

Alastair Mackenzie has brought presence to the Rugby Fives Association, not only for his personal style which evolved from Clifton and Oxford University via the Army but also for his comprehensive attendance at all the Rugby Fives championships so far during his term of office. His love of Fives is perhaps not even outweighed by his dedication to wine. He is a Master of Wine and an author on wine but he is no wine snob, for he can admire a good vintage of the home-made variety as also do his guests when indulging in some of Alastair's fruity essences at his home in Barnes, where they are capable of engendering a feeling of euphoria equal to that of a good Muscadet or Mouton Rothschild,

Alastair is still very active on court and, appropriately, took (with Roger Freebairn) this year's Veterans' Doubles Championship away from the, seemingly, perennial holders. His erect stance and economy of back-swing produces crisp, stabbing shots which often seem to 'hurry-through' and he has a neat line in reverse angles. As befits a London Marathon runner, Alastair achieves a vigorous work-rate and never gives up even if his exertions raise his complexion from the shades of a subtle Rosé d'Anjou to nearer that of a full-bodied Nuit St. George.

Alastair's literary talent goes beyond the grape for he is preparing a book on Rugby Fives and he well known in after-dinner circles for his skill with an Ode and his wit with a Clerihew. In both these there is a definite 'spritzig' akin to that found in a quality Mosel.

For many years he has been in charge of fives at St. Paul's from where his former pupils continue to bring the sort of honour to the game which we have come to expect from the 'Master'. All in the fives world have enjoyed Alastair's company at one time or another and no more so when accompanied by his wife, Pauline, who in her own way has made a valuable contribution to this and the next generation of fives players.

J.I.C.

Bill Pett,
Very kindly offered a let,
When Geoffrey Rimmer,
Tripped over his zimmer.

John Gray,
Said, "Who are we playing to-day?
I see - - - - -",
"And who are we?"

(A.I.ff. M.)