

THOMAS COLIN HINDSON (1934-2001)

Colin Hindson died on September 9th 2001 after a short final illness, aged 67. He had been Consultant Adviser in Dermatology to the Army from 1971 until his retirement in 1977 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

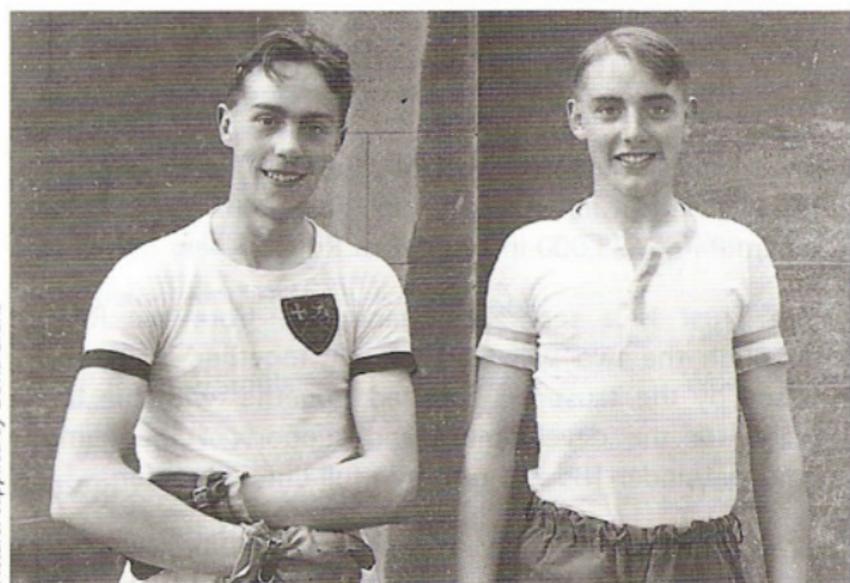
At school at Durham, and afterwards at St John's, Cambridge and St Bartholomew's Hospital, he will be remembered as an enthusiastic Fives player. He was not naturally a gifted player of ball games - always destined to be a forward on the Rugby field, where typically he battled his way into the 1st XV - but how hard he worked to become a good Fives player. Those who played with him will remember the whirling arms, the beads of sweat on the floor and the questioning half-smile - could that point really be lost? Might it not possibly be a let?

I'm pretty sure he would have traded much of his very considerable academic success for the Fives half-blue that just eluded him at Cambridge, though he toured Scotland with the University team and much enjoyed that both on and off court.

He was a great organiser, and the North of England Championships, played for some years on the Durham courts, were largely his brainchild and succeeded through his efforts. Colin showed what pleasure Fives can be, and when I think what the game meant to Colin and to many like him, it seems to make it all the more sad that the courts at Durham are no longer in use.

Tony Tiffin

Picture: supplied by David Evans



Colin Hindson (left) and Tony Tiffin at Durham School in 1953

Editor's postscript: Those who heard Alastair Mackenzie's speech at the 1997 RFA Dinner at the Bank of England Club may remember Alastair's recollection of Colin's humour and the absent-mindedness of match managers: "Colin Hindson, who had recently joined the RFA Club, applied to play against Oxford University several weeks ahead. The match manager wrote back warmly welcoming him to the team and promising to send further details nearer the time. No such details arrived, and a few days before the match Colin wrote again, only to receive a curt note which read as follows: 'My team for Oxford is full. I have no record of the correspondence you mention; but would you care to play against the Old Strandians in March?' Colin replied thus: 'Dear Mr Isaacs (for such was the name of the absent-minded gentleman), Thank you for your letter about the Oxford match. Thank you too for your invitation to play against the Old Strandians in March. However, in view of the ephemeral nature of your filing-system, I feel it would be rather rash to accept.'"

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