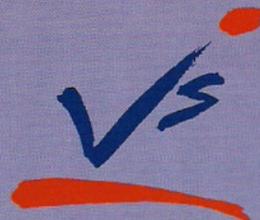


RUGBY FIVES REVIEW

Official publication of The Rugby Fives Association | Vol 2 February 2005



Courts back in use

For over 25 years two courts at Clifton College have lain idle as they have been used for storage purposes. Whilst the other two courts remained and the 4 courts at Clifton Prep were available, Fives at Clifton could continue to flourish. However, the demise of the Prep school courts in 2001 was a major blow not just for Fives at the school but for Fives in Bristol as a whole.

Following lengthy discussions between the Association and the College, also involving the West of England Club and Old Cliftonians, agreement was reached last summer for the courts to be cleared and for new back walls to be built. Work was completed in October (see photos) and all parties are delighted at the outcome. The College now has an excellent indoor centre of 4 courts which have already been used for the West of England regional singles qualifying competition and will be used for either the West of England senior championships or schools competition next season.

In addition, the West of England club has undergone a renaissance. Lionel Lawson, Club Secretary, writes "After a couple of years of uncertainty following the loss of our courts, the West of England club has been dynamically re-inventing itself during the last 12 months. Inspired by the prospect of having all four of the Music School courts at our disposal, we have reached far and wide to get old members back on court and also to attract new members and we are now regularly seeing all four courts in use on our regular Wednesday evening club sessions. There are now over 30 subscribing members including a quartet of Bristol University players and we are therefore hopeful that we are fostering the emergence of a University club from under our wing. Our club evenings are carefully nurtured under the dynamic leadership of our club captain Simon Werkshagen and anyone in Bristol looking for a game on a Wednesday evening should just turn up at any time from 7.15pm and they will be most welcome. Pupils from Clifton College are also encouraged to join our



club evenings which can provide a great opportunity for gaining skills and experience. If anyone is interested in a fixture please contact me, Lionel Lawson, on 01275 791020 (home) or 0117 9299447 (office)".

None of this would have been possible without the availability of funds through the Charitable Trust and in turn the generosity of all contributors to the Trust to whom we are extremely grateful.

MESSAGE FROM GEOFF SHERRATT, PRESIDENT R.F.A

We are only a few months into the 2004-5 season, yet already there have been a number of exciting and encouraging developments both off and on the courts.

Many of you will have been aware that for several years the Rugby Fives Association and the Eton Fives Association have engaged in regular dialogue under the guise of the 'Fives Forum'. Recently both Boards have been involved in discussions regarding their future strategies and both have identified weaknesses in the promotional and marketing aspects of their organisations. It has therefore been decided to strengthen the remit of the Forum and to give it responsibility for promoting and developing the game of Fives in all its versions, in the United Kingdom and overseas. It was considered that in doing so we would become a more attractive proposition to potential advertisers, sponsors and national bodies such as 'Sport England'. The Forum has been renamed the 'Fives Federation' but I must emphasise that the respective Boards will retain full control of such issues as strategy, rules, championships/matches, quality of courts etc. More details of this initiative can be found on

Page 4 of this review. I believe that this is a significant move forward for the Association and one that can only benefit us as the efforts to develop our game continue in the years ahead. In the first volume of the Rugby Fives Review, I confirmed that the renovation and opening of the Rugby Fives courts at Denstone College had reversed a trend of court closures. I am, once again, delighted to confirm this trend continues, and that a further two courts have been fully renovated and brought back into use, this time at Clifton College, Bristol. Once more the Charitable Trust very generously contributed to the total cost of the project. In addition I am extremely pleased to confirm that due to the enthusiastic efforts of Steve Korris, a club is being re-formed at Leeds University, and the courts there that have lain idle for about 14 years, will re-open. Finally, but by no means least, I was equally delighted to hear that the 105 year old courts at The Academy, Edinburgh, are going to have a major refurbishment in the near future, which will hopefully ensure that they will remain standing for a further hundred years and that Blundell's are considering enclosing some of their courts.

Continued overleaf...