

A-Z of Fives Players 2020

July 27th: The RFA photographic collection contains images of 751 players past & present. The first of 39 A's is **Sir Carl Aarvold** OBE, TD (1907-1991; Durham School & Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Recorder of London) who played Rugby for England 16 times, captain on 6 occasions.



July 28th: The last of the A's is **Bill Avenell**, stalwart of the Christ's Hospital Club; a doughty doubles player with John Robertson; and winner of the President's Cup with John Beswick in 1999. Great après-fives pullover, too!



July 29th: The 90-odd B's run from Pat Badmin (AOB) to Sam Byron-Evans (WoE Club). On the way you'll find, wearing the pink top, **Irene Bravo**, twice runner-up in the National Ladies Doubles -- and what a wonderful name for any Fives player!



July 30th: Like Brigitte Bardot (who has played many parts but never Fives) this Star of the Wessex Club and a National Grand Master is BB, with the most stylish of serves. And, unlike Jean-Paul Belmondo, **Bev Boag** is never à bout de souffle.



July 31st: The C's run from 'Jack' Calf ('New Tricks') to Edgar Cyriax himself. On the way you'll find **Laurence Catlow**, one of the great long-serving masters-in-charge along with Messrs Barnes, Beal, Cleaver, Jackson, King, Morgan, Stewart, Whit et al. Fives owes them mightily.



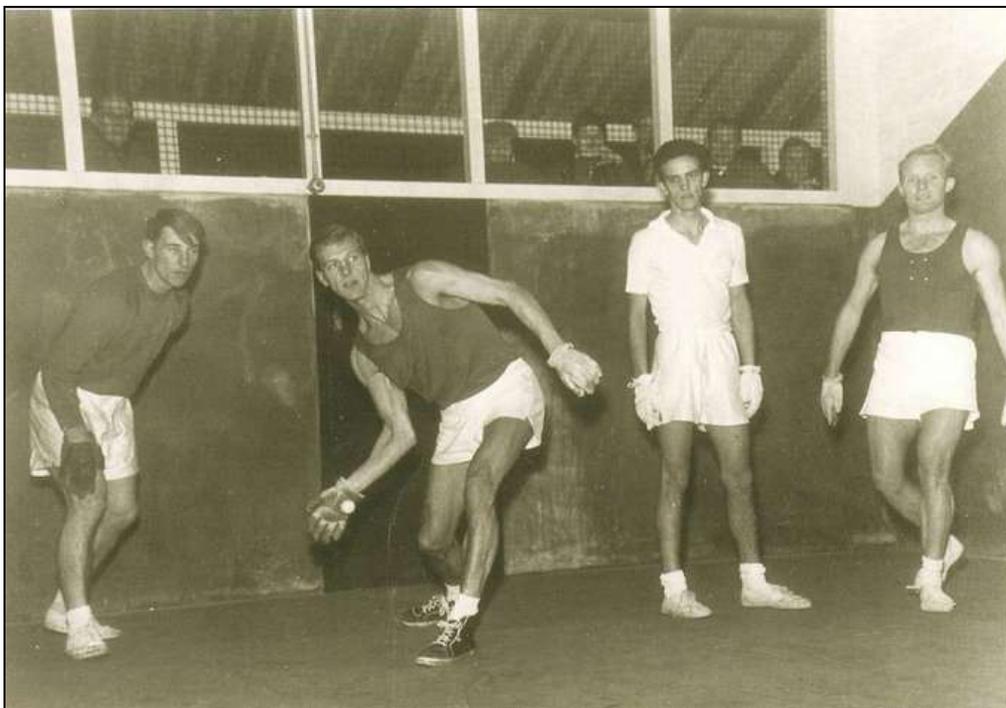
August 1st: Another inspiring Fives-player, who displayed huge physical and mental stamina two years ago walking more than 6000 miles clockwise round the coast of Britain to raise over £16,000 for the Mental Health Foundation, is Executioner Extraordinaire, **Charles Compton**.



August 2nd: Now for the D's. Old Dunstonian **Paddy d'Ancona**, the first ex-Cambridge player to head the end-of-season Singles rankings -- in 2001 -- and runner-up to Buchanan & Perry in the National Doubles with Ben Taberner in 2005. When he gave you one of those looks,



August 3rd: The forgotten player of the 1960s? But remembered as The Man who Brought the Trams to Croydon. Silky smooth left-hander **Bob Dorey**, all in white, Schools Singles Champion 1957 and responsible with fellow AOB **Pat Badmin** for ending Silk & Pretlove's Cyriax run of 4 titles in 1960.



August 4th: The E's -- Below we see (The Reverend) **Brian Elfick**, the only player to have captained both Oxford and then Cambridge University to victory in the Varsity Match at St Paul's. Just 5 others have played for both -- Messrs Cates, Boulton, Townley, Fabes and Brubert.



August 5th: Cup, Medal and a Kiss at the London Open in 2010 and so it's gone on throughout the decade for our multiple National Champion, **Will Ellison**.



August 6th: One of Oundle's finest young players, **Roger Freebairn** was Schools Singles & Doubles Champion in 1954. A modest man, a great schoolmaster, an accomplished poet and a keen motorcyclist Roger was seldom to be seen on campus off his bicycle. He also did 1000 skips a day.



August 7th: In 2010, to some surprise, Derby Moor's **Max Frost** (r) powered his way past Dave Butler to win the West of England Schools' U16 Singles, then teamed up with **Anthony Goodwin** to win the U18 Doubles. Thereafter Max became a fully fledged Royal Marine complete with tattoos.



August 8th: You can have a photo of the legendary **Kenneth Gandar Dower** with a racquet or with a cuppa or with a cheetah, but here's one from 1932 of him astride a car. Can you identify the vehicle before Andy P. does? Most probably taken at a cricket match. He could bat a bit!



August 9th: We have a couple of photos of **Anita Ganguly**, each with a coffee mug as a trophy, but this one from 2011 with a glass tankard and the Bradfield Bowl, the Ladies Winchester Fives Doubles trophy -- and partner **Alexandra Steele** -- is particularly nice Odds are, Denise took it.



August 10th: **Bob Holland** was a great stalwart of Manchester YMCA Fives, so much so that when he died in 2005 the Y Club staged the Bob Holland Memorial Tournament to commemorate his part in its history. Here, with the Shield, is **Clive Butler** -- winner with Phil Bishop in 2006.



August 11th: In 2006 **Emma Howie Seton** held all three Cups for Ladies Winchester Fives: Crayke Cup for Singles, Bradfield Bowl for Doubles (with Melanie Whitehead) and the Paula Smith Cup for Mixed Doubles with Stuart Kirby. She'd learned her Fives in Edinburgh and honed it in Derby.



August 12th: Not many Fives-players have surnames beginning with the letter I, but one who played an immeasurable part in the history of Fives at Merchant Taylors' School as master-in-charge for 26 years was **Peter Ingram**. Known for his attention to detail, wisdom and kindness.



August 13th: OK, so **Ibby** isn't her surname but she's a two-time Schoolgirls' Champion in Singles and Doubles, and in 2018 she carried **Mr Warner** to success in the Lady's Cup at Cambridge. There should be more titles to come for **Miss Lee**.



August 14th: Record-making Cambridge player; coach at Tonbridge School for 26 years and still going strong **Ian Jackson** is the current Vintage Singles Champion, seen here last season with **Angus Hanton** at Cambridge. Ian's one of the most elegant players yet seen.



August 15th: Few people can claim to be the Swiss Doubles Champion but **Henry Jefferies** and his partner **Dave Hebden** have held that title since 2016. Whether it's a national or an open title is up for debate. Most probably it's a closed one --
- grâce à Monsieur et Madame Hanton.



August 16th: He is Mr Edinburgh Fives. Secretary of the Caledonian Club, **Mike Kemp** is the man to get you playing in the Scottish capital. All roads lead to the Caley Club! Here he is at Loretto uttering words of encouragement to Christian and Tom.



August 17th: It hasn't always been Denise awarding the Ladies National Singles trophy to **Claire Knowles**, but it has happened a record 12 times! Surely that makes her a Legend? A lot of them in Manchester!



August 18th: Our two L's share the Jesterly spirit. **Rich Lebon**, here back row with headcovering, is an Old Blue, a Cambridge Sparrow (google it), an avid cyclist, a committed fund-raiser for a school in Africa and a dedicated member of the annual band of players touring Edinburgh.



August 19th: **Will Lyons** (left) is another of Barnes's Boys, newspaper columnist and award-winning wine writer, well known for his articles in The Sunday Times. But in Fives he and **Duncan Neale** are best known for their regular appearances on the annual Jesters tour to Edinburgh.



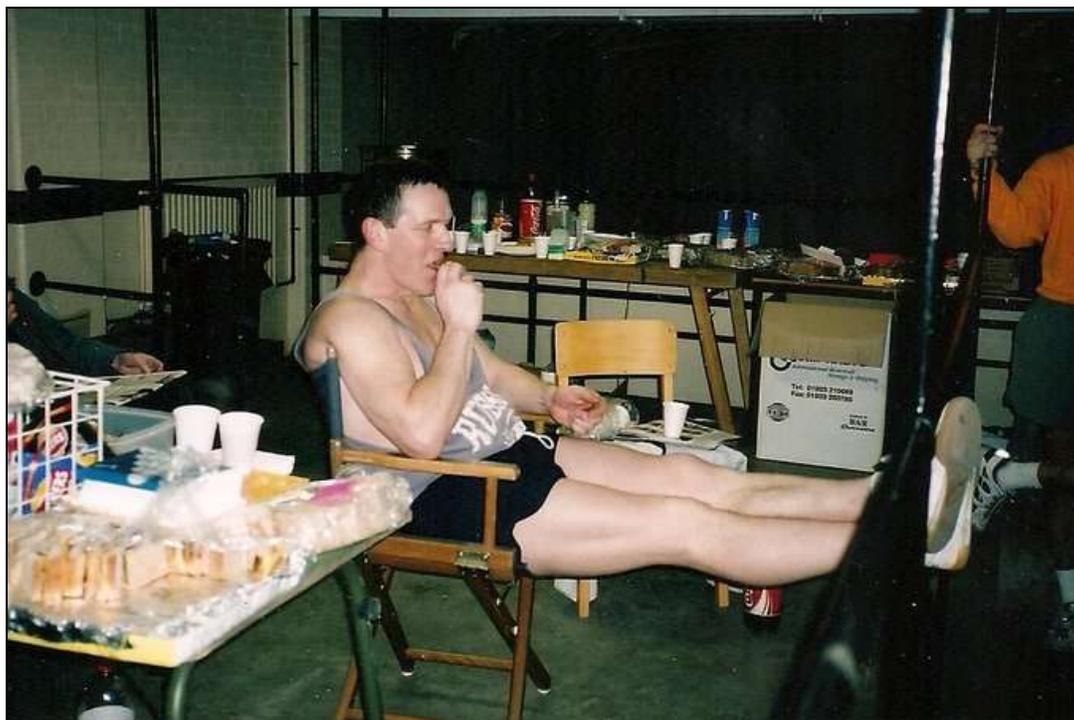
August 20th: So what did a chap wear for the 2007 RFA Dinner at Roehampton? The great, late Old Dunstonian 4-time National Champion **Eric Marsh** (r) and his contemporary **David Hebblethwaite**, raconteur and bon viveur sans pareil, opted for the black and red RFA tie, of course.



August 21st: While just a few tables away at that same RFA Dinner 13 years ago a young **Guy Matthews**, destined also to make his mark on Fives courts around the United Kingdom, opted for more serpentine attire. Ophidian even.



August 22nd: Nothing better than a chocolate snack after a hard game of Doubles at the President's Cup. No one played harder than another Manchester Great, **Brian Nithsdale**, seen here in 2003 at Merchant Taylors'. Singlet de rigueur; everyone else in fleeces and woolly hats!



August 23rd: All the Great and the Good gathered for Dr Cyriax's 75th birthday party in 1949, including Alleyn Old Boy **John Nye** (centre rear), one of the band of bare-handed players of the 30s and 40s. Read 'Bill' Bailey's affectionate tribute on the RFA website for an insight.



August 24th: A convert from Eton Fives during her years at Nottingham University, here's **Emily O'Malley** learning to power the ball down the left-hand wall under the guidance of Derby Moor Club Captain **Stuart Kirby**.



August 25th: Here is Old Whitgiftian **Tony Owers** with the trophy named after him in recognition of his generous support of Fives. He was on a rare but welcome visit to the UK in 2015. At the moment the **Old Paulines** hold it.



August 26th: We might struggle to find 2x X/Y/Z so here's an extra O -- the **Old Tonbridgians**, mega-well organised, strong, keen, quite numerous, often seen at tournaments and on tour, they make good use of the several courts they are blessed with. They clearly love their Fives!



August 27th: Nothing more fitting than Merchant Taylors' Old Boy **Gareth Price** (I) winning the President's Cup at MTS in 2005 with **Bruce Hanton** and then going on to run the event so brilliantly in its new home at Marlborough College. Let's hope it will happen again in 2020. A bientôt!



August 28th: Old Bedford Modernian **Geoff Prigmore**, holding the trophy, is one of the greats of Veterans and Vintage fives, where he was generally David Hebblethwaite's right-handed partner. Geoff is also acknowledged as a mentor to National Champion Matt Cavanagh.



August 29th: And as we have only one Z in the collection (Hi, **Shinan!**) here's an extra P. **Keith Puckle** (r) isn't to be thought of just as a multi-title-winning Doubles partner. Keith was Scottish Singles Champion 4 years in a row 1967-70. Oh for the days of the mighty Clove Club!



August 30th: It was **Ben Quarry** who partnered **Ed Kay** to a 12-10 victory over **Bob Dolby & David Barnes** in the final minutes of the marathon to raise money for the new Cambridge courts in 2012. Nearly £5000 was raised in those 24 hours at St Paul's. Ed's done alright since!



August 31st: A few unpleasant things have happened in a Fives court over the years but none perhaps more scary than having a mishit ball detach your retina, as happened to **Gareth Quarry** at Alleyn's in 1983. Still playing, though, as here at the Cambridge PVP with son **Oli Quarry** in 2016.



September 1st: A bit of an unsung star is our **Maddy Raynor**, an inspirational coach at Rossall, a creative organiser of the Ladies Winchester Fives Championships, and a Singles and Doubles champion in her own right. And Fives is not really her main competitive sport!



September 2nd: The day the Earth moved. **Neil Roberts** beats **Wayne Enstone** on the Manchester courts in 1996 to win his first Jesters Club Cup and end Wayne's run of 23 titles. For Neil it was 5th time lucky. He went on to contest four more finals and win two more titles.



September 3rd: It'd be hard to find a Fives-player younger at heart than **Bob Sandie**, stalwart of the White Rose Club and devoted to the game since he wore short trousers at Hipperholme Grammar School -- we have a photo! Seen here just a year ago, Bob likes a beer after a game.



September 4th: Here's another Legend of the Game, multiple champion **Paula Smith**, who helped **Denise Hall-Wilton** put Women's Fives on the map. Paula liked a glass of shandy after a day's Fives, all the better in front of a roaring fire!



September 5th: Loughborough University has a proud sporting record, and Scottish Schoolboy Champion **Doug Tidy** from Merchiston Castle (with trophy) follows in some impressive footsteps -- let's just mention **David Gardner** and **Luke Thomson**. Doug's currently playing at Derby Moor.



September 6th: With the letter T we could feature Messrs **Toop** and **Tristao**, with national titles galore to their names, but let's go for a lady with one: **Helena Tunks**, who won the National Rugby Fives Mixed Doubles in 2019 with **Douglas Law**. Not bad for someone who only started playing at university!



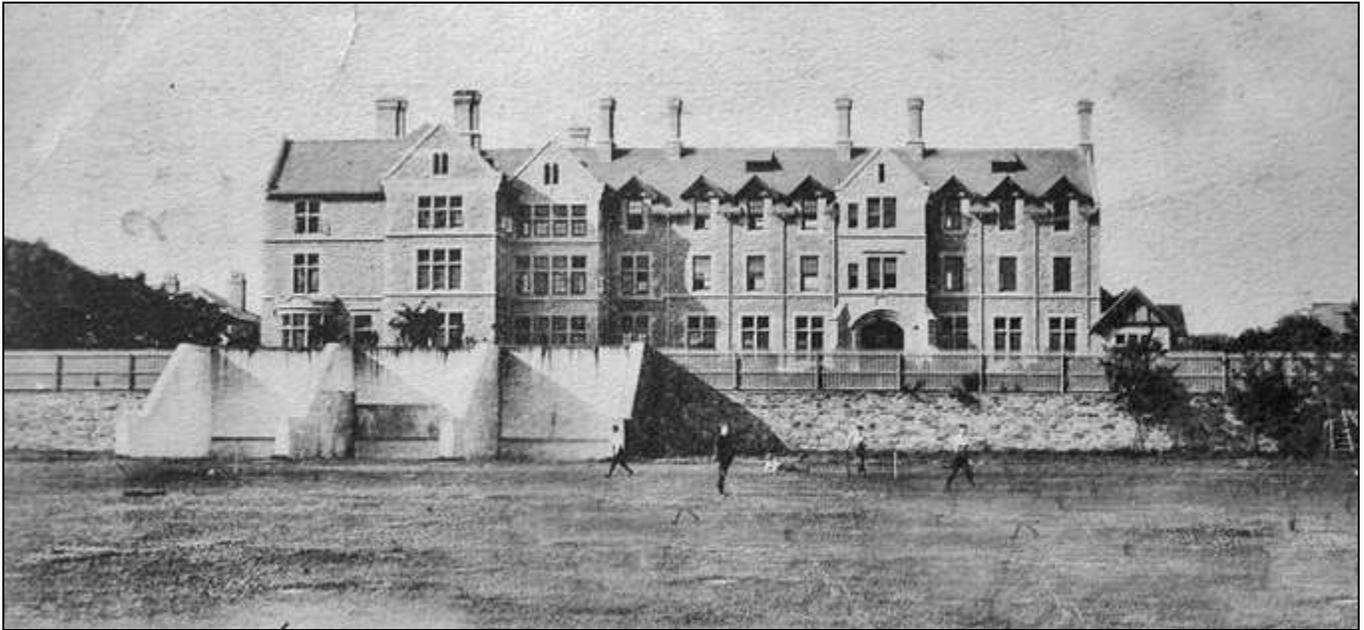
September 7th: U for USA and for **Rick Umiker**, here showing off one of the four Groton School singles courts. **Neil Butterfield** (bearded) did a nostalgic trip to the Massachusetts school in 2016, reliving memories of RFA tours to the States in the 1980s. MTS also did a tour in 1986.



September 8th: We have a Fives-playing bishop, Old Rugbeian **David Urquhart** -- of Birmingham -- seen here in 2010 at the opening of Rugby's new courts with **Ian Jackson**, **John Harland** and **Dick Warner** to his left. Top photo, this one -- bravo, **Mr Barnes!**



September 9th: We've no Vs in the collection apart from Theo V., the current U13 champion from Alleyn's. So here's a view of three of the many courts lost in the 20th century --- at **Victoria College** on **Jersey**, played on in the 1980s by visitors from the mainland including **Douglas Rice**.



September 10th: There's a V in **Sutton Valence School**, so here's a Tom Wood photo from the 1980s of the now demolished block of courts there. Who'll recognise himself, we wonder? Perhaps **Michael Beaman** or **Chris Horrocks**?



September 11th: Actually we do have an image of **Freddie Vogler**, Old Alleynian and member of the Westminster Bank Fives Club, here seen at the famous 75th Birthday Party in 1949, with **Jock Burnet**, **Edgar Cyriax** and **Barry Trapnell**. **Bill Bailey's** memoirs imagine **Vogler** as "a jolly monk, astride a barrel, waving a tankard, his face beaming with bonhomie".



September 12th: There are 54 players in the W folder, starting with **Tom Wakelam** and ending with **Tony Wynn**. Here's **Tom** doing what he does so brilliantly and with such a light touch at City of Durham Fives Club -- running things. CoD has to be the success story of the decade. Bravo, **Tom & Julie!**



September 13th: Here are the 2 Ws, **Rob Whitehorn** and **Tom Watkinson**, good friends and close rivals since their schooldays. This is them winning the Plate at the 2015 Barnes Bridge. 2015 Schools Singles Champion **Tom** has been reaching more finals recently -- now he's given up rowing!



September 14th: There's something very Yorkshire about the White Rose Club, it goes without saying, and no one typifies its spirit better than **Tim Widdop** (left), winner twice of the Derby Moor Doubles and of the Veterans Doubles Plate in 2019. You'd definitely want him on your side!



September 15th: Multiple Masters Champion, Old Bedfordian, Cambridge Sparrow and stalwart of the Old Tonbridgians, **Martin Wilkinson** has smiled his way through the world of Fives since the 1960s, truly one of the Gents of the Game.



September 16th: So many Legends at the Manchester Y Club, and **Peter Woods** (centre) has to be among them as a long-time player and as an inspirational Club Member and Chairman responsible for saving Fives there in recent times. How many hours, how many days devoted to the cause!



September 17th: Not too many Fives players have surnames beginning with a Y, but two have played in the Varsity Match in recent years: Here's **Ben Yass** in full flow at Cambridge and then **Will Yates** serving in the match at St Paul's.



September 18th: **Alec Younger** was part of the marvellous Winchester College IV of 2017 with **Tom Kidner**, **Pete Kullavanijaya** and **Albert Song** but here he is in his own right winning the T-Pot with **Gareth Price** in 2019.



September 19th: We have photos of only one player whose name begins with Z --- and we gave away that person's identity on August 29. We could resort to delaying tactics and highlight courts in SwitZerland but wouldn't be able to compete with Eton Fives and their courts in ZuoZ! But anyway, let's mention the one private Rugby Fives court in SwitZerland, to be found chez **Angus and Fabienne Hanton**, built in 2010 and home to the Swiss Open (or Closed -- see RFA Twitter August 15) Championship. The court reputedly plays Trey bien -- just ask **Henry and Dave!**



September 20th: Before we reveal our one player whose name begins with a Z --- they'll just have to be patient, Shinan! - -- it's worth noting that **Chillon College**, "the Eton College of SwitZerland", had Fives courts in the 1930s. A research topic for the **Hantons**, perhaps?



September 21st: Before we FINALLY reveal the name and an image of our player whose name begins with a Z --- Have you followed and liked our A-Z of Fives players? If so, can you please LIKE us today to give us an idea of how numerous you have been. Hopefully not just **Nathan** and **Dick**!



September 22nd: So, what a player to end our trawl through the photographic archives! The pride of Malvern College and Southampton University, Schools Champion in 2014 and current National Doubles Champion, here on the left with her partner, **Louise Mathias** -- it's **Shinan Zhang**.

