

RFA Handbook 1974-75

SIR WILLIAM HARPUR MEMORIAL TROPHY

In February, 1974 a handsome sterling silver cup with silverbanded plinth was presented to the Association by Mr. Robert Digby-Clarke in commemoration of the quarter-century of the death of Sir William Harpur in February, 1574. 'Sir William Harpur (1497-1574) Memorial Trophy' is engraved on the face of this cup on the reverse side of which 'Colts Singles Open Championship' will be engraved, following the decision of the Executive Committee that it shall be thus awarded to give effect to the donor's request that the cup be used for an annual competition to encourage youthful fives players.

William Harpur left his native town of Bedford as a lad and went to London, probably to be apprenticed to a master tailor. He was admitted to the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1533 and became Master of that Company in 1553. In the same year he became an Alderman of the City of London and in 1561 was elected Lord Mayor of London. Having established himself in the City, he made, *inter alia*, a gift of land in the Holborn area to the Bedford Corporation as an endowment for education in that town; it is The Harpur Trust who administer this benefaction for which many notable fives players from Bedford School and Bedford Modern School have had cause to be grateful.

It is planned that Colts (aged under 16 years on 1 September, 1974) shall compete for this new championship at Whitgift School, Croydon at the same time as the Schools' Championships are held at the beginning of April, 1975. Mr. C. E. A. Whyte, Hon. Schools' Secretary, will organise the Colts' competitions, which are 'Open' to include young club players (e.g. Y.M.C.A.), and it is hoped that Masters including fives at schools and Club coaches will encourage their young hopefuls to participate.