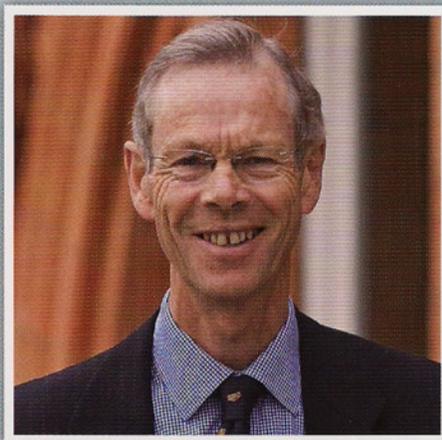


## Christopher Martin-Jenkins (1945-2013)

In all the talk of Chris as a cricketer at Marlborough and Cambridge, it passed almost without mention that he was a fine player of Rugby Fives who twice represented Cambridge in the Varsity match and served as RFA President from 1993-95.

Chris played Fives at Marlborough, where standards were not high, but at the beginning of his second year at Cambridge, he professed a desire to play the game seriously. He progressed from the Sparrows, the second team, to the VIII that played Oxford.

In Chris's autobiography he writes most affectionately of the game, but modestly, or perhaps because of the vagaries of memory, omitted to mention that he was elected Captain for 1967-68, since at the time it was still possible that he might return for a fourth year. As is well known, he did not, preferring to become Deputy Editor of 'The Cricketer'.



Chris played little Fives after Cambridge, but he returned whenever possible for the Past versus Present fixture. In his late forties Chris was encouraged by his former Cambridge Captain, Bob Dolby, to play in Veterans' Fives. This he did despite the fact that Fives, played largely around or below knee-level, caused agony to a man who

CMJ: wrote affectionately of Fives (photograph by Patrick Eagar)

had the kind of back problems that afflict those of his height.

Such was Chris's affection for the game, however, that he gladly became RFA President, promoting the game quietly and lauding it in a lengthy article about Fives-playing cricketers such as Jack Davies, Peter May, John Pretlove, Dennis Silk and Vic Marks.

Chris was delighted when his eldest son, James, gained a Half-Blue at Oxford, leading a winning side in 1993.

He was equally delighted when it became clear in 2011 that Fives courts would return to Cambridge after 18 years. Chris was a generous supporter of the appeal to finance the courts in the new Sports Centre, and his name will be on the Honours Boards there.

**Bob Dolby**