

THE OLD ALLEYNIANIANS.

By G. R. RIMMER.

The Old Alleynian Fives and Squash Club, which has just completed its fifth and most successful year, is the only Public Schools Old Boys Club having a combined Fives and Squash section.

Although the club was founded in 1930, the idea of forming a Fives Club had been in the minds of several Old Alleynians prior to this date although at that time a Squash Club was never contemplated.

The reason why no club had been founded was that there were no courts available but when the following notice appeared in the Dulwich Year Book, steps were immediately taken.

"For some years past a number of O.A.'s. have indulged in Fives at the College, at times when the courts have not been required by the School. During 1929-30 the fixture list has been extended to 18 matches, 12 of which have been won, which may be considered very satisfactory seeing that there was no organised club.

"J. Battersby, N. H. F. Burrell, H. N. Harcourt, W. G. F. Hoskins, H. Hicks, R. P. Jonas, J. R. Kelting, E. D. Miller, J. F. Oliver, G. R. Rimmer, W. Schlund, P. E. Smith, F. K. Truman, F. A. Vogler, L. H. Way, have played in the matches. It is now proposed to form an O.A. Fives Club. Before next September it is hoped that everything will be in full working order.

"In the meantime it has been decided that the Fives Courts at the School are to be lighted with electricity, and perhaps what will be even more pleasing is that 3 new full-sized Fives and 2 Squash Courts are to be erected at the back of the existing Courts."

Mr. W. R. Booth, the Head Master of Dulwich College, was approached about the forming of a Club, and offered the use of the Fives and Squash Courts at certain times to the Old Alleynians. He also took the chair at the first

meeting on July 11th, 1930, when the Club was formed as the Old Alleynian Fives and Squash Club.

Actually the Club was only able to start through School Courts being fitted with electric lights, and formed before the Squash Courts were built.

The unofficial club had been in progress for many years, one of the first fixtures originated through a Gym Competition between the O.A.'s. and the Clove Club. Several Fives players were members of the Gym Club including W. Schlund who arranged this fixture which has been an annual one ever since. In fact, the Gymnastic Competition with the Clove Club was in progress.

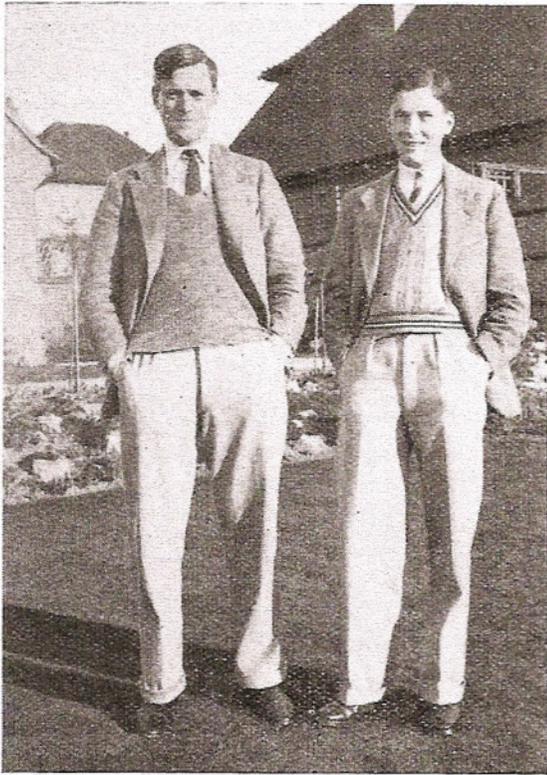
Some of the members of the unofficial club will be travelling far and wide for their games of Fives on Friday afternoons, sometimes going as far as Rochester to play the Old Roffensians, where there was always a risk of spending the afternoon in the Cinema if it rained, owing to there being only open air courts. About the only evening fixtures in those days were against the Bank of England at Roehampton, the popularity there was and still is so great that the players never expect to get home before midnight.

Also the Boxing Day Fixture with the Old Blue Club took place in 1929, and remains one of the most pleasant fixtures in which 8 or 12 aside take part. The enjoyment of this match is only exceeded by the pleasure of drinking the Alleyn's Head beer and lurching at the Roffensian Tavern afterwards.

About 30 O.A.'s. were present at the first meeting when the club rules were passed. G. R. Rimmer and N. H. F. Burrell were elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively and have held these offices ever since. E. D. Miller one of the finest schoolboy players ever elected captain, but unfortunately went abroad at the end of the season. The Committee members are F. A. Vogler, W. Schlund, J. Battersby, F. K. Truman, D. E. Smith (Cambridge) and W. G. F. Hoskins (Oxford). The results of matches this year and following year will appear below. J. Battersby was the most prominent player and took part in 18 matches, however the club



THE OLD ALLEYNIANIANS. From Left to Right (standing)—R. STANTON (Captain of Squash), J. G. PETTIFER, C. F. DAY, L. H. WAY, K. R. PETTIFER, R. P. JONAS, G. V. BULL, N. H. F. BURRELL (Hon. Treas.).
Front Row (Left to Right)—J. OLIVER, D. E. SMITH, F. K. TRUMAN (Captain of Fives), F. A. VOGLER, G. R. RIMMER (Hon. Sec.), A. J. MILLER, W. SCHLUND.



Cambridge Old Aileynians—R. J. KNIGHT and B. C. GOUGH.

his services the following season when he went to live in the North of England. A number of members started playing Squash as soon as the courts were completed but no fixtures were arranged. In the following year F. A. Vogler was elected Captain of Fives and S. N. Grossmith, the Surrey Lawn Tennis player, Captain of Squash, the latter also went out of London in the middle of the season and J. R. Kelting carried on in his stead and was elected Captain in 1932. F. A. Vogler has done a great deal of good work for the Club and for Fives in general, as he was responsible for the founding of the Westminster Bank Fives Club in 1931. W. G. F. Hoskins who was captain of Oxford and D. E. Smith who played for Cambridge in the Varsity Fives match in the same year, played on several occasions for the club. D. E. Smith has since been a great asset to the Club not only in Fives but also in Squash.

In 1932 the Club Competitions were organised, Challenge Cups for an Open Fives Singles and Open Squash competition were presented by G. R. Rimmer and J. R. Kelting. In addition to these competitions, handicap events are played in both Fives and Squash, and the entries for last season were 43 in the Squash, and 34 in the Fives events.

The Open Fives Singles Challenge Cup was won by F. K. Truman in 1932, 1933 and 1935, and by D. E. Smith in 1934.

J. R. Kelting won the Open Squash in 1932 and 1935, D. E. Smith in 1933 and A. J. Mutton in 1934.

In 1933 F. K. Truman was elected Captain of Fives and R. Stanton, Captain of Squash, both of whom still hold these offices. F. K. Truman is, without doubt, one of the finest Fives players the club is ever likely to produce, and he has played in more matches than any other player since the club started.

R. Stanton by his keenness and experience has greatly improved the standard of Squash and has been almost

entirely responsible for the present extensive Squash fixture list.

In 1934 B. C. Gough was awarded his half blue for Fives at Cambridge and played several times for the club. Last year he was joined at Cambridge by R. J. Knight with whom he had won the Public Schools Doubles Championship in 1933. Both played for Cambridge in the Varsity match and have also played as a pair for the Club on five occasions this season. L. D. Jasper who is also at Cambridge has played ten times for the club this season. It is encouraging to find how keen the Varsity members are, and it is hoped that they will be able to play regularly for the club when they come down. Although the old original members are the backbone of the Club teams, and set a very high standard, there seems no reason why this standard should not be kept up in future years by the younger members. Since the Club was founded a further Fives Court and two Squash courts have been built, so that Dulwich is exceptionally fortunate in this direction.

Most of the Squash players have only taken up the game since 1931, but judging by recent match results it seems evident that the standard is definitely improving, and certainly a large number of new members are taking up the game.

The following play regularly in Squash matches, H. B. Andrews, J. R. Kelting, A. J. Mutton, R. B. A. Smith, R. Stanton.

The annual Club Supper is the closing feature of the season, and always well attended. Every year it has been held at a different place, the last one however, the "White Hart" (opposite Barts.) proved the best in every direction. At this supper Mr. H. M. Morris, the School Fives Master made an excellent Chairman. Unfortunately the usual pianist, K. W. Millage, late Hon. Secretary of the Old Blues, was not present as he is now in India.



Holder of the Individual Squash Title—J. R. KELTING.

The Clubs most prominent annual Fives Fixtures are with Alleyn Old Boys, Old Blues, the Jesters, Old Paulines, Old Merchant Taylors, the Bank of England and the Rugby Fives Association.

Squash matches are played against the Jesters, Old Westminster, Old Millhillians, the Wellesley Club, the Foster Engineering Company, Civil Service, Radlett Squash Club, etc.

The second four Fives fixtures are not taken quite so seriously as the other matches, but are arranged for the benefit of keen regular players who do not get the opportunity of playing for the first four.

MATCH RESULTS.

First Four Fives.	Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.
1930-31	21	12	1	8
1931-32	29	14	1	14

1932-33	26	15	0	11
1933-34	27	21	0	6
1934-35	22	18	0	4

The only four losses this season were Cambridge University, Old Paulines, Old Merchant Taylors and Westminster Bank, all of whom were beaten in the return matches.

Second Four	Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.
1930-31	11	3	0	8
1931-32	8	4	0	4
1932-33	10	4	0	6
1933-34	12	2	1	9
1934-35	13	6	0	7

Squash.	Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.
1931-32	10	2	0	8
1932-33	9	2	0	7
1933-34	24	8	2	14
1934-35	20	15	1	4

Squash "A" Team.	Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.
1934-35	4	0	2	2