

FIVES
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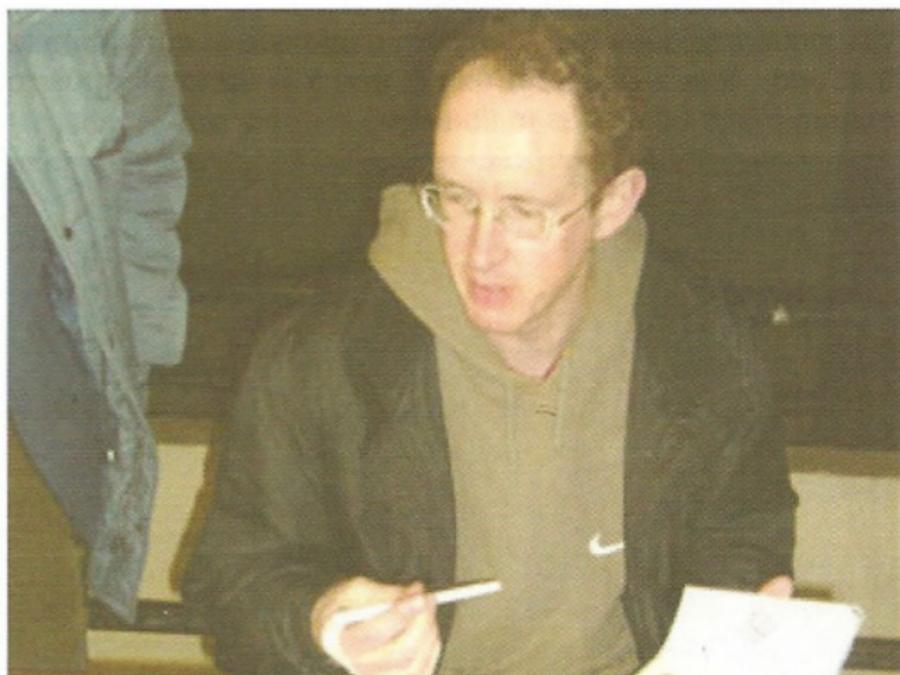
RFA Website
(www.rfa.org.uk)



It's been a period of consolidation for the RFA's website since last year's report. Although we haven't managed to increase the range of what we offer, we've certainly made great strides in improving what we do have.

In other words, what that means is that the entry form for pretty much every tournament is available online; and, once the tournament is over, we have a better report more quickly than ever before; and the gallery is packed with more, higher quality photos.

As ever, we rely on a great number of willing contributors to do that, and our thanks go to everyone who has supplied content for use on the site. To them, the message is simple – please carry on. But, to everyone else, the message is this: please do send us anything fives-related, whether it be words, photos or just strange facts you've come across after an hour's aimless Googling. We'd be delighted to include it, and show it to our growing readership.



The RFA's Website Coordinator uses traditional methods of data capture at the President's Cup. © DH-W.

That said, we don't have anything quite as scientific as a record of the number of users of the website, but if the informal feedback we get at tournaments and meetings is anything to go by, more and more people are using the website regularly – and are delighted with what they find there.

Indeed, we should never forget that this is the worldwide web. Earlier this year, for example, we received an email from a former player who had spent the last 20 years working on the other side of the Atlantic and was only too happy to have spent some time reminiscing after stumbling across the RFA's website.

As time goes by, it seems inevitable that online communications will become ever more important to a game such as ours, allowing us both to spread the word of the game and to stay in touch with players who might otherwise have been lost.

So, the process of improvement in the RFA's site will continue, and one of our main aims this year must be to look at including video on the site. We looked at this in the past, but the technology at that point wasn't up to it. However, with the advent of sites such as Youtube and Google Video, the possibility is there for us either to embed video on our own site or, at the very least, provide a link to it.

After all, such video already exists. Some clubs already have video on their own websites; and, if you get an idle moment, just search for Rugby Fives on either Youtube or Google Video, and you'll be surprised at just how much you find.

As they say, watch this space...

Andy Pringle

