

## WASS CUP

Sunday 14th April dawned cool and dry, but the competition was soon warmed up by Peter Ingram's hospitality at Merchant Taylors' School, as we were welcomed to play the first stage of the contest. The Wass Cup originated from a challenge between William Wass and Pat Wilson to play Rugby and Eton Fives on the same day. The teams included the current Kinnaird Cup holders, Edward Wass and Jamie Halstead, on the EF side, the second pair being William Wass and Paul Szemerényi. The RF team had Pat Wilson partnering Stephen Jones, and Tony Brown with Simon Illingworth.

W. Wass and Szemerényi adapted particularly well to Rugby Fives and gained vital points, while the Kinnaird holders had an exciting game with Brown and Illingworth. Tony Brown came off court saying it was one of the most enjoyable games he had ever had - his background is Eton Fives, so the style of the opposition must have suited, with sharp volleys and angles for the non-existent pepper-pot! After two games of Rugby Fives each, there were 31 points dividing the two sides.

A swift convoy down the M1 led us to Highgate's splendid grounds and courts, where a few camp-followers had gathered to see the second leg. Certainly for me, my second appearance on an Eton Fives court was a baptism of fire. Next door the Kinnaird holders took on Brown and Illingworth, and the contest's initiative quickly began to turn back towards the EF specialists. I began to wonder whether there might not be an effective way of setting some sort of handicap, to allow for the complete change of tactics and the tricky rebounds off the sides of the idiosyncratic Eton Fives court.

The final scores (89-69) reflected the total swing of initiative to the EF team. The Wass Cup was appropriately presented to William Wass, and we all duly retired to The Red Sun Inn in Highgate to dress our wounds and enjoy a festive Sunday roast! All involved had enjoyed the day, and a repeat match will be played next year after the Kinnaird Cup weekend.