

(France), 3, A Borgni's Mayday (Italy).

RUGBY FIVES

Enstone captures 20th title

By Christopher Martin-Jenkins

WAYNE ENSTONE, of Manchester, won his 20th Open singles championship yesterday, making his already unique record that much more unassailable.

He beat Neil Roberts 15-7, 15-6 at Bedford Modern School in a contest of often breathtaking quality lasting an hour and 20 minutes. It was a match between an outstandingly fit and skilful player and a peerless champion, a Lancashire v Yorkshire battle played in a wonderful spirit: the umpire was superfluous.

Roberts, a vet from Settle in the Yorkshire Dales who learned his fives at Giggleswick but now plays it mainly at Halifax, may be 10 years Enstone's junior but deserves every credit for giving as good as he got in rallies often 30, 40 and 50 shots long.

The first game alone took 50 minutes and when Enstone, only 9-6 up in the second after leading 6-0, was forced into some untypical errors as he strove for winners, there were momentary doubts about the outcome. He dispelled them by changing gear and hitting the ball even harder and more accurately.

"When you hit the ball into the nick and believe it has to be a winner but it keeps coming back," said Roberts in awe afterwards, "you wonder what you have to do to win."

TELEGRAPH 7-12-93