

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005-06

This year saw the publication of a joint mid-season Newsletter in conjunction with the Eton Fives Association. This was the first initiative of the newly formed Fives Federation and was well received by both memberships. This publication was a precursor to a joint Handbook to be produced later this summer and we will await feedback from the membership with interest. The Federation has been pleased with the solid foundations laid for the launch of the 'One Wall' Fives project in the borough of Croydon this summer, to be followed by a similar project in Kensington & Chelsea.

The Federation decided earlier in the season not to pursue the idea of a book on Fives as it became concerned at the possible significant financial risks involved. Instead the Board has decided to produce a smaller publication looking at the history of the game at schools and clubs. David

Barnes has very kindly offered his assistance with this work for which the Board is most grateful.

The Federation has also been considering the whole issue of Public Relations and whilst from a cost point of view it has been decided not to launch a campaign at the present time, the matter will be kept under constant review.

The Board has been delighted with the high level of entries into our Championships. The BUSA tournament broke its own record of a year ago and the Under 25 tournament had its highest level of entries this year. Both the West of England schools and the National schools competitions were well attended with St Paul's being dominant at both Senior and colts levels. We have a new National singles champion in Phil Bishop, the 5th new champion in as many years, and we are very encouraged by the strength in depth seen in the national game at the moment. The Board has,

however, been slightly disappointed at the level of entries for the National Doubles and has decided next season to hold regional qualifying events following the successful experience with the National singles. We continue to be extremely grateful to all our championship organisers for their tremendous efforts in making these tournaments so successful and enjoyable.

As ever, the Board spends much time monitoring the state of courts around the country, offering assistance to schools wherever possible. We are excited by the prospect of new courts at Oundle this summer and are keeping close to a number of projects at other schools.

There have been a few items of publicity during the season. The Daily Telegraph produced an article on James Toop and publicised his 'One Wall' Fives initiative, Andy Pringle wrote an excellent article on Fives, with some interesting photographs, for the Mercedes spring magazine and Transworld Sports produced a short feature on Fives for one of their programmes.

Looking ahead to next season, the Board is actively considering such issues as a Dinner to celebrate our 80th

anniversary and a coaching day for Fives masters (male and female!). Enquiries are being made to explore the possibility of Fives being an Exhibition sport at the 2012 Olympics and thought is being given to holding a 'World Championship' event in 2009 with invitations being sent to international players of the various 'Handball' games.

At the beginning of the season and as mentioned in the Newsletter, Ian Roberts kindly agreed to take over as Handbook secretary from David Barnes and was duly co-opted on to the Board. I am sure all members will want to join the Board in thanking David for his fantastic work in producing such a thoroughly professional publication over many years. Alex Wilson and Denise Hall-Wilton have indicated that they wish to stand down from the Board and we would like to record our thanks to them both for their contributions, which we are pleased to say will continue in other ways. Denise's efforts in promoting Ladies Fives and as Club Manager have been immense and she will be a hard act to follow.

Ian Fuller - May 2006

FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Income held up well last season and indeed we saw a slight increase over the previous year thanks to a significant profit from championships. The West of England and National schools championships were very well attended and both the BUSA and Under 25 tournaments saw record entries.

On the expenditure side, printing costs were down as the cost of reproducing the Record Book was included in last year's figures. Whilst the bulk of the expenditure relating to the re-launch of the web site was included last year, ongoing maintenance and the purchase of additional software accounted for the majority of the costs. Going forward however, we are now almost in a position whereby the maintenance can be undertaken without the assistance of

our consultants and we are extremely grateful to Andy Pringle for all his efforts in this regard. I think all members will agree that we now have an excellent site and we will be building it up further over the coming months.

Regrettably we are now out of our period of free banking, so bank charges have increased and are an unfortunate cost of incorporation.

Although our loss is less than last year our overall position is not sustainable as we are running at an operating deficit of over £1000 pa which the proposed increase in subscription levels will address.

Ian Fuller - May 2006