

Brian Dance (1929-2011)

Brian Dance was Headmaster of St. Dunstan's College from 1973 to 1993, two decades in which the school's Fives players won more championships than did the representatives of any other school. No fewer than 16 National Schools' titles – eight Singles and eight Doubles – were taken by Dunstonians in that period, the second 'golden age' of Fives at the College.

Described by a former pupil as 'a source of immense strength, wisdom, leadership and kindness', Brian Dance was an ever-present Headmaster who led by example. He supported the whole range of the College's activities, and it was a rare Fives match which

did not receive an enthusiastic visit at some stage of the afternoon, however cold and blustery the weather.

For many years, St. Dunstan's hosted the annual representative match between the RFA and the British Universities, and tea with the Dances afterwards was a regular feature of the day. Their son David, who learnt his fives at Bedford School in the 1970s, became Universities' Doubles champion in 1983/4 and played in the match that season.

Brian Dance was elected a Vice-President of the Rugby Fives Association on his retirement from St. Dunstan's in 1993, in recognition of his unstinting support for the game.

