

Fives Newsletter 2008

Official publication of the Eton & Rugby Fives Associations | Vol 3



The Fives Federation



It is now three years since the

Eton Fives and Rugby Fives Associations came together to form the Fives Federation. Later joined by the City Fives Association, the Federation provides the focus for promoting the interests of the sport's different branches in a co-ordinated way.

Rugby, Eton and One-Wall Fives may be distinct versions of the game, and the number of players who have taken up both Eton and Rugby Fives may be small, but the three associations have a common objective: to develop their games and broaden the player base, and the Federation allows them to benefit from the exchange of ideas and from working together on specific projects where there can be mutual advantage. One current issue on which we hope to agree a joint strategy is coaching, referred to elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Annual Review is, of course, the most visible manifestation of the Federation's work, and Ian Roberts, Mike Fenn and Steve Piper have done an excellent job in producing a publication that appears to have been universally well received. We look forward to building on these achievements, aiming to market the attractions of Fives without in any way diminishing the unique characteristics of our different games.

Richard Barber, Chairman EFA
Chris Horrocks, President RFA



On court: The RFA and Oundle Poachers line up (left); action from Cambridge Past v Present (right)

The UK's newest courts now in action

Oundle School shows off its superb new facilities

What a difference a year makes. In February 2007, we reported that the new Rugby Fives courts at Oundle School were being built; now, not only are the four courts finished, they have already seen their first play.

The courts were officially opened on May 25 last year by Sir Michael Pickard, the Chairman of Governors, who wore a pair of Fives gloves for the occasion before regaling the crowd with recollections of his own playing days.

A match was then played between the school and a team of Old Oundelians, including RFA board member Alex Smith, Robert Grey and Dave Parlbly. They were also joined by Tom King-Smith – winner of National Schools Doubles title in 1973, but who hadn't played since he was in his 20s – as well as past and present Oundle Fives

coaches, including Mike Mills, Alex Aldous, Tony Burrows, Kevin Cobb, Roger Freebairn.

This was followed by a very pleasant dinner, where speeches were made by current master in charge of Fives Tony Burrows, Alex Smith and, lastly, Roger Freebairn, with some excellent anecdotes of life at Oundle and on the Fives courts.

Since being opened, the Pickard Fives courts – next to the school Sports Centre, fully enclosed and with a central viewing area – have been in regular use. As well as the Oundle schoolboys, the students from Cambridge also hold their regular

practices and home matches on the school's courts.

Oundle will also play host to the RFA's Vintage and Masters Championships in April, but RFA teams have already played



In place: the new court building

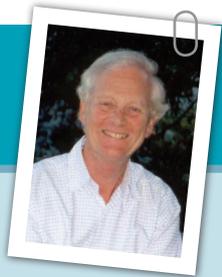
a number of matches on the courts, the first being a game against the Oundle Poachers, where current champions Hamish Buchanan, Ed Fuller and James Toop had their first experience of the courts. They all confirmed themselves delighted with the facilities. Perhaps best of all, while the courts are all new, the players also report that the attractions of Oundle's other famous landmark – the Ship Inn – are unchanged.

It is to be hoped that other schools will take note of the success of Oundle's efforts and consider following suit, either upgrading existing facilities or building brand new ones.



The Pickard Fives Courts
were officially opened by
Sir Michael Pickard
Old Oundelian
&
Chairman of Governors
25 May 2007

Eton Fives Association Chairman's Report



It is now three years since we launched "A New Strategy for Eton Fives", and this Newsletter is a useful medium to report on some key elements of progress.

SCHOOLS

At the heart of our Strategy is the encouragement and support of Fives at Schools. My visits to the Headmasters of 30 Eton Fives-playing schools throughout 2006 and 2007 have generated many exciting initiatives – in particular the resurrection of Fives at Wolverhampton Grammar School and at St. Bartholomew's, Newbury in 2006; the start of Eton Fives at King Edward's High School for Girls in Birmingham in 2007; and a successful EFA coaching weekend for Masters-in-Charge at Mill Hill School last autumn. But there are still too many leading schools where the game is on weak foundations, and these are a major priority.

THE INTERNET

We are determined to use the internet to increase the numbers of Fives players, building up the EFA's knowledge of who and where they are, supporting match managers, and helping to attract more school leavers into the club game. A major initiative will be the requirement that all entries into the School Nationals in 2008 should be submitted through FivesOnline.

THE JESTERS' GRANT

We were delighted that in the summer of 2007 the Jesters' Club agreed a major grant to the EFA of £5,000 to support our internet development strategy, and to encourage more young players to enter our Under 25 and Universities Competitions.

COACHING

Both the EFA and the RFA consider that the role of the coach is crucial in developing enthusiasm and skill at the game. To this end we are joining with the RFA through the Fives Federation to examine the state of coaching in the game today, and to devise a programme focusing on the long-term development of Fives coaches, leading to a recognised system of accreditation for coaches on full-time, part-time and voluntary bases.

EFA MEMBERSHIP

All that the EFA does to support the game depends on a thriving membership. In recent years this has been declining, and it is a major objective in the coming months to increase it.

THE BOARD

In the autumn, Anthony Wagg was nominated Vice Chairman of the EFA. At the same time we welcomed three new Directors, Nick Bunyan (Eton & Windsor Club), Gareth Hoskins (Old Ipswichians), and Mark Yates (Old Wulfrunians) who have already made energetic contributions to our strategy. We have also co-opted as Directors Ronald Pattison, Martin Samuel and Mark Williams, all of whom retired by rotation last summer, so that the Board can continue to benefit from their untiring commitment. The EFA is fortunate to have such devoted and energetic Board members, and the game is all the richer for the support which, in so many ways, they give to me and to all who play the game.

Richard Barber

Rugby Fives returns to Dulwich College

After a break of more than 60 years, Dulwich College played its first competitive Rugby Fives match on January 19th this year. True, it saw a win for the opponents, but Dulwich put up a creditable performance away against a strong St Dunstan's Under 13 side.

Playing for Dulwich were Tolu Johnson, Sam Buckler, Jerry Fryars, and Ameer Abou-Chahine. Not only was this the first time on the St Dunstan's courts for both the players and their coach, Ed Hatton, but the club has only been running for four terms and the boys had barely played since last year, .

Sam Buckler was particularly impressive in singles, despite having played Fives for only about 12 weeks. The doubles, too, was played in a committed fashion, with some spectacular shots off the back wall, and all the games were played in an excellent atmosphere.

Dulwich College's original Fives courts were destroyed in the Second World War and never replaced. However, the sport returned with Hatton, and the boys practice twice a week, once on the courts at Allyn's School and once on their own school's squash courts, using the squash court Fives balls.



Mail model: After gracing London paper City AM last year, Fives made the nationals in January 2008, in a question on the Daily Mail's 'Answers to Correspondents' page. Among the replies was one from Kevin Dicks of the Welsh Handball Association.

Large entry for the RFA Ladies' Championships

After the 2006 Ladies National Rugby Fives Championships were not contested, the RFA is delighted to report that 17 players (below) took part in the 2007 championships at St Paul's School in December. Joining regulars such as Melanie Whitehead and Claire Knowles were a number from Durham and London Universities, as well as ladies who more regularly play Eton Fives.

Again Manchester's Claire Knowles dominated the competition, taking a comfortable win in the singles before teaming up with Melanie to also clinch the doubles title. She has now won both championships since 1999, a truly impressive.

After this success, the RFA is looking to provide some coaching specifically for the ladies' game. It also hopes to see a similarly large entry at the Ladies Winchester Fives tournament in March.





Right-hand man: Andy will assist the RFA's President and Deputy

RFA appoints new General Secretary

Executioner replaces Fuller

The RFA has a new general secretary. Ian Fuller has stepped down and, in his place, the RFA has appointed Andy Pringle.

Already a board member for three years, with responsibility for the RFA's website, 40-year old Andy is also President of the Executioners Club, a regular on the tournament circuit, and a coach at St Dunstan's College.

He took over the role on January 1st this year, and is now the main point of contact for any Fives queries. He will manage the day-to-day running of the Association, as well as producing many of the RFA's publications. He will continue

to run the RFA website as well as producing this mid-season newsletter and, in due course, the Pocket Book.

He said, "It's a huge job to be taking on. Indeed, it's testament of how well Ian did the job that few people realised just how much he actually did. However, I relish the challenge, and look forward to helping to take the game into the future."

The good news is that, while Ian has stepped down, he will remain involved in the game and will continue to be a member of the board, and will oversee the RFA's financial affairs as Honorary Treasurer.

EFA Court News

Past, present and future, and from all over the world

Home

■ Thomas Alleyn School, Stevenage - email from Melvyn Jenkins-Welch

"I have heard of plans to close the school and demolish all the buildings except the 16th-century school master's house. I presume that this includes the Fives courts." [Note: The courts have long been disused and partly built over to create vehicle storage. A similar fate has occurred to some of the Repton Courts - see photo]

■ Courts at Woodbridge - email from David Mitchell

"I remember some Fives courts at my old school, Woodbridge in Suffolk. I was there from 1954 to 1959 and I'm sure they were there when I left: three courts along the school hall. To my knowledge, there were never any competitive games played while I was there. The courts were in a dilapidated condition and were mostly used to practice tennis." [Note: demolished in the early '60s]

■ Pilgrims Prep School, Winchester - Planning

permission is currently being sort to build one open air court

■ **Mark Stacey, Old Wulfrunian**, has been in touch about Squash Court Fives He is very keen to introduce this at Cheltenham Ladies College and, depending on its success, to encourage the building of Eton Fives courts as part of the planned new sports centre. Howard Wiseman is assisting him with the Squash Court Fives. Probably a pipe dream, but who knows?

■ **St Bartholomew's, Newbury** is still planning to build new courts at their new site, and the school architect has sought advice on construction. There is an outside chance that the two courts on the existing site might be retained.

Former Courts

■ St. Andrew's Preparatory School, Eastbourne, Sussex

Martin Lindsay reports

There were two courts at St Andrew's, one Eton and one Rugby. Both were covered

and located outside the school assembly hall next to the playground by the northern entrance to the school. Sometimes, they were used as exhibition halls, but in my time they were fully functioning.

■ Charterhouse, Surrey

One court on the eastern side of the hill by the bridge from Frith Hill Road to Brook Hall would have been demolished at the time the old outlying Houses were sold off for development and to finance the current new Houses within the school grounds.

International

■ **A court in Rio de Janeiro** is being built by an Old Zuoz as part of a holiday and sports complex. Plans have been sent and a party of Old Zuoz are due to play on it in February.



Car Park: two of Repton's courts

■ Malay College Old Boys.

Information on court plans have been sent to Nik St.Bul-Azmi, who replies: "A million thanks. I will distribute this amongst the Alma Mater of Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, for their vote, asking them to incorporate at least one Fives court in their new building plan. The Malay College Old Boys Association also owns a very impressive building, the best owned by old boys worldwide, I would think."

■ Stop Press - email from Nik St.Bul-Azmi

"Last night we had the first Pro-tem committee meeting. I was unanimously voted the Pro-tem Chairman of EFAM. We are drawing up the constitution of EFAM and will meet again on 15th or 16th February to approve it. We will use your M&A as a basis for EFAM's constitution. The Pro-tem committee members elected are made up of several MCKK Old Boys and we should have interesting times ahead, GOD WILLING!"

Rugby Fives Association President's Report



It is six months since I succeeded John East, and although my supposed retirement has been more imagined than real, I have seen some excellent Fives and a strong commitment to the game among all age groups.

THE END OF AN ERA

With due respect to my distinguished predecessors, the RFA Secretary – or General Secretary now – is the glue that binds the Association. So, it was a great blow when Ian Fuller told me that he felt he must stand down due to other work pressures. Ian's experience - as player, organiser, financial adviser, administrator and coach - cannot be overstated, and I am therefore pleased and relieved that he will continue with the Board as Treasurer.

NEW BLOOD

Meanwhile, I am delighted that Andy Pringle has accepted the General Secretaryship. Also a player and coach, Andy has been responsible for our excellent website, and I am very pleased to be working with him. (As an aside, the speed with which results appear online is a marvel. A virtuous circle, too, with prompt updates encouraging prompt reports from organisers.)

SCHOOL LESSONS

I was glad to be at the final day of the West of England Schools' Championships, and my lasting impression was of the enthusiasm of the participants (and of their Masters in charge), and the quality of the play. It must also be good for the health of the game that the spoils were so widely distributed.

YOUTH AND EXPERIENCE

Play at the RFA/BUSA Championships was not quite overshadowed by the fact that David Gardner was organising the event for the 48th consecutive time. It is intriguing to reflect that he had been running the competition for many years before co-organiser Chris Jones was even a glint in his mother's eye!

LADIES' GAME

I was also pleased to see the impressive entry for the Ladies' Open. Enthusiasm for ladies' Fives waxes and wanes, but I hope we can maintain the current interest, not least at universities.

OPEN SINGLES

At senior level, I enjoyed the latter stages of the Open Singles and a fascinating final, Hamish Buchanan's economical movement contrasting with James Toop's busier style.

COACHING

The availability of coaches is critical to the future of the game, and the Board is working with the EFA on a more structured approach, consistent with the game's amateur status.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Finally, I hope that those of you at the RFA dinner enjoyed it as much as I did. Those unable to be there missed a fine evening.

Enjoy the rest of the season.

Chris Horrocks

The Ladder & Online Fives

Nick Bunyan has the very latest news

The Ladder Competition has retained its momentum this season with a minimum of 16 people turning up for every event so far, and in several cases many more than that. Demonstrating that commitment and persistence pay dividends, Windsor and Eton Fives Club from Division 3 are currently at the top of the Leading 3 Players table, with Berkhamstedians and Salopians both doing very well in the Individual and Overall categories. At the time of writing, there are still five further Ladder fixtures to be played this season. As usual, all you need to do to guarantee yourself an enjoyable session of fives is to sign up on the Ladder website, at www.fivesonline.co.uk, and then turn up at the venue at the appropriate date and time. The team responsible for organising the Ladder are also considering adding further fixtures and possibly alternative venues to the Ladder Competition in the future, so if you have any suggestions or observations, I would be pleased to receive them, preferably via email.

In conjunction with the work that has been done in creating the Ladder website, the Association is also going through a major housekeeping effort and a recruitment drive to encourage more of the fives community to become active members of the EFA. We have so far managed to consolidate

the various lists used by parts of the Association into a single database, and we are processing this data to ensure our information is up to date. To do this we will be relying on the various Secretaries, Organisers and Masters-in-charge to help validate and confirm our data, because in many cases we have multiple sets of details for individual members. If you would like to assist in this process, then please contact either Ronald Pattison or myself and we will make sure your details are included and correct.

Following on from the work being done to improve and automate the membership information, we are also investigating a number of improvements to the Eton Fives websites and to the facilities we are able to provide to Members and Clubs, to help bring the running of events a little more into the 21st Century. Current items under consideration are for Individual and Club Website sections being hosted within the main EFA site, Provision of facilities for organising fixtures and teams online, and an online results entry system for both League and Competition matches. If there are any other functions which you feel would be of benefit, I would be glad to hear suggestions, and I will bring them up with the sub-committee for consideration. Happy Fives in 2008!

Name that court:
An old court that had remained undiscovered recently came to light again. There's no prize on offer, but the first person to correctly identify it will certainly gain some pride





International duty: (L to R) Dave Mew, Pete Cohen, Ady Lee and Dan Grant played for England in Italy

Please give generously

The EFA Charitable Trust has raised nearly £50,000, writes Rodney Knight, almost all of which has been from older players. The trust had hoped for small amounts from a large number of members, but there is still time to help and use Gift Aid. Please send a standing order or cheque to the EFCT on the form sent to you last year or to John Rimer, Hon Treasurer, at The Court House, Chenies, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 6EU.

Taking on the world

How a group of intrepid Fives players fared when they turned their hands to international handball

Italian Open Handball Championship by Dan Grant

In November, a crack team of English handball players headed over to Italy. England's first pair was from Eton fives – Pete Cohen and Dave Mew – and the second from Rugby Fives – Dan Grant and Adrian Lee – and each adjusted in various ways. The secret of handball is to be good at volleying and to have super-fast reactions near the front wall (Eton skills), but you also have to be able to hit it low – a Rugby skill. This was the first time most of us had played against other nations, so it was a learning curve and we all noticeably improved.

The experience was a little bit surreal, with an FA Cup-style draw on the Friday night – four wenchies fishing names out of various wine glasses – before the competition on Saturday.

Pete and Dave had a good win over the home team in the group stages and then put up a good fight in the plate. Dan and Ady also played very well, and although they lost all their group matches, they didn't finish with the wooden spoon, because they beat the Welsh on points!

In the end, the first pair finished 16th out of 21 and the second 18th. Given it was only

the third time we'd played, we were happy with our progress.

The USA thrashed everyone, but it was a real experience and great to meet so many people from around the world. Thanks to Ady, the England team had the best kit, but the highlight had to be the French being red-carded in the quarter-finals for disorderly conduct. Excellent.

Basque Open Championships by Peter Cohen

Just two weeks later, England played in the Basque Open. 'Veterans' Pete, Dave and Ady were joined by Peter White, Kerry White, Dom Redmond, Lia Redmond and Jess Lumbard.

Everything was going well until 10 minutes after our coach left Bilbao airport. There was a crash from the back, followed by a yell from Dave as the back left wheel bounced down the road! Our heroic driver steered



All White: Kerry (in red) hits out

us to the hard shoulder where we awaited rescue and worked on establishing international relations with the Dutch ladies' team. Every cloud...

We arrived just in time for the opening ceremony, which included a demonstration of Pelota, played with a fist-sized rock-hard ball – and no gloves!

We took our Italian experience straight onto court, with Ady and Peter going 10-1 up against the Basques and, in singles, Pete taking a 9-0 lead over Ireland 1. Although these became 15-11 and 15-9 losses, the signs were encouraging. Dave meanwhile counted himself lucky to take three points off 'Rookie' Wright, several-time world champion.

Kerry flew the flag in the ladies tournament, winning her first ever game against Holland 1, and then winning her group for a place in the semi-finals, where she gave the first seed a good run-around. Dom beat her Dutch opponent in a thrilling 15-14 game, and in the U18s, Lia and Jess also played well - Jess' first ever game was against the world champion!

It all ended with a banquet and plans for future events. In 2008, we will visit Ireland, Italy and Spain, with possible tours to Holland and New York.

EFA Strategy

The strategy for Eton Fives is concentrating on four points:

- Ensuring a good throughput of players through schools
- Collecting that throughput
- Giving players the chance to play enjoyable fives
- Staying in touch

For good throughput, schools need committed masters in charge and good coaches. The EFA works with schools and is following up a government initiative to help coaching. Collecting players after school is not as easy as it might seem, but part of the secret, the EFA believes, is to capture their details and keep in touch. Encouraging enjoyable fives may seem self evident, but so much fives has been competition- or league-based that clubs tend to look only for higher-ranking players. The ladder competition and the rise of weekly playing at various venues offer all players a better chance of enjoyable fives. In the past two years, the EFA has tried to create a database, which can be used to list and find players. The Fivesonline system is playing an increasingly major role in this. With success on these points, Eton Fives will have a strong base from which to go forward.

Anthony Wagg

Hot in the city

City Fives Association Report

In the 2007 Annual Report, I described the CFA's three areas of focus: formalising the Association, continued growth and strategic planning. We continue to make good progress promoting One-wall Fives and executing on our strategic plan. However, delays in gaining Company status have delayed our funding applications. This has not slowed our preparations, though, and – now with Company status – we are ready to start the funding process.

We have already been in discussions with schools in Tower Hamlets and Hackney, both of which could potentially be our new borough for summer 2008. For schools, we have developed marketing materials, prepared a new pupil/player website, and written lesson plans. We

are also planning a summer competition for our Kensington & Chelsea and Lambeth schools, as well as coaching courses for teachers. We will continue to partner with Westway to roll out the 2008 coaching programme.

One of the successes of 2007 was the interest shown by adult Fives players in One-wall. The British Open last summer led to an England Fives team being sent to competitions in Italy and Spain. One-wall Fives is growing throughout Europe and 11 countries took part in the winter international programme. This year, the CFA will launch an adult membership scheme to allow players to participate in summer competitions, international tours and play in the England team. In addition, we are looking for sports

centres to mark out permanent courts so that we have a "home" in London.

If you are want to find out more about the CFA's summer competitions and foreign tours, please visit our new website, www.playfives.co.uk

James Toop



Hitting the bar

The RFA Club secretary's report

There are plenty of fixtures left in the second half of the season and these are a superb chance to play on different courts and enjoy the hospitality on offer. Often I have thought that, had the enthusiasm at the bar been mirrored on court, the result would have been quite different. RFA teams, of course, never follow suit(!), hence the majority of reports of wins thus far!

Many thanks to the managers who update me so promptly, and to players like Tom Maconie and Will Ellison whose names appear so often on team sheets. Last-minute injuries and other mishaps are the bane of a match manager's life and I speak for them all when I say how much we value regular, reliable players. Best of luck to our players in the rest of the season, I look forward to reports of your progress.

Ed Fuller

RFA celebrates 80th anniversary with dinner at the Queen's Club

Past, present and future stars mark a milestone

Almost 100 guests came to a dinner at the Queen's Club for the 80th anniversary of the RFA and the 60th anniversary of the RFA Club.

As well as a time for past and present players to meet, it was also a chance to raise some money for the Association, and the highlight of the evening was arguably an auction, overseen

by Master of Ceremonies Dick Warner. Among the items on offer were an Audi driving day at Silverstone, a bottle of vintage wine and holidays. As a result of Dick's persuasive techniques (and his wife's willingness to raid the family purse), more than £2000 was raised.

The dinner saw the whole of Rugby Fives represented,

from life member Joan Wood to the young players who will take the game into the future. Presentations were also made to Ian Torkington, marking his time at Christ's Hospital, and to David Gardner, for 50 years' service as a board member.

What's more, the whole country was represented, and the attendance was boosted by holding the dinner on the same day as the Owers Trophy. A strong London contingent was boosted by guests from as far afield as Devon and Manchester.

Following this success, it looks certain that a similar event will become a regular feature on the calendar. And, as soon as more details are confirmed, the RFA will advise its members.



Guests: President, Deputy, Joan Wood (left); Dick Warner (right)

EFA/Jesters School Matches

Up to the end of November, we had five matches. The Schools value our visits and the results are of no consequence; it is all about bringing enjoyment of the game to the pupils, as well as advice where it is needed.

The Oakham/Uppingham weekend is particularly good and our thanks go to Ed and Susannah Wass. Yes, Ed played both days and Jonathan Mole once, but don't let that put you off, as I too played both days!

Martin Samuel



Growing: the Repton Amateurs

Eton Fives at Repton

Ben Price reports from the Midlands

The amateur group continues to flourish at

Repton. We have grown from 4 to 18 in three years, and our eventual hope is to fill all 12 courts at the school by 2012!

The annual Christmas Fives outing was held on Saturday December 8th, and the club had a wonderful workout followed by tea at the Repton tea rooms. We met again in the evening at the Manor House in Quorn with partners and hired a double-decker bus to take us to Leicester for a well earned curry! To complete a successful year, there was a fathers and sons day on the 30th December. Ben also says special thanks must go to Mr Peter Bradburn, the Repton five's master.

I have also been in discussion with my cousin, who was in Priory House at Repton, and have uncovered the existence of another court in the Priory yard. Peter Bradburn has confirmed that the court is still there, but needs a little refurbishment.

Meanwhile, I'm sad to report that my World Tour of courts has slowed a little, but I did manage to get to Ipswich to play on their courts in August.

The case for pro coaches

Dale Vargas argues that Fives should follow Rackets' example and set up a network of professional coaches

Our common aim in Fives is to increase playing activity, ensuring the continuation of the games and their expansion. However, over 90% of courts are in schools. This has the advantage that the schools are responsible for maintenance of the courts and their usage. It also has a serious disadvantage: the proprietors don't always see it that way! We have had our successes, but for every one, there are more schools where the game has declined – often ending up with demolished courts, and no way back.

Hitherto, the success of Fives in a school has depended on an individual who can provide a charismatic presence. This is now happening less frequently and, when it does, shortage of manpower often deflects the person into other areas. So, it is up to the promoters of Fives to intervene where possible without causing offence and being counter-productive.

Howard Wiseman's Coaching Agency is helpful in the short term, but has two drawbacks: (i) the coaches, often good players, lack teaching skills; (ii) the scheme lacks continuity, so it can only be a back-up to an enthusiastic staff member.

It is instructive to consider another game, as esoteric as

Fives: Rackets. This is played in about 20 or 30 schools, has a schools' championship, national and international competitions, and an important partnership with Real Tennis. But, one overriding factor has ensured its continuing success: a full-time professional coach at each school. It ensures a regular stream of rackets-playing pupils, recruited, nurtured and coached throughout their school careers.

Could this be achieved with Fives? The schools are unlikely to appoint full-time pros, but there are signs that they are increasingly looking outside for sports coaches. Cricket pros are established in almost every independent school and Mill Hill has a full-time golf pro. Some schools already employ part-time external Fives coaches.

To attract quality coaches, we need proper qualifications, but this is a huge task: drawing up a syllabus, devising grades, appointing assessors and arranging courses. To retain the

coaches, there must be chances for a career in coaching, leading to management.

My vision is for each centre to have a qualified full-time coach, who might be seconded to other sports out of season. The coach would be responsible for filling the courts as much as possible, coaching, arranging fixtures and entering tournaments (as Rackets pros do.) He/she would also be responsible for creating a club for local people. We have seen this work at several centres. For the coach, there would be a financial incentive: the players would pay fees, a percentage of which would go to the coach. The more people play, the more he earns – and he has quite a few hours in the day to recruit local residents.

Finally, the Government has taken an important initiative with an eye to the Olympics. Sports Coach UK has huge resources. It aims to approve and certificate coaching programmes set up by registered governing bodies – and hopefully provide financial support. EFA is already registered under their programme; the RFA and CFA will, I hope, follow shortly.

We have also agreed to set up, under my chairmanship, a joint working party to initiate this project. We can't afford to fail.



Pro coaches: the way forward?

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ **One-wall Fives had its first** brush with Royalty in January. Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, visited the Score centre in East London and the people behind the Leyton Orient Community Sports Project, which aims to improve youngsters' lives. She saw several activities,

including a demonstration of one-wall Fives under coaches from Westway.

■ **The RFA is in a** rather embarrassing situation. It has received a substantial four-figure donation, but does not know from whom. The Association is more than happy for the donor

to remain anonymous to the world at large, but would like to make a personal expression of its gratitude. So, if you are the mystery donor, please do drop a line to the new General Secretary, who will treat any correspondence in the strictest confidence.

■ **If you are interested in** playing One-Wall Fives, come along to the Westway Centre on a Tuesday evening. From March, sessions will be running from 8-10pm, and anyone can play at a cost of £5 per person. For further details, email Pete.cohen@cityfives.org.uk.

World's first Twoup2down tournament

Edward Sanderson on the Olavians who play a unique type of Eton Fives

On January 5th 2008, the Olavian Fives Club held the first TwoUp2down tournament. The game was invented at St Olave's at some point last century and gradually formalised.

The concept is simple: players play as individuals, and if you lose a rally, you go on the top step. If you lose a rally on the top step, you get a point. Get to 12 points, and you're out.

Unlike 'proper' Fives, the ball is thrown into play as a serve. Since players on the top step are anxious not to lose the rally, the players on the bottom step are a lot more involved, encouraged to practice back-court shots in to the buttress.

Perhaps the trickiest thing is explaining the rules, as some intricacies have been developed – who decided you have to serve with one foot down at 11? – and a couple of rules were revised on the day, usually at the expense of first-timer Tim Hurn!

11 players competed for the title of the TwoUp2down World Champion, and they were split into two courts. When a player lost a point, they came off one court and rejoined the other at the next opportunity.



Up & Down: a unique challenge

The game is frantic, faster than 'normal' Fives. The final five (Peter Cohen, Tim Hurn, Edward Sanderson, James Toop and Colin Wilson) played on just one court. When a player with 11 points is on the top step, all other players must use only their non-dominant hand, leading to some interesting shots.

Tim and Edward were out next, leaving three to play OneUp2down, where the player on the top step can take two consecutive shots. Colin fell next, leaving Peter and James to play OneUp1down. It was an epic battle, and both players reached 11; left hands only were in use for about 15 points until James forced a mistake.

The day was deemed a success and will be followed by more informal events based on the lunchtime games that trained years of Olavians.

RFA TOURNAMENT REPORT

It's been a good season for Londoners so far. Every Open singles championship has gone to a player from the capital, with James Toop and Ed Fuller claiming two each.

However, the big prize – the National Open Singles – went to Hamish Buchanan. And, he did it the hard way, with two three-game matches ahead of the final and only clinching the title by the narrowest of margins. This was his third national singles titles, making him one of only nine players to have won it more than twice.

Hamish has also won two doubles titles this season and, like the other winners, it was a London/Manchester effort. He partnered Ben Taberner to win at Alleyn's, before winning with John Beswick at Clifton.

Likewise, the season's other doubles champs also teamed up with Manchester players: James Toop and John Minta claimed the spoils at Blundell's while Ed Fuller partnered Phil Bishop in Manchester.

Special mention should also go to this season's other singles champions. Claire Knowles continued her unbeaten run in the Ladies singles and doubles titles, as she has done since 1999. Meanwhile, Dan Tristao

won what will surely be the first of many titles after leaving school: as a fresher at the Universities Championships, he won the singles before teaming up with Jack Furniss to clinch the doubles, too.



Claire Knowles: champ since 1999

RESULTS IN BRIEF

Under 25s Championships

Singles: Alan Beverly
Doubles: Will Ellison & Steve Korris

North West Open Championships:

Singles: Ed Fuller
Doubles: Ed Fuller & Phil Bishop

President's Cup

Winners: Jon Abecassis & Phil Atkinson
Mate's Plate: Alex Smith & Bruce Hanton
T Pot: Tony Burrows & Ed Ronan
Love Mug: Hamish Buchanan & Richard Fetherston

National Open Singles

Champion: Hamish Buchanan

Ladies National Championships

Singles: Claire Knowles
Doubles: Claire Knowles & Melanie Whitehead

National Student & BUSA Championships

Singles: Dan Tristao (Oxford)
Doubles: Dan Tristao & Jack Furniss (Oxford)

West of England Championships

Singles: James Toop
Doubles: John Beswick & Hamish Buchanan

Owers Trophy

Winners: Alleyn Old Boys

London Open Championships

Singles: Ed Fuller
Doubles: Hamish Buchanan & Ben Taberner

South West Championships

Singles: James Toop
Doubles: James Toop & John Minta

Full details can be found on the RFA's website, www.rfa.org.uk



Triple national champ Hamish Buchanan

EFA Mid-Term Tournament Round-up

Full reports & results will appear in the Annual Review and on the EFA website www.etonfives.co.uk

County Championships (Eton)

	K	H	C	S	M	WON	RANK
Kent		0-3	1-2	2-1	1-2	4	3rd
Hertfordshire	3-0		3-0	2-1	1-2	8	2nd
Cambridgeshire	2-1	0-3		1-2	0-3	3	5th
Staffordshire	1-2	1-2	2-1		0-3	4	4th
Middlesex	2-1	2-1	3-0	3-0		10	1st

Final: Hertfordshire beat Middlesex 3-0

Alan Barber Cup

Finalists:
Shrewsbury v St Olave's
Ipswich v Harrow

Midland (Repton)

Final: M Yates & M Yates beat H Wiseman & W Betts 3-1

London (Harrow)

Final: T Dunbar & P Dunbar beat W Sorrell & R Tyler 12-10, 12-6, 12-2

Graves Cup (Ipswich)

Final: T Gregory & J Caudle beat S Woolfries & O Watts 12-6, 12-7, 12-10

Graham Turnbull (Westway)

Finalists: Peter White & James Rees (St Olave's)
Josh Rose & C Grant (Aldenharn)
Doug Foster & James Lowe (Berkhamsted)
Mark Herring & Andrew Joyce (Berkhamsted)

Universities (Highgate)

Final: Cambridge I (J O'Callaghan & M Birkett) beat Oxford II (W Betts & C Michaels) 12-4, 4-12, 12-3, 14-15, 12-4

Southern Schools (Charterhouse)

Final: St Olaves 1 beat Westway 1 9-12, 12-10, 12-6

Harrow Beginners

Under 14 Final:
F Galvin & A Panchasara (City of Norwich/St Olave's) beat T Woods & W Holl (City of Norwich/Berkhamsted) 12-5
Under 15 Final:
O O'Gorman & C Self (Berkhamsted/St Olave's) beat A Barker & B Wang (St Olave's/St Olave's) 12-11

Rossall Open

Doubles: Malvern beat Rossall
Singles: Malvern beat Lancing
Under 15 Doubles: Rossall beat Lancing
Under 15 Singles: Rossall beat Lancing

League Positions

Division 1
1st Westminster's I
2nd Olavians I
Division 2
1st Highgate,
2nd North Oxford
Division 3
1st Westminster's II
2nd The Abbey Club