

Rugby Fives Association

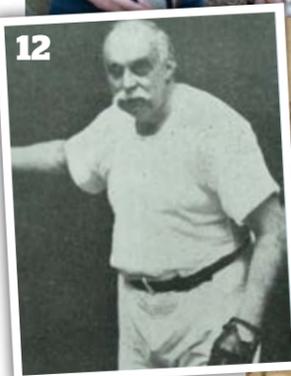
Annual Review 2014-15





Rugby Fives Association Annual Review 2014-15

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A welcome from the President

Bob Dolby reflects upon the history and future of Fives



For some years now David Barnes and Dave Hebden have been researching the history of Rugby Fives. David has been looking into the history of Fives at various schools and universities, while Dave has researched the story and whereabouts of what he calls 'Fives places'. This Annual Review contains two magnificent fruits of their labours. David has compiled a history of Fives at Marlborough College while Dave has summarised the contents and findings of his ongoing Census of Fives Courts. Both make fascinating and thought-provoking reading.

Like so many of our schools Marlborough has boasted a variety of courts, both four-wall and three-wall, throughout its long existence. The four courts that we now know and use for several RFA tournaments are only the most recent of a whole series of walls and courts built and used for bat Fives and 'hand Fives' since the mid-19th century.

Dave's Census demonstrates just how many courts there have been around the country since people began building a place where two or more people could bang a ball about; and there are surely more that we don't yet know about. He has discovered surprising facts about the popularity of the game in the West Country and the North East where games attracted huge crowds and large sums of money were bet and won. In my darker moments I have often reflected upon the fact that far more courts have been knocked down in my lifetime than have been built; Dave's research shows just how many we have lost over the last 150 years.

We talk a great deal at the RFA about the future of Fives. One thing is clear: the game can only continue to exist, let alone flourish, if courts exist – if the current ones are maintained and if new ones are built. None of the courts currently in use belong to the RFA or – with a couple of exceptions – to the players. It is for that reason that I would urge our adult clubs to organise themselves in such a way that they can have some influence upon the schools and universities that do have courts, many of them ageing and in need of refurbishment. I am particularly thrilled by what the members of Derby Moor have done in accumulating and raising £55K to enclose their two courts while coaching the pupils at the school to a high standard so as to justify the financial outlay – and guarantee the game a future there. I would love to see more clubs follow this example,

'I would urge our clubs to organise themselves to have influence on courts'

put themselves on a sound financial footing and be able to help and encourage the school to look after their courts and use them properly.

But enough of dreaming: my two years of Presidency are coming to an end. It's been a richly rewarding experience in the course of which I have met many old friends, made new ones, and seen some magnificent Fives played by youngsters and not-so-youngsters.

I hand over to my erstwhile partner Bernard Atkinson and wish him luck in pursuing the goal we all have: promoting Fives wherever it can be played.



TOP Derby Moor brothers Jai and Bally Singh; **CENTRE** SE Colts champion Cameron Low of Whitgift; **BOTTOM** Marlborough in the 1880s

Men's Season Review

Andy Pringle reviews the men's, students' and U25 game

As we look back on the 2014-15 season, there's no denying it has a 'young' look to it. Indeed, it's hard to remember a season of tournaments in recent history in which younger players featured so prominently at the sharp end.

By our reckoning, every finalist in the major competitions was yet to pass his 30th birthday, and most of the semi-finalists were similarly youthful.

Once again, the list of winners was dominated by two players: Dan Tristao and Will Ellison. The two finished the season well clear at the top of the singles rankings, winning all but one of the open titles between them.

The one they didn't win was the new South East Championships – because neither played! However, this event was a clear demonstration of how young players are coming to the fore. The singles final was between two students – winner Ed Kay and David Butler – while the doubles was won by Ben Beltrami and Ben Chua, both fresh out of school.

For the second year running Dan Grant was the strongest challenger to the top two in singles tournaments. He reached the National Singles final and retained his BUSF singles title. The newly formatted student championships showed that we have an amazing crop of young players.

Three of the semi-finalists – Grant, Kay and Butler – all reached open championship finals in 2014-15. The only one who didn't was Ben Beltrami, who was runner-up to Kay in the U25s.

Youth featured heavily in the doubles, too, and again it was Will and the two Dans who dominated proceedings. Not only did at least one of them win every major championship, every possible combination of the three picked up a title. Dan T and Will won the big prize, the National Championship, as well as the London Open, while Will teamed

up with Dan G to win the South West Championship, and the two Dans won the West of England Championship. Dan and Dan also took the notable prize of the Winchester Fives Championship, ending the six-year reign of Will and Hal Mohammed.

Elsewhere, though, there was evidence these three won't have everything their own way in the years to come. Both Ed Kay and David Butler picked up their first open doubles titles – at the North West and North of England Championships respectively.

That said, the youngsters didn't have everything their own way this year, and the likes of Hamish Buchanan, John Minta and Matt Cavanagh proved

'Once again, the list of tournament winners was dominated by two players'



they were forces to be reckoned with. Matt and John both reached singles semi-finals, while Hamish retained his Yorkshire Open Doubles title, partnering Will, as well as reaching a couple of other finals.

Hamish retained his Veterans doubles title with Bruce Hanton (winning for the fifth year in succession), while the power and fitness of John Minta took him to the singles title for a second year.

Also dominating his age group was Ian Fuller, who won the Vintage singles for the second year, before taking the doubles. This was his fourth Vintage title, but for the first time he won it with his National Championship-winning partner Dave Hebden.

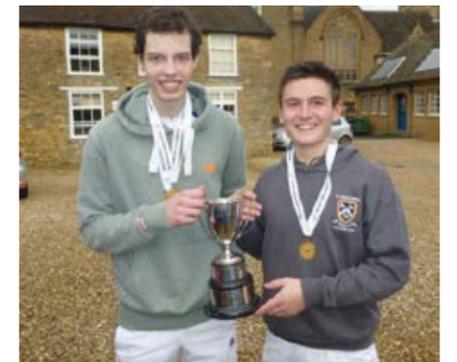
Dave then scored a notable double, adding the Masters doubles title with

reigning champion Martin Wilkinson.

This was a year with much to celebrate for Cambridge and they romped to a record-breaking win over Oxford in the Varsity Match.

Given the Light Blues' strength, this was perhaps no great surprise; and it was equally little surprise that the Old Paulines (with two Cambridge players) won the Owers Trophy for a fifth consecutive year.

However, just when it looked as if the OPs would go on to dominate both club events, Fives proved it can still throw up a shock – the RFA's National Club Championship was won by the Winchester Fives specialists from the Wessex Club. Mind you, their squad was led by two of the names that featured so prominently in the first half of this review: Ellison and Butler.



MAIN The 4 finalists in the National Doubles 2015: Tom Dean and Ed Kay, Dan Tristao and Will Ellison
ABOVE (from top) Veteran finalists Hamish Buchanan and John Minta; Ed Kay, U25s Singles champion 2015; Ben Beltrami and Matt Shaw, British Student Doubles champions 2014;
LEFT Dan Grant and Will Ellison at the North West Singles 2015

Ladies' Season Review

Alex Steel looks at a year of firsts, records and a welcome return

It has once again been a great year for ladies' Fives. First and foremost we have seen the successful return of ladies number one Claire Knowles to Fives after a hiatus of several years. At this year's Ladies National Singles Championships Claire won the title for a record 12th time, beating defending champion Kathleen Briedenhann in the semi-final, then young challenger Tessa Mills in the final. Tessa and Kathleen did, however, successfully defend their National Doubles title.

The season began with the inaugural Lady's Cup where leading Rugby School player Milly Richards teamed up with former RFA President Dick Warner to win against the young Rugby pairing of Kate Broad and George Romain. In the plate Kathleen Briedenhann paired successfully with beginner Robyn Schnuir, while in the Lady's Mug there was a win for another newcomer to the game: Cambridge student Sienna Tompkins, playing with Jacob Ader.

Tessa Mills did the double at the Ladies' National Winchester Fives Championships in March. She won the Doubles with Kathleen Briedenhann, defeating Maddy Raynor and Clifton schoolgirl Ekaterina Shilina, before beating her doubles partner in a wonderful Singles final.

In May Alexandra Steel made history by winning the Mixed Winchester Doubles for the third year running with Andy Pringle. Alexandra made more history at the South West Open when she paired with Claire Knowles to form the first all-female pair to enter an open Doubles tournament.

The other first was a Ladies Varsity Match. Sadly it was rather one-sided, with Oxford too strong for their light blue opponents, but it's a start – only 90 years after the first male version!

There have been many other personal successes this year and hopefully even more next year. The positive attitude shown by players in



'Tessa Mills did the double at the Ladies National Winchester Fives Championships'

every tournament and their obvious enjoyment of the sport has been a pleasure to behold. We have ever growing numbers in our tournaments, with some new faces who show great promise for the years to come.

TOP Warner & Richards on their way to victory
CENTRE (L) Tessa Mills with two gold medals,
(R) Claire Knowles serving at Blundell's
BELOW Mixed Winchester Pringle & Steel

Schools Season Review

The President Bob Dolby considers a season that saw a wide array of winners

This season of schools Fives has been both special and unusual and all the more memorable for it.

It has certainly been special in regard to girls' Fives. The championships held at Marlborough marked a full cycle of six years since they began and resulted in a victory in the U18 Singles for Louise Mathias of Christ's Hospital. Louise won the U13 Singles back in 2010 and went on to pick up the U14 and U16 titles over the years. We hope very much that she and her contemporaries Milly Richards, Kate Broad and Amy Flood will go on to play senior Fives. It will also be interesting to see if Angelina Green of CH can emulate Louise: she already has the U13 and U14 titles to her name.

The girls' championships produced an unexpected win in the U13 Doubles for Bedford Modern pair Katie Sumner and Maddie Kent. There was extra reason for celebration for the Midlanders: Joe Sumner, Katie's elder brother, had recently won the Midlands Regional U15 Singles and Doubles title. The Malvern U16 pair – Amelia Law and Cassie Bedford – also won gold.

Unusual was a word that could be applied to much of the outcome of the Boys' National Championships. No player from Winchester had won the U18 Singles since the 1930s, so Tom Watkinson's victory had a historic feel to it. So too did the win in the U18 Doubles by the Derby Moor pair, Rob Whitehorn and John Halligan: a first for the club. The U18 draw this year was enlivened by the presence of four excellent players from Edinburgh Academy, a school we have not often seen at the event. We have, however, seen two players from the same school contest the U16 Singles final before. This time it was Wykehamist Albert Song who pipped schoolmate Pete Kullavanijaya. We have never before seen a pair from Malvern – in this case

Andrew Tudor and Lucas Nelson – win the Colts Doubles. Nor have we seen the U14 Singles won before by a Sedberghian, Taylor McGuire.

In the end the 16 national titles on offer to boys and girls were won by players from nine different schools. The plates were won by players from a further five schools. That is a good sign in itself, but it may also indicate the growing value of regional tournaments now being held at school level.



'In all the 16 national titles on offer to boys and girls were won by players from nine different schools'



TOP Maddie Kent and Katie Sumner (Bedford Modern School) U13 Girls' Doubles
CENTRE Edinburgh Academy team at the Boys' National Championships
BOTTOM Amelia Law and Cassie Bedford (Malvern) U16 Girls' Doubles

Around the schools 2014-15

Individual schools report on their Fives season over the last year

Alleyn's School

Fives has continued to be enjoyed by all ages at Alleyn's and the new floors in the courts have been a wonderful and greatly appreciated addition.

At the National U14 Championships, Harry Chapman was runner up in the singles plate. Harry and Oliver Rista-Brettler took the doubles plate, winning a close final against the hosts.

At the U13 Championships, Will Meredith and James Watson Gandy performed superbly to reach the quarter-finals. However the greatest success came in the doubles. Of



Ben Kirwan, U16 National Singles Plate winner

the four pairs to reach the National semi-finals, three were from Alleyn's. Will and James lost narrowly, 10-11, to the eventual winners from Pilgrims'.

In the other semi Daniel Casanova and Sonny Mahendran beat Jocelyn Tritton and David Nichol and eventually finished as runners-up, a fine achievement, not least because these two are a year young.

At the U14 Championships Alex Cochrane and William Hirth reached the semis of the singles competition. In the doubles the pair lost a closely fought final and finished with the honour of being runners-up.

In the U16 Championships, Julian Hanton and Ben Kirwan reached the doubles quarter-finals. Ben then won the plate in the National Singles.

Rob Ody

Bedford School

This has been a particularly tough year for the Bedford School squad with very few wins for the 1st IV and 2nd IV.

Matches against Bedford Modern School, Rugby, Oundle, Derby Moor, St Pauls, Merchant Taylors, the Jesters, the RFA and Cambridge and Birmingham Universities have provided a punishing set of fixtures but with so many Year 11s in the squad the hope is this experience will be good preparation for the future.

Internal singles and house competitions continue to thrive and are enjoyed by boys who do not regularly play Fives as a games option. Particular thanks must go to Manu Ratnayake, the 1st IV captain, who leaves this year having played Fives for the school for a number of years.

Michael Croker

Bradfield College

Bradfield Fives continues to grow and we are now able to field teams at U14, U15 and U16 level with a keen and competitive core in each group. All first year pupils have the chance to try Fives in the Michaelmas term and this

meant that by the time fixtures came along in Lent there was a strong core of eight pupils keen to play. Fixtures have been played (with varying degrees of success) by all year groups against Marlborough, Winchester, Merchant Taylor's, Malvern, Tonbridge and St. Paul's and three U16s entered the

Nationals at the end of the Lent term with Will Stevens and Gavin Lemon reaching the semi-finals of the two plate competitions. Next year should see Fives being regularly played in four year groups, something which has not happened for a while.

Jeremy Ball

Bloxham School

The highlights of the 2014-2015 season at Bloxham were the well-contested fixture at Rugby School, and a memorable match between the school and an experienced staff team, boosted by the arrival of Bertie Matthew from Blundell's.

We will be rebuilding next season after a strong group of Upper Sixth Formers leaves the school. The number of young boys and girls playing the game this year, has been especially encouraging for the future, with every pupil in our Lower School getting a five week taster course in the game. I'm grateful for the excellent service given to the school's Fives over



Bloxham 1st and 2nd IV with coach Colin Stewart and Master in Charge Simon Batten

the last few years by the captain, Oliver Haynes and secretary, Charlie Tredwell, as well as Sam Manning, Charlie Gulliver and Jonny Stirrup of the 1st IV.

Simon Batten

Christ's Hospital

For the first time in many years we began the season with a strong U14 boys squad of 10 players. They scored several notable wins, as did the U15s. The seniors made a strong showing at the South East Regionals but came away with several runners-up medals and plates rather than titles. Special mention should go to the girls who played in the Ladies National Winchester tournament. All played with dedication and two won the doubles plate – an outstanding achievement. Junior and senior house competitions were strongly fought over by both girls and boys.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the season was another set of brilliant performances at the National Girls. CH won four of the eight titles – U13 Singles, U14 Singles, U14 Doubles and U18 Singles – and competed strongly in all categories. They finished runners up in the doubles in the U13s, U16s and U18s.

Louise Mathias deserves special mention. She completed a record-making performance by becoming the first girl to win all four singles titles – U13 in 2010, U14 in 2011, U16 in 2013 and U18 in 2015. She can justly be regarded as the most successful of all girl Fives players.

Ed Hatton



Louise Mathias, four time schoolgirl champion

Edinburgh Academy

A very successful season for our senior boys, in particular Andrew Boyd and Ben Jourdan. Andrew reached the semi-finals of the National Schools U18 Singles, a year young, losing to the runner-up from Derby Moor.

At the end of the season he also paired up with Mike Kemp, captain of the Caledonian Club, to win the Scottish Open Doubles at Loretto, becoming the first known schoolboy to win an Open title. Andrew and Ben had already tasted success at an adult level in February when they won the Plate at the North of England Championships at Durham.

They also won the Edinburgh Schools U18 Doubles and went on to reach the final of the National Schools U18 Doubles competition in London. They hope to go one further next year!

Malvern College

Fives at Malvern continues to flourish with success in National Tournaments, an increased fixture list and more players on court.

The highlight of the year was firstly Andrew Tudor and Lucas Nelson winning the Colts Doubles at the Nationals and then Amelia Law and Cassie Bedford cleaning up at U16 level at the girls equivalent.

The boys toured the South East playing Winchester, Eastbourne, Tonbridge and Christ's Hospital. Many thanks to all opposition players and coaches for their hospitality.

The 1st IV were largely successful and we have an U14 side who could be quite good in coming years. The girls' game is flourishing, with 20 players contesting the House competition.

We are indebted to the OM's who produce some quality for the top boys to pit themselves against, and with no one leaving this year, next season promises to be a good one as well.

Chris Thomas

Marlborough College

Joint captains Hugo Fry and James Green led the club to wins against Bruton, the Jesters and the RFA this year. Fry reached the last 16 of the Nationals, and it was he who won the final rubber in a match against the OMs to clinch the match by one point.

OMs Guy Davies, David George-Carey, Alex Frosell and Olly Fairweather returned to Marlborough for a fantastic match against the 1st IV.

The U16s and U15s were capable of great play, but didn't reach their potential as often as hoped, despite strong matches against Bradfield, St. Paul's and Malvern. Ben Lederman and Jim Crossland were always at the heart of the action.

Harry Powell and Freddie Hazlitt led the U14s to wins against Malvern and Bradfield, and gave a strong Winchester IV a good contest.

Powell and Oscar Waters rounded off the season in style by winning the doubles plate at the Nationals.

The most impressive girl was Ibbey Lee, who developed into a formidable opponent. She and Anna Laakkonen will be ones to watch next year.

The U14s ended as runners-up in the National Singles (Maya Jevons) and Doubles (Lara Beckett and Luz Wollocombe).

Tom Kiggell

Merchiston Castle

The Senior Fives side this year was made up of Benn Morris, Lewis Baird, Fraser Ellison, Jack MacDonald and captain Benjamin Kenderdine.

They trained with enthusiasm throughout the year and there was real competition to make the starting IV.

Although they defeated Loretto and Fettes, they fell short against a strong Edinburgh Academy in the Edinburgh Schools Championships – only the second time in 10 years Merchiston has failed to lift the trophy.

A young Colts side had a successful season, winning all their games in the run up to their Edinburgh Schools Championships, where Will Richardson and Sean Yuille finished as runners up. With another year in this age group, they will be confident of going one better next year.

A talented and enthusiastic group of Juniors began their Fives careers this season and were unbeaten against schools in Scotland, although they were sadly restricted to only a couple of games due to cancellations. They will be an exciting group to watch over the next few years.

Matthew Hillier

Derby Moor

Our 12th season was the most successful in the school's history. Rob Whitehorn and John Halligan got us off to a flying start by winning the Schools Winchester Doubles, then completed a triple by winning the West of England Schools and the Nationals. Rob was runner-up in the Singles at the latter two. However, he had the satisfaction of doing a hat-trick of singles and doubles wins in the Midlands Regional event where he paired up with Jai Singh. Jai also took the Doubles Plate at the Nationals with his brother Bally.

John Halligan won the Doubles Plate with adult partner Richard Christie at the Yorkshire Open; Rob Whitehorn won the Doubles Plate at the North West Open with Anthony Goodwin (for the second year in a row) and brought home the Doubles Plate at the National Winchester Fives championship with Tom Watkinson. Craig Baxter and Matt Blunden picked up the Doubles Plate at the West of England Schools, while Bally Singh, Hasan Rehman, Sam Johnson and Lewis Keates enjoyed success in various Plate competitions.

Now we say goodbye, from the junior ranks, to Rob, Jai, Craig, Matt and Lawrence Taylor and look to John Halligan and Bally to carry the flag at tournaments, while the 20 or so other juniors strive for the level of their predecessors.

Bob Dolby



John Halligan and Rob Whitehorn, triple doubles winners

Merchant Taylors'

A pleasingly large number of boys have been playing this year, with a particularly large number of Colts. Several turned out for senior sides with two becoming first choice picks for the 1st IV. There has been success across all teams and it was encouraging to get out sides with boys from every year group.

Wins against Oxford and Cambridge were well deserved and almost all fixtures were wins or close losses.

The Nationals provided a great chance for the boys to improve their Fives, particularly the U13s.

This year was the first in a while for two MTS boys to reach the singles quarters – Elliot Tebboth in the seniors and Ethan Taberham in the Colts. Ethan in particular bears watching for the future. Next year will see a new master taking over Taylors' Fives. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time in charge.

Nick Hillier

Oundle School

Oundle School has had an encouraging year. An early narrow win against Merchant Taylor's characterised Club spirit, and senior players performed strongly in challenging matches against Cambridge University, the RFA, Old Oundelians, Rugby, Derby Moor, St Paul's and the Jesters.

Match experience within the Club continues to rise and we expect big things from our 1st IV next season. Club captain Jeremy Manger made the semi-final of the National U25s plate, and Tom Barlow also impressed, whilst the school was pleased to host the tournament for the third year.

We are also pleased to see a strong group of U15s coming through. They performed well at the Midlands tournament, and James Clayton, Ben Bird, Chris Bird, Vasily Gaev, William Ogle and William Connellan recorded a memorable win against Derby Moor.

Michael Case

Pilgrims' School

This was another excellent year with full courts, new boys playing the game and much progress made. In autumn new techniques were considered and internal competitions created excellent rivalries.

We did well in the Nationals: having

the runner-up in the singles and winning both doubles competitions.

However, Fives at Pilgrims' is more than silver pots – it is about a game where you declare your faults by offering lets, where no-one can gain an advantage with expensive equipment, where no player leaves the court without shaking his opponent's hand.

Thanks to Pilgrims' staff, for playing, encouraging and enjoying Fives, and to our coach, Giles Munn without whom we would play Fives less well, enjoy Fives less and beat no-one.

G Hammond

Rossall School

Rossall has continued to have an active year of Fives. We have maintained regular matches at Sedburgh and are looking to expand our fixture list.

We have attracted a number of new players who have made superb progress and will hopefully be ready for the Nationals next year. Our visit to the Nationals is always a major challenge for players who are not used to having a back wall. It was enjoyable, although we didn't collect any silverware. It was a steep learning curve for those who had never been on a Rugby Fives court.

I have been supported by two Fives assistants this year, Sarah Frost and Toby Holder Williams, and this makes a major difference to maintaining enthusiasm for Fives. Thanks also to captain Harry Andrews.

Lee Hodgetts

St Paul's School

Although our 1sts were unbeaten in matches, and our colts were involved in some great finals, we failed to win any trophies – something that hasn't happened for years. This was partly due to injuries but mainly because we weren't quite good enough.

The most exciting moments came at the West of England Championships. In the colts singles, Dan Whitham and Nico Hughes faced the top two Winchester players in the semis. Both matches went to the wire, with Dan holding his nerve. In the final he couldn't quite beat Albert Song who had seen off Nico. In the doubles, Winchester narrowly beat Nico and Dom Shaw in the final.

Sam Roberts



Taylor McGuire National U14 Boys' Singles Champion

Sedbergh School

Sedbergh's Senior IV enjoyed a varied and at times successful season. A hard-fought match at home against the Dalesmen, which ended in narrow defeat, was the pick of our fixtures. The loss of captain Tom Robinson for the entire season afforded promising Lower Sixth and Colts players valuable experience. Sedbergh's girls continued to develop their game over the course of the year and will be aiming for a strong showing at the next girls' Nationals.

The highlight of the season was without question Taylor McGuire's performance at the Nationals, where in winning the U14 singles he became Sedbergh's first national champion for 20 years. Let's hope we don't have to wait that long again for the next one!

Jon Lidiard

Sherborne School

This has been an enjoyable season and we have had 20 boys regularly playing, with 10 matches and two national competitions to play in. Our senior pair of Gregor Tims and Stephen Reed played almost every match and ended the season at the National Schools' tournament. Although they didn't progress far they won at least one match and we will miss their strong left-handed shots.

They have been well supported by several Year 11 and 12 boys, who all

contributed successfully this term; so Fives is in good health for the future. The team won seven of its 10 matches, although we couldn't match the top players of a couple of our opponents so played down a year group or two. Highlights of the season were the matches against two adult sides – the Jesters and the Pyman V – partly because they were enjoyable occasions and partly because we were victorious.

For the first time in years we played an inter-house competition and it was a great example of sportsmanship and it was a delight to see some new players at this event.

Nick Scorer

Tonbridge School

In many ways this was a vintage year, with the 1st IV, U15A and U14A all ranked in the top teams in the country. A total of 64 players played this year and players were able to represent the school in one of 11 teams.

What attracts so many to play in outdoor courts in the coldest months of the year? The quality of the coaching is a big factor, and with Jonathan Harber, Martin Wilkinson and Ian Fuller we are very blessed in that regard.

But ultimately it is the quality of the game that keeps players coming to the

courts. My highlight for the year was the senior doubles final, which was the highest standard ever. The three top school players and the National U14 doubles winner contested a magnificent game. At 7-7, Mide Segun raised his game to close out the win.

Ian Jackson

Whitgift School

2015 ranks as one of the best years for Fives at Whitgift. We were fortunate in having several very keen and capable players, and our U15s were particularly strong. We had a superb regional tournament held at Tonbridge, winning both the U16 singles and doubles with U15 players.

Cameron Low is perhaps the most promising young player we have had in many years, and he has dominated school matches with his excellent doubles partner Sarath Prakash. At Senior level we have held our own, and Charlie Mabbutt, who was a Nationals quarter finalist, together with a solid Talha Aziz produced many good victories.

School Fives thrives, ably coached by David Mew, and participation for a 'minor' sport is healthy. I look forward to continued success with competitive but pleasant pupils.

Nick Morgan

Winchester College

The season started perfectly at the U14 Nationals, with Seb Byers winning an all-Winchester final against Tom Kidner. The two then won the doubles.

Winchester won three of four trophies at the West of England: Albert Song the U16 singles, Tom Watkinson the U18 singles, and Albert Song and Pete Kullavanijaya the U16 doubles.

We started well at the National Schools U14s, with Alex Poyntz runner-up in a close singles final. Alex then paired with Ben Kullavanijaya to win the U14 doubles. In the U16s Albert Song beat doubles partner Pete Kullavanijaya in the final, and became the first Wykehamist to win the title. Unfortunately they fought hard in the doubles but



Tom Watkinson, first Wykehamist National U18s winner since 1931

lost the final to Malvern. Meanwhile Tom Watkinson won the U18 singles, completing our best season ever: eight trophies and four runner-up medals from 13 competitions!

Giles Munn

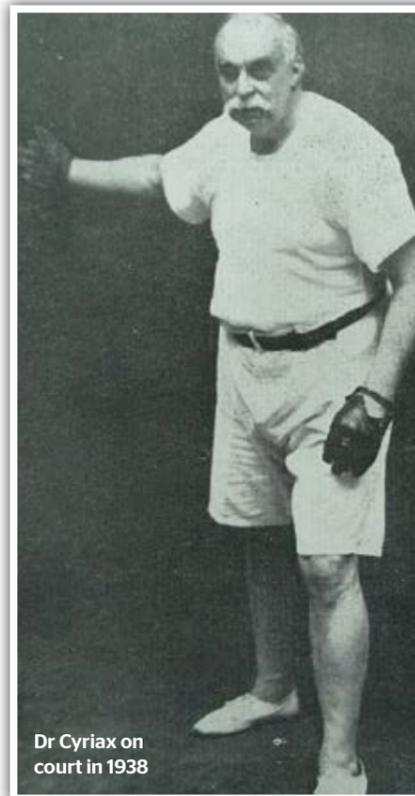
Fives Courts through the ages

Dave Hebden and David Barnes continue to build on Dr Cyriax's survey of 1930

In late 1930 and early 1931, Dr Edgar Cyriax, the then Chairman of the newly formed Rugby Fives Association, sent postcards to a large number of institutions, mainly schools, enquiring about their Fives courts. The purpose of this exercise was to decide upon the dimensions and colours that would constitute a "standard Rugby Fives Court". The exercise resulted in a list of 62 institutions having courts with diverse and often peculiar sets of dimensions. This list was used by the RFA to formulate recommended standard dimensions which we still use today.

Oddities and Gardner's survey

Prior to this, courts had sprung up and evolved based on local preferences and quirks, and in the absence of any governing body, there was no real motivation to move towards a more uniform approach for the game. The results we have from the Cyriax survey show that existing courts at the time were of a wide range of sizes.



Dr Cyriax on court in 1938

excellent piece of work documenting a large number of Fives courts and walls that he made accessible via Google Maps. This provides a world-wide perspective and the list includes courts in the USA, New Zealand and Australia, as well as those in the UK. The map has been extended over the last few years and 110 Fives locations are now recorded. The link to the Google Map can be found in the Archives section of the RFA website.

Fives Court Census 2015

RFA Archivist David Barnes and others have continued to build on previous efforts to understand the history of Fives Courts. There is a wealth of information in the Archives and a number of comprehensive histories of various institutions can be found in past RFA Handbooks and Reviews.

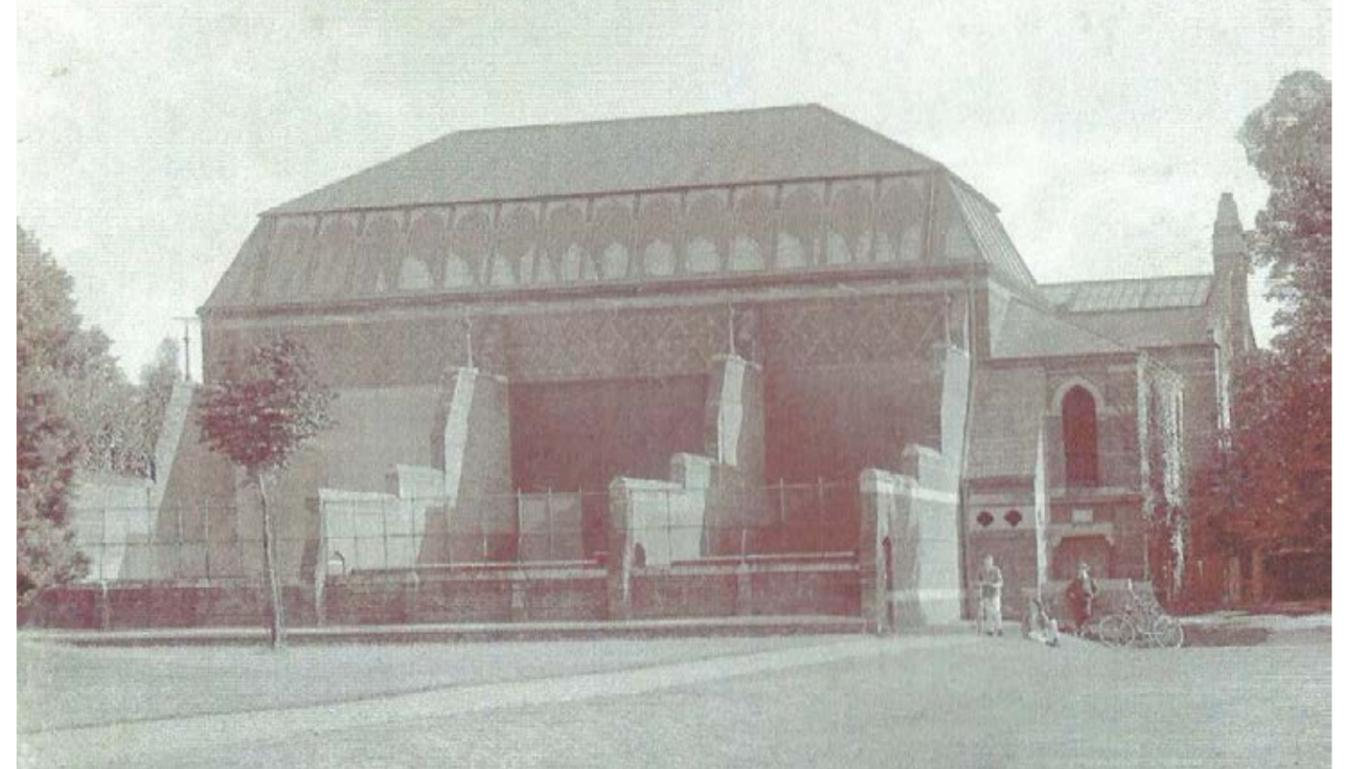
In early 2013, however, Dave Hebden and David Barnes agreed it would be useful to create a new Census of Fives Courts, to include past and present locations. The objective has been to achieve an improved historical perspective of the development (and disappearance) of courts wherever the game has been played. The scope of this Census is wider in some respects than any work done previously, focusing on the following areas.

■ **Time line:** The census has included courts or Fives places from past and present, dating back to the 17th century and earlier.

■ **Types of Court:** Various types of court have been included, for example one-wall, three-wall, Winchester Fives, Rugby Fives. It is interesting to track the transition from one-wall, to three-wall, and on to four-wall.

■ **Geography:** All courts world-wide are included in the Census; it has been surprising how many have been found outside the UK – the current total of non-UK courts is 44 and growing. For example there are 16 Fives institutions

The courts at Rugby School, built in 1860



in New Zealand, all of the 3-wall variety.

However, some types of courts have been excluded, for the time being at least.

■ **Eton Fives:** Mainly because these courts are documented elsewhere by the EFA, but also it was felt the priority should be to trace the evolution of the Rugby and Winchester games.

■ **Church Fives:** A separate list of Churches it is known that Fives was played against church walls (usually the Western tower); this list currently comprises some 75 churches, mostly in Somerset and the West Country.

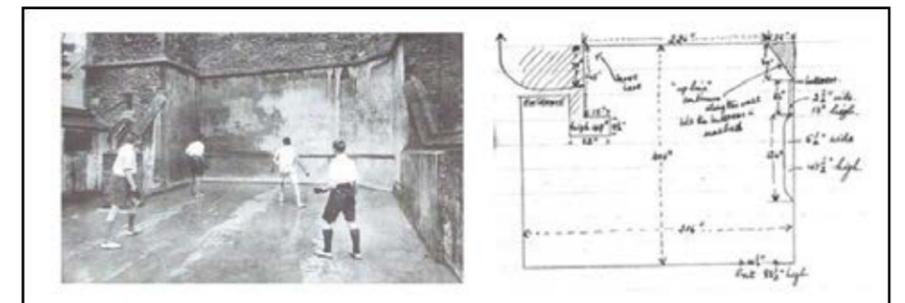
Current Census status

The new Census is very much a work in progress. With the benefit of the internet and other research sources, more locations where Fives was played are being discovered all the time. The current total stands at 416 Fives places.

For each establishment the following information is being collected:

■ **Basic information:** Name, type of institution (school, university etc.), location, and whether it is in use.

■ **Court details:** Type of court, date built and other relevant dates; note



The court at King's School, Ely, built in 1873

that many establishments have had several sets of courts developed over time.

■ **Court dimensions:** Where available.

■ **Photos:** The Census indicates if we have photos; Bob Dolby has led the work to create a photo archive, and the collection is building up.

Example Courts

An important milestone of course is the building of the old courts at Rugby School, built in 1860 and shown above. This provides a good example of the improvisatory origin of Rugby Fives. Which court did the Rugby pupils choose? Not the left-hand one, which was a massive bat-Fives court, nor the right-hand one, which was originally >>

Variety of court sizes

	Smallest	Largest	Standard
Length of court	18ft	34ft	28ft
Breadth of court	12ft	22ft	18ft
Height of bar	1.5ft	4ft	2.5ft

Moreover, some courts had buttresses and other oddities. A rather extreme example of this is a court at King's School, Ely. The photo and floor plan on page 13 shows just how different it is to the courts of today.

Some might argue this variety provided something of an attraction, but on balance Dr Cyriax did the game a great service by standardising things.

In 1961 David Gardner conducted a "Survey of Rugby Fives in Great Britain". This included a "Census

'The current total of Fives places stands at 416'

of Courts" and provides valuable information about the game at that time. In total, David identified 85 schools and 16 clubs with courts – 101 institutions in total. David extended the Cyriax information with more comprehensive details describing the nature of each court – for example the date it was built, its dimensions, the type of gallery and lighting etc.

RFA Google Map 2008

In 2008 Andy Pringle produced an

Where were courts built?

Type	#
School	237
University or College (e.g. Teachers training), Seminary (priests), Theological	43
Pub	
Listed as a pub or hotel at time of building	42
Club	
Club	27
Services	
Barracks, Navy	13
House	
House, Castle, Grounds	27
Other	
Community facility, Church, Monastery, Hospital, Unknown	27
Total	416

a Worcester College Oxford design with a buttress. but the middle one, which wasn't even paved when it was constructed.

Some schools, Giggleswick for example, copied the Rugby School court dimensions and design exactly, even down to the sloping floors.

Others built courts on a different scale, squeezing them into a space in the playground or using a previous single wall and extending the side walls back into whatever space was available. The amazing variety of courts exhibited in the responses to Dr Cyriax's questionnaire was the result, but by 1930 it was too late for many schools to reshape or standardise, except by moving the bar up or down a bit or building a back wall or two.

Courts existed in most parts of the UK although the Census shows a particularly high density in the South West, perhaps because of the background there of Church Fives.

Some of the more recent research has resulted in a number of additions to the Census in the North East of

England where there was a thriving Fives community in the second half of the 19th century through to the 1930s. This was largely colliery based, where the game had enormous support. A newspaper article from 1880 records crowds of thousands going to watch Fives matches at Tudhoe Park, Spennymoor, with purses of £100 (about £5,000 today.) So far there are about 15 Fives walls or "ball alleys" identified in Durham County but there were probably more.

A split of the 416 Fives places by geographic area is shown in the table to the right. Fives was exported to an extent, mostly in Victorian times, and the 44 non-UK locations identified so far are also shown.

For each institution, there are often a series of developments over time. For example at Winchester College eight separate instances of court development are recorded. This started with early 17th and 18th century walls used for handball and bat-Fives, then an interim period when there were both Rugby and Winchester courts,

Distribution of courts

Region	Number of courts
London	60
SE	37
East	19
Midlands	50
SW	94
Wales	14
NW	29
NE	53
Scotland	16
Other - worldwide	44
Europe	
Isle Of Man	1
Ireland	1
Channel Islands	3
Switzerland	2
Asia	
China	2
Hong Kong	1
India	1
Malaysia	1
Nepal	1
Sri Lanka	1
Australasia	
Australia	5
New Zealand	16
Africa	
South Africa	2
America	
USA	5
Brazil	2

and culminating with the Winchester courts in use today. For the 416 Fives places there are 578 instances recorded of courts being built.

Ongoing census work

The work on the census is continuing, but a few things are clear at this stage.

It is certainly surprising how prevalent the game was in the 19th and early 20th centuries when Fives was a major sport. Many schools and universities had courts, but the game was also popular in the services, and quite a few private houses had a court. In earlier times there is evidence of the game being played outside many pubs as well as against church walls and towers.

Sadly a lot of the courts recorded in the Census have long since disappeared, and there are others which lie dormant. There are currently 57 establishments in the list that are listed as being "In Use", but it is encouraging that several recent court builds have been added to the list, for example at Oundle, Rugby and Cambridge University.

The reduction of courts, particularly in the mid 20th century, is perhaps the subject of another article, but there are a number of factors that came into play. These include: the demise of the Grammar school (more than 60 Grammar schools had Fives courts); the growth of other sports such as squash; and a lack of money to enhance existing courts and build new facilities. The work to populate the Census continues, and the feeling is that are quite a lot of courts out there which have so far been missed. The search continues.

Different types of courts

Type of Fives	Number of courts
Rugby Including 4-wall courts used for Bat Fives	227
Winchester	56
Eton	2
Hybrid e.g. Rossall	28
3-Wall	89
Wall	
Wall, tower, courtyard, side of building	96
Not known	80
Total	578



Seaham Colliery wall



Tower at Barr Castle, Ayrshire



Fives wall at North Cheriton, Somerset



Three-wall courts at Otago, New Zealand

'In the 19th and early 20th centuries Fives was a major sport'

History of Fives at Marlborough

David Barnes delves into Marlborough's past

Marlborough College was founded in 1843, and only six years later the first basic Fives courts had been built. These two free-standing walls didn't last long, though – one was demolished in 1863 and the other became the side wall of a covered rackets court.

In fact the early days of Fives at Marlborough saw a lot of change. Two three-walled Fives courts were built in 1853 – although one was removed in 1863 to make way for the Bradleian building – and three courts were erected against the south wall of the rackets court. The first singles prize was given in 1863, and Fives gloves, previously scorned – and on one legendary occasion even ceremonially burned – started to be accepted.

Increase in interest

In 1869, The Marlburian carried an article entitled 'Fives Playing,' which said the following on the game: "It is true that we have no covered courts, no court with a back wall, or with a buttress... but of courts adapted for plain, good, honest play we have a fair supply." Part of this honest play included doubles, which at Marlborough consisted of two players playing the rally, while their partners stood back. The writer said: "By this system a match is often lost which might have been won; the interest of the two out-players is lost, and the game is robbed of half its variety and charm." Perhaps unsurprisingly the system was soon abandoned.

The Bradleian building was extended in 1873, bringing the destruction of the three 1863 courts. In compensation, six courts were built between the gates to the College and the rackets court. Competitions proliferated and games were played to 11 or 15, with no deuces. A boy who learnt his Fives on these

courts, AF Winnington-Ingram, was destined to become the first President of the Rugby Fives Association in 1927.

In 1877, four courts were built in the Field, on the north side of the Bath Road. One of the 1873 courts was removed to make way for the new Porter's Lodge, but with nine courts in all, plus some house courts, Fives was well catered for. When the College celebrated its 50th birthday in 1893 by building the North Classroom Block, the remaining 1873 courts were demolished, but in compensation, six more were built in the Field adjacent to the other four.

These 10 courts grouped together should have stimulated interest, but little change was recorded in The



Marlborough College 'Court' c.1890. 1873 Fives courts on right.

In 1907 there were 27 entries for the Open Singles and 13 pairs for the doubles'

Marlburian. Internal competitions chugged along, with entries small and details erratic. A team played a Common Room IV in 1901, and the masters won every game. Things picked up in 1907, however: there were 27 entries for the Open Singles and 13 pairs for the Doubles, plus Junior and House competitions.

Courts brought in line

The first school match was in 1908 against Cheltenham. "As our opponents were accustomed to a larger court with a back wall, they were considerably handicapped," said The Marlburian. "The doubles resulted in a draw, but we won both the singles matches."

The First World War interrupted matters, and although the Cheltenham fixture (usually won by Marlborough) had been played regularly, it was 1923 before Clifton was added to the list. The standard at Marlborough in the 1920s seems to have declined. Both matches against Cheltenham and Clifton in 1927 were lost.

By now, the courts were showing their age. A letter to The Marlburian in 1929 asked for back walls, "to make the game as we play it here conform to the Rugby rules, instead of existing in the nature of a bastard half-caste, as it does at present".

The appeal was not in vain. That same year, the Martineau family gave the College eight four-walled Rugby and four Eton courts, built on the site

ABOVE Marlborough College 1853, Fives courts on left RIGHT House Fives Doubles Champions 1876



of the old courts. For the first time in Marlborough's history Fives could be played on covered courts.

The benefits of coaching

No Fives reports were published from 1933 to 1938, leaving us to guess at the level of activity. The RFA sent sides in 1937 and 1938, but no results appeared. The College lost heavily to an Oxford IV in 1938, and three pairs suffered a big defeat at Clifton the next spring. Fives was clearly stronger in the Common Room, for, when a five-pair match took place that year, the masters won by almost 100 points.

During World War Two, games of both codes were played against boys from the City of London School, evacuated to Marlborough in 1939. In 1945, RJ Knight joined the staff, and

Marlburians now had a first-class player to learn from. Knight was runner-up in the Amateur Singles in 1936, and on its resumption in 1948 he became champion.

The effect on Marlborough's Fives was immediate. A match against Oxford in 1948 was won easily. That same year PC Clemmow became the first Marlburian to represent Cambridge at Rugby Fives. The 1948-49 captain, AMB Salmon, was later to play two successive years for Cambridge. No fewer than seven pairs played the Common Room, and the school won 370-290. >>

School matches return

Inter-school matches started again in 1949. Over the next decade Canford, Bradfield, Rugby, Sherborne, Clifton, Malvern and Winchester became regular opponents; and the Jesters, Oxford Beavers, Bristol University and Alleyn Old Boys brought sides to Marlborough. Names which stand out from this period are CC Simpson, who represented Oxford in 1953, and CJ Harvey, the first captain under AF Elliot, the master-in-charge from 1956. In 1957, Clifton were beaten for the first time, and a strong pair of Harvey and MG Harrison reached the fourth round of the Schools' Doubles, losing to the eventual winners from St. Dunstan's.

The 1st IV were unbeaten in school matches in 1958, and the next season

'Plenty of boys were playing, among them one CDA Martin-Jenkins'

Bristol Grammar and Dauntsey's were added to the list of opponents. The Marlborough side was led by a future National Doubles champion, MJ Elliott, destined to win the Cyriax Cup in partnership with JT Watkinson (BGS and Oxford) three times from 1962-64. Elliott played three times for Oxford (1960-62), was captain in the latter two years and had the pleasure of selecting two other Marlburians, RL Ormond (1961) and PG Howard (1962) to represent the University.

DRW Silk, winner of the Cyriax Cup with JF Pretlove from 1956 to 1959, came to teach at Marlborough in 1955. Consequently such players as Pretlove and R Birmingham, both winners of National Singles and Doubles titles, came to play for the Jesters or Alleyn Old Boys against the College. After losing one of those matches by the respectable score of 64-110, CRN Clark, Fives captain in 1960, wrote in his report: "Afterwards the opposition, at our request, criticised our game and, without being asked, our courts! They recommended the use of the soft shot at the front of the court, the

lob, and the use of the side wall for carefully placed shots. They also advised us to get some new courts."

The fact such men were coming to Marlborough was praise enough, though. AF Elliot was an enthusiastic coach, and the occasional appearance by the resident Amateur Doubles champion did no harm. As well as new lighting in four courts in 1963, two floors were relaid in 1964, and plenty of boys were playing, among them one who was to play Fives twice for Cambridge and become famous in cricketing circles, CDA Martin-Jenkins.

Repairs and demolitions

The courts were re-roofed in 1970, and when AF Elliot's long spell as master-in-charge ended in 1974, Gordon Woods took over. The courts were repainted, and three masters, Woods, John Osborne and Martin Harrison played a big part in keeping Fives on the road in the mid 1970s. The response was good, with four teams playing Radley in 1977.

Fives reports took on a literary flavour from 1977, when JD Byrom became master-in-charge. "If the welkin did not often ring to the whoops of victory, the games were conducted in an enjoyable and gentlemanly fashion. One asks for little more," being one entry. "The world of Fives is a quiet one, being, in every sense of the word, courteous. Rackets are left to other games," read another.

In winter 1979, four of the eight



CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW

Tom Kiggell, co-winner of the Veterans' Doubles Plate 2015; Marlborough courts in October 1970; A Montagu-Pollock and J Davies with the Winchester Plate in 2004; The Martineau Plaque



courts were demolished to make way for squash courts. Even so, matches were won against the RFA Club and UCS Old Boys, one Marlburian being the one-armed Richard Olver, a future RFA Club stalwart.

Modernisation

In 1981, John Byrom reported another accident-free season. "Recently released statistics reveal that proportionally more actuaries play Fives than any other professional class, so the chances of survival must be encouraging."

Byrom's final report in 1984 was heartfelt, albeit with a twist in the tail: "Michael Payne, Lucas Dawe, Adrian Rees and Alan Leong, abetted by Matthew Edwards, were good enough to beat all comers this term with a fine mixture of strength and subtlety. The Common Room, who lost to them in an amazingly close match, will be glad to see them go, and wish them well."

Rodney Harris, who took over as master-in-charge, reported in 1987 that the courts were in poor condition, sweating badly and unplayable for long periods. Nonetheless two senior fixtures were played, while matches at lower levels took place against Clifton, Bloxham, Bradfield and Radley.

No further reports appear for more than a decade. John Osborne, who took on Fives despite being a Housemaster and then Senior Master, coached juniors and arranged matches. As in

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
S Rolls and K Bowyer-Knight with the Winchester Plate in 2009; The Marlborough College Boys' Fives squad in 2012; S Smith and C Bugel, 2014 U14 Girls' National Champions

many schools, the pressure of a range of sports and activities had begun to tell on some of the smaller games.

As John Osborne said: "Edward Gould saw an enormous improvement was needed to revive the game; thanks to his initiative and the RFA's advice, we entered the era of enclosed courts." Sealing the area behind the courts in 2000 made a big difference to comfort and transformed playing conditions.

The present day

The next step was suggested by Howard Wiseman of the Rugby and Eton Fives Coaching Agency and, as a result, Matthew Arnott was appointed as a graduate assistant for 2000-01 to coach Rugby and Eton Fives.

Boys' matches had been re-established with Malvern, Sherborne, Radley, Clifton and Bradfield, while some girls had entered the Ladies' Winchester Fives Tournament. In 2001-02, 15 matches were played, all junior levels being represented, and the Under 15s won six out of eight. When Tom Kiggell joined the Common Room in 2002, there were some competent young players to work with.

Space precludes a detailed account of the 12 most recent seasons, all of them under Kiggell's patient and expert leadership.

More Marlburians played for the College in 2006-07 than in any of the previous four seasons and first matches were held with Wessex, St. Olave's and King's Bruton.

The girls managed Marlborough's first win in a National Championship, when Louisa Treadwell and Laura Jardine Paterson won the Under 18 Girls' Doubles in 2011.

In 2014 C Bugel won the National Under 14 Girls' Singles and the doubles with S Smith. Lastly, in 2015 JSW Godding represented Oxford in the Varsity Match, the first Marlburian to do so for 30 years.

RFA Club Report

Hamish Buchanan reports on the RFA's Club matches in the 2014-15 season



A successful year for the club saw 20 wins, seven losses, and, with the perennial parity of Dick Warner's ever-shifting pairings in the Strawson Memorial match, one draw. One or

two home sides even provided a stand-in player for the Club and in the case of some by no means the weakest.

Thanks must go to Peter de Winton who has run his last match for the Club at King's Bruton. Peter has managed fixtures including the West of England for many years and will be sorely missed.

Peter is not alone in long service. This year Tony Hamilton led what is possibly the oldest RFA team ever assembled. Although their average age exceeded the OAP threshold they despatched the Tonbridge team with room to spare relying on their 'exceptionally long experience'.

In the Winchester vs Rugby code match the Club retained bragging rights, sneaking home by just over a point per game. It fell to the young pairing of Beltrami and Kay and the old hands of Buchanan and Roberts to secure the victory over an arduous but enjoyable 20 games. The code vs code format was also used in the Malvern match for the first time this season, resulting in a good six-a-side match.

The President's Cup was won at a canter by Matt Cavanagh and Bruce Hanton – Bruce's third win after many attempts and Matt's first after one. The stand out performance of the day was from the Deputy President Bernard Atkinson, giving away 50-plus years to partner David Butler, Bernard still produced all the style and flare to see them win the T-Pot – Dave's main contribution was supplying the high fives after Bernard's winners.



Jez Sinton (left) in one of his many RFA matches this year

RFA CLUB RESULTS 2014-15

Opposition	Manager	Other players	Result
Alleyn Old Boys	R Perry	B Brookes, T Chapman, E Hatton	Loss
Alleyn's School	A Hanton	A Bowden, E Carr, T Chapman, R Sulkin	Win
Bedford School	J Denham*	H Beard, C Davey, M Kiteley, D Sorensen	Win
Blundell's School	M Whitehead	D Hill, T Lewis, M Raynor	Loss
Cambridge University	A Pringle*	D Tristao, A Meek, G Price, J Sinton	Loss
Cambridge Univ. VI	R Dolby*	R Christie, A Goodwin, J Halligan, S Kirby, B Kirk, R Whitehorn	Loss
Christ's Hospital VIII	G Matthews	B Atkinson, T Brook, B Hale, B Lovett, L Mathias, J Sinton, C Wheeler	Loss
Durham University	R Sandie	G Fox-Edwards, S Russell, T Widdop	Win
Executioners	E Ronan*	B Brookes, H Buchanan, S Rolls, C Waller	Win
Jesters	W Ellison	T Dean, A George, R Perry	Win
King's Bruton	P de Winton	R Clark, P Grant, T Hillman	Win
Malvern VI	H Buchanan	C Burrows, A George, B Hale, G Price, J Sinton	Win
Old B'dfrd M'dernians	P Atkinson*	A Goodwin, S Kirby, B Kirk, J Milnes	Win
Old Blundellians	R Dyke	D Hill, K Kennerley, J Sinton	Loss
Old Bradfieldians	A Pringle*	B Hale, J Marshall, J Sinton, R Warner	Win
Old Paulines	M Bate	W Ellison, E Hatton, R Sulkin	Loss
Old Whitgiftians	H Buchanan	E Carr, A Hanton, B Hanton	Win
Oundle School/Staff	A Smith	B Boag, A Burrows, J Lee	Win
Oxford University	E Hatton	R Dyke, T Maconie, S Rolls, C Waller	Win
Sedbergh School	R Guthrie	C Breese, P Guthrie, G Page	Win
Sedbergh Staff	R Guthrie	C Breese, P Guthrie, A Williamson	Win
Sherborne School	A Passey	B Boag, R Graham-Evans, W Gunyon	Win
St. Dunstan's College	A Hamilton	J Higgins, G Norman, M Wilkinson	Win
St. Paul's School VIII	A Wilson	Various	Win
Strawson Memorial	R Warner	O Arnold, B Beltrami, D Grant, B Hale, O Quarry, W Yates	Draw
Tonbridge School	A Hamilton	B Atkinson, W Gunyon, P Ross	Win
Winchester College VI	W Ellison	W Gunyon, B Hale, J Pearce-Smith, A Passey, J Sinton	Win
Winchester VIII	D Tristao	B Beltrami, H Buchanan, C Burrows, E Kay, M Cavanagh, G Price, S Roberts	Win

* denotes non-playing manager

Club Reports 2014-15

The past season, as seen through the eyes of the many clubs around the country

Alleyn Old Boys

A good year for the AOB's with attendance numbers up on both Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings (we are as ever an irreligious hoard in south east London). Tims Chapman and Hebblethwaite have returned to the fives fold after a long sabbatical and Alan Bowden rejoins after an extended secondment in the north east.

We reached the semi-finals of the Wood Cup, losing to the Old Paulines, and were runners-up to the same opposition in the Owers Trophy with strong performances from Ed Carr and Rocco Sulkin, assisted variously by Jacob Brubert, Adam George and a couple of the old guard. We play all year round from gelid January to sweltering July; all are welcome.

Hamish Buchanan

Durham University

Turnout was good in the early season with Seb Woollard teaming up with Ben Ashraf to entertain the masses at the London Open. A squad of eight made the trip to BUSF. A promising performance from Tom McCahon

Cambridge University

At every level, 2014-15 has been phenomenal. The year began with Sienna Tompkins and Jacob Ader winning the Mugs in the inaugural Lady's Cup at Cambridge.

Ed Kay then won singles silver at BUSF while Ben Beltrami and Matt Shaw won the doubles, making Cambridge top in the team rankings. The first Winchester Fives Varsity Match took place at Winchester College, where Cambridge swept to a 120-48 victory.

Ed Kay notched up his first U25 singles victory. The Plate singles was also an all-Cambridge final, with James Pinder beating Tom Bury. In

the first round against a tough opponent is a positive sign for the future and Sam Russell made a well-deserved quarter final. Dave Butler lost in three to Ed Kay in the semi. The highlight of the season was Sam Russell and Dave making the National Singles finals, the first time in many years two Durham players have made it to this stage. The Jesters trip saw more Durham bodies in action, and we thank Frank for continuing to invite us. The second half of the season saw Dave team up with Dan T to win his home tournament, again a first. With only two leavers this year it should be a year to build on.

Dave Butler

Exeter Rugby Fives Club

The most notable venture for the club this year was our 'Origin Of Fives' Tour. Those taking part included Stuart Watson, Tim Lewis, John Webber, Jonathan Sawyer, Keith Kennerley, Jim Hughes, Alex Rew, Sholto Moger and thank goodness for the girls bringing the average age below 50, Alexandra Steel and Maddy Raynor.

We played One Wall on Friday

afternoon at Marlborough, Winchester Saturday morning at Winchester, then Rugby at Marlborough, with Eton at Marlborough again on Sunday. The Wessex Club were tentative against our girls but when they realised how hard the returns were coming back a superb couple of hours followed. Thanks to Jim, Marlborough School and Club, Tom Kiggell, Bill, Harry and the Wessex Club.



The inaugural South East tournament

Christ's Hospital

A few matches were played this season - an enjoyable eight-a-side encounter that was a successful collaboration with the senior pupils against the RFA was probably the highlight. More importantly our numbers for regular weekly sessions have been growing, and we hit what was believed to be a record number of 17 players, old and new, on a Wednesday in June.

We were also pleased to host the first ever Open tournament at Christ's Hospital – the new South East Championships. A turnout of 14 players for singles and doubles is a very good figure for an inaugural tournament and it is hoped that we can build on that for the 2015 entry.

New players are always welcome - we meet most Wednesdays from 5pm and Sundays at 10am. If interested please contact Ed at ewgh@christ-hospital.org.uk.

Ed Hatton



Victorious Cambridge University squad

the doubles, Kay paired with Shaw to beat Brubert and Chris Burrows (Imperial). The week before Varsity the Present overcame the Past, which augured well for the match at Barnes, which was duly won 300-23.

Jacob Brubert

Derby Moor

If you're in the Plate, watch out 'cos Derby Moor are coming to get you! It seems to be our speciality at the moment. On top of the five plates won by our juniors, the senior Club have been getting in on the act, too.

In July Stuart Kirby won the Singles Plate at the South West Open, then took the Doubles Plate with Anthony Goodwin. In October Richard Christie won the Doubles Plate at the Yorkshire Open with young John Halligan. In January Anthony won the Plate for the second year in a row at the North West Open, once more with schoolboy Rob Whitehorn.

In March Rob won the Plate at the Barnes Bridge (aka the National



Summer Tournament winners 2015 - Chris Davey and Anthony Goodwin

Winchester Fives Doubles) playing with his friend and rival Tom Watkinson.

Not to be outdone Brian Kirk won the Singles Plate at the Vintage Championships. We did think for a while that we might win our first Gold in a senior competition when Rob Whitehorn got to the final of the President's Cup with Tom Maconie, but Cavanagh and Hanton had other ideas, so Robert had to make do with Silver, as did Stuart Kirby in the Vintage Doubles, playing with Tony Hamilton. One day that elusive Gold Medal will come our way! Hopefully our plan to enclose the courts will hasten that event.

Bob Dolby

Executioners

It's been another eventful year for the Executioners on and off its home courts at St Paul's School. We've welcomed new members, such as James Smith and Tom Yellowlees, as well as delighting at the return of lapsed players including Courtenay Barklem and Simon Stokes.

However, it was two club stalwarts who hogged headlines this year. Andy Pringle and Alex Steel won the Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles title for a record-breaking third year.

They also put up a strong showing in the club's end-of-season doubles tournament, which took place in near-tropical temperatures in June and which – in typical club fashion – featured an odd number of players: organiser Guy Matthews played a 'rolling role', subbing in for players who were late, shattered or (in all probability) just happier to help themselves to the buffet.

After coming through a gruelling round-robin stage, Andy and Alex bowed out in the semi-final to the veteran pairing of Richard Bridge and Dick Warner, but the eventual champions were Ben Beltrami and Jon Peterson, who – in typically friendly Executioners fashion – were allowed to compete without (we think) having paid their club subs. Or, in Jon's case, attending a club night all season...

Andy and Alex didn't go home empty-handed, though. Andy was

delighted to be the oldest ever winner of the club's singles ladder, resisting several challenges from defending champion Richard Dyke, while Alex won (not for the first time) the Most Competitive Player award – as voted for by the players in the Sun Inn after the end-of-season tournament.

Plans centre on continuing to attract new members, expanding our fixture list, encouraging more members to take part in national tournaments. Oh, and getting a suitable prize for Alex...

Andy Pringle

Jesters Club

The Jesters have enjoyed another successful season, with matches up and down the country, all played in a very jesterly spirit.

The highlights continue to be the hugely social affairs that are the Annual Dinner, the Edinburgh tour and the Strawson Memorial match. The tour, put and held together by Frank and Harry Akerman, included a 31-strong party playing in excess of 20 fixtures.

Dick Warner stepped in to organise the Strawson this year. As is becoming the norm, it included a healthy mix of experience, with players of all abilities taking to the courts in order to justify the dinner. These events exemplify the essence of the Jesters and showcase what the club is all about.

This year, we have had match managers organising fixtures from

hospital beds and as far afield as Saudi Arabia – the kind of commitment we like to see! As ever, a huge thank you to everyone for playing, managing and supporting Jesters Fives.

Charlie Brooks

Malvern

It's been a relatively quiet season of Fives at Malvern with an influx of strong schoolboys helping us to put on a decent showing against the RFA. Unfortunately, our fixture with Bristol University had to be called off but we were well represented at the Jesters Edinburgh trip by the Ward brothers!

With a few old Malvernians moving back to the area, we continue our Evening Club on Monday nights (with obligatory pub trip afterwards!) and welcome anyone else who is local to come and join us!

Stephen Coffey

Manchester YMCA Rugby Fives Club

The highlight of the year for the club had to be Claire Knowles winning her 12th Ladies National Singles title, making her the most successful female Fives player of all time, and she is still improving!

The second was John Minta retaining his Veterans Singles title at Marlborough.

And third was a very successful Christmas bash run by Kevin Henry.

John Beswick

Old Tonbridgians

I am pleased to report the club has had an enjoyable past year with a lot of regular attendees, and some new faces including Michael Streatfield – a newcomer to the game and previous expert at that unusual game called Squash.

There were slightly fewer fixtures this year but we enjoyed very narrow losses against the school and the Executioners. The latter were encouraged to play against us by one of our newer players, Rupert Mathieu. Rupert is an Old Tonbridgian and parent who has recently moved to the area from West London so is a big plus for us.

Sadly Ian Fuller has been increasingly busy with his administrative duties and time spent with his wife in Spain, but he does sometimes find time to fit in a singles match against Ian Jackson after helping with the coaching of the pupils.

We are also grateful to Martin Wilkinson – parent of an OT who is our star, having won the Masters doubles playing this year with Dave Hebden. Alan Maltby and myself also played so we had three OTs in the Masters competition. Martin also regularly helps coaching the pupils in the Lent Term.

We are always pleased to have new members – Tuesday remains our club night, and we are of course grateful to the school for the use of the courts.

Neil Arnott



Martin Wilkinson - Masters winner

Marlborough & District Fives Club

We are very lucky to have access to both Rugby and Eton courts and play year round, though the summer is much quieter than the rest of the year. Whilst we play much more Rugby than Eton fives, the summer players often prefer to play Eton fives, partly for a change and the fresh air.

What we might lack slightly in terms of quality (with a few notable exceptions) we make up for in quantity, with all four Rugby courts often full on Sunday club nights during the autumn and winter.

Various members have played with success in competitions, notably Jim Hughes and Melissa Cole in the National Mixed Winchester event, as well as Tom Kiggell and Bob Davison who won the doubles plate at the RFA Veterans. Then there is Tim Brown, who won this year's Hughes Cup, our club singles competition, which is run by Jim Hughes.

Numerous club members help out in different ways. Bob Davison by collecting the subs, Tom Hillman who carries out risk assessment, Melissa Cole and Richard Pierce by hosting the club BBQ, Leslie Jenkinson who runs our Facebook page, Mark Somerville with photography and others.

And as ever thanks go to our two leading lights, Tom Kiggell and Jim Hughes, for everything they do to help and encourage. Thanks of course to the College for providing the facilities.

Richard Clark

Old Bedford Modernians

Club nights continued on Monday nights between September and April. Numbers remained steady at six occasionally augmented by two ex-Bedford School boys during their university holidays. The only match played was against the RFA (consisting entirely of gentlemen from Derby Moor) whose comparative youth was too much for the ageing limbs of the OBMs. Notable achievements during the season included victory for Matt Cavanagh (ably partnered by Bruce Hanton) in his first ever appearance in the President's Cup whilst amongst the more venerable club members, the evergreen Mark Kiteley continued to

accumulate silverware in the form of the Mate's Plate (President's Cup) and the Vintage Doubles Plate (with Peter Westwood).

Away from the court, Phil Atkinson was appointed General Secretary of the RFA.

Phil Atkinson

Old Rossallians

There has been a regular core of Old Rossallians playing once a week this year, with Lee Hodgetts and his two assistants Sarah Frost and Toby Holder Williams adding to the ranks. The students always know that there is the opportunity for a challenge during Thursday prep time, with OR Phil Brown still being the man to beat.

Anyone who would like to join them and sample a different take on Fives is welcome to contact Lee and join them for the Thursday evening session.

Lee Hodgetts

Oxford University

This year gave mixed results to Oxford Fives. We had a particularly unsuccessful Varsity match against a very strong Cambridge side but everyone involved showed great character and grace in defeat, taking our exceptional captain Nick Whitney's lead.

Special credit goes to Ollie Sale and Bertie Mills, who converted from Eton Fives and were pitted against some real titans of our game. This year saw the final appearances of Dru Horwood, Ophir Even and Tom Hoskins.

Dru won our Players' Player award and Ophir and Tom weren't far behind. We'll miss their great play and company.

The inaugural Winchester Fives Varsity Match was also a fairly hefty Cambridge victory but everyone involved had a good day so it looks likely to become a repeat fixture.

At the BUSF tournament, Dru was cruelly denied the Singles Plate in the final but the Doubles Plate saw an all Oxford final with Matt Hale and Ollie Sale narrowly triumphing over Dru and Tom Hoskins. Tom did grab some silverware at the U25s later in the year though.

Next season's captain will be Francis Thomas and hopes are high, despite uncertainties about our courts.

Nick Whitney

Old Whitgiftians

The Old Whitgiftian Fives Club kicked off the 2014-15 season in August with success at the inaugural South East Open, winning plates in both the singles (Tony Hamilton) and doubles (OW Nick Woolfenden with Marlborough College's Tom Kiggell)



Nick Woolfenden and Tony Hamilton at the South East

competitions.

Despite a spirited Old Whitgiftian performance, the RFA proved too strong for us in our annual match in October. Our own annual OW Fives Club doubles competition in December attracted a good turnout, mixing pairs of OW players and current schoolboys, with Tony Hamilton and Sarath Prakash proving victorious in a competitive tournament.

The Club had a thoroughly enjoyable and successful South West tour in March – carefully planned to coincide with plenty of Six-Nations rugby viewing! Eager tourists and (almost as eager) supporters enjoyed games at Sherborne, Tiverton and the West of England Club at Clifton. Everyone naturally also enjoyed plenty of liquid refreshments, food and pre- and post-match socialising.

We continue to hold regular social Fives sessions at the Whitgift school courts on Wednesday or Thursday



The OW tour to the South West was a success on and off court

evenings and hope to reinstate a fuller match fixture list for the 2015/16 season. We've welcomed several new and returning players onto the courts over the last couple of years and more are always welcome. Contact Nick Woolfenden (nickw5s@hotmail.com) for more information if you'd like to get involved.

Nick Woolfenden

Wessex Club

We had a good season at Wessex this year, the standard of the club being raised by some excellent schoolboys from the College.

Tom Watkinson won the National Schools U18s and Albert Song the U16s and, with the continuing presence of a number of other talented colts, the College will be strong for a while

The Wessex Club was once again well represented on the Jesters Fives tour to Edinburgh and in the Winchester Fives VIII, which lost a close fought match against the Rugby Fives Association.

Newcomers this season, claiming between 20 and 45 years since they last played, include Nigel Gainsborough (Alleyn's), Giles Stimson (Blundell's), Neil Sherrif and Philip Siddall (both Sedbergh). Jonathan Dunlop and Rainier Valcarel started from scratch and, like most good squash players, were soon holding their own.

The highlight of our season though was, without doubt, winning the Wood Cup. The entry of a Cambridge University team, their top players being Old Paulines, weakened the OPs' representative team just enough to enable our IV of Ellison, Butler, Munn and Akerman to enjoy a

victorious weekend in the spring sunshine at St Paul's.

Our own internal Letchworth competition was won by two of the Winchester Colts, Pete Kullavanijaya and Alec Younger, so we already know how hard we will have to work trying to keep up with them next season!

Harry Akerman

White Rose Club

The club still soldiers on with few members; often it is hard to get four together for a club night. The problems have been exacerbated by the absence of Bob Sandie for a long period after a knee operation, and by the non-participation of two other members due to work commitments.

Thankfully, the Heath buildings, where the Fives courts are situated, are now listed grade II, and the Fives courts feature prominently in the listing information, even down to details of the interior. This should save them from extensive alteration, however, it does not stop them being used as store rooms if the club cannot meet the rental payments!

A large portion of the remainder of the Heath site is set to become a school again, albeit of the primary variety, so

we should be able to interest some of the pupils, and, hopefully, some of the staff, in Fives based games.

Club members still manage to support a few tournaments, the principal of which is our own, the Yorkshire Open. This year, for the first time, the fixture was extended to include a singles competition.

We are grateful to those who made the trek from south, especially Will Ellison, Dan Grant and Dan Tristao, who ensured that the singles was closely fought. Congratulations to Dan Tristao for being the first winner after an exciting final against Dan Grant.

Bob Sandie was conspicuous by his absence (again a knee operation being the problem) from both the Vintage and Veterans tournaments, reducing our haul of silverware this year. Tim Widdop managed to stop the haul falling to zero, however, with a victory at the Derby Moor Invitation Doubles.

We have hopes of new playing members in the near future. Two have come to play a couple of times, and promised to be back, and others have promised to play but not appeared. Perhaps we need a better blackmail advisor!

John Hawke

Terry Ronan (1953-2014)

Terry was a top-class rugby player in his youth, and was a more than useful cricketer with a good eye. He played some Fives as a boy at Swansea Grammar School, and took over the running of the sport at Bradfield from Neil Marshall in 2001. While at Bradfield, he was enthusiastic about the game, both as a player and coach. He was great fun to partner in a doubles thrash, and the RFA Club President's Cup was his kind of tournament. He enjoyed success in it, too, as his name appears on the Mate's Plate (with Hamish Buchanan in 1993) and the Love Mug (with Jonathan Bartle in 1994). He was so exhausted after the latter we were quite worried about him in the car on the way home!

Above all, Terry was a sociable, kind and modest man and good company at all times. He was a fine chemistry teacher and took his turn as a housemaster, a job which tested his kindness to the full! Throughout his



Terry Ronan with Bradfield pupils at Sherborne

long service to the College, he never allowed his natural competitiveness to get in the way of friendship.

David Barnes

Paul Smith (1936-2014)



Paul Smith was one of the best of the many fine Fives players to come out of Merchant Taylors' School in the 1950s and '60s. He first made his mark in school Fives in 1954, when he won six singles matches out of seven for Merchant Taylors' at home; and then in the Schools' Championships the same year, when he was within four points of reaching the final.

In 1956, as a young medical student, Paul entered the Amateur Singles for the second time and this time did reach the final. On the way he beat Roy Birmingham, the 1954 winner and 1955 runner-up, and then proceeded to defeat Mike Skliros, another seeded player, in the semi-final. In the final, however, his opponent John Pretlove was at the height of his powers and won 'in a fast, hard-hitting match', as the RFA Handbook reported.

Paul entered the Amateur Singles three more times, reaching the third

round twice and collecting some good scalps along the way, but he never got to another final. Sadly, his competition career ended prematurely when he lost the sight of an eye as a result of a detached retina. He did, however, manage to continue to play some club Fives and cricket.

Paul was not only fun to play against but also wonderful company at the 'après-Fives'. The OMT Fives Club held a number of memorable dinners in the 1960s at Durrants, their hospitable HQ. Paul was a hilarious, if risqué, after-dinner speaker with a rich fund of stories and a fondness for post-prandial singing.

Paul was President of the OMT Society from 2006 to 2007 and was granted Honorary Life membership, a mark of distinction. He remained a member of the RFA and the Jesters Club until his death.

David Barnes, with thanks to Philip Newfield

Alastair Mackenzie (1932–2015)

Dick Warner pays tribute to a well-loved Fives stalwart

Alastair Mackenzie, who died in June 2015, aged 82, was a towering and much loved figure in the world of Fives. He was well known as a first-class player, especially at singles, and legendary for what he termed “après-Fives”, which comprised great enjoyment of good food, convivial company, and alcoholic refreshment.

Very much a renaissance man, he took huge pleasure in a wide variety of arenas – from Classical Greece and Rome, to music and the arts, as well as many kinds of sport.

He believed that if a thing was worth doing, it was worth doing well, and this thoroughness, and seriousness, ran through all his enthusiasms and his classics teaching at St Paul's.

Varied passions

As a spectator, he had a deep love of tennis and cricket, and was a devotee of ballet and opera.

Wine was an abiding passion. He most enjoyed introducing others, particularly after club matches, to the qualities (and frequently quantities) of good wines.

Geoff Sherratt recalls Alastair's love

of wine, and sage advice to the less knowledgeable when settling down to supper in a less sophisticated eatery: “If you don't know much about wine when in a restaurant, choose the cheapest on the menu”. They did – it was the house wine – and all agreed it was undrinkable.

He pursued his love of wine to a literary end, writing his first article in 1970 and passing the Wine and Spirit Education Trust's Diploma Examination, with honours, in 1974.

He then proceeded to write three well-received books, two with fellow Circle member Jeffrey Benson.

Fives achievements

He learnt his Fives at Clifton College from 1947–52, where he became the captain and number one player. While at school he enjoyed fierce battles

‘His RFA Presidency was described as the most successful of all’

against Bristol Grammar School's John Evans, who was later his partner at Oxford University.

He won the North of England Singles in 1954 and 1955; Scottish Singles 1961; Scottish Doubles 1961 with D Morton and was National Doubles Runner-Up 1955 with John Evans.

He later won the Veterans Singles in 1979; and the Veterans Doubles 1984 with Roger Freebairn.

He won the Vintage Singles three times, in 1988, 1989, and 1991.

In 1988, he won the President's Cup with Jeremy Schroeter, having won the Mate's Plate in 1984 with Neil Butterfield.

During his time as RFA President from 1983 to 1985, he toured the country playing in every national and regional doubles tournament – offering himself as a partner to anyone who was unpaired.

A founder of the RFA and former President, Bill Pett described Alastair's Presidency as the most successful of all, due to the active part he played and to the stimulus he gave the game at all levels.

He organised the first Prep Schools' (now Under 13) Championships at St Paul's School in 1985; and started, with assistance from Denise Hall-Wilton and Paula Smith, the first Ladies Rugby Fives Championships at St Paul's School in the same year.

St Paul's

As well as teaching classics, he was, for a long time, the master in charge of Fives at St Paul's. He loved seeing his charges develop their skills, especially pleased when he imparted the skill of hitting the cross court shot into the nick, with either hand – he was practically ambidextrous himself.

He had a great recall of his pupils and their achievements, as noted by Peter King, his successor as Fives master: “At the dinner arranged to



Alastair, front left, with his Oxford University team

mark his retirement, captains from throughout his time were present, and Alastair was able to place by each table setting copies of (in some cases several) scorecards from significant matches in their school careers.”

His crowning achievement as master in charge of Fives was when the school moved from Baron's Court to Barnes. He persuaded the planners to build, not two or four, but six courts in the new gym.

Oxford

He played for Oxford University from 1955 to 57 and was captain of a winning side in 1957. For many years he was President of Oxford University Rugby Fives Club. The annual fixture, mimicking Cambridge University's 'Past v Present', has played for the Mackenzie Bowl for 30 years.

He enjoyed taking a team to Oxford each year to play the undergraduates, and then would entertain them in the pub nearby. This would be followed by a first-class meal,

‘Oxford University has played for the Mackenzie Bowl for 30 years’

with suitably educational wine choices.

What he achieved for St Paul's, he repeated for Oxford University in 1989, linking with John East and Ron Swash to establish two Fives courts on the Iffley Road Sports Complex, replacing the demolished courts at Worcester and Keble.

As David Barnes says: “Alastair loved the Varsity Match and was its unofficial referee for many years.”

Humour and memory

He had a wonderful sense of humour, with a nice line in self-deprecation. John East relates how “he enjoyed hugely describing his rejection letter for a job, which had described him as being both ‘naïve and pompous’.”

Dave Hebden remembers “one year at the North West championships sharing a room with him. After a good night out on the Boddingtons we retired to our room. In the morning at breakfast I was roundly reprimanded by Alastair: ‘Hebden, you fell asleep last night during one of my anecdotes!’ He addressed the Manchester dinner that night, delivering an excellent speech, during which he made a reference to the ‘narcoleptic Hebden’. I wasn't sure how offended I should be until I located a dictionary.”

He had an encyclopaedic memory for the important and the trivial. David Gardner recalls perennial reminders of the first time they played, St Dunstan's v RFA: “I first met Alastair in the 50s, when, as Captain of the St Dunstan's team, I played against him in the match v RFA. I lost that game – a fact he reminded me of every time that we met ever since!”

He leaves his most supportive wife Pauline and two Fives-playing sons, Bruce and Stuart.



Receiving the President's Cup in 1988

End-of-Season Rankings

Dave Hebden looks at the ups and downs in this year's rankings

The rankings for the 2014-2015 season see Dan Tristao at the head of both the singles and doubles, but by the narrowest of margins ahead of Will Ellison. These two have dominated the season, but will be looking over their shoulders at Dan Grant who moves up to number three in both lists.

In the singles, Tristao and Ellison shared eight of the nine open titles between them, with Will taking the main prize of National Champion, but Dan's marginally better head-to-head record puts him slightly ahead. Grant retained his University title (his fourth) and was runner-up in the National Singles, while James Toop drops down to four after a season in which he was only able to play in two events. The inaugural South East singles was won by Ed Kay who moves up to six. Ed also took advantage of Dan Tristao finally being ineligible for the U25's to pick up that title after Dan's six-year reign. Veterans Matt Cavanagh and John Minta had steady seasons and stay in the top 10 at five and eight.

David Butler and Richard Murby move into the top 10 at seven and nine. However, the highest riser is Ben Beltrami who reaches number 10 after an impressive season. Theo Parker and Adam George move into the top 20 whilst there are 10 other new entries this year, including a crop of promising youngsters.

A mention should be made of Hamish Buchanan who drops out of the top 10 for the first time after a distinguished 21 years.

In the doubles, either Dan Tristao or Will Ellison featured as winner in each of the seven open events, including teaming up at the London and the National Doubles. Dan won three other open events with Dan Grant, Ed Kay and David Butler, while Will won two events partnering Dan G and Hamish.

Dan Grant, who picked up two open



'We have 19 new entries in the doubles providing a youthful flavour'

titles, is at three. In addition to the NW, Ed Kay won the U25's and was a National Doubles finalist, which moves him up to four. Ed's partner in the U25's was Matt Shaw who also won the University Doubles with Ben Beltrami. Ben and Matt enter the top 10 at nine and 10. Hamish, Tom Dean and John Minta retain their spots in the top 10.

David Butler, Chris Burrows, James Tilston and Ollie Arnold move into the top 20, while Sam Russell moves up 26 places to 23. There are 19 new entries in the doubles providing a youthful flavour to the list, including Edinburgh Academy schoolboy Andrew Boyd who won in the Scottish invitation. Another notable new entry is Alexandra Steel who picked up points in the SW event.



TOP Top rankers Dan Tristao and Will Ellison
CENTRE Top tenner Dave Butler with Bernard Atkinson
BOTTOM Rising star Theo Parker with Marcus Bate

RFA rankings at end of season 2014-2015

Singles

Pos.		Pts	Pos.		Pts
1	(1) D Tristao	92.9	28	(43) S Russell	13.1
2	(2) W Ellison	92.8	29	(14) I Ackland	12.2
3	(4) D Grant	83.4	30	(26) H Jefferies	12.0
4	(3) J Toop	57.7	31	(21) S Rolls	11.9
5	(5) M Cavanagh	46.9	32	(-) A Goodwin	10.9
6	(9) E Kay	43.5	33	(31) J Hughes	10.3
7	(11) D Butler	43.4	34	(-) S Kirby	10.0
8	(6) J Minta	42.4		(22) T Widdop	10.0
9	(12) R Murby	41.2	36	(38) O Quarry	9.6
10	(46) B Beltrami	36.9	37	(47) O Arnold	9.2
11	(8) H Buchanan	26.3	38	(28) P Hanton	8.1
12	(10) T Maconie	25.7	39	(-) J Pinder	7.1
13	(13) T Dean	25.1	40	(-) M Kemp	6.7
14	(7) C Brooks	24.5		(32) N Roberts	6.7
15	(16) M Shaw	24.4	42	(-) J Halligan	6.3
16	(19) T Kiggell	24.3	43	(23) D Fox	5.9
17	(29) T Parker	20.5	44	(37) A Pringle	5.8
18	(16) E Hatton	19.7	45	(-) A Hamilton	5.7
19	(35) A George	19.6	46	(39) F Thomas	4.0
20	(20) M Bate	19.2	47	(39) J Gravatt	3.6
21	(18) G Price	18.4	48	(42) J Malde	3.2
	(15) J Brubert	18.4	49	(47) R Houlden	2.6
23	(24) C Waller	18.0	50	(-) B Ashraf	2.4
24	(25) J Aquilina	16.9	51	(-) C Kent	2.0
25	(30) C Burrows	15.2		(-) J Sinton	2.0
26	(36) J Tilston	14.3	53	(47) C Legget	1.2
27	(-) A Boyd	14.1	54	(50) O Even	0.5

Doubles

1	(2) D Tristao	97.0	43	(42) R Dyke	14.1
2	(1) W Ellison	96.4		(29) J Marshall	14.1
3	(4) D Grant	81.9		(24) S Rolls	14.1
4	(9) E Kay	74.2		(55) R Whitehorn	14.1
5	(5) H Buchanan	72.8	47	(42) T Kiggell	13.2
6	(6) T Dean	70.0	48	(36) H Jefferies	12.2
7	(7) J Minta	54.8		(55) T Lewis	12.2
8	(2) C Brooks	49.0		(55) A Smith	12.2
9	(42) B Beltrami	48.0		(33) F Thomas	12.2
10	(19) M Shaw	47.4		(32) R Warner	12.2
11	(8) G Price	45.8		(55) S Watson	12.2
12	(24) D Butler	45.0	54	(37) M Cavanagh	11.2
13	(10) R Perry	44.7		(52) R Christie	11.2
14	(34) C Burrows	42.1		(52) S Kirby	11.2
15	(14) T Parker	41.8	54	(49) O Quarry	11.2
16	(28) J Tilston	38.4		(41) T Widdop	11.2
17	(16) J Aquilina	36.7	59	(-) J Halligan	10.0
18	(11) M Bate	36.4		(-) B Jourdan	10.0
19	(42) O Arnold	36.1		(52) J Malde	10.0
20	(12) E Hatton	32.0	62	(66) J Ader	8.7
21	(19) J Brubert	28.3		(66) S Hodgson	8.7
	(18) M Kemp	28.3		(-) N Woolfenden	8.7
23	(49) S Russell	27.8	65	(-) B Ashraf	7.1
24	(-) A Boyd	26.5		(-) A Esin	7.1
25	(13) A George	26.0		(55) N Geere	7.1
26	(34) J Beswick	24.5		(-) M Hale	7.1
	(-) B Chua	24.5		(-) W Harrison	7.1
	(-) R Murby	24.5		(-) D Hill	7.1
29	(14) N Roberts	23.5		(-) T Hoskins	7.1
30	(30) W Enstone	20.0		(-) C Kent	7.1
	(23) J Hughes	20.0		(49) T Maconie	7.1
	(65) C Waller	20.0		(48) A Rew	7.1
33	(42) J Sinton	19.4		(-) O Sale	7.1
34	(21) A Pringle	18.7		(37) R Sandie	7.1
	(17) J Toop	18.7		(-) G Sperling	7.1
36	(55) T Chase	18.0		(-) A Steel	7.1
	(55) E Hawke	18.0		(-) T Watkinson	7.1
38	(42) A Goodwin	17.3	80	(55) A Bowden	5.0
	(-) G Lemmon	17.3		(66) Z Brubert	5.0
	(-) M Spillane	17.3		(24) P Hanton	5.0
41	(21) I Ackland	15.8		(66) B Smithson	5.0
42	(27) J Gravatt	15.0		(66) J Wren	5.0

Second column shows position at start of season

Join the 100 club



The 100 Club started in the early 1980's with the purpose of providing funds for the renovation of courts, and other expenses associated

with the promotion of the game of Rugby Fives, at the discretion of the RFA Committee – now the RFA Board. Over the years funds have been made available to many schools to assist with projects and £2500 was donated to Rugby School for its new courts. We are also presently contributing towards the cost of coaching at the Edinburgh Academy and Loretto School. Currently we have around 80 members but are looking to increase this number and if we can exceed 100 then the prize money can be increased.

Membership costs just a minimum of £12 a year and this gives you one ticket in the draw. The more tickets you buy the better your chance of winning! There are three prize draws each year.

Spring Draw
1st prize **£50**
2nd Prize **£35**

Summer Draw
Prize **£150**

Winter Draw
1st Prize **£50**
2nd Prize **£35**

The winner of the 2015 summer draw was Harry Akerman

The 100 Club is not in any way in competition with the RFA Charitable Trust and the scale of the fund is of course significantly smaller. Nevertheless the Board believes that through this different vehicle it can provide meaningful support to schools across the country – as well as a possible return on your contributions! Ian Fuller

The Rugby Fives Association Charitable Trust

(Registered Charity No. 1087264) (Trustees: J. East, F. Akerman, B. Hanton, D. Hebden, I Fuller, C. Niven, A. Pringle and R. Warner)

John East reports on the Charitable Trust's activities



During its last financial year to 30 September 2014 the Trust received income of a little over £21,500, whilst it made one grant of just over £1,500 to reimburse the

Derby Moor Club for the costs of running the Club there. Some of the new donations were in fact also allocated to fund future developments at Derby Moor, but the majority were for the renovation of the flooring at Alleyn's School, for which some generous donations were received.

A payment of over £20,000 has been made to Alleyn's School for that purpose since the end of the last financial year. There is still an outstanding commitment to support the national coaching scheme being established by the Fives Federation,

while well over half of the Trust's remaining funds are allocated towards the needs of the Derby Moor fraternity. The Trust is ever willing to consider applications for grants for both large and small projects.

The ability of the RFACT to provide support has been an important factor in helping various projects come to fruition over the last decade. With that ability now somewhat reduced, if you feel able and willing to contribute to the Trust's please do get in touch with me. I can let you have a Gift Aid form if needed, which will allow us to make the most of your donation at no extra cost to you. Equally if you are willing to consider leaving a legacy to the Trust in your will, then please consider using the template below as a codicil, suitably adjusted of course if you are writing a new will.



Tom Dean serving on the new floors at Alleyn's

As ever, I would like to thank all my fellow Trustees for their support over the past year and I should also thank Peter de Winton for his continuing assistance with the Accounts.

Additionally, of course, I would like to thank all our contributors over the years, without whose generosity the Trust's ability to support the game would have been very constrained.

2014-15 Results round-up

Full details of all these events on www.rugbyfivesassociation.net

SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014:

Singles: W.Ellison
Doubles: W.Ellison & D.Grant

SOUTH EAST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014:

Singles: E.Kay
Doubles: B.Beltrami & B.Chua

LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014:

Singles: W.Ellison
Doubles: W.Ellison & D.Tristao

OWERS TROPHY 2014:

Old Paulines

THE LADY'S CUP 2014:

Milly Richards & Dick Warner

YORKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014:

Singles: D.Tristao
Doubles: H.Buchanan & W.Ellison

SCHOOLS NATIONAL U14 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014:

Singles: S.Byers (Winchester)
Doubles: Winchester (S.Byers & T.Kidner)

WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014:

Singles: W.Ellison
Doubles: D.Grant & D.Tristao

SCHOOLS WINCHESTER DOUBLES 2014:

Derby Moor (J.Halligan & R.Whitehorn)

NATIONAL STUDENTS (BUSF) CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014:

Singles: D.Grant (UCL)
Doubles: B.Beltrami & M.Shaw (Cambridge)

NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014:

W.Ellison

LADIES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014:

Singles: C.Knowles
Doubles: K.Briedenhann & T.Mills

PRESIDENT'S CUP 2014:

M.Cavanagh & B.Hanton

WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

U18 Singles: T.Watkinson (Winchester)
U18 Doubles: Derby Moor (J.Halligan & R.Whitehorn)
U16 Singles: A.Song (Winchester)
U16 Doubles: Winchester (P.Kulavanijaya & A.Song)

NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

Singles: D.Tristao
Doubles: E.Kay & D.Tristao

NATIONAL U25S CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

Singles: E.Kay
Doubles: E.Kay & M.Shaw

THE VARSITY MATCH 2015:

Cambridge beat Oxford 300-23

NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

Singles: D.Tristao
Doubles: D.Butler & D.Tristao

NATIONAL WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES 2015:

D.Grant & D.Tristao

LADIES' WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

Singles: T.Mills
Doubles: K.Briedenhann & T.Mills

COLQUHOUN TROPHY 2015:

not played

NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

Singles: I.Fuller
Doubles: I. Fuller & D.Hebden

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

U18 Singles: T.Watkinson (Winchester)
U18 Doubles: Derby Moor (J.Halligan & R.Whitehorn)
U16 Singles: A.Song (Winchester)
U16 Doubles: Malvern (L.Nelson & A.Tudor)
U14 Singles: T.McGuire (Sedbergh)
U14 Doubles: Winchester (B.Kullavanijaya & A.Poyntz)
U13 Singles: G.Gibbs (Blundell's);
U13 Doubles: Pilgrims' (F.Krone & J.Martin)

NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT (WOOD CUP):

Wessex Club

NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2015:

W.Ellison & D.Tristao

NATIONAL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

U18 Singles: L.Mathias (Christ's Hospital)
U18 Doubles: Rugby (K.Broad & M.Richards)
U16 Singles: A.Law (Malvern)
U16 Doubles: Malvern (C.Bedford & A.Law)
U14 Singles: A.Green (Christ's Hospital)
U14 Doubles: Christ's Hospital (A.Green & J.Joseph)
U13 Singles: A.Alli (Christ's Hospital)
U13 Doubles: Bedford Modern (M.Kent & K.Sumner)

NATIONAL VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

Singles: J.Minta
Doubles: H.Buchanan & B.Hanton

NATIONAL MASTERS DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

D.Hebden & M.Wilkinson

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015:

Singles: D.Tristao
Doubles: A.Boyd & M.Kemp

NATIONAL WINCHESTER FIVES MIXED DOUBLES 2015:

A.Steel & A.Pringle

DERBY MOOR INVITATION DOUBLES 2015:

Chris Davey & Anthony Goodwin



The Masters

I _____ (Name)
Of _____ (Address)
Declare this to be a _____ (first/second as appropriate) Codicil to my last Will dated the _____ day of _____ 19____/20____ ("my will").
My Will shall be construed and take effect as if it contained the following clause:
I give free of inheritance tax to The Rugby Fives Charitable Trust, registered charity number 1087264
a)* _____ per cent (_____ %) (percentage in words and figures) of my residuary estate for the general purposes of said charity.
b)* The sum of _____ pounds (£ _____) (sum in words and figures) for the general purposes of the charity.
The receipt of any Trustee or other officer for the time being of the said charity shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors.
In All other respects I confirm my Will _____ (and Codicil dated) (date of Codicil)
In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand on this _____ day of _____ 20 ____
Signed by the said _____ (Name)

(Signature of testator)

As and for a _____ (first/second etc) Codicil to his/her Will in our presence. And by us jointly attested and subscribed in his/her presence

FIRST WITNESS

SECOND WITNESS

(Signature of witness)

(Signature of witness)

NAME

NAME

Address

Address

Occupation

Occupation

* Delete as appropriate



**Rugby Fives
Association
2015**

www.rugbyfivesassociation.net