 competitors by Spencer Gore, an old Harrovian rackets player. The final attracted a crowd of about 200 spectators, who each paid one shilling. Today, Centre Court tickets for Gentleman's Finals Day – on the Sunday of the second week of The Championships – cost £75. Last year, the day was attended by 30,543 people.

The Ladies' Singles tournament was not inaugurated until 1884, when Maud Watson became the champion from an entry of just 13 players. The same year, the Gentlemen's Doubles was started, with a trophy donated to the club by Oxford University Lawn Tennis Club following the cessation of their own doubles championship.

Henry Jones died on 10 February 1899. Unfortunately, the fortunes of Wimbledon were then at a low ebb. Public affection for The Championships had waned for a period in the 1890s, and as a result, Jones's obituaries ignored his role in lawn tennis. It is sad that Jones did not live to see Wimbledon recover from this brief slump and go on to become the success that it is today.

Source: [Barts and The London](#)

