

The Rugby Fives Association

The first Annual General Meeting of the Rugby Fives Association was held at Dr Cyriax's house in Welbeck Street on October 29th 1928. The original officers of the Association were VEA Bowley, hon. secretary, HD Beevers, hon. treasurer, with PA Malt, Dr. EF Cyriax, LLM Marsden, JW Nye and WH Pett as members of the Committee, but at the second annual meeting the Committee was changed, KW Millage, JH Pickup and GR Rimmer being elected with Dr. Cyriax and PA Malt.

RFA Presidents, Vice-Presidents (and Deputy Presidents)

- The RFA has had 33 Presidents, 31 elected Vice-Presidents and (since 1970) 28 Deputy Presidents.
- The first President was The Bishop of London, the Rt. Rev. AF Winnington-Ingram, whose office was purely honorific and continued until his death in 1946, when EF Cyriax was elected President.
- The first Vice-Presidents were EF Cyriax and WF Marchant in the early 1930s.
- Dr Cyriax was Chairman of the RFA Committee from 1927 and his early election as a Vice-President was a mark of his status as the founder of the Association and Chairman of Committee.
- Mr Marchant was a wealthy man who endowed the Marchant Cup for London Grammar Schools in 1929. He was never a member of the Committee or an active officer of the Association but was a patron figure, recognised as such by his election as Vice-President.
- Further Vice-Presidents elected in the 1930s were John Bell (High Master of St. Paul's School 1927-38), WR Booth (Headmaster of Dulwich College 1928-41), RB Henderson (Headmaster of Alleyn's School 1920-40) and KW Millage (Committee 1928-35, Match Secretary 1932-35).
- After the War, the position of Vice-President lapsed until 1951, when the Committee decided to restore the office and elect 4 Vice-Presidents in recognition of their service to the Association and the game. They were: J Armitage (Hon. Sec. 1934-51), VEA Bowley (Hon. Sec. 1927-34), KW Millage (re-elected) and FF Spragg (master-in-charge at Oundle School 1930s and 1940s).
- Since 1951, 22 further Vice-Presidents have been elected. Some of them turned out to be 'Presidents in Waiting' (GR Rimmer, BR Griffiths, RA Colville, HD Beevers, JG Burton and WH Pett); all of them were recognised for their respective achievements as honorary officers, members of Committee, masters-in-charge, headmasters, area representatives and/or tournament organisers.
- The office of Deputy President was created in 1970, and since then the Deputy President has normally been elected President after two years in office. In 2017/18, BJ Atkinson continued for an extra year as interim President because his Deputy, DK Bawtree, was ill.
- All past Presidents are deemed to have the status of Vice-President.

Honorary Life Members

- The position of Hon. Life Member was created by the RFA Club in the days when it was a separate organisation. Geoffrey Rimmer (the founder of the Club) was the first HLM, Tom and Joan Wood the second and third when they retired from managing the Club's affairs over 18 years.
- When the Club and the Association merged in 1996, the RFA accepted that Honorary Life Members were different from Vice-Presidents, in that they were not expected to pay a subscription. Michael Beaman was made an HLM when he retired after ten years as General Secretary in 2003.
- David Gardner and David Barnes were made Hon. Life Members in 2013. The Jesters Club was given Hon. Life membership status in 2016. Ian Fuller was made an Hon. Life Member in 2017 and David Hebden in 2022.

[record updated October 2022]

OFFICERS OF THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION

Presidents

1927-46 A.F.Winnington-Ingram
1947-55 E.F.Cyriax
1955-60 J.Armitage
1960-65 G.R.Rimmer
1965-70 B.R.Griffiths
1970-71 H.D.Beevers
1971-72 J.W.Nye
1972-74 W.H.Pett
1974-76 D.E.Gardner
1976 T.J.Wood
1976-79 R.A.Colville
1979-81 J.G.Burton
1981-83 D.M.Hebblethwaite
1983-85 A.I.F.Mackenzie
1985-87 J.F.Pretlove
1987-89 F.J.Beswick
1989-91 D.Barnes
1991-93 F.R.F.Wilson
1993-95 C.D.A.Martin-Jenkins
1995-97 I.P.Fuller
1997-99 J.I.Cooper
1999-2001 P.W.Dunscombe
2001-03 D.J.Hebden
2003-05 G.P.Sherratt
2005-07 J.H.M.East
2007-09 J.C.S.Horrocks
2009-11 F.M.Akerman
2011-13 R.T.W.Warner
2013-15 R.L.Dolby
2015-18 B.J.Atkinson
2018-20 D.K.Bawtree
2020-22 D.S.Parlby
2022- J.E.McIntyre

Vice-Presidents (with dates of election)

1930s E.F.Cyriax
W.F.Marchant
John Bell
W.R.Booth
R.B.Henderson
K.W.Millage
1951 J.Armitage
V.E.A.Bowley
F.F.Spragg
1957 G.R.Rimmer
1960 B.R.Griffiths
E.C.Hanson
1963 R.A.Colville
1965 C.H.Eckert
1966 H.D.Beevers
E.LI.Bailey
1968 C.W.Atkins
J.G.Burton
W.H.Pett
1970 M.S.Preston
1971 C.T.Reichwald
1972 E.C.Livesey
1977 C.E.A.Whyte
1984 J.F.Burnet
1985 A.H.Buck
1987 S.H.Reid
1988 C.Shearer
1993 B.D.Dance
J.D.Turner
1995 J.A.Carey
2002 C.H.R.Niven

All ex-Presidents are Vice-Presidents

Hon. Life Members: D.Barnes, M.F.Beaman, I.P.Fuller, D.E.Gardner, D.J.Hebden, The Jesters Club.

Hon. Secretaries

1927-34 V.E.A.Bowley
 1934-51 J.Armitage
 1951-63 R.A.Colville
 1963-68 D.E.Gardner
 1968-73 A.V.Maltby
 1973-75 C.C.M.Arnold
 1975-76 T.J.Wood
 1976-83 I.P.Fuller
 1983-88 P.J.Reeder

General Secretaries

1988-90 J.F.Pretlove
 1990-93 J.C.Fuller
 1993-2003 M.F.Beaman
 2003-08 I.P.Fuller
 2008-11 A.B.Pringle
 2011-15 I.P.Fuller
 2015-22 P.G.Atkinson
 2022- C.R.Blakeley

Assistant Hon. Secretaries

1934-39 G.R.Rimmer
 1960-61 A.S.Horner
 1963-65 S.W.Batrick
 1965-66 P.W.Scott
 1966-67 S.W.Batrick
 1967-68 A.V.Maltby

Assistant General Secretaries

1989-90 J.C.Fuller
 1988-89 J.R.Whittenbury *

Honorary Treasurers

1927-38 H.D.Beevers
 1938-60 E.C.Hanson
 1960-65 M.R.Cornwall-Jones
 1966-72 P.Setchell-Smith
 1972-74 J.W.Nye
 1974-75 R.Digby-Clarke
 1975-77 F.W.P. de Winton
 1977-79 K.Love
 1979-84 F.W.P. de Winton
 1984-87 D.S.Parlby
 1987-88 P.Oscroft
 1988-2015 General Secretaries
 2015-16 I.P.Fuller
 2016-20 D.S.Parlby
 2020- J.A.D.Tilston

* J.R.Whittenbury assisted the new General Secretary and then became **Hon. Auditor** (see below). **The General Secretary** then became responsible for the accounts.

F.W.P. de Winton became the **Hon. Auditor** in 1997 and remains in post, although he has signed the accounts 'Hon. Examiner' since 2012. In 2015 I.P.Fuller resigned as General Secretary but continued as **Treasurer** for a year, handing over to D.S.Parlby in 2016, who was succeeded in 2020 by J.A.D.Tilston.

RFA Auditors and Archivists**Auditors**

1927-47 (probably) L.L.M.Marsden
 1947-68 C.W.H.Atkins
 1968-72 M.R.Cornwall-Jones
 1972-74 H.Johnson
 1974-79 H.Johnson & J.W.Nye
 1979-84 K.H.C.Love
 1984-88 I.P.Fuller
 1988-97 J.R.Whittenbury
 1997- F.W.P. de Winton

Archivists

1974-76 B.R.Griffiths
 1976-80 J.Armitage
 1980-87 R.A.Colville
 1987-88 O.Toller
 1988-99 P.Scally
 1999-2001 F.J.Beswick
 2001- D.Barnes

The title of the **Auditor** office changed to **Hon. Accounts Examiner** in 2012.

Notes on the Archives

Missing from the collection are 'The History of Scottish Fives' compiled by J.F. and G.P.M. Cuthbertson in 1955; and the notebook in which Edgar Cyriax recorded all the games he had played over a long period, which he bequeathed to the Association.

Even sadder is the absence of the Committee Minutes and AGM records dating from the foundation of the RFA in 1927 to the beginning of the Second World War in 1939. It has been possible to reconstruct some of the AGM material from accounts in John Armitage's magazine entitled 'Squash Rackets, Fives, Tennis and Rackets' published in the 1930s, of which we have a complete collection, but the Committee Minutes are lost for ever.