

Schools' leaver

RFA Annual Review 2010-11

David Barnes looks back on David Goodwin's time running the Schools' Championships

In 1977, David Goodwin took over running the National Schools' Championships at his old school, Whitgift, on the retirement of Charles Whyte, his former housemaster.

David had played in the event in 1961 and captained the team the next year, going a long way in the singles, before winning three half-blues at Oxford.

The Championships moved to the new courts at St. Paul's in 1980, and the luxury of supervising from a warm indoor balcony may have helped persuade the organiser to continue in his role. Alastair Mackenzie also



David Goodwin (right) with Michael Beaman

took a hand in the 1980s, but David, although busy teaching at Chigwell, continued to play a vital part, sending out entry forms, organising the draw and supervising when available.

This invaluable contribution to Schools' Fives was to continue for 34 years, although David would be the first to say that he could not have done it without help: particularly from Peter King, who has now taken on David's role in full; and from Michael Beaman, RFA General Secretary for a decade, who helped to successfully introduce the Under 14 competitions from 1995.