

COUNTY RUGBY FIVES AND OTHER TOPICS.

The committee of the Rugby Fives Association have been much exercised in their minds over the County Championship, which began on Friday, November 9th, with a match between Surrey and Middlesex. It is generally agreed that this competition serves a very useful purpose, but there is no doubt that it is the most difficult of all Fives championships to handle successfully.

Until the Rugby Fives Association obtain central courts they are forced to borrow their facilities for playing off Championships from local clubs, and as Saturdays are practically speaking an impossibility, these matches have to take place during the week and in the evenings. Time is, therefore, a big factor in arranging this competition and it has been decided after considerable experiment that four games for each player is the maximum. Up to this year it has been customary to consider two games of doubles, against each pair, as imperative to any sane competition but this had the severe drawback, in the case of the County championship, of eliminating singles play. Accordingly it has been decided as a further experiment for this year that each player for his county shall play his opposite number one single, and that the county first doubles pair shall play three doubles against the first pair of the other county and the county second pair three doubles against the second pair of the other county. The match will then be concluded.

This scheme has three distinct advantages. It limits the match to four games per player, which has been proved to be the maximum; it introduces the singles game which, except for the singles championship, is in danger of dying out; and it eliminates those dreadful waits in the cold, when one half of the players have finished their doubles and are waiting for the others to conclude their games so that they might change opponents.

The committee do not claim that this system is ideal but they hope very much it will be considered an improvement compared with the conditions of last year. There appears to be a very general feeling that singles should be included in a county championship match and the committee have acted on this assumption.

It seems probable, which is very good news, that Bedfordshire will very shortly have a county organisation of their own. The two schools, Bedford and Bedford Modern, should provide a very good nursery for a Bedfordshire Club, especially now that it is known that the Masters at both are taking a very keen interest in the game. Mr. S. G. Lewis of Bedford Modern School has undertaken to raise a county side for the present championship, and we wish him and his team every success.

SURREY v. MIDDLESEX.

In the first county Rugby Fives match of the season, played in the Alleyn's School courts, Dulwich, Surrey beat Middlesex by 143 points to 114. Surrey established a long lead on the Singles but there was hardly anything in the doubles, although the brothers H. A. and V. E. Oundjian did well to keep their advantage against P. A. Malt and W. J. Rees, although losing two of the games.

P. A. Malt (Surrey) beat H. A. Oundjian, 15-10.
W. J. Rees (Surrey) beat V. E. Oundjian, 15-7.
P. K. Truman (Surrey) beat C. S. Farnes, 15-6.
D. E. Smith (Surrey) beat F. A. Vogler, 15-13.

Malt and Rees (Surrey) lost to Oundjian and Oundjian, 7-15, 16-15, 15-11.
Truman and Smith (Surrey) beat Farnes and Vogler, 15-12, 15-13, 15-12.

Essex have gained a walk-over from Sussex, who were unable to raise a representative team, and the next match will therefore be between, the East Midland Counties, and the South Western Counties, on November 23rd, to be followed on November 30th by Kent v. Bedfordshire.

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