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South West Open Championships 2023

Blundell's School, Tiverton,
Saturday/Sunday, 1-2 July 2023

STOP PRESS 10 pairs entered the Doubles, from which Ed Kay & Ollie Arnold emerged victorious for the 2nd time, beating Charlie Brooks & Will Ellison in the final. Cameron Low & Tom Watkinson won the Doubles Plate, beating Anthony Goodwin & Bally Singh. In the Singles Ed Kay won his third title, beating Will Ellison in their third successive meeting since covid. Penn Chai won the Singles Plate on Saturday, beating Theo Parker in a close final, and on Sunday Penn won the American Doubles with Helena Tunks.

Wayne Enstone reports: As usual this year's Championship began with the first round of the Singles and whilst all the seeds went through to the quarter-finals there proved to be some hard fought matches, especially Cameron Low playing Sam Russell and Theo Parker against Charlie Brooks. In the quarter-finals, whilst Sam Russell produced some fine shots and defended well against Ed Kay in many of the rallies and won many, he just couldn't get a point out of a very impressive performance from Ed. Tom Watkinson upset the seeding by beating fourth seed Julian Aquilina, who in the first game seemed well in control at 8-4 up; however, Tom's power shots together with a few errors from Julian brought Tom back into the contest and enabled him go on to win the match in two games. Ollie Arnold didn't make it easy for Ben Beltrami by producing many outright winners; however, Ben matched him and moved Ollie about enough so as to force the necessary errors to win in two games. Charlie Brooks had a cliff-hanger first game against Will Ellison and at 10-all the game was in the balance, Will just managing to win 12-11 after several nerve-racking rallies. Will won the second a little more easily; however, Charlie produced a fine performance in both games.

This set the scene for two very interesting semi-finals, with Ed taking on the power of Tom Watkinson and Will the all-round defence and attacking ability of Ben.

It was soon evident that Ed wasn't going to let Tom dominate the game with his power shots: Ed attacked and injected his own pace and brilliant length shots, combined with many delicate front court shots to win in two games. The other semi was less predictable, especially with Ben leading 8 -1 in the first game, only for Will to slowly chip away and recover to make it 8-all. Unfortunately for Ben, a combination of him making uncharacteristic unforced errors and Will's outright winning shots moved Will to an 11-8 win. Will's focus and determination won him the second after some excellent play from both players. This set up a third successive final with Ed and Will since covid, both having one win each, so it was to be a Sunday morning decider!

The Doubles overlapped the Singles, so most players were well warmed up. Local pair Stuart Watson & Nick Geere had an entertaining first round game with Shinan Zhang & Penn Chai; Shinan & Penn held off a mini-comeback in the second game. Bally Singh & Anthony Goodwin from the Derby Moor Club proved too powerful for father & son pair Stephen & Daniel Brooke from Bristol. In the quarters the first three-gamer of the day was produced by Julian Aquilina & Sam Russell playing Cameron Low & Tom Watkinson, a match of top quality, with Julian & Sam just edging it in the third. Despite the three-gamer Julian & Sam pushed Ollie Arnold & Ed Kay in their semi-final match; however, Ollie & Ed were wanting another crack at the trophy and despite Julian & Sam's fine effort they just couldn't penetrate Ed & Ollie's defence and struggled to withstand Ollie's ferocious left-hand hits too.

In the other semi whilst Theo & Ben played some fine shots, Charlie & Will's experience and shots were too good on this occasion. So another top-class final for us spectators to look forward to on Sunday.

During these matches in the main draw, the Plate finals were also taking place. In the Singles Plate it was decided to play a straight knock-out competition, one game to 15. Last year's winner Ben Hale played well again, but Theo Parker's excellent shots and power was too much for him, Theo going through to the final. In the bottom half of the draw Penn Chai proved too strong for both Nick Geere and then a tired Cameron Low. In the final Theo Parker, in fairness, had just been playing high quality doubles pre the final and couldn't produce his normal standard of play to beat a very energetic Penn, losing narrowly 15-13. A superb final at the end of long day for all players.

For the Doubles Plate, a knock-out competition also took place, with Cameron Low & Tom Watkinson playing Bally Singh & Anthony Goodwin in a very hard hitting final. Cameron & Tom eventually penetrated Bally & Anthony's defence more often, which saw them to a 15-9 win: a great match to watch. At the end of the day's play, as is tradition at

the South West Championships, there was a social meal and drink or two at the local Butterleigh Inn, where the Singles Plate was awarded to Penn for his excellent performance in the final, Tom & Cameron having left earlier with theirs.

Sunday morning finals began with the Singles. Ed looked full of energy and on his toes right from the start, and won the first point, Will levelled and went ahead 2-1. It looked as though the spectators were in for another classic battle, with both players sharing the points. It was not the case though, the next seven rallies incredibly going to Ed, taking him into a 7-2 lead. This was due to his attacking and bold front-court play amidst some miraculous defending; then, with a change of serve he was 8-2 up. Ed won another point and Will too, making it 9-3, and then with another two changes of serve Ed had won the game 11-3. Will played well but looked a little shell-shocked. Obviously, he had to change strategy and produce more of his own attacking shots. The second game began with Ed winning the first point, then Will produced, as only Will can, a series of fine attacking shots himself that had Ed on the floor several times, only to see him recover and win the rallies. However, Will slowly moved into a 4-1 lead. Normally one would think that the tide had changed in favour of Will; quite the opposite though, and due to a massive display of determination Ed brought the score back to 4-4, playing delicate front-court shots and wonderful length shots to the back corners. Ed then continued to attack relentlessly and return some wonder shots from Will, replicating what he did in the first game, moving to an 8-4 lead. Then after two changes of serve Ed was able to win the game 11-4 and take this year's trophy. Marvellous to have witnessed yet again a match between two of the finest exponents of our game; well done to both for such outstanding performances. As always Will was both gracious and generous in defeat, understanding he had been outplayed today.

With a brief recovery period both Ed partnering Ollie and Will partnering Charlie were both back on court. All three games were of the highest level of doubles play, with all players having moments of playing outstanding shots to win scintillating rallies. It really was a privilege to witness this final. In the first game eventually Ollie & Ed went 8-3 up and looked set to win, only for Charlie & Will to come back to 8-all, then for Ollie & Ed to be ahead 10-8 and on game ball, only for Charlie & Will to win 12-10. In the second at 10-5 up to Ollie & Ed, Charlie & Will came back to 10-8 and we were all thinking is this a repeat of the first. Not the case, Ollie & Ed finally got over the line on a second hand in. The third game was of just as high quality, with neither pair not trying to play winning shots to finish the rallies. At 3-all, though, Ollie & Ed moved into a 7-3 lead. Charlie and Will would not be deterred and rallied to level at 7-all, only for Ollie & Ed to produce the winners required to finish the game 11-7 and pick up the trophy they won in 2019. Fantastic performances by them all.

As usual, trophy presentations took place for the winners and runners-up in both finals, and for the American Doubles winners on Sunday morning, Penn Chai & Helena Tunks, who had beaten local ERFC Club players Nick Geere & Keith Kennerley in the final. Everyone took home the local Devon Dartington Glassware.

After play and before leaving the courts, there were congratulations to Ed Kay and the singing of Happy Birthday — that's dedication to Fives, turning up on your birthday weekend. So, well done again to Ed on taking both trophies home. Ed's wife Venetia had made a fabulous and delicious cake for the occasion, which we all enjoyed; it finished off another wonderful weekend here at Blundell's. Further thanks go to: Lesley Enstone, Catering Manager; to Blundell's School for hosting us; and to the staff for opening doors, cleaning courts and general administration.

A final word to all Fives players: I witnessed another fabulous display of SPORTSPERSONSHIP by all players this weekend, calling balls down when doubtful and giving lets when requested. What a great spirit we have and one that is so special.

Do remember: all are welcome to next year's 40th Anniversary playing of The South West Open Championships, Sat/Sun 13-14 July 2024.

Results

Singles

1st round: N Geere bt D Brooke 11-2

2nd round: E Kay bt S Brooke 11-2, 11-0; S Russell bt C Low 11-8, 11-1; T Watkinson bt H Tunks 11-1, 11-0; J Aquilina bt S Zhang 11-1, 11-0; B Beltrami bt B Hale 11-2, 11-0; O Arnold bt P Chai 11-6, 11-2; C Brooks bt T Parker 11-4, 11-5; W Ellison bt Geere 11-1, 11-0

Quarter-finals: Kay bt Russell 11-0, 11-0; Watkinson bt Aquilina 11-8, 11-0; Beltrami bt Arnold 11-5, 11-2; Ellison bt Brooks 12-11, 11-6

Semi-finals: Kay bt Watkinson 11-2, 11-6; Ellison bt Beltrami 11-8, 11-6

Final: Kay bt Ellison 11-3, 11-4

Plate: Chai bt Parker 15-13

Doubles

1st round: P Chai & S Zhang bt N Geere & S Watson 11-1, 11-5; A Goodwin & B Singh bt D Brooke & S Brooke 11-1, 11-1

Quarter-finals: O Arnold & E Kay bt B Hale & H Tunks 11-2, 11-0; J Aquilina & S Russell bt C Low & T Watkinson 9-11, 11-9, 11-7; B Beltrami & T Parker bt Chai & Zhang 12-10, 11-4 ; C Brooks & W Ellison bt Goodwin & Singh 11-1, 11-2

Semi-finals: Arnold & Kay bt Aquilina & Russell 11-6, 11-6; Brooks & Ellison bt Beltrami & Parker 11-6, 11-8

Final: Arnold & Kay bt Brooks & Ellison 10-12, 11-8, 11-7

Plate: Low & Watkinson bt Goodwin & Singh 15-9

American Doubles

Final: Chai & Tunks bt Geere & Kennerley

News from Spain and the United States

July 2023

News from Bilbao, Spain

The second Basque Championship Doubles competition was played on the squash court at the San Ignazio Sports Centre in Bilbao, involving three pairs in a round robin format. Games were played on the basis of the number of points won in a defined time, and the winners were those with the largest total number of points. As last year, the champions were Egoitz Campo and Daniel Barrientos, who won both their matches. The scores were:

Jesus Carballeira & Maximo Lukachenok beat Unai Pérez & Tomas Beriashvilli 11-7

Egoitz Campo & Daniel Barrientos beat Maximo Kulachenok & Jesus Carballeira 15-8

Egoitz Campo & Daniel Barrientos beat Unai Pérez & Tomas Beriashvilli 17-5

News from the United States

Trevor Jones, a humanities teacher and professional tennis coach from Boston, reports on the current state of Fives and Fives courts in the United States in a detailed article which you can read on the RFA website. It follows a similar update from Neil Butterfield in 2016.

There is a section on the RFA website Archive with interesting material about **Fives abroad**: in countries as far away as Brazil, Australia and New Zealand, as well as in some European countries.

South East Open Championships

Christ's Hospital, Horsham

Saturday, 26th August 2023

Ed Kay won his third South East Open Singles title, beating Ben Beltrami in the final. Bart Callaghan won the Plate final versus Vishal Singh. In the Doubles it was a new pairing, Bart Callaghan & Anthony Goodwin, who took the title, beating Lewis Keates & Charlie Lacewing. The Doubles Plate went to Tim Hebblethwaite & Morgan Spillane, while at the end of a long day's play Emrys Thursfield won the Singles Challenger title at the expense of Nick Woolfenden.

Scores

Singles

1st round: E Kay bt B Callaghan 11-1, 11-3, A Goodwin bt C Lacewing 11-7, 11-5, J Sumner bt E Hatton 11-12, 11-1, 11-1; E Thursfield bt V Singh 7-11, 11-3, 11-3; T Watkinson bt C Beattie 11-1, 11-0

Quarter-finals: Kay bt Goodwin 11-2, 11-3; L Keates bt Sumner 11-4, 11-9; B Beltrami bt Thursfield 11-0, 11-1; Watkinson bt N Geere 11-1, 11-1

Semi-finals: Kay bt Keates 11-2, 11-0; Beltrami bt Watkinson 11-8, 11-3

Final: Kay bt Beltrami 11-6, 11-4

Singles Plate

Group A: 1st Singh; 2nd Geere; 3rd Lacewing

Group B: 1st Callaghan; 2nd Hatton; 3rd Beattie

Final: Callaghan bt Singh 11-1, 11-4

Doubles

Group A: 1st L Keates & C Lacewing 33 pts; 2nd A Evans & T Watkinson 26 pts; 3rd C Blakeley & V Singh 21 pts; 4th B Beltrami & A Amine-Piekos 13 pts

Group B: 1st B Callaghan & A Goodwin 33 pts; 2nd T Hebblethwaite & M Spillane 26 pts; 3rd C Beattie & E Thursfield 13 pts; 4th N Geere & N Woolfenden 10 pts

Final: Callaghan & Goodwin bt Keates & Lacewing 11-7, 11-5

Doubles Plate: 1st Hebblethwaite & Spillane 33 pts; 2nd Beattie & Thursfield 27 pts; 3rd Geere & Woolfenden 23 pts; 4th Blakeley & Singh 10 pts

Challenger Singles at Horsham, August 2023

Group: 1st Thursfield; 2nd Woolfenden; 3rd Lacewing; 4th Geere

Final: Thursfield bt Woolfenden 11-8

Yorkshire Open Championships

Derby Moor Academy, Littleover

Saturday/Sunday, 9-10 September 2023

STOP PRESS The tournament was conducted under conditions of extreme on-court heat and humidity, which inevitably affected the quality of play that competitors were able to produce. Nevertheless the event was completed as scheduled and our thanks go to all competitors, supporters and to organiser John Hawke.

In the Singles the final had to be played over two sessions, from which Tom Watkinson emerged triumphant with a hard fought victory over Theo Parker in a deciding third game played on Sunday morning. Tom and Theo then went on to beat Lewis Keates & Bally Singh in an equally tough, three-game Doubles final. Playing conditions made it very difficult for all concerned to produce their best fives. For Tom it was a first open tournament title in both cases; for Theo the Doubles win was his third in this event.

Cameron Low retained the Singles Plate with a victory over previous winner Joe Sumner; in the Doubles Derby Moor's Kristians Davins paired up with National U14 Singles champion Val Fikhter from the Manchester Y Club to win the Plate.

Scores

Singles

1st round: K Davins bt C Yates 11-4, 11-3; N Geere bt R Christie 9-11, 12-11, 12-11

Quarter-finals: T Watkinson bt Davins 11-0, 11-1; A Goodwin bt C Low 11-4, 9-11, 11-4; T Parker bt J Sumner 11-5, 6-11, 11-3; L Keates bt Geere 11-1, 11-1

Semi-finals: Watkinson bt Goodwin 11-2, 11-4; Parker bt Keates 9-11, 11-5, 11-2

Final: Watkinson bt Parker 11-7, 2-11, 11-9

Plate

Pool A: 1st Low 30 pts; 2nd Geere 22 pts; 3rd Yates 10 pts

Pool B: 1st Sumner 30 pts; 2nd= Christie and Davins 25pts

Semi-finals: Low bt Christie 15-2; Sumner bt Geere 15-5

Final: C Low bt J Sumner 15-3

Doubles

Quarter-finals: R Christie & S Kirby bt K Davins & V Fikhter 9-11, 11-7, 11-5; A Goodwin & C Low bt B Kirk & C Yates 11-1, 11-1; L Keates & B Singh bt C Greaves & D Wright 11-4, 11-1

Semi-finals: T Parker & T Watkinson bt Christie & Kirby 11-3, 11-2; Keates & B Singh bt Goodwin & Low 11-9, 10-12, 11-7

Final: Parker & Watkinson bt Keates & B Singh 11-12, 11-3, 11-3

Plate: 1st K Davins & V Fikhter 60 pts; 2nd B Kirk & C Yates 39 pts; 3rd C Greaves & D Wright 8 pts

The London League

Rugby Fives Association, 21st September 2023

Andy Pringle reports: The new (well, technically revived) London League started last night at St Paul's School, with a match between the Executioners and the UCS Old Boys clubs, which was won by the home club.

Inspired – and organised – by Shinan Zhang, the league also includes the Stoke Newington Swifts and the Edward Alleyn Club, with home and away matches to be played over the next 12 months. The encounters take the form of a regular four-a-side match, with singles and doubles matches counting towards an overall match score.

More seasoned RFA members may recall that there was a London League in the early 1990s, and while the history books record that it was won by the Over Forties Club (Messrs Fuller, Schroeter, Parlby and Love), the competition was not a lasting success. In an effort to prevent the kind of cancellations that spelt the demise of that original league, this new incarnation will have a set time frame for each match – and a strong emphasis on the social side of the encounters!

While there are four teams in this inaugural season, the hope is that it can be expanded in the coming years to include more teams and more players.

The Owers Trophy

Stoke Newington School, London

24th September 2023

STOP PRESS Derby Moor continued their recent domination of the Owers Trophy yesterday, scoring their third win on the trot in the tournament for former pupils.

Seven teams took to the courts at Stoke Newington, with two teams from Derby Moor joined by squads from Eastbourne, Malvern, Whitgift, Winchester and (making their first appearance in this tournament) Fettes.

As defending champions, Derby Moor 1 had a bye into the semi-finals, but the closest quarter-final was between Winchester and Whitgift, with the Wykehamists coming through 33-28. Elsewhere a youthful Fettes team scored a comfortable win over a rather more 'experienced' Eastbourne squad, and Derby Moor 2 beat Malvern 45-35.

However, hopes of an all-Derby final were dashed when Winchester overpowered DM2 to reach the final. Here, in a repeat of the last two finals, they faced DM1, who had overcome Fettes in a hard-hitting encounter 46-32.

The final was a predictably close affair, with the first two games shared by the two teams, meaning that all was to play for in the final game, although Derby held a slender three-point lead. The crucial period of play had come in the second game: it was eventually won by Winchester 15-11, but Derby were 2-12 down at one point, and narrowing the deficit was vital in the overall result of the match.

As a result, with Derby taking the third game 15-12, they secured the title by 41 points to 35, while the Plate went to Whitgift, who defeated Malvern in the final game of the round-robin.

RESULTS

Quarter-finals: Fettes bt Eastbourne 45-17; Derby Moor 2 bt Malvern 45-35; Winchester bt Whitgift 33-28

Semi-finals: Derby Moor 1 bt Fettes 46-32; Winchester bt Derby Moor 2 45-27

Final: Derby Moor 1 bt Winchester 41-25

Plate: Whitgift

Players:

Derby Moor 1: Anthony Goodwin, Lewis Keates, Bally Singh

Derby Moor 2: Richard Christie, Simon Beattie, Callum Yates

Malvern: Andy Passey, Shinan Zhang, Andrew Tudor

Eastbourne: Marcus Bate, Ed Brooke, Paul Lovatt-Smith

Winchester: Ben Hale, Marcus Cloke Browne, Shiloh Wu

Whitgift: Chris Jones, Cameron Low, John Higgins

Fettes: Toby Chan, Wyman Chan, Penn Chai

The London Open Championships

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Saturday/Sunday, 7-8 October 2023

STOP PRESS Tom Watkinson scored his second Open Singles title after last month's victory at the Yorkshire Open, beating defending champion Dan Tristao 11-9, 11-8 in the final of this year's London Open Championships. Cameron Low won the Singles Plate at the expense of organiser Penn Chai. In the Doubles top seeds Dan Tristao & Charlie Brooks added to their haul of London Doubles titles, with Dan notching up a seventh and Charlie his second, having won with Tom Dean in 2012. The Plate went to James Toop & Gwydion Wiseman, leaving Penn to rue a second missed opportunity along with partner Christian Blackaby.

Penn Chai reports: The London Open commenced this weekend with a total of 24 players in the Singles competition. One of the standout 1st Round matches featured Penn facing off against Freddie. Despite Freddie being one of the youngest players in the tournament and displaying remarkable retrieving skills, he faced defeat with scores of 11-6, 11-1 against Penn. Freddie's performance, however, marks him as a rising star to watch in the future.

Moving on to the 2nd Round, Dan Tristao, the top seed, lived up to his reputation of being fashionably late. His tardiness led to him being provisionally placed in the Plate after arriving over an hour late for his first match. In this round, a noteworthy match was Anthony against Archie, a left-handed showdown characterised mostly by intense serving exchanges. Another thrilling encounter was Terry versus Lewis, which resulted in an epic three-setter, ultimately won by Lewis with scores of 11-8, 9-11, 11-2. The clash between Cameron and James also went the distance, with James losing the first set 11-9 but bouncing back to win the second and third sets 4-11, 4-11. Notably, Charlie Lacewing, another schoolboy, displayed an exceptional performance against Tom Watkinson.

In the quarter-finals, Dan faced another left-hander in Anthony Goodwin and comfortably secured his victory with scores of 11-3, 11-5, demonstrating his prowess with drop shots. Charlie Brooks defeated Sam Russell 11-8, 11-3, while Julian had a smooth run against Lewis with scores of 11-1, 11-0 and Tom prevailed over James with scores of 11-9, 11-1. The semi-finals witnessed intense rallies and incredible retrieval skills as Dan triumphed over Charlie in three sets, while Tom outplayed Julian, who admitted to not being as aggressive as he should have been. This set the stage for the final, featuring Tom and Dan facing off against each other in the Open final the following morning.

Despite overnight social media polls favouring Tristao, Tom secured an early lead by winning the first game 11-9. In the second game, Tristao aimed for tighter play but faced fierce resistance from Tom Watkinson, resulting in Tom winning the set 11-8 and claiming the Singles title – his second consecutive Open win.

In the Singles Plate, Archie, Cameron, Marcus, and Penn emerged as group toppers. Cameron secured a relatively comfortable victory of 15-6 in his semi-final, while Penn came from behind to defeat Marcus. In the final, Cameron won comfortably with a score of 15-3, making it likely his easiest final.

In the Sunday Doubles, all pairs progressed as seeded to the quarter-finals. The standout quarter-final match featured Archie & Cameron defeating Toop & Wiseman with scores of 11-5, 11-4. Gwydion attributed his fatigue to freshers' week, and in another quarter-final, there was a hard-hitting battle between James & Sam against Penn & Christian, with the former pair winning the second set after seven-game balls at 12-11.

In the semi-finals, Brooks & Tristao looked in control as they beat Cameron & Archie with scores of 11-5, 11-2. Another relatively comfortable semi-final saw Tilston & Russell triumphing with scores of 11-4, 11-5 against Lewis & Bally. The final went according to seeding, as Brooks & Tristao, while challenged by James & Sam, never seemed in danger of losing a set and eventually won in two.

In the Doubles Plate, Penn & Christian topped their group, setting up a final against James & Gwydion, who also topped their group. The final was marked by aggressive volleying, exemplified by Gwydion's spirited on-court presence. The eventual winners were James & Gwydion with a score of 15-6.

A special thanks to Hamish and Chris for their excellent organisation of the tournament. Congratulations to Tom on securing his second Open Singles title and to Dan and Charlie for their impressive Doubles victory.

Scores

Singles

1st round: P Chai bt F Hammond Giles 11-6, 11-1; E Thursfield bt Y Negyal 11-1, 11-8; M Cloke Browne w/o R Menhart ; G Fox-Edwards bt N Geere 11-4, C Lacewing bt J Garratt 11-5, 11-6

2nd round: D Tristao bt Chai 11-6, 11-2; A Goodwin bt A McCreath 11-6, 11-1; S Russell bt Thursfield 11-2, 11-2; C Brooks bt Cloke Browne 11-3, 11-3; J Aquilina bt Fox-Edwards 11-0, 11-1; L Keates bt T McElvaney 11-8, 9-11, 11-2; J Tilston bt C Low 9-11, 11-4, 11-4 ; T Watkinson bt Lacewing 11-1, 11-2

Quarter-finals: Tristao bt Goodwin 11-3, 11-5; Brooks bt Russell 11-8, 11-3; Aquilina bt Keates 11-1, 11-0; Watkinson bt Tilston 11-9, 11-1

Semi-finals: Tristao bt Brooks 11-4, 5-11, 11-6; Watkinson bt Aquilina 11-5, 11-1

Final: Watkinson bt Tristao 11-9, 11-8

Plate: Low bt Chai 15-3

Doubles

1st round: M Cloke Browne & E Thursfield bt G Fox-Edwards & J Garratt 11-6, 11-6; J Toop & G Wiseman bt W Edmonds & S Leboff 11-0, 11-0; C Low & A McCreath bt S Coffey & H Tunks 11-7, 11-7; L Keates & B Singh bt A Dorokhov & Y Negyal 11-7, 11-2; J Birch & T Hebblethwaite bt F Hammond Giles & J Ferro 12-11, 11-6; C Blackaby & P Chai bt R Christie & N Geere 11-0, 11-8

Quarter-finals: C Brooks & D Tristao bt Cloke Browne & Thursfield 11-8, 11-1; Low & McCreath bt Toop & Wiseman 11-5, 11-4; Keates & Singh bt Birch & Hebblethwaite 11-4, 11-6; S Russell & J Tilston bt Blackaby & Chai 11-6, 12-11

Semi-finals: Brooks & Tristao bt Low & McCreath 11-5, 11-2; Russell & Tilston bt Keates & Singh 11-5, 11-4

Final: Brooks & Tristao bt Russell & Tilston 11-7, 11-7

Plate: Toop & Wiseman bt Blackaby & Chai 15-6

Updated National Rankings

Rugby Fives Association, 7th October 2023

The RFA today published its latest rankings, which take into account events up to last month's Yorkshire Open Championship and will be used to set the seedings for this weekend's London Open. However, with relatively few of the highest-ranked players making the trip to Derby Moor, there's little movement at the top of the rankings. So, Dan Tristao remains in first place in the official RFA Singles rankings, with Will Ellison leading the Doubles standings.

With the top four in the Singles rankings unchanged, the most notable rise, albeit by only one place, sees Yorkshire Open champion Tom Watkinson move into the top five, while runner-up Theo Parker climbs five places to number 12. U25 Doubles champion Bally Singh also moves into the top 15, while, lower down, there are big rises for Penn Chai and Kristians Davins, into 40th and 44th places, respectively.

In the Doubles list, too, there's little change at the very top; and although Ed Kay and Dan Tristao swap places in second and third, the gaps between the top three are very tight. As in the Singles, it's Tom Watkinson who makes the most obvious advance, following his Yorkshire Doubles title with good progress up the list, from 11th to 9th.

All eyes will now turn to the London and West of England Opens, to see how results there affect the rankings — which will dictate the seedings for the National Open Singles Championship.

National Rankings October 2023

		SINGLES Top 10					DOUBLES Top 10	
October 2023	Previous	Name	Points		October 2023	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	D Tristao	101.9		1	1	W Ellison	98.6
2	2	E Kay	99.2		2	3	E Kay	98.4
3	3	W Ellison	88.5		3	2	D Tristao	97.3
4	4	B Beltrami	77.1		4	4	O Arnold	90.4
5	6	T Watkinson	58.4		5	5	B Beltrami	86.7
6	5	J Aquilina	53.7		6	6	T Parker	83.8
7	7	O Arnold	49.2		7	7	C Brooks	75.4
8	9	R Murby	49.0		8	8	D Grant	69.0
9	8	C Brooks	46.7		9	11	T Watkinson	59.4
10	12	D Grant	45.7		10	9	J Aquilina	58.8

West of England Open Championships

Sherborne School, Dorset

Saturday/Sunday, 21-22 October 2023

STOP PRESS Dan Tristao did the double, winning his 6th West of England Open Singles title at the expense of Ben Beltrami, then pairing up with Ben to defeat Lewis Keates & Sam Russell in the Doubles final; it was Dan's 5th such Doubles title and their first as a pair. Charlie Lacewing also continued his fine record in Plate competitions by winning both the Singles and the Doubles Plate, the latter with Dwight Murdoc. Oscar McIntyre swept the board in the Plate for quarter-final Singles losers.

Nick Geere reports: With the London Open taking place only a fortnight beforehand this year, there were just 4 entrants for the Singles competition as the deadline expired, although this rose to 14 over the next few days, with 9 Doubles pairs.

As well as a good proportion of high-ranking players and a few 'stalwarts', there were four promising schoolboys, one lady, and one brave entrant who hadn't played for 20 years. Unfortunately the conditions were perfect for the courts to be sweating again this year, but the School were very helpful in keeping them heated throughout the weekend, so that the only sweating was done by the players.

In the quarter-finals, Dwight Murdoc from the Exeter Club at Blundell's made his tournament debut, scoring an impressive 8 points in his first game against Dan Tristao. Lewis Keates won in 3 tight games of positional play against Cameron Low, with Sam Russell doing well to keep the up-and-coming Oscar McIntyre at bay, and Anthony Goodwin putting up a good fight against Ben Beltrami in their second game.

In the final, Ben attacked from the start to take a quick lead. But, although declining a let offered when 3-0 down, which would have been too tempting for most people, Dan then rallied, and went on to win the first game. Unfortunately, Ben

had to contend with a slightly sprained ankle in the second game, which saw Dan emerge as the winner of a high quality match. Meanwhile, Charlie Lacewing won the main Plate, and Oscar the Quarter-finalists' Plate – both fairly comfortably.

In the Doubles, the entry of Brooke & Grant caused some concern that the seedings were incorrect (assuming a missing 's'). In the end, the Bristol pair of Stephen Brooke and Peter Grant played well to come second in the Plate. Oscar & Anthony also achieved a very creditable result in their match against Dan & Ben, with Sam & Lewis overcoming Cameron & Archie McCreath in the other semi-final. In the final, Sam & Lewis built up a promising-looking 6-0 lead, and had one later chance, but Dan & Ben somehow managed to edge past them to win the first game and, following a close second game, took the title in another inspiring final. Charlie Lacewing & Dwight Murdoc were the victors in the Plate, winning all four of their games.

On the Saturday evening, some of us managed to escape the various World Cups that were taking place, with a meal at Tamburino's. Most diners' Italian vocabulary was enhanced, when a giant tambourine made its appearance in an elaborate birthday celebration in the restaurant, which also featured dimmed lights and a Hammond organ. However, when this performance was subsequently repeated (twice), a quick calculation by the General Secretary revealed that some of these birthdays were likely to have been spurious, given the limited population of Sherborne.

We look forward to welcoming players back next year. Please advertise the tournament to anyone you come across who you think may be interested.

Scores

Singles

1st round: A Upton bt A Rackham 11-3, 11-4; N Geere bt B Wood 11-1, 11-0

2nd round: D Murdoc bt C Lacewing 11-4, 11-3; C Low bt Upton 11-0, 11-2; O McIntyre bt H Rackham 11-3, 11-0; A Goodwin bt Geere 11-1, 11-1

Quarter-finals: D Tristao bt Murdoc 11-8, 11-0; L Keates bt Low 11-12, 11-9, 11-5; S Russell bt McIntyre 11-7, 11-4; B Beltrami bt Goodwin 11-1, 11-7

Semi-finals: Tristao bt Keates 11-8, 11-4; Beltrami bt Russell 11-4, 11-0

Final: Tristao bt Beltrami 11-7, 11-5

Plate: Lacewing bt H Rackham 15-1

Quarter-finalists Plate: 1st McIntyre; 2nd= Goodwin and Low; 4th Murdoc

Doubles

1st round: N Geere & A Rackham bt C Blakeley & L Hogarth 11-1, 11-2

Quarter-finals: B Beltrami & D Tristao bt Geere & Rackham by default; A Goodwin & O McIntyre bt C Lacewing & D Murdoc 11-9, 11-2; C Low & A McCreath bt N Geere & A Landon 11-1, 11-3; L Keates & S Russell bt S Brooke & P Grant 11-2, 11-0

Semi-finals: Beltrami & Tristao bt Goodwin & McIntyre 11-7, 11-8; Keates & Russell bt Low & McCreath 11-7, 11-5

Final: Beltrami & Tristao bt Keates & Russell 11-9, 11-7

Plate: 1st Lacewing & Murdoc 60pts; 2nd Brooke & Grant 55pts; 3rd Geere & Landon 46pts; 4th Rackham & Rackham 35pts; 5th Blakeley & Hogarth 25pts

British Universities Championships (BUSF)

Cambridge University Sports Centre

Saturday/Sunday, 4-5 November 2023

STOP PRESS A new Singles champion emerged from an entry of 32 players, with Cambridge's Marcus Cloke Browne beating Shiloh Wu from Oxford in the final. There were two Plates, one for men, won by Aaditya Deshmukh, who beat fellow Oxford player Alikhan Murat in the final, while Yvonne Tang of Bristol beat Abbie Evans of Oxford in the Women's Plate.

In the Doubles the top seeds met in the final, with Stuart Scott & Isaac Weaver retaining the title for Durham in a high quality final against the Cambridge pair Cloke Browne & Thursfield on their home courts. A strong Oxford squad had

more success in the plates, with Abbie Evans pairing up in the Women's Plate with Bristol's Yvonne Tang, who did the Plate double. The Men's Plate was won by a mixed pair of Rob Menhart from Cambridge and his partner Ben Jourdan, who as organiser particularly deserved his trophy.

Huge thanks to Ben and his co-organiser and former champion Andrew Boyd, to Marcus for master-minding the live-streaming, to the various commentators and the General Secretary for their work in communications, and to the players for their constructive part in a long but action-packed weekend of Fives.

Scores

Singles

1st round: L Keates (Derby) bt R Karkalou (Oxford) 11-0, 11-1 ; J Stevenson (Durham) bt E Fitchet (Cambridge) 11-0, 11-0 ; M Cloke Browne (Cambridge) bt G Li (Oxford) 11-1, 11-0; T Monro-Davies (Oxford) bt A Evans (Oxford) 11-0, 11-0; E Thursfield (Cambridge) bt H Fearon (Cambridge) 11-4, 11-3 ; V Thakrar (Oxford) bt A Kessel-Holland (Durham) 11-3, 11-1; A Glover (Cambridge) bt S Fras (Cambridge) 11-0, 11-1 ; G Wiseman (Oxford Brookes) bt E Erdenebulgan (Oxford) 11-1, 11-1; C Low (Bristol) bt C Kougioumtzi (Oxford) 11-0, 11-2; R Menhart (Cambridge) bt J Pyman (Cambridge) 11-4, 11-6 ; A Whitham (Oxford) bt A Murat (Oxford) 11-1, 11-1; I Weaver (Durham) bt I Chorley (Cambridge) 11-0, 11-1 ; S Wu (Oxford) bt Y Tang (Bristol) 11-2, 11-5 ; O Heath (Edinburgh) bt L Smith (Cambridge) 11-2, 11-1; S Scott (Durham) bt A Deshmukh (Oxford) 11-1, 11-2; J Sumner (KCL) bt A Memon (Oxford) 11-0, 11-1

2nd round: Keates bt Stevenson 15-4, 15-0; Cloke Browne bt Monro-Davies 15-3, 15-3; Thursfield bt Thakrar 15-2, 15-13; Wiseman bt Glover 15-8, 15-0; Low bt Menhart 15-0, 15-0; Weaver bt Whitham 15-2, 15-3; Wu bt Heath 15-0, 15-10; Sumner bt Scott 15-11, 15-8

Quarter-finals: Cloke Browne bt Keates 15-12, 15-13; Wiseman bt Thursfield 15-3, 15-11; Weaver bt Low 15-11, 15-3; Wu bt Sumner 10-15, 15-2, 15-3

Semi-finals: Cloke Browne bt Wiseman 15-12, 15-2; Wu bt Weaver 15-12, 15-9

Final: M Cloke Browne (Cambridge) bt S Wu (Oxford) 15-6, 15-11

Men's Plate: A Deshmukh (Oxford) bt A Murat (Oxford) 11-3

Women's Plate: Y Tang (Bristol) bt A Evans (Oxford) 11-6

Doubles

1st round: S Scott & I Weaver (Durham) bt R Karkalou & A Memon (Oxford) 11-0, 11-0; A Kessel-Holland & J Stevenson (Durham) bt C Abercrombie & E Fitchet (Cambridge) 11-1, 11-3 ; V Thakrar & A Whitham (Oxford) bt A Evans & G Li (Oxford) 11-0, 11-3; T Monro-Davies & S Wu (Oxford) bt S Fras & R Menhart (Cambridge) 11-2, 11-3; A Glover & J Pyman (Cambridge) bt C Low & Y Tang (Bristol) 11-8, 11-8; ; M Cloke Browne & E Thursfield (Cambridge) bt E Erdenebulgan & E Kougioumtzi (Oxford) 11-0, 11-2

Quarter-finals: Scott & Weaver (Durham) bt Kessel-Holland & Stevenson (Durham) 11-2, 11-1 ; Thakrar & Whitham (Oxford) bt A Amine-Piekos (Cirencester) & O Heath (Edinburgh) 11-2, 11-4 ; Monro-Davies & Wu bt Glover & Pyman (Cambridge) 11-0, 11-3 ; M Cloke Browne & E Thursfield (Cambridge) bt A Deshmukh & A Murat (Oxford) 11-6, 11-2

Semi-finals: Scott & Weaver bt Thakrar & Whitham 11-2, 5-11, 11-3; Cloke Browne & Thursfield bt Monro-Davies & Wu 11-1, 11-6

Final: S Scott & I Weaver (Durham) bt M Cloke Browne & E Thursfield (Cambridge) 11-5, 11-8

Men's Plate: B Jourdan & R Menhart (Edinburgh/Cambridge)

Women's Plate: A Evans & Y Tang (Oxford/Bristol)

Durham Ladies Championships

Durham University Fives Courts

Saturday/Sunday, 4-5 November 2023

STOP PRESS At these fifth Durham Ladies Championships Camille Beattie won the Championship Singles for a third consecutive time, and then Camille and Imogen Wright retained the Doubles title they first won last year. There were 22 competitors in all, from the City of Durham Club past and present, Durham University, the London Executioners and a sizeable contingent from the Edinburgh Academy. Huge thanks to Hector McFarlane, Phil Beattie, Tom Wakelam and

RFA President Julie McIntyre for the work they did in organising and running this event, the standard of which rises year on year.

Julie McIntyre reports: The sun finally returned to Durham just in time for the Durham Ladies this year. The entry numbers recovered from covid, led as ever by a substantial squad from Edinburgh Academy, and joined by current and past Durham students and club players, plus some senior women new to the event. This meant 18 in the singles and 11 pairs in the doubles, so Hector and I were kept busy, ably supported by Richie and Anna from the Academy.

The draw was supplied by Tom, who got us underway, and for (most of) the whole event one court was live-streamed on YouTube by Phil Beattie, whom you may remember from the Mixed Open in Cambridge, the match between left-hander Imogen and Lizzie being the highlight: it went the distance, with Lizzie edging it 11-3, 7-11, 11-1. Lizzie went on to play her semi-final tie, which was the game of the day, against Rosa. Superb hitting by both provided a super spectacle for the enraptured crowd. Lizzie took the first game 11-7 before Rosa stormed back to take games two and three – 11-9, 11-4. This set up a ‘three-peat’ final for Rosa versus local favourite Camille, who had sailed through the top half of the draw.

Catering was excellent as ever, with homemade food including sushi, parkin and Becky Geere’s recipe flapjack. Saturday’s dinner turned out to be rather more engaging than expected, with the live singer providing opportunities for dancing and even a conga line. Luckily I have no photos of this, but I think all 22 of us had a good time, either taking part or being entertained.

The Singles finalists were in action at 10am on Sunday, with a very entertaining game between Rosa (EA) and Camille (City of Durham) which was won by Camille 11-0, 11-2, while the third place play-off in the U18 group was won by Chrissie, who beat Olivia (both EA) 16-14.

Kirsten, Lizzie and Imogen were 1, 2 and 3 in the Open group; Camille, Rosa and Chrissie likewise in the U18s; and Amelia, Isabella and Anya won Gold, Silver and Bronze in the U16s.

The Doubles was won by Camille & Imogen (CoD/Bristol Uni.) in a closely-contested final against Kirsten & Lizzie (DU/Alumni) – 11-9, 11-8. Outrageous serving by all four competitors made for a superb final, where points were hard to come by and unforced errors were a real rarity. The semi-finals involving Helena & Savanna and Rosa & Olivia had both been top-class games also, and there were many nails bitten by the coaches, friends and family watching.

It was great to see the next generation of younger girls also coming through, getting to know each other, and to watch them improve throughout the day – the Plate winners were Chrissie & Roseanna (EA) whilst the Bowl went to the scratch pairing of Sofia & Amelia (CoD/EA). Other than the Shield, the prizes were much sought-after gold and silver medals, followed by a City of Durham beanie and two new-style club mugs for 3rd place. Even better were the three club bucket hats handed to Hector, Richie and Anna to be fought for at a future EA event, which were quickly snaffled for photo opportunities.

It was sunny inside and out!

Scores

Championship Singles

1st round: A Wilson bt A Robertson 15-8

2nd round: C Beattie bt C Lonie 15-0; C Clark bt R McNaught Davis 15-2; K Bell bt M Smart 15-1; O Smart bt M Wells 15-4; I Wright bt I Davidson 15-0; L Ware bt C Davidson 15-5; A Bailey bt J McIntyre 15-12; R Ogilvie bt A Wilson 15-0

Quarter-finals: C Beattie bt C Clark 11-1, 11-1; K Bell bt O Smart 11-7, 11-6; L Ware bt I Wright 11-3, 7-11, 11-1; R Ogilvie bt A Bailey 11-4, 11-5

Semi-finals: C Beattie bt K Bell 11-2, 11-1; R Ogilvie bt L Ware 7-11, 11-9, 11-4

Final: C Beattie (City of Durham) bt R Ogilvie (Edinburgh Academy) 11-0, 11-2

Open Age group: K Bell bt L Ware

U18 Age group: C Beattie bt R Ogilvie (as above)

U16/U14 Age group: A Wilson bt I Davidson

Championship Doubles

Group A: 1st C Beattie & I Wright 44 pts; 2nd K Bell & L Ware 35 pts; 3rd C Clark & R McNaught Davis 29 pts; 4th C Davidson & I Davidson 16 pts; 5th S Vallascas & A Wilson 9 pts

Group B: 1st R Ogilvie & O Smart 55 pts; 2nd S Leboff & H Tunks 50 pts; 3rd A Bailey & M Smart 39 pts; 4th E Vallascas & L Mackay 33 pts; 5th C Lonie & A Robertson 13 pts; 6th J Dunnill & E Terry 12 pts

Semi-finals: Beattie & Wright bt Leboff & Tunks 12-11, 11-2; Bell & Ware bt Ogilvie & Smart 11-5, 9-11, 11-4

Final: C Beattie & I Wright bt K Bell & L Ware 11-9, 11-8

Plate: C Clark & R McNaught Davis

Bowl: S Vallascas & A Wilson

National Singles Qualifying

London, Edinburgh, Rugby

13th November 2023

Over the weekend of November 11-12 three qualifying events were held for the National Singles Championship to be held at St Paul's School the first weekend of December. From these tournaments 12 players will qualify to join the four top-ranked players contesting the Jesters Cup: defending champion Dan Tristao, Ed Kay, Will Ellison and Ben Beltrami.

In London 18 players were in action, the top four seeds being Tom Watkinson, Julian Aquilina, Charlie Brooks and Sam Russell. Others competing for the coveted qualifying slots included Gwydion Wiseman, James Tilston, Cameron Low, Penn Chai, Archie McCreath and Marcus Cloke Browne. 2nd seed Julian Aquilina emerged as the winner, beating Sam Russell in the final.

18 players took part in the event at Rugby School, including 4 from Derby Moor Fives and a substantial entry from Rugby School and staff. 2nd seed Oscar McIntyre from Manchester & Durham won, beating Lewis Keates in the final.

In Edinburgh 17 pupils, students and members of the Caledonian Club contested the qualifier, with Richie Murby emerging as the winner in a final played against Ben Jourdan.

Watch this space now for the names of the 16 who will contest the National Singles finals next month.

Selected Scores

London

Quarter-finals: T Watkinson bt G Wiseman 11-4, 11-7; S Russell bt P Chai 11-4, 11-9; C Brooks bt A McCreath 11-9, 11-0; J Aquilina bt M Cloke Browne 11-3, 11-1

Semi-finals: Russell bt Watkinson 8-11, 11-4, 11-6; Aquilina bt Brooks 11-6, 11-3

Final: Aquilina bt Russell 11-2, 11-0

Plate: J Tilston bt C Low 15-8

Rugby

Quarter-finals: L Keates bt A Noble 11-1, 11-0; C Davey bt C Evans 11-4, 11-6; A Goodwin bt B Lane 11-1, 11-1; O McIntyre bt R Christie 11-1, 11-2

Semi-finals: Keates bt Davey 16-15, 15-5; McIntyre bt Goodwin 15-11, 15-10

Final: McIntyre bt Keates 15-6, 16-15

3rd place play-off: Goodwin bt Davey 11-3, 11-8

Q-F Plate: Christie bt Evans 11-2, 11-1

Edinburgh

Quarter-finals: R Murby bt Henry A 15-4; M Reid bt H McFarlane 15-7; R Brown bt Alec S 15-10; B Jourdan bt James M 15-1

Semi-finals: Murby bt Reid 11-0; Jourdan bt Brown 15-0

Final: Murby bt Jourdan 11-5, 11-9
Plate: E Carbonell Castello bt Findlay S 11-1

Schools Winchester Fives Doubles

November 2023, Winchester College

Competition not played.

National Singles Finals Qualifying rounds

London, Rugby, Edinburgh; 13th November 2023

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Selected Scores

London

Quarter-finals: T Watkinson bt G Wiseman 11-4, 11-7; S Russell bt P Chai 11-4, 11-9; C Brooks bt A McCreath 11-9, 11-0; J Aquilina bt M Cloke Browne 11-3, 11-1

Semi-finals: Russell bt Watkinson 8-11, 11-4, 11-6; Aquilina bt Brooks 11-6, 11-3

Final: Aquilina bt Russell 11-2, 11-0

Plate: J Tilston bt C Low 15-8

Rugby

Quarter-finals: L Keates bt A Noble 11-1, 11-0; C Davey bt C Evans 11-4, 11-6; A Goodwin bt B Lane 11-1, 11-1; O McIntyre bt R Christie 11-1, 11-2

Semi-finals: Keates bt Davey 16-15, 15-5; McIntyre bt Goodwin 15-11, 15-10

Final: McIntyre bt Keates 15-6, 16-15

3rd place play-off: Goodwin bt Davey 11-3, 11-8

Q-F Plate: Christie bt Evans 11-2, 11-1

Edinburgh

Quarter-finals: R Murby bt Henry A 15-4; M Reid bt H McFarlane 15-7; R Brown bt Alec S 15-10; B Jourdan bt James M 15-1

Semi-finals: Murby bt Reid 11-0; Jourdan bt Brown 15-0

Final: Murby bt Jourdan 11-5, 11-9

Plate: E Carbonell Castello bt Findlay S 11-1

National Singles Championship Final Rounds

St Paul's School, Barnes

Saturday/Sunday, 2-3 December 2023

STOP PRESS As expected the Big Four made it to the final stages of the competition, with the Big Question: Which of the Four would it be that took the title this year? And the answer was emphatic, with Ben Beltrami defeating, first, defending champion Dan Tristao in two straight games, and then, in the final, two-time runner-up Ed Kay, again in two straight games. Surprisingly it is Ben's first open singles title. In the Plate Lewis Keates and James Tilston won all their group matches, with Lewis winning the ensuing final against James in two games.

Charlie Brooks reports: The qualifying tournaments for this year's National Singles were held in Rugby, Edinburgh and London, with 56 players taking part across these venues. Oscar McIntyre, Richie Murby and Julian Aquilina were the respective winners, joined in the finals by nine other qualifiers and the top four ranked players in the country — Tristao, Kay, Ellison and Beltrami — to be played at St. Paul's School.

With livestreaming throughout the tournament, the 16 competitors' top quality action was being captured for all to see. First round matches pitted familiar foes and new faces from around the country against each other.

Recent Universities champion Marcus Cloke Browne gave Tom Watkinson a run for his money in the first game, but ran out of steam in the next. Unsurprisingly, the closest fought game was between eighth and ninth seeds, Charlie Brooks and Lewis Keates, with Charlie withstanding Lewis's fightback in the second. The number nine seed was to demonstrate his prowess in the Plate.

Quarter-final time, with seeds 5-8 fancying a surprise result, with two of them (Watkinson x 2 and Murby) having won an Open Singles tournament in 2023. Alas, it was not to be. The matches were not without glimpses of opportunities, with Julian Aquilina going close against Will Ellison in Game one. But whilst illness may have played a part, there was always too much strength from the higher ranked players.

No upsets so far, and the top four players from the past few years had made it safely into the semis: Dan Tristao vs Ben Beltrami and Ed Kay vs Will Ellison.

Last year's three-game final was between Dan and Ben, so this contest promised much... and delivered more. As a reminder, Dan has not lost in the National Singles since god-knows-when and has seven titles to his name.

From the get-go, Ben brought all of his pace and power, revelling in the confidence of his recent form. He edged ahead and remained solid. As Dan lifted his game, so Ben responded, time after time. Exceptional rallies were often ended with a rolling nick from Ben or a deft touch from Dan. As the tension built, Dan heaped the pressure on Ben, but couldn't find a winning formula to disrupt his young opponent, who kept producing top shots when it mattered. 15-10, 15-9 doesn't tell the full story of such a high quality affair, but does reflect Ben's consistency and accuracy.

In the other half of the draw, Ed had a more comfortable victory against seasoned campaigner and two-time champion Will. Ed got off to a flying start, pushing Will back with unrelenting energy. Although Will kept fighting, never making it easy, Ed eased through to 6 and 6.

As Sunday rolled around, one thing was clear — a new National Champion was going to be crowned. Both players have lost to Dan in the final in recent seasons, so now was their chance to put their name on the trophy.

Ben looked nervous in the opening exchanges, allowing Ed into an early lead, 4-0. The performance we'd seen in the semis from Ben then came to the fore. Retrieval, nicks, power, and a wingspan as wide as an albatross defining the remainder of the game, and indeed match. It became impossible for Ed to get anything past Ben and the longer a rally went on, the higher the likelihood of a winner from Ben's gloves (he ended with 19 clean winners, to Ed's 8). The pattern was set, and try as he might, Ed couldn't change it. The first game finished 15-8, with Ed needing something special to turn it around.

The start to the second was intense, as Ed pushed hard. As in his victory over Dan, Ben was first equal to, and then surpassed, everything his opponent could throw at him. For a while, it seemed like this one would go the distance as they traded early blows over many extraordinary rallies. But at 5-5, Ben turned up the heat and pulled away to take the game 15-5.

Remarkably, this was Ben's first ever open title — not a bad one to start with! Surely it won't be his last.

The Plate was the closest in recent memory: in both groups, every player scored at least 30 points from their three games. Lewis Keates and James Tilston emerged on top, just ahead of Wiseman and McIntyre.

In the final, Lewis came out playing a crafty mix of reverse angle shots, consistently wrong-footing his opponent. Alongside some unforced errors from James, the first game went reasonably comfortably to Lewis. The second was a different affair, nip and tuck all the way to the end. The result was the same, however, and Lewis came away with the spoils — his first National Singles Plate.

Scores

1st round: D Tristao bt P Chai 15-7, 15-2; C Brooks bt L Keates 15-7, 15-9; T Watkinson bt M Cloke Browne 15-10, 15-0; B Beltrami bt G Wiseman 15-2, 15-1; W Ellison bt J Tilston 15-8, 15-0; J Aquilina bt A Goodwin 15-4, 15-8; R Murby bt O McIntyre 15-5, 15-7; E Kay bt A McCreath 15-1, 15-3

Quarter-finals: Tristao bt Brooks 15-9, 15-5; Beltrami bt Watkinson 15-2, 15-1; Ellison bt Aquilina 15-11, 15-2; Kay bt Murby 15-7, 15-7

Semi-finals: Beltrami bt Tristao 15-10, 15-8; Kay bt Ellison 15-6, 15-6

Final: Beltrami bt Kay 15-8, 15-5

Plate

Group A: 1st Keates 45 pts; 2nd Wiseman 37 pts; 3rd Cloke Browne 35 pts; 4th Chai 32 pts

Group B: 1st Tilston 45 pts; 2nd McIntyre 39 pts; 3rd Goodwin 34 pts; 4th McCreath 30 pts

Final: Keates bt Tilston 15-7, 15-12

Challenger Singles

St Paul's School, Barnes

Sunday, 3rd December 2023

STOP PRESS On the day of the National Singles final Penn Chai organised a Challenger event, contested by 16 players outside the Top 16. Victor at the end of the day was Christian Blackaby, for the second time. In the final Christian defeated Basque pelota player Ander Iraizoz 12-10, 11-3. Terry McElvaney from the Executioners won the Quarter-finalists Plate and Sam Roberts the traditional Plate for first round losers.

Penn Chai reports:

Tournament Overview: The 7th RFA National Singles Challenger unfolded on a spirited Sunday at St Paul's School. Featuring 16 talented entrants, the tournament adopted a single-elimination format with two plates, a Round of 16 Plate, and a Quarter-final Plate.

Participants: Among the 16 contenders were familiar names such as Charlie Lacewing, Christian Blackaby, and dark horses Terry McElvaney and Ander Iraizoz. While over half the players were unranked, Charlie Lacewing held the coveted number one seed. Notably, Christian Blackaby, the favourite to win, was seeded second due to his recent absence from the game.

Key Moments and Upsets: The initial rounds witnessed some captivating upsets. George triumphed over Matt in a closely contested match, while Theo squeezed past Helena in a three-set epic. Ander surprised everyone with a victory over veteran and fourth seed Sam Roberts in an exceptionally long match.

Highlight Matches: The most fiercely contested match of the day unfolded in the quarter-final clash between Terry and Christian. Despite Terry's non-existent ranking, the encounter showcased remarkable skill and could have gone either way, especially with Terry 9-1 up in the second set. The semi-final between Ander and Charlie proved to be a hard-fought affair, with the Basque athlete upsetting the top seed through his consistency.

In the final showdown between Christian and Ander, described as the "most wallball" game of fives ever played, Christian's strategic play and drop shots proved decisive. Despite Ander's athleticism and numerous stoppages to address sweaty court patches, Christian secured victory in two sets, claiming his second challenger title.

Plate Competitions: Terry dominated the Quarter-final Plate with his powerful and consistent play, none of his opponents reaching double figures against him. In the Round of 16 Plate, Sam Roberts showcased exceptional youth, defeating Matt Hale twice and securing the title with an increased margin in the final.

Champion and Prizes: In a thrilling finale, Christian Blackaby emerged as the tournament champion. Terry's impressive performance earned him the coveted "You're My Hero" Toblerone, while Sam received the "Someone Special" Toblerone, which National Singles Champion Ben Beltrami cheekily attempted to pinch on his way out.

A heartfelt thank you to all participants for their spirited performances, and congratulations to Christian Blackaby on his well-deserved victory.

Scores

1st round: Charlie Lacewing (1) bt Matiss Gelwan Williams 11-0, 11-0; George Fox-Edwards (8) bt Matt Hale 12-10, 11-6; Theo Vernacchio bt Helena Tunks (5) 11-2, 8-11, 11-8; Ander Iraizoz bt Sam Roberts (4) 11-7, 12-10; Charles Calzia (3) bt Guy Davies 11-4, 11-7; Yarin Negyal w/o Joe Garratt (6); Terry McElvaney (7) bt Alexandros Panigirtzoglou 11-1, 11-1; Christian Blackaby (2) bt David George-Carey 11-0, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Lacewing bt Fox-Edwards 11-0, 11-6; Iraizoz bt Vernacchio 12-10, 11-2; Negyal bt Calzia 11-1, 11-5; Blackaby bt McElvaney 12-10, 11-9

Semi-finals: Iraizoz bt Lacewing 11-6, 11-2; Blackaby bt Negyal 11-0, 11-5

Final: C Blackaby bt A Iraizoz 12-10, 11-3

Plate: S Roberts bt M Hale 15-3

Q-F Plate: 1st T McElvaney 45 pts; 2nd T Vernacchio 38 pts; 3rd G Fox-Edwards 29 pts; 4th C Calzia 12 pts

The President's Cup 2023

Marlborough College

Sunday, 17th December 2023

STOP PRESS A first President's Cup for Lewis Keates and Roland Seddon at the end of a customarily long day. Richard Christie & Jim Hughes take the Love Mug, George Fox-Edwards & Sarthak Garella the T-Pot, and Harvey Bishop & Yarin Negyal the Mate's Plate.

Scores

1st round: Harvey Bishop & Yarin Negyal bt Savanna Leboff & Sam Russell 15-7, 15-6; George Fox-Edwards & Sarthak Garella bt Adam Amine-Piekos & Gwydion Wiseman 15-7, 16-14; Tom Maconie & Helena Tunks bt Richard Christie & James Hughes 16-14, 15-11; Lewis Keates & Roland Seddon bt Julian Aquilina & Lizzie Ware 15-16, 16-14, 15-13; Quentin Hoad & Emrys Thursfield bt Stuart Scott & Alex Smith 16-14, 1-15, 15-11; Ashwin Ahuja & Bruce Hanton bt Martin Davey & Theo Parker 15-5, 15-7; Inigo Ackland & Will Bishop bt Paul Folland & Tim Hebblethwaite 15-4, 15-9; Nick Geere & Nick Whitney bt Chris Davey & Martha Nugent 13-15, 15-11, 15-6

Quarter-finals: H Bishop & Negyal bt Fox-Edwards & Garella 15-4, 15-9; Keates & Seddon bt Maconie & Tunks 7-15, 15-2, 15-7; Ahuja & Hanton bt Hoad & Thursfield 15-6, 15-7; Ackland & W Bishop bt Geere & Whitney 15-2, 15-8

Semi-finals: Keates & Seddon bt H Bishop & Negyal 15-9, 15-6; Ackland & W Bishop bt Ahuja & Hanton 15-6, 15-5

Final: Lewis Keates & Roland Seddon bt Inigo Ackland & Will Bishop 15-8, 15-10

Love Mug: Richard Christie & James Hughes bt Julian Aquilina & Lizzie Ware 15-9, 6-15, 15-11

T-Pot: George Fox-Edwards & Sarthak Garella bt Nick Geere & Nick Whitney 15-8, 5-15, 16-15

Mate's Plate: Harvey Bishop & Yarin Negyal bt Paul Folland & Tim Hebblethwaite 15-7, 15-10

Updated Women's Rankings

December 2023

With just the one Women's tournament since the end-of-season Rankings were published in July, those who entered the Durham Ladies Championship in November have benefited substantially. Runner-up Rosa Ogilvie from the Edinburgh Academy rises to number 3 in the Singles rankings, while Durham players past and present Kirsten Bell and Lizzie Ware also make significant progress to position 7 and 12 respectively. Other young players from Scotland rise a number of places, 3 of them in the top 20.

Much the same applies in the Doubles, where tournament winners Camille Beattie and Imogen Wright rise to number 2 and 8 respectively, meaning that in both categories Camille now stands directly behind the undisputed Number One, National Champion Louise Mathias. 5 of the young Scots also make progress in the Top 20.

These rankings will be used for seeding the Ladies National Championships in Manchester on January 27-28. With the Ladies U23 Championships moved from December to March and entry qualification modified to Under 25, we shall see much more action in the world of Women's Fives in the New Year.

Women's Rankings Top 20 December 2023

SINGLES Top 20				DOUBLES Top 20				
<i>Current</i>	<i>Season start</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>		<i>Current</i>	<i>Season start</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>
1	1	L Mathias	86.7		1	1	L Mathias	84.2
2	2	C Beattie	85.2		2	5	C Beattie	72.7
3	5	R Ogilvie	73.6		3	2	S Zhang	67.5
4	3	M Nugent	73.2		4	4	S Leboff	67.0
5	4	S Zhang	70.3		5	3	M Nugent	64.6
6	7	I Wright	64.4		6	7	R Ogilvie	61.0
7	12	K Bell	63.9		7	8	H Tunks	59.0
8	9	O Smart	62.3		8	11	I Wright	58.8
9	6	I Lee	61.5		9	9	O Smart	55.3
10	8	H Tunks	57.9		10	10	K Bell	54.5
11	10	H Brown	57.2		11	13	L Ware	53.8
12	17	L Ware	56.0		12	17	C Clark	49.2
13	13	K Sumner	54.6		13	15	R McNaught Davis	48.9
14	14	H Nugent	54.3		13	8	L Barton	46.5
15	11	M Raynor	53.0		15	12	K Sumner	43.9
16	15	S Leboff	51.5		16	13	I Lee	41.8
17	19	C Clark	51.2		17=	16	M Raynor	37.7
18	16	L Barton	48.8		17=	18	L Hogarth	37.7
19	22	R McNaught Davis	46.1		19	25	C Davidson	32.3
20	19	V King Forbes	46.7		20	19	H Nugent	31.8

Second Bizkaia Rugby Fives Doubles Challenge 2023

San Ignazio municipal sports center, Bilbao, 7th December 2023

The RFA is delighted to report the latest in a series of Rugby Fives competitions held in the Basque Country. Early last December, the Basque Association of Beach Tennis and Minority Sports organised the Second Bizkaia Challenge of Rugby Fives on the squash court of the San Ignazio municipal sports centre in Bilbao – Basque Country. Eight players – Javier, Egoitz, Maximo, Daniel, Joseba, Axel, Alain and Andoni – took part. The organisers made up four pairs, who played semi-finals and a final. The matches were short – each one 15 minutes long – but Egoitz Campo tells us that the players hugely enjoyed the experience, despite ending up with sore hands. The tournament ended up comprising three intense games, but as a result of fatigue, they did not play the match for third and fourth place. Therefore, third position was awarded to the pair who scored the most points while losing in the semi-finals.

The final was very close, and Javier, who was playing Rugby Five for the first time, played very well and hit some great winners. However, in the end Daniel and Egoitz were able to win, but not without having to work hard for it. If all goes well, in April 2024 the Basques will play the third Basque Rugby Fives Championship. This will be a singles tournament, which will hopefully be followed by a doubles event in July or August.

Results

Semi-finals: Daniel Barrientos & Egoitz Campo bt Alain Ibañez de Opakua & Joseba Zubiaurre 14-11; Javier Muñoz & Maximo Kulachenok bt Andoni Mariezkurrena & Axel Pernet 12-9

Final: Daniel Barrientos & Egoitz Campo bt Javier Muñoz & Maximo Kulachenok 15-10

Overall

- 1: Daniel Barrientos (BAS) & Egoitz Campo (BAS)
- 2: Javier Muñoz (BAS) & Maximo Kulachenok (BAS)
- 3: Alain Ibañez de Opakua (BAS) & Joseba Zubiaurre (BAS)
- 4: Andoni Mariezkurrena (BAS) & Axel Pernet (COL)

London League

9th January 2024

The Edward Alleyn Club is in pole position as the four teams in the revived London League enter 2024. The South London club sits ahead of its rivals, the Executioners, the UCS Old Boys and the Stoke Newington Swifts.

Inspired – and organised – by Shinan Zhang, the league sees home and away matches between the four clubs being played over a 12-month season. The encounters take the form of a standard four-a-side match, with singles and doubles matches counting towards an overall match score.

The 2023/24 season kicked off with a win for the Executioners over the UCS Old Boys, but since then, the Edward Alleyn Club (EAC) has won both its fixtures. The Dulwich team followed up a comprehensive win over the Swifts in October with a victory over the Executioners in November.

However, in the final match before Christmas, the Swifts got off the mark with a narrow 103-92 victory over the UCS Old Boys.

As a result, the EAC sits on top of the league with a 100% record, ahead of the Executioners and Swifts, each of whom has won one match.

West of England Schools Championships

Sherborne School

Saturday/Sunday, 6-7 January 2024

STOP PRESS Players from St Paul's and Winchester dominated the event, taking all four titles between them and featuring almost exclusively in the finals. The two players from St Paul's who won the U18 Singles and Doubles are in fact U16s, which may be a first, while Winchester's successful U16 Doubles pairing also played each other in the Singles final. Plates and bowls were keenly contested and the spoils shared rather more widely. Huge thanks to Sherborne School for hosting the championships.

Ian Jackson reports: 56 players from 9 schools, along with the West of England and Marlborough Town clubs, attended these championships and enjoyed much good fives over the weekend. It was especially good to see entries from the two clubs for the first time and from Christ's Hospital for the first time for a few years. We are very grateful to Sherborne School for hosting the event, especially as a member of Sherborne staff now needs to be at the courts for the whole time. Nick Scorer took on the lion's share himself and must have called in lots of favours from his colleagues and we are very grateful to each of them.

With Winchester having the top two seeds in the U16 tournament, it was a case of whether anyone could challenge the Winchester dominance this year. Tom Ritchie and Josh Ferro, both from St. Paul's and seeded 3 and 4, made the semi-finals but were outgunned by the greater accuracy of the Winchester players. In the final Arthur James-Duff looked to have a little more recent match practice than James Kennedy and he won relatively comfortably 11-0, 11-4

While the later rounds were taking place, Sam Roberts organised an excellent Plate competition for the earliest losers and a Bowl for the losers in the next round, both of which were fiercely contested. In the plate Isaac Bradbury from Marlborough won a very tight group A and faced Ethan Xiao from Winchester, who had a rather easier ride in Group B. However, Isaac varied his shots a little better in the final, giving Marlborough a well-deserved winner, 15-10. In the Bowl, last year's plate winner Zach Goulding from Winchester followed up his plate win from the previous year in defeating Nadim Cortas from St. Paul's in a close final 15-12.

In the U18s the question was whether Freddie Hammond Giles, winner of the U16 Nationals last year, would be able, when still U16, to step up and beat the players one and two years older than him. Theo Vernacchio from Alleyn's, playing without an injury for the first time in over a year, looked very strong and his hard-hitting left hand was too much for the top seed JP Cheng from Winchester in their semi-final. In the other half Freddie overcame Jeffrey Chan from Winchester, the same opponent he had beaten in the final of the Nationals. In this final Freddie's relentless retrieving and controlled power were too much for Theo, and Freddie deservedly took the U18 Singles title 11-2, 11-3.

First round losers contested a plate competition, which required four pools this year. The winners were Angus Rackham from Blundell's, Sky Richarz from Alleyn's, Oscar van Huet Lindemann from Christ's Hospital and Daniel Brooke from the West of England Club. Angus won his semi-final comfortably while Oscar had to work hard to grind down Daniel. The final was a great battle between two hard hitting left handers, with Angus reaching match point first but Oscar van Huet Lindemann finally coming through to win 12-10. The second-round losers contested a very competitive bowl, with Laurie Milner from Alleyn's and Will Bishop from the Marlborough Town club making the final. It could not have been closer, but Laurie finally closed out an impressive 16-15 win.

On the Sunday most of the games were in the Doubles. With Josh Ferro from St. Paul's moving up to the Senior doubles, there was a good battle between St. Paul's 1 and Winchester 2 for the right to challenge Winchester 1 in the final of the U16 doubles. In an epic battle in their semi-final fortunes switched but finally St. Paul's 1 (Tom Ritchie and Elyas Efthimiou) closed it out in three games to win 11-9, 7-11, 11-5. As expected, Winchester 1 were a little too strong in the final, though St. Paul's defended well, and Arthur James-Duff and James Kennedy won 11-1, 11-5.

The plate competition was closely contested but in the end St. Paul's 3 (Cortas and Fezer Brown) edged out both St. Paul's 2 and Marlborough 1 to win that tournament.

In the Senior Doubles, and especially after the singles, the question was could the St. Paul's U16 pair overcome the older pairs in the form of the game where strength is more important. In one semi-final Winchester 1 with JP Cheng and Anthony Cloke Browne had a great battle to overcome determined LVI Alleyn's pair of Alex Dorokhov and Yarin Negyal 11-9, 0-11, 11-2. St. Paul's 1 got past the hard hitting Alleyn's 1st pair of Theo Vernacchio and Laurie Milner to win 11-4, 11-6 in probably the match of the tournament. The varied shot selection, and lack of errors from St. Paul's meant they were too good for a slightly tiring Winchester in the final and Freddie Hammond Giles and Josh Ferro became, so far as we know, the first U16 pair to win the Senior doubles at the West of England Schools. The score was 11-1, 11-5.

The plate competition was in two pools. Sherborne 1 won Pool A easily. Pool B was much closer and finally, although equal on points, Tonbridge 1 came through. Tonbridge started slowly in the final, but the second half of the game was very close, although Sherborne managed to hang onto their early lead, and Alex Upton and Theo Anderson Gannon claimed a title for the home team 15-10.

The schools now look forward to a good term of Fives culminating in the Nationals at the end of March when those playing at the West of England championships will have to take on the players from the rest of country, including the very impressive group coming up through the Edinburgh schools. It was a pleasure running the tournament, and the enthusiasm, desire to improve and decency of all the Fives players never ceases to impress me.

Scores

U18 Singles

1st round: D Brooke (WoE Club) w/o R Beard (Sher); M di Gleria (Marl) bt M Mehta (SPS) 15-10 ; C Greaves (DerbyM) bt J Gogel (Blun) 15-3 ; D Wright (DerbyM) bt G Kwong (Sher) 15-11

2nd round: JP Cheng (WinC) bt F Caton (Ton) 15-0 ; C Thomlinson-Hodge (Blun) bt Brooke 15-12 ; L Milner (All) bt di Gleria 15-9 ; C Lacewing (CH) bt J Tempest (Blun) 15-0 ; T Vernacchio (All) bt Z Mukhayer (CH) 15-4 ; O Wilson (Ton) bt T Anderson Gannon (Sher) 15-12 ; F Batsford (Blun) bt L Taor (SPS) 15-12 ; A Cloke Browne bt S Richarz (All) 15-0 ; J Chan (WinC) bt O McAuliffe (CH) 15-0 ; G Louet (All) bt C Greaves 16-15 ; A Upton (Sher) bt A Rackham (Blun) 15-4 ; Y Negyal (All) bt D Thomas (Ton) 15-0 ; A Dorokhov (All) bt Wright 15-0 ; B Aubury (WinC) bt F Edelman (Ton) 15-1 ; W Bishop (MarlClub) bt O van Huet Lindemann (CH) 15-6 ; F Hammond Giles (SPS) bt J Mitchell (Blun) 15-0

3rd round: Cheng bt Thomlinson-Hodge 15-3 ; Lacewing bt Milner 15-5 ; Vernacchio bt Wilson 15-0 ; Cloke Browne bt Batsford 15-0 ; Chan bt Louet 15-1 ; Negyal bt Upton 15-0 ; Dorokhov bt Aubury 15-1 ; Hammond Giles bt Bishop 15-1

Quarter-finals: Cheng bt Lacewing 11-4, 11-9 ; Vernacchio bt Cloke Browne 11-3, 11-3 ; Chan bt Negyal 11-2, 11-2 ; Hammond Giles bt Dorokhov 11-0, 11-2

Semi-finals: Vernacchio bt Cheng 7-11, 11-1, 11-3 ; Hammond Giles bt Chan 11-2, 11-5

Final: F Hammond Giles (St Paul's) bt T Vernacchio (Alleyn's) 11-2, 11-3

Plate: O van Huet Lindemann (Christ's Hospital) bt A Rackham (Blundell's) 12-10

Bowl: L Milner (Alleyn's) bt W Bishop (Marlborough Club) 16-15

U18 Doubles

1st round: Derby Moor bt Christ's Hospital 2 11-6, 11-8

2nd round: Winchester 1 bt Derby Moor 11-1, 11-3 ; Blundell's 1 bt Sherborne 1 11-5, 11-4 ; Alleyn's 2 bt Tonbridge 1 11-0, 11-0 ; Winchester 2 bt St Paul's 2 11-3, 11-4 ; Alleyn's 1 bt Tonbridge 2 11-2, 11-5 ; Marlborough 1 bt Blundell's 2 11-0, 11-0 ; Christ's Hospital 1 bt Alleyn's 3 11-6, 11-1 ; St Paul's 1 bt Blundell's 3 11-0, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Winchester 1 bt Blundell's 1 11-2, 11-1 ; Alleyn's 2 bt Winchester 2 11-2, 11-1 ; Alleyn's 1 bt Marlborough 1 11-4, 11-2 ; St Paul's 1 bt Christ's Hospital 1 11-4, 11-9

Semi-finals: Winchester 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-9, 6-11, 11-2 ; St Paul's 1 bt Alleyn's 1 11-4, 11-6

Final: St Paul's 1 (F Hammond Giles & J Ferro) bt Winchester 1 (JP Cheng & A Cloke Browne) 11-1, 11-5

Plate: Sherborne (T Anderson Gannon & A Upton)

U16 Singles

1st round: E Ludgate (SPS) bt T Moesel (Sher) 16-14; W Ashley (Marl) bt V Mizzoni- Schmidt (SPS) 15-13; J Moesel (Sher) bt N Fezer Brown (SPS) 15-11

2nd round: A James-Duff (WinC) bt Ludgate 15-3 ; N Cortas (SPS) bt E Xiao (WinC) 15-11 ; P Mannion-Miles (WinC) bt Ashley 15-3 ; T Ritchie (SPS) bt E Efthimiou (SPS) 15-2 ; J Ferro (SPS) bt J Moesel 15-0 ; Z Goulding (WinC) bt I Bradbury (Marl) 15-13 ; R McGregor (WinC) bt P Monro-Davies (SPS) 15-9 ; J Kennedy (WinC) bt L Ferro (SPS) 15-2

Quarter-finals: James-Duff bt Cortas 11-2, 11-1 ; Ritchie bt Mannion-Miles 11-2, 11-3 ; J Ferro bt Goulding 11-1, 11-4 ; Kennedy bt McGregor 11-1, 11-1

Semi-finals: James-Duff bt Ritchie 11-4, 11-1; Kennedy bt Ferro 12-11, 11-2

Final: A James-Duff (Winchester) bt J Kennedy (Winchester) 11-0, 11-4

Plate: I Bradbury (Marlborough) bt E Xiao (Winchester) 15-10

Bowl: Z Goulding (Winchester) bt N Cortas (St Paul's) 15-12

U16 Doubles

1st round: St Paul's 4 bt Marlborough 2 12-11, 11-9; St Paul's 3 bt Marlborough 1 11-1, 11-2

Quarter-finals: Winchester 1 bt St Paul's 4 11-0, 11-0; Winchester 3 bt St Paul's 2 11-4, 11-4; Winchester 2 bt St Paul's 3 8-11, 11-4, 11-1; St Paul's 1 w/o Sherborne 1

Semi-finals: Winchester 1 bt Winchester 3 11-1, 11-4 ; St Paul's 1 bt Winchester 2 11-9, 7-11, 11-5

Final: Winchester 1 (A James-Duff & J Kennedy) bt St Paul's 1 (T Ritchie & E Efthimiou) 11-3, 11-6

Plate: St Paul's 3 (N Cortas & N Fezer Brown)

Women's National Championships

Manchester Y Club

Saturday/Sunday, 27-28 January 2024

Stop Press: In the absence of the reigning champion, Louise Mathias, the Singles Championship was won for the first time by Camille Beattie from the City of Durham Club. In the final Camille beat Shinan Zhang, who plays her Fives with the London-based Executioners Club. A strong squad from the Edinburgh Academy took away the Singles Plate, won by Chrissie C, while Executioner Helena Tunks won the Plate for quarter-final losers.

The same players dominated the Doubles, with Shinan successfully defending her title with new partner Helena, beating Schools champions Beattie & Wright in the final. In the Plate it was a double for Chrissie C, who partnered Roseanna M-D to a victory over Clemmie D & Phoebe Thornhill.

Singles

1st round: P Thornhill bt M Gibbons 15-7

2nd round: C Beattie bt M Smart 15-0; L Ware bt C Clark 15-1; I Wright bt A Bailey 15-10; K Bell bt C Davidson 15-1; R Ogilvie bt Thornhill 15-8; H Tunks bt J McIntyre 15-0; S Zhang bt P Dobney 15-0; O Smart bt R McNaught-Davis 15-4

Quarter-finals: Beattie bt Ware 11-0, 11-6; Bell bt Wright 11-3, 11-1; Ogilvie bt Tunks 11-9, 11-9; Zhang bt Smart 11-1, 11-2

Semi-finals: Beattie bt Bell 11-3, 11-0; Zhang bt Ogilvie 11-6, 11-2

Final: Beattie bt Zhang 15-8, 15-8

Plate semi-finals: Dobney bt Bailey 11-6; Clark bt McNaught-Davis 11-1

Plate final: Clark bt Dobney 15-13

Quarter-final losers' Plate: 1st Tunks 33 pts; 2nd Ware 28 pts; 3rd O Smart 19 pts; 4th Wright 17 pts

Doubles

Quarter-finals: C Beattie & I Wright bt A Bailey & M Smart 15-3; K Bell & L Ware bt C Clark & R McNaught-Davis 15-5; R Ogilvie & O Smart bt L Hogarth & J McIntyre 15-2; H Tunks & S Zhang bt C Davidson & P Thornhill 15-1
Semi-finals: Beattie & Wright bt Bell & Ware 11-3, 11-1; Tunks & Zhang bt Ogilvie & Smart 11-0, 11-2
Final: Tunks & Zhang bt Beattie & Wright 15-4, 15-6

Plate

Group: **1st** Clark & McNaught-Davis 34 pts; **2nd** Davidson & Thornhill 32 pts; **3rd** Bailey & M Smart 13 pts; **4th** Hogarth & McIntyre
Final: Clark & McNaught-Davis bt Davidson & Thornhill 15-10
3rd Place Play-off: Bailey & M Smart bt H0garth & McIntyre 11-3

Updated National Rankings

31st January 2024

The RFA is delighted to publish updated National Open Rankings, with 252 players ranked for Singles and 238 for Doubles.

In the Singles Top 20 there is upward movement following the British Universities Singles Championship for Marcus Cloke Browne and Isaac Weaver and, following the National Singles, for Ed Kay, who regains the top spot from Dan Tristao, and for the new National Champion, Ben Beltrami, at #3. Oscar McIntyre also rises significantly in the top 20. Lower down there is substantial progress for James Tilston, Emrys Thursfield, Shiloh Wu, Penn Chai, Nick Geere, Charlie Lacewing, Enrique Carbonell and Ronnie Brown.

In Doubles Dan Tristao takes the top spot from Will Ellison, while Oscar McIntyre and Emrys Thursfield enter the top 20. Other substantial upward movers in the top 50 are Isaac Weaver, Stuart Scott, Marcus Cloke Browne, Addie Chai, Penn Chai, Teddy Monro-Davies, Vikram Thakrar, Charlie Lacewing and Aiden Whitham.

National U25 Championships

Cambridge University Sports Centre
Saturday/Sunday, 3-4 February 2024

STOP PRESS A small but very high quality entry for the Singles, including the defending champion Lewis Keates, the Universities champion Marcus Cloke Browne and the Schools champion Shiloh Wu found more than their match in former Universities champion Isaac Weaver from Durham University, who won the event without dropping a game. In the final Isaac renewed rivalry with former organiser Joe Sumner.

In the Doubles, involving four pairs playing a round robin, Archie McCreath and Cameron Low had the satisfaction of improving on their runners-up spot last season by beating each of the three other pairs by clear margins.

The RFA's thanks to Addie Chai for organising this year's event and to Marcus for master-minding the live streaming from the superb Cambridge University courts.

Singles

1st round: Shiloh Wu bt Addie Chai 11-5, 11-3; Archie McCreath bt Louis O'Connor 11-0, 11-2; Emrys Thursfield bt Theodore Seely 11-5, 11-0

Quarter-finals: Wu bt Lewis Keates 15-11, 15-7; Isaac Weaver bt Marcus Cloke Browne 15-10, 15-7; Cameron Low bt McCreath 13-15, 15-10, 15-11; Joseph Sumner bt Thursfield 4-15, 15-4, 15-10

Semi-finals: Weaver bt Wu 15-1, 15-1; Sumner bt Low 15-1, 15-1

Final: Weaver bt Sumner 15-8, 15-6

Plate semi-finals: Keates bt Chai 15-13, 15-4; Thursfield bt McCreath 10-15, 16-14, 15-3

Plate final: Keates bt Thursfield 15-8, 15-8

Doubles

1st: Low & McCreath bt Chai & Thursfield 15-1, 15-9; bt Cloke Browne & Wu 15-2, 15-8; bt Keates & Singh 15-6, 15-10

2nd: Cloke Browne & Wu bt Keates & Singh 15-13, 15-8; bt Chai & Thursfield 15-2, 15-11

3rd: Keates & Singh bt Chai & Thursfield 15-11, 15-6

South East Regional Schools Championships

Tonbridge School

Saturday, 3rd February 2024

Ian Jackson reports: There was a smaller entry than usual for this tournament held at Tonbridge. It was good to welcome Christ's Hospital and Eastbourne, but the tournament missed entries from Whitgift, St. Dunstan's and St. Olave's. However, this certainly did not detract from the quality of the Fives and nor from the camaraderie shown by all the players, which was second to none.

The top two seeds in the Senior Singles had met for the two previous years in the final of the under sixteen competition and so it was no surprise that once again they reached the final reasonably easily. There were some great rallies with Oliver Woolf from Tonbridge hitting the ball at a ferocious pace, but Charlie Lacewing from Christ's Hospital got everything back and so often Woolf just tried that little too hard to find the right length and hit the bar. It was certainly much closer than the 11-0, 11-3 scoreline may suggest.

The seven first-match losers contested a very competitive Plate, which was won by Luke Tippin from Tonbridge. The four second round losers contested a Bowl, which was won by the consistent Felix Edelman from Tonbridge.

It was disappointing to have no other schools contesting the under sixteens this year. In the singles the top four Tonbridge U16 players competed, and it was won comfortably by Oliver Carroll.

Tonbridge School provided a super lunch, and it was lovely to watch the players from all schools mixing and enjoying sharing experiences so much that the organiser had to chivvy them out to start the doubles an hour after they had first sat down.

The final of the Senior Doubles looked to be the class match of the day and it did not disappoint. Tonbridge, represented by Oliver Woolf & Lucas Saunders-Aroma, were aiming to take Charlie Lacewing out of the game and focus all their shots on his left-handed partner, Oscar van Huet Lindemann, while Christ's Hospital had exactly the opposite plan. In the end Tonbridge played a tight enough length and line and, despite defending well for long periods, in the end it was Christ's Hospital who made more mistakes and Tonbridge came through 11-6, 11-6.

The organiser though was even more delighted by the spirit of the Senior Plate Doubles where the four first round losers had a fantastically competitive and sporting tournament with Dexter Bell & Archie Stephens of Eastbourne winning the key game 16-14 to take the title. The two semi-final losers insisted on a third-place play-off where Dominic Thomas & Felix Edelman from Tonbridge just saw off the Christ's Hospital second pair.

The organiser had got eight Tonbridge pairs to contest the U16 Doubles. It was not surprising that the pair who had earlier contested the singles final were a little too strong for the opposition but not before the second pair had taken the first game of the final. However, Oliver Carroll & Devan Radia were worthy winners and the promising U14 pair of Dexter Hastie & Barnes Regan won the plate.

Selected scores

U18 Singles

Semi-finals: C Lacewing (CH) bt L Saunders-Aroma (Tonbridge) 15-0; O Woolf (Tonbridge) bt O Van Huet Lindemann (CH) 15-3

Final: Lacewing bt Woolf 11-0, 11-3

Plate: L Tippin (Tonbridge) bt K Lewis (CH) 15-5

U18 Doubles

Semi-finals: Tonbridge 1 bt Christ's Hospital 2 11-3, 11-1; Christ's Hospital 1 bt Tonbridge 2 11-1, 11-2

Final: Tonbridge 1 (Saunders-Aroma & Woolf) bt Christ's Hospital 1 (Lacewing & Van Huet Lindemann) 11-6, 11-6

Plate: Eastbourne 1 (D Bell & A Stephens)

U16 Singles

Semi-finals: O Carroll (Tonbridge) bt M Gustard (Tonbridge) 15-3; D Radia (Tonbridge) bt H Haigh (Tonbridge) 15-

Final: Carroll bt Radia 11-2, 11-3

U16 Doubles

Semi-finals: Tonbridge 1 (O Carroll & D Radia) bt Tonbridge 4 (Tomazos & Flint) 11-3, 11-1; Tonbridge 2 (H Haigh & M Gustard) bt Tonbridge 3 (Seddon & Chaivarini) 11-7, 9-11, 11-3

Final: Tonbridge 1 (Carroll & Radia) bt Tonbridge 2 (Haigh & Gustard) 8-11, 11-3, 11-0

Plate: Tonbridge 6 (D Hastie & B Regan)

Northern Schools Championships

Durham,

Saturday, 2nd February 2024

Organiser Julie McIntyre reports: Conditions were perfect for the Northern Schools tournament of 2024, in dry, mild and sunny Durham.

Club members and parents had baked in large quantities and the Sedbergh school bus arrived bright and early.

The Under 18 Singles games were very competitive as usual, with Sedbergh throwing themselves into every game with gusto (hopefully Ollie has survived intact). However, Val and Camille were too strong for the others, and their final was the stand-out game of the tournament. Long rallies between two players of very different styles. Val is now a very strong player in Manchester, although still just 15, and Camille is on top form, having just won the Women's national title. She won through 11-6, 11-8 in the end, but they were two top-end games, and a joy to watch. Ollie from Sedbergh won the bronze through his power and determination, beating Angus, a last-minute entry into the singles!

In the under 16 category Sedbergh had some very promising players, however Eleonora from Durham proved to be too accurate and consistent for Fernando in the final, and Toby won the bronze.

We then had an under 13 singles competition between four Durham players, which was the first competition for most. Lucas won through here, with his ambidextrous style and power, followed by Harrison and Leo, who stepped up their play, while Sofia was playing herself in.

These four then joined the rest of the Under 16s for the Doubles and did very well, with Lucas and Sofia the pairing to take the bronze. Toby and Fernando grew in confidence, and were winners of the Under 16 Doubles, while Eleonora and Emily of Durham took the silver, a great achievement for Emily in her first competition.

In the Under 18 Doubles, Val unfortunately did not have a junior partner; however, Tom Wakelam and then Mr Follett stepped in to make sure there were some very high standard exhibition games against Durham 1 and Sedbergh 1 and 2 pairs. In the medals, Camille and Angus took on Ollie and Phoenix twice to take the gold, with Evan and Seb (who was actually under 16) taking bronze.

All played in a great spirit as ever, and a plan made for some neighbourly visits in the coming year.

Many thanks to those who helped and baked, to Tom for doing the draw, and to the supporting families who watched it all happen.

Scores

U18 Singles

Pool A: **1st** Val Fikhter (Manchester) 30 pts; **2nd** Angus Hogarth (City of Durham) 15 pts; **3rd** Evan Williams (Sedbergh)

Pool B: **1st** Camille Beattie (Durham) 30 pts; **2nd** Ollie Griffin (Sedbergh) 21 pts; **3rd** Phoenix Ogilvie-Robertson (Sedbergh)

Final: Beattie bt Fikhter 11-6, 11-8

Bronze medal: Griffin bt Hogarth 15-3

U16 Singles

Pool: **1st** Eleonora Vallascas (City of Durham) 33 pts; **2nd** Fernando Diez Amatriain (Sedbergh) 29 pts; **3rd** Toby Follett (Sedbergh); **4th** Seb Massey-Ford (Sedbergh)

Final: Vallascas bt Diez Amatriain 11-6, 11-1

Bronze medal: Follett bt Massey-Ford 15-3

U13 Singles

1st Lucas Manzi (City of Durham) 45 pts; **2nd** Harrison Miller (City of Durham) 31 pts; **3rd** Leo Pippet (City of Durham) 30 pts; **4th** Sofia Vallascas (City of Durham) 22 pts

U18 Doubles

Pool: **1st** City of Durham 1 (Beattie & Hogarth) 30 pts; **2nd** Sedbergh 1 (Griffin & Ogilvie-Robertson) 16 pts; **3rd** Sedbergh 2 (Massey-Ford & Williams)

Final: City of Durham 1 bt Sedbergh 1 15-7

Bronze medal: Sedbergh 2

U16 Doubles

1st: Sedbergh 3 (Diez Amatriain & Follett) 45 pts; **2nd** City of Durham 2 (Hodgson & E Vallascas) 38 pts; **3rd** City of Durham 3 (Manzi & S Vallascas) 30 pts; **4th** City of Durham 4 (Miller & Pippet) 15 pts

North West Open Championships

Manchester Y Club

Saturday/Sunday, 17-18 February 2024

STOP PRESS In a relatively small entry for the Singles competition National Singles champion Ben Beltrami emerged triumphant, winning his first regional Singles title at the expense of Julian Aquilina in a well contested final. City of Durham's Oscar McIntyre, who is playing his Fives in term time on the Manchester courts, won the Plate with some comfort from Derby Moor's Anthony Goodwin.

In the Doubles there were just four pairs. They played out a series of group matches, from which a final and a Plate final were established. Beltrami & Brooks won the main final against Julian Aquilina & Theo Parker, while Oscar McIntyre & Mike Suddaby won an all-Y Club contest versus organiser Dave Fox and his partner Marco Skogh.

Scores

Singles

1st round: T Parker bt D Fox 11-4, 11-5; M Skogh bt A Goodwin 11-5, 11-9; M Suddaby bt V Fikhter 11-2, 11-6

Quarter-finals: Parker bt O McIntyre 11-3, 11-7; L Keates bt Skogh 11-2, 3-11, 11-4; J Aquilina bt Suddaby 11-3, 11-0

Semi-finals: B Beltrami bt Parker 11-0, 11-2; Aquilina bt Keates 11-4, 11-5

Final: Beltrami bt Aquilina 11-6, 12-10

Plate: McIntyre bt Goodwin 11-1

Doubles

Group

Beltrami & Brooks bt Fox & Skogh 15-2; bt McIntyre & Suddaby 15-4; bt Aquilina & Parker 15-4

Aquilina & Parker bt Fox & Skogh 15-5; bt McIntyre & Suddaby 15-8

McIntyre & Suddaby bt Fox & Skogh 15-13

Final: Beltrami & Brooks bt Aquilina & Parker 15-7, 15-5

Plate: McIntyre & Suddaby bt Fox & Skogh 11-3, 11-8

Oxford and Cambridge Past versus Present

Saturday, 10th February 2024

Nick Whitney reports: The **2024 Oxford University Past vs Present** match took place at St Paul's School on Saturday, 10th of February. This was the 38th edition and was the best attended event in the fixture's history, with 50 Past and Present players involved throughout the day. This allowed us to hold a 6 vs 6 Women's match for the first time (expanding on the success of mixed doubles in the past few editions), in addition to the regular Beavers and Men's 8 match-ups.

In the Beavers fixture, the Present had to contend with some quality Past players, including recent leavers Adam Hutchinson and Harry Turner, in addition to the more tenured Past players of Tony Julius and Chris Blakeley. The Present Beavers were able to steal a few games, however the Past came through with a comfortable 231-95 win.

In the Women's fixture, three former captains of Viola King Forbes, Phoebe Thornhill and Gabriela Van Bergen headed up a strong Past squad. However, in the singles only Phoebe was able to score a victory, holding Abbie Evans to 3. Present captain Lena Barton's team held a commanding 58-20 going into the doubles. Viola and Phoebe put up a firm fight, winning all but one of their games, but the Present's depth allowed them to extend their lead to 166-63 by the close.

In the Men's 8, it was clear from the start that it would be a close affair. Former captain Dan Whitham lost 11-12 against his younger brother Aiden in the singles, before bettering him in both doubles games 12-11. Elsewhere in the top 4, the Present's top pair of Shiloh Wu and Ander Iraizoz Olaetxea won their games fairly comfortably giving the Present a narrow lead. However the Past were stronger in the second IV, aided by returns to the fixture for Brian Elfick, George Barnes and Ed Brooke. In the end the contest was decided by a single point — with the Present prevailing by 202 points to the Past's 201.

The day ended with a dinner and presentation of trophies at Queen's Club, where the Past wished the Present well in the Varsity Match coming up next weekend.

Bob Dolby reports: The **75th Cambridge University Past v Present** was played on the glass-backed courts at the University Sports Centre, where it has been played since 2014. There were 40 players past and present involved in the match and 54 inked in to dine at Pembroke College thereafter. With the greater experience of the Past, who numbered amongst them National Singles Champion Ben Beltrami and other multiple champions such as Charlie Brooks and Andy Pringle, it was no surprise that the Past ran out winners by 251-128, with captain-for-the-day Ian Steed taking the Trapnell Tankard. In the Ladies' Match the 5 players from the Past were also a little too experienced for the 7 Present players, so the match was combined with a number of games of Mixed Doubles, from which Helena Tunks carried off the new trophy for the Ladies' Match and India Blaksley the Ted Isaacs Trophy for Mixed Doubles. In this last competition Martin Wilkinson beat his own record for the oldest player to play in the fixture: 77 two days previously.

It being the 75th Jock Burnet Dinner it was appropriate that there were "a few more words" than usual. Club President Bob Dolby celebrated the several national and regional titles currently held by male and female players from the past and

the present, reminding those dining that since 1926 Cambridge players had won 516 such titles — David Hebden 117 of them! Bob then ran through the history of the event, which Jock Burnet had founded in 1949 and had run until his death in 1989. Bob had then taken over in 1990 and organised the match and dinner through the last days of Portugal Place, the 17 courtless years between 1996 and 2013, and the glass-backed era the Club is now enjoying. Bob finally announced that, having enjoyed the privilege of doing so for 35 years, he felt it was time to pass Jock’s mantle to the Club’s great benefactor and friend Gareth Quarry.

There followed a number of generous tributes and presentations to the out-going President before those assembled could concentrate on enjoying what Jock Burnet always described as “the evening that never fails”.

The 94th Varsity Match

St Paul’s School, Barnes

Saturday, 17th February 2024

Oxford Men’s captain, Vivek Thakrar, was able to introduce two schools champions, Shiloh Wu and Genesis Nsenga, plus an accomplished Basque pelota player, Ander Iraizoz, as his top three Singles players, with last year’s captain, Teddy Monro-Davies, at number 4. This made for very close games in the top half of the Men’s Singles. In the bottom half, however, Oxford were far too experienced and consequently led by 121-54 after the Singles. In the Doubles, only Cambridge’s top pair, Marcus Cloke Browne & Freddie Kottler, could match Oxford’s first two pairs, while the remaining doubles matches went heavily in Oxford’s favour. Oxford thus ran out comfortable winners of the Men’s Match for the 7th consecutive time.

The Sparrows versus Beavers Match also went Oxford’s way by a record margin. Colin Ng’s IV were delighted to pick up the recently returned ‘Fist of Iron’, with a Cambridge victory in this contest now a distant memory.

The Women’s Match was to involve a six-sided contest for the first time. Here again Oxford were the more experienced team, winning every match in both Singles and Doubles. The stand-out player was former schools doubles champion Lena Barton, the Oxford captain, but Oxford generously awarded Cambridge’s Laura Smith the Pol Roger champagne for the Player of the Day, recognising her part in the nail-biting match of the day, the final game of doubles involving Laura and her partner Harriet Fearon against Oxford’s Eleni Kougioumtzi and Tami Erdenebulgan.

The 94th Varsity Match therefore goes down in the records as the first occasion on which all three matches have been won by the one university.

Results

Oxford University Men’s VIII beat Cambridge University Men’s VIII by 349-147

Oxford University Beavers IV beat Cambridge University Sparrows IV by 180-7

Oxford University Women’s VI beat Cambridge University Women’s VI by 241-54

Challenger Singles Tournament

Rugby School

Saturday, 24th February 2024

13 players contested this Challenger event, open to players outside the top 16, which was played on the courts at Rugby School. A previous winner of a Challenger on the Cambridge courts, Anthony Goodwin, was seeded highest but was knocked out in the semi-final by Gwydion Wiseman, twice the winner of the U18 Schools title. In the other half of the draw were two members of the Executioners club, doubtless very familiar with each other’s game: Penn Chai and Terry McElvaney. It was Penn who won their meeting this time and went on to face Gwydion in the final, which Gwydion won in straight games. Patrick Harrison won the Plate for first match losers and Chris Davey the Bowl for quarter-final losers.

Warmest thanks to Rugby School for hosting the event and providing such excellent facilities and especially to master in charge Ben Lane for the generous provision of coffee, cakes and sandwiches, which were most appreciated by the players.

Scores

1st round: B Hale bt B Lane 15-12; N Geere w/o L Ferera; G Wiseman bt C Blakeley 15-1; P Chai bt P Harrison 15-0; M Suddaby bt N Whitney 15-5; T McElvaney bt A Noble 15-4

Quarter-finals: A Goodwin bt Hale 15-0; Wiseman bt Geere 15-2; Chai bt Suddaby 15-1; McElvaney bt C Davey 15-5

Semi-finals: Wiseman bt Goodwin 11-2, 11-5; Chai bt McElvaney 11-5, 11-4

Final: Wiseman bt Chai 11-5, 11-7

Plate: Harrison

Bowl: Davey

Scottish Schools Championships U18 and U16

Fettes College, Edinburgh

February/March 2024

Hector McFarlane reports: U18 Singles -- A full day of high-quality Fives took place on Fettes' courts as 14 players battled it out in the 7th edition of this competition, playing to lift The Boyd Trophy and The McKeown Plate. Two late withdrawals left the draw with two groups of four and two of three, with the top two players in each group proceeding to the Cup knock-outs. leaving the rest to play for Plate glory. Two players from Fettes, two from Merchiston and four from E.A. made it through the groups stages to make up the quarter-final draw. The pick of the round was the tussle between Xander M. (E.A.) and Oli G. (Merchiston), with Xander holding a narrow lead entering the final stages. He saw a couple of match-points come and go before Oli powered through to edge it 16-14.

Some other tight matches brought about two semi-finals competed for by Will G. (Merchiston) versus James M. (Fettes) and Ronnie B. (E.A.) versus Oli G. Both matches were even contests in the early stages before James and Ronnie found greater power and accuracy to meet in the final. The final started at a ferocious pace with deft touch and tremendous speed. Locked at 6-6, Ronnie dropped his level slightly for James to take the first game 11-6. This gave James the edge that allowed him to take control of the second game 11-2 and deservedly pick up the trophy for Fettes.

In the Plate the young U14 players from Merchiston gained valuable experience against older opponents but it was James T. (E.A.) and Jack H. (Fettes) who made it to the final. Jack had lost the plate final last year, so had some unfinished business to see to. However, it was James who held the edge in a gruelling match, with neither player able to find winners but very few errors on show either. James held a 13-10 lead but could not find the killer blow as Jack stormed back to take a 15-13 win and do the double for Fettes.

Richie Murby reports: **U18 Doubles** — With coffee and chocolate muffins laid on lavishly by hosts Fettes, the viewing gallery was abuzz with caffeine, sugar and anticipation. The quarter-finals all went according to seedings, but Fettes second pair came close to upsetting the apple-cart, pushing Edinburgh Academy I all the way in an entertaining match before being edged out 15-13.

Now in the Plate, Fettes II, consisting of the tireless Seamus and impressive squash convert Mitchell, overcame a Fettes/EA hybrid pairing in the Plate semi-finals before coming through in the final against a young Merchiston pairing who look to be excellent prospects in their own right.

Back in the main competition, Fettes I comfortably won their semi-final against Edinburgh Academy II, while in the other semi-final, Ronnie B and Alec S of EA started strongly before losing concentration and letting a large points advantage shrink drastically against a determined Merchiston pairing who skilfully took their opportunity to get back into the match. However, EA held their nerve to advance to the final with a score of 15-13.

As the 1st seeds, Fettes were slight favourites to win the final, and keen to add to their U18 Scottish Schools Singles Cup and Plate double secured by James and Jack respectively the previous week. Ronnie was equally keen to avoid losing in a final against James for the second time in a week! There was little between the teams in the first game, but as the tension rose, EA, perhaps helped by being a left-hand/right-hand pairing, were able to raise the pressure while keeping errors low, to eke it out 11-9.

Boosted by winning such a tough first game, Ronnie and Alec had a spring in their step in the second game, and despite wobbling momentarily as Fettes ramped up their attacks, they were able to steady the ship, defend when necessary and find winners at the right times to claim victory for the Edinburgh Academy 11-9, 11-6. It was a superb match, full of nicks, fast-paced but long rallies, and attacking fives — all played in a great spirit.

Richie Murby reports: **U16 Doubles** — Colts players from four schools congregated at the Fettes College courts to battle it out — though due to a late call-off, Loretto's pairing had morphed into an Edinburgh Academy/Loretto hybrid by the start of play! This new pairing did well to reach the semi-finals but were swept aside by an in-form EA 1st pair, James T & Tom J. It was nevertheless a good debut for Loretto's young Jack R, who is still in the u14 age category. Speaking of u14 players, Merchiston's second pair, Hamish F and James R, also played some precocious fives, and did well to reach the Plate final. They are definitely ones to watch going forward.

Meanwhile, the Merchiston first pair, Lucas F and Reggie H, played some impressive fives in their quarter-final to best EA's Jock and Freddie, who left it rather too late to truly spark into life. Victory in the Plate, however, offered the latter some consolation.

While EA I were storming into the final, EA III were in a close contest with MCS I. EA's Weems and Max struck gold with winners in the early stages and commanded a substantial lead. But matches to 15 have a habit of swinging back and forth, and Lucas and Reggie came back very strongly to bring the score back to near-parity. Over the subsequent tense exchanges, EA held their nerve and took the match 15-12 to set up an all-EA final.

In the final, experience and energy levels told as James and Tom soaked up pressure against their younger, tiring opponents, Weems and Max, who for their part played with heart and skill but without the same precision as in their semi-final. Content to keep the rallies long, and to stay aggressive without forcing winners, James and Tom sealed the deal in two games. Congratulations to them on their victory; and also to Weems and Max, who, when the dust settles, will rightly feel pleased with their excellent Cup run.

Boyd Cup (U18 Singles)

Quarter-finals: Will G (M) bt Tom J (EA) 15-10; James M (F) bt Mitchell T (F) 15-3; Ronnie B (EA) bt Alec S (EA) 15-9; Oli G (M) bt Xander M (EA) 16-14

Semi-finals: James M (F) bt Will G (M) 15-6; Ronnie B (EA) bt Oli G (M) 15-10

Final: James M (F) bt Ronnie B (EA) 11-6, 11-2

McKeown Plate (U18 Singles)

Quarter-finals: Seamus Y (F) bt Hamish F (M) 11-4; James T (EA) bt James R (M) 11-4

Semi-finals: James T (EA) bt Seamus Y (F) 11-0; Jack H (F) bt Patrick T (F) 11-5

Final: Jack H (F) bt James T (EA) 15-13

U18 Doubles

Quarter-finals: James M & Jack H (Fettes) bt Hamish F & James R (MCS) 15-0; Thomas E & Weems H (EA) bt Geordie M & Monty D (Fettes) 15-0; Will G & Oli G (MCS) bt Xander M & Patrick T (EA/Fettes) 15-5; Alec S & Ronnie B (EA) bt Seamus Y & Mitchell T (Fettes) 15-13

Semi-finals: Alec S & Ronnie B (EA) bt Will G & Oli G (MCS) 15-13; James M & Jack H (Fettes) bt Thomas E & Weems H (EA) 15-1

Final: Alec S & Ronnie B (EA) bt James M & Jack H (Fettes) 11-9, 11-6

Plate Semi-finals: Hamish F & James R (MCS) bt Geordie M & Monty D (Fettes) 15-0; Seamus Y & Mitchell T (Fettes) bt Xander M & Patrick T (EA/Fettes) 15-12

Plate Final: Seamus Y & Mitchell T (Fettes) bt Hamish F & James R (MCS) 15-9

U16 Doubles

Quarter-finals: Tom J & James T (EA) bt Hamish F & James R (MCS) 15-2; Jack R & Oscar Z (Loretto/EA) bt Freddie A & Beau W (Fettes) 15-11; Weems H & Max R (EA) bt Lochie F & Louis M (Fettes) 15-7; Lucas F & Reggie H (MCS) bt Jock L & Freddie J (EA) 15-11

Semi-finals: Tom J & James T (EA) bt Jack R & Oscar Z (Loretto/EA) 15-1; Weems H & Max R (EA) bt Lucas F & Reggie H (MCS) 15-12

Final: Tom J & James T (EA) bt Weems H & Max R (EA) 11-5, 11-5

Plate Semi-finals: Hamish F & James R (MCS) bt Freddie A & Beau W (Fettes) 15-7; Jock L & Freddie J (EA) bt Lochie F & Louis M (Fettes) 15-8

Plate Final: Jock L & Freddie J (EA) bt Hamish F & James R (MCS) 15-1

North of England Championships

Durham University Courts

Saturday/Sunday, 2-3 March 2024

STOP PRESS Dan Tristao won a sixth North of England Open Singles title at the expense of Ben Beltrami. Ben won the Doubles once more, this time with a new partner, Tom Watkinson. The Singles Plate was won by a resurgent Dave Butler, the Doubles Plate by home pairing, Camille Beattie and Oscar McIntyre.

With thanks to Julie McIntyre and her team at the City of Durham Fives Club and to organiser Julian Aquilina.

Julian Aquilina reports: Dan Tristao won his sixth North of England singles title, lifting the Ferens Trophy for the first time since 2018 by beating Ben Beltrami in an epic 3-game final. Ben still got his hands on some silverware though, pairing up with Tom Watkinson to win the Fuller Cup. It was Ben's third doubles trophy in Durham, and Tom's first.

The Singles on the Saturday featured 19 players, with nine of the current top 20 in the rankings, as well as a solid turnout of Durham University alumni, with five ex-captains.

Progress through the first two rounds was relatively straightforward, with the only 3-gamer contested between seventh seed Oscar McIntyre and underdog James Tilston. After a closely fought first game going James' way, Oscar managed to string together more winners with his remarkable power to level the match. However, James ultimately had the edge with his superior touch game, coming through 11-8 in the third. Meanwhile, the highly anticipated clash between doubles specialist Theo Parker and recent U25s champion Isaac Weaver didn't live up to the hype, as unfortunately Theo was ill and barely himself.

In the quarter-finals, top seeds Tristao and Beltrami progressed in straight sets. Third seed Watkinson looked to be on the ropes against Tilston, dropping the first game 10-12 before recovering to take the decider to love. The 4 v 5 matchup was Julian Aquilina v Richie Murby, a repeat from the previous year, which Richie had won in straight sets. This time, Julian made the faster start, racing away with the first game, but Richie steadily turned things around and eked out a couple of close games to 7 and 8. Richie then went on to push Dan, at least in the second game of their semi-final, but Dan edged that 12-10 to set up the final against Ben, who had eased passed Tom, 5 and love.

Ben was riding off the back of his first two open singles titles – the National Singles, in which he had beaten Dan in the semi-final, and the North West – which gave many in the gallery reason to put Ben as their favourite for the title here. The first game made this look like a solid bet, with Ben at the peak of his powers to take it 11-4. Dan regrouped though, hitting nick after nick to strike back 11-1. The third was a tense affair, with long, cagey rallies, but in the end, an hour after the start of the match, Dan emerged victorious 11-6.

In the Singles Plate, Anthony Goodwin and Dave Butler topped their groups, with Dave going on to win the final in two games.

Nine pairs contested the Doubles on the Sunday. The only 3-gamer came in the quarter-finals, which saw a reunited Aquilina & Tilston fend off a spirited performance from the all-Derby pairing of Goodwin & Keates, withstanding countless winners from Ant's left and Lewis' right. Meanwhile, Camille Beattie & Oscar McIntyre displayed some fantastic fives to make for a highly entertaining match against the top seeds and pre-tournament favourites Beltrami & Watkinson.

Beltrami & Watkinson then won through their semi-final comfortably, as did second seeds and scratch pairing Murby & Tristao. The final was a high quality affair, but Ben and Tom just managed to edge both games, wrapping up an impressive 11-8, 11-9 victory.

The Doubles Plate featured four pairs. Anthony and Lewis topped the group with three wins, but in the final Camille & Oscar managed to exact revenge over them, 16-14, in another compelling encounter that had everyone on the gallery gripped.

Special thanks go to Julie McIntyre and the rest of the City of Durham club for their help throughout the weekend, including all their fantastic catering. And a big thank you to everyone who participated – be sure to come again next year!

Scores

Singles

1st round: T McGuire bt A Kessel-Holland 15-3; M Suddaby bt D Swinbank 15-1; D Law bt J Stevenson 15-3

2nd round: D Tristao bt McGuire 11-4, 11-0; I Weaver bt T Parker 11-3, 11-3; R Murby bt Suddaby 11-3, 11-1; J Aquilina bt A Goodwin 11-5, 11-8; T Watkinson bt D Butler 11-1, 11-0; J Tilston bt O McIntyre 11-9, 3-11, 11-8; L Keates bt S Scott 11-9, 11-3; B Beltrami bt Law 11-1, 11-0

Quarter-finals: Tristao bt Weaver 11-7, 11-7; Murby bt Aquilina 3-11, 11-7, 11-8; Watkinson bt Tilston 10-12, 11-4, 11-0; Beltrami bt Keates 11-5, 11-3

Semi-finals: Tristao bt Murby 11-6, 12-10; Beltrami bt Watkinson 11-5, 11-0

Final: Tristao bt Beltrami 4-11, 11-1, 11-6

Plate: Butler bt Goodwin 11-5, 11-8

Doubles

1st round: C Beattie & O McIntyre bt A Kessel-Holland & J Stevenson 15-2

Quarter-finals: B Beltrami & T Watkinson bt Beattie & McIntyre 11-6, 12-10; D Butler & T Parker bt S Scott & I Weaver 11-3, 11-5; J Aquilina & J Tilston bt A Goodwin & L Keates 11-8, 5-11, 11-8; R Murby & D Tristao bt D Law & M Suddaby 11-7, 11-1

Semi-finals: Beltrami & Watkinson bt Butler & Parker 11-5, 11-5; Murby & Tristao bt Aquilina & Tilston 11-5, 11-1

Final: Beltrami & Watkinson bt Murby & Tristao 11-8, 11-9

Plate: Beattie & McIntyre bt Goodwin & Keates 16-14

Colquhoun Trophy

Marlborough College

Sunday, 3rd March 2024

STOP PRESS All four finalists in this event for South West schools were from Winchester College. Plum Mannion-Miles beat Theo Munaretto Day in the U16 final; and Anthony Cloke Browne overcame Arthur James-Duff in the U18 final.

Jamie McManus reports: This year saw the third playing of the Colquhoun Trophy tournament in the post-covid era, as players from Blundell's, Marlborough College, Marlborough Town, Malvern and Winchester came together for an excellent day of Singles. Particular thanks are owed to Tom Kiggell and Marlborough College for being so hospitable, the cooked lunch provided by our hosts being a very significant upgrade on the packed lunch solution.

In total 73 games to 11 or 15 were played across the day by 26 competitors, an average of 5 and half games each, with some very close matches sprucing up the entertainment and keeping the organiser on his toes when it came to scheduling.

In the U16s Luke Wyman got particular value for his entry fee, winning his first-round game 16-14 and his quarter-final 8-11, 11-9, 11-3. Then his court time came to an end in the semi-final where he found Theo Munaretto Day too strong an opponent. However, the star of the show was Plum Mannion-Miles, using a powerful left-hand that took to the final with comfort and helped him overcome Theo 11-6, 11-1 to win the U16 trophy. The first Plate was won by Marlborough's Bradbury, the 2nd Plate by Vorobev from Winchester.

There were some close match-ups in the U18 competition too: in the first round Will Bishop snuck past Angus Rackham 16-14 while Daniel Brooke edged Charlie Tomlinson-Hodge 15-13. Will Bishop then gave James Kennedy a scare in the next round before James closed things out 6-11, 11-6, 11-3. However, the best match of the day was the semi-final between Arthur James-Duff and James Kennedy, a repeat of the West of England Schools final, with Arthur again emerging victorious but having to work much harder than at Sherborne to get over the line 11-9, 11-7. Regrettably this

meant that Arthur was somewhat of a spent force, come the final, and Anthony Cloke Browne, whose progress through the other half of the draw had been serene, won the first game 11-0. Arthur raised himself for the second game but, after taking a 7-2 lead, was pegged back gradually and Anthony won that game 11-8 to take the title.

In the 1st Plate for quarter-final losers Marlborough Town's Bishop won all three of his matches. In the 6-man 2nd Plate Max Wyman got to know the Blundell's squad very well thanks to the round-robin format. Max was the only player to inflict a defeat on Charlie Tomlinson-Hodge, but when Max lost to Angus Rackham this gave Charlie the chance to take top spot with a win by 5 or more points against Angus. An 11-4 victory to Charlie gave him the required points differential to overtake Max.

Scores

U18 Singles 1st round: Aubery (Win) bt Basford (Blun) 15-5; Di Gleria (Marl) bt Tempest (Blun) 15-1; Zhou (Win) bt Wyman (Marl) 15-2; Kennedy (Win) bt Gogel (Blun) 15-1; Bishop (MarlTown) bt Rackham (Blun) 16-14; Brooke (StMRT) bt Tomlinson-Hodge (Blun) 15-13

Quarter-finals: Cloke Browne (Win) bt Aubery 11-0, 11-1; Zhou bt Di Gleria 11-2, 11-5; Kennedy bt Bishop 6-11, 11-6, 11-3; James-Duff (Win) bt Brooke 11-1, 11-2

Semi-finals: Cloke Browne bt Zhou 11-0, 11-1; James-Duff bt Kennedy 11-9, 11-7

Final: Cloke Browne (Win) bt James-Duff (Win) 11-0, 11-8

1st Plate: Bishop (MarlTown)

2nd Plate: Tomlinson-Hodge (Blun)

U16 Singles 1st round: Munaretto Day (Win) bt Jain (Malv) 15-2; Wyman (Marl) bt Vorobev (Win) 16-14; M Wilson (Malv) bt Fergusson (Win) 15-3; Corrie (Marl) bt Wong (Win) 15-8

Quarter-finals: Munaretto Day bt Bradbury (Marl) 11-2, 11-8; Wyman bt Coleman (Win) 8-11, 11-9, 11-3; Mannion-Miles (Win) bt Wilson 11-0, 11-5; Corrie bt S Wilson (Malv) 11-5, 11-4

Semi-finals: Munaretto Day bt Wyman 11-7, 11-4; Mannion-Miles bt Corrie 11-6, 11-1

Final: Mannion-Miles (Win) bt Munaretto Day (Win) 11-5, 11-1

1st Plate: Bradbury (Marl)

2nd Plate: Vorobev (Win)

National U13 Championships

St Paul's School, Barnes

Sunday, 10th March 2024

STOP PRESS 36 players entered from 9 schools: Alleyn's and Alleyn's Juniors, Berkhamsted, Merchiston Castle, St Paul's and St Paul's Juniors, Stamford, Stoke Newington and Whitgift. As usual a Plate and a Bowl competition were held in both Singles and Doubles, guaranteeing all those participating a full day's play. The later stages of both competitions were dominated by players from Merchiston Castle School, who won the Singles in an all-Merchiston final, and the Doubles at the expense of the pair from St Paul's Junior School. The RFA's thanks go to organiser Sam Roberts and to St Paul's School for hosting the event once more.

U13 Singles

Group 1: 1st A Prapakaran (Whit); 2nd K Trichur (SPJun); 3rd R Kavan (Berk); 4th A Roux (All); 5th P Brown (All)

Group 2: 1st J Hammond Giles (SPJun); 2nd C Wigley (All); 3rd D Moon (All); 4th E Morris (Stam)

Group 3: 1st W Gordon (Merch); 2nd R Kinnear (All); 3rd A Murphy (All); 4th G Blench (Whit); 5th T Walton (Stam)

Group 4: 1st J Dunn (Merch); 2nd A Malik (Whit); 3rd A Ratto (All); 4th L Meldrum (All)

Group 5: 1st L McKean (Merch); 2nd N Rao (All); 3rd K Foo (All); 4th R Whitby (Berk); 5th M White (StokeNew)

Group 6: 1st A Tang (Merch); 2nd M Hunter (Stam); 3rd M Bouzerira (StokeNew); 4th T Crisan (All); 5th I Conde (Berk)

Group 7: 1st T Kininmonth (StokeNew); 2nd O Streater (Stam); 3rd M Wightman (All); 4th D Pradhan (AllJun)

Group 8: 1st D Gilbody (StokeNew); 2nd J Kapil (AllJun); 3rd T Halsall (SPJun); 4th T Vines (Stam)

1st round: Prapakaran bt Kapil 11-0; Hammond Giles bt Streater 11-1; Gordon bt Hunter 11-1; Dunn bt Rao 11-0; McKean bt Malik 11-6; Tang bt Kinnear 11-4; Kininmonth bt Wigley 11-4; Trichur bt Gilbody 11-2

Quarter-finals: Hammond Giles bt Prapakaran 11-2; Dunn bt Gordon 11-2; McKean bt Tang 11-3; Trichur bt Kininmonth 11-3

Semi-finals: Dunn bt Hammond Giles 15-1; McKean bt Trichur 15-3

3rd place play-off: Trichur (SPJun) bt Hammond Giles (SPJun) 15-13

Final: Dunn (Merch) bt McKean (Merch) 11-2, 11-2

Plate final: Ratto (All) bt Blench (Whit) 11-8

Bowl final: Gilbody (StokeNew) bt Malik (Whit) 11-8

Doubles

1st round: Berkhamsted 1 bt Alleyn's 3 11-9; Stamford/StPJuniors bt Alleyn's Juniors 11-6

2nd round: Merchiston 1 bt Alleyn's 6 11-1; Alleyn's 4 bt Stoke Newington 2 11-2; Whitgift bt Stamford 2 11-1; Stamford 1 bt Berkhamsted 1 11-3; StPJuniors bt Stamford/StPJuniors 11-4; Merchiston 2 bt Alleyn's 2 11-1; Alleyn's 1 bt Whitgift/Berkhamsted 11-1; Stoke Newington 1 bt Alleyn's 5 11-2

Quarter-finals: Merchiston 1 bt Alleyn's 4 11-0; Stamford 1 bt Whitgift 11-9; StPJuniors bt Merchiston 2 12-10; Stoke Newington 1 bt Alleyn's 1 11-6

Semi-finals: Merchiston 1 bt Stamford 1 11-0; StPJuniors bt Stoke Newington 1 11-1

3rd place play-off: Stoke Newington 1 bt Stamford 1 15-9

Final: Merchiston 1 (Dunn & Gordon) bt St Paul's Juniors (Hammond Giles & Trichur) 15-4

Plate final: Alleyn's 2 bt Whitgift/Berkhamsted 12-10

Bowl final: Merchiston 2 bt Alleyn's 4

Ladies U25 Championships

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Saturday, 9th March 2024

STOP PRESS With just 5 competitors for the Singles a round robin was held, from which Zara Elliot, who now plays her Fives with the Executioners, emerged the clear winner. The organiser and Captain of the Oxford University Women's team, Lena Barton, took the silver and Phoenix Fleming from Marlborough College the Plate. With the same number for the Doubles the General Secretary concocted a round robin in which the players paired up in every conceivable combination to play 16-rally matches with American scoring. In this enjoyable, quickfire contest Zara and Lena proved to be the most consistently successful pairing, with Abbie Evans and Phoenix Fleming the runners-up. Oxford's Sarah Skinner took the Plate.

Scores

Singles

1st Zara Elliot 60 pts; **2nd** Lena Barton 46 pts; **3rd** Phoenix Fleming 34 pts; **4th** Abbie Evans 30 pts; **5th** Sarah Skinner 21 pts

Doubles

1st Barton & Elliot 239 pts; **2nd** Evans & Fleming 185 pts

Midlands Schools Regional Championships

Oundle School

Saturday, 16th March 2024

STOP PRESS An entry of 23 players from 6 Midlands schools, 18 of them in the U18 section, saw a long and competitive day of Fives, organised by Alex Smith and kindly hosted by Oundle School. The honours were shared, with Rugby School U18s winning titles at the expense of Derby Moor in the Singles and Stamford School in the Doubles. In the small U15

section Hari Jones from Stamford won gold in the Singles, which was played as a round robin, and then paired up with Connor McNaughton in the U18 Doubles to take silver. In the U15 Doubles it was the young Rugby pairing who enjoyed success, beating Derby Moor's representatives in a best-of-three final.

U18 Singles

1st round: H Cubitt (Oundle) bt T Harrison (Bedford Modern) ; A Noble (Rugby) bt C Sharpe (Stamford) ; L Marsden (Oundle) bt A Kisiel (Oundle) ; C McNaughton (Stamford) bt J Cleary (Bedford Modern) 11-7; L Mackenzie (Oundle) bt B Luttmann Johnson (Oundle) 11-5

Quarter-finals: S McMurrin (Bedford) bt Cubitt ; Noble bt Marsden ; W Milne (Rugby) bt McNaughton 11-6; K Davins (Derby Moor) bt Mackenzie 11-1

Semi-finals: Noble bt McMurrin ; Davins bt Milne 11-3

Final: Noble (Rugby) bt Davins (Derby Moor) 16-14

Also played: F Morgan (Bedford); H Gibb and J Thompson (Bedford Modern); C Greaves and D Wright (Derby Moor); L Empson, K Lakkappa, G Richards, M Spencer and A Plume (Oundle)

U18 Doubles

Group A: 1st Stamford 1; 2nd Oundle 3; 3rd Bedford Modern 2

Group B: 1st Bedford 1; 2nd Derby Moor; 3rd Oundle 4

Group C: 1st Rugby 1; 2nd Stamford 2; 3rd Oundle 1

Group D: 1st Bedford Modern 1; 2nd Oundle 2; 3rd Oundle 5

Semi-finals: Stamford 1 bt Bedford Modern 1 11-9; Rugby 1 bt Bedford

Final: Rugby 1 (Milne & Noble) bt Stamford 1 (H Jones & McNaughton)

Plate: Stamford 2 (R Jones & Sharpe) bt Bedford Modern 2

U15 Singles

1st H Jones (Stamford) 44 pts; **2nd** H Turner-Linke (Rugby) 37 pts; **3rd** M Staryk (Derby Moor) 25 pts

Also played: Z Winson Yates (Derby Moor) and H Skailes (Rugby)

U15 Doubles

Final: Rugby School (Skailes & Turner-Linke) bt Derby Moor (Staryk & Yates) 11-1, 11-8

National Winchester Fives Doubles Championship

Malvern College

Sunday, 17th March 2024

STOP PRESS For Ben Beltrami it was a second success after his victory in 2017 with Dave Butler; for Theo Parker it was his first win in this annual event. In the final Ben and Theo beat previous winner Dave Butler and his new partner, Sam Russell. Penn Chai and Old Malvernian Shinan Zhang successfully defended the Plate, beating Sam Roberts and young Pauline Freddie Hammond Giles in a close three-gamer.

Harry Akerman reports: The 2024 Barnes Bridge was held at Malvern — last time we were there it ended up being final fives tournament before the Covid pandemic. Photos of wet courts in our wet Spring in the run-up to the tournament were cause for concern, but heroic efforts by the local players ensured that we had all courts in action during a day of fantastic fives. With all of last year's finalists missing with four valid excuses, we were guaranteed a new winning pair, and that it would be Beltrami and Parker was never really in doubt, but there were many cracking matches in both the main and plate competitions. Ben and Matt Hale overcame Richard Christie and Ed Ward 15-11, 15-16, 15-10, whilst the Oxford (and ex-Winchester College) pair of Shiloh Wu and Kaito Bremner overcame Sam Roberts and Freddie Hammond Giles 15-13, 9-15, 15-8. Perhaps the closest match though was Lewis Keates and Chris Davey (who themselves would push Dave Butler and Sam Russell hard in a close semi-final) overcoming Penn Chai and Shinan Zhang 15-10, 15-16, 15-12. With all non semi-finalists entering a 2-pool round robin plate there was plenty of fives for everyone and perhaps as expected it

ended up with Penn and Shinan taking on Sam and Freddie in the final. The match was a cracker which saw Penn and Shinan coming back from a game down to win and retain the plate 2-11, 11-8, 11-5.

And so to the main final, in which Ben and Theo took on Sam and Dave. A high quality final with perhaps a closer first game than many expected, but in the end Ben and Theo's power and precision won out 15-12, 15-6.

A massive thanks once again to Malvern College, and to Chris Thomas in particular, for getting the courts ready for action and for hosting 28 enthusiastic and, by the end of it, tired Winchester Fives players. Next year we hope for a good turnout on the new Winchester College Fives courts (did I say that last year as well?). For those who want a glimpse of what they will look like, please have a watch of this short video.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi534lu4OAU&feature=youtu.be>

Scores

1st round: B Hale & M Hale bt R Christie & E Ward 15-11, 15-16, 15-10; K Bremner & S Wu bt Hughes & C Thomas 15-7, 15-8; F Hammond Giles & S Roberts bt A Passey & Wilson 15-1, 15-3; P Chai & S Zhang bt H Bishop & W Bishop 15-3, 15-3; S Coffey & H Tunks bt Guimont & D Spiegel 15-6, 15-0

Quarter-finals: B Beltrami & T Parker bt Hale & Hale 15-0, 15-2; Bremner & Wu bt Hammond Giles & Roberts 15-13, 9-15, 15-8; C Davey & L Keates bt Chai & Zhang 15-10; 15-16, 15-8; D Butler & S Russell bt Coffey & Tunks 15-13, 15-11

Semi-finals: Beltrami & Parker bt Bremner & Wu 15-2, 15-6; Butler & Russell bt Davey & Keates 15-13, 15-11

Final: Beltrami & Parker bt Butler & Russell 15-12, 15-6

Plate: Chai & Zhang bt Hammond Giles & Roberts 7-11, 11-8, 11-5

Alex Wilson 1963-2024

The Rugby Fives Association
March 2024

The RFA is sad to report the death recently of Alex Wilson, who for many years was a an accomplished and committed member of the fives community, both as a player and as a coach and administrator. We reproduce here a brief tribute from one player, Dave Hebden, who knew him well and, below, the link to a heart-felt eulogy from his close friend and colleague, Sam Roberts, with further tributes from colleagues, friends, pupils and parents.

“I met Alex through the game of Fives, and enjoyed many battles on court and much lively socialising off court. Those close to the game of Fives will know that Alex was a very distinguished player. His achievements include six National Regional Doubles titles, and a win in the Winchester Doubles. Alex played for the 1995 Club KO winning Old Bradfieldians Club and was selected to represent the Rugby Fives Association team to play the University side on seven occasions. Alex was nationally ranked in the top 10 Singles & Doubles during the 1990s and 2000s. In addition, Alex contributed greatly to the game of Fives by serving for many years on the RFA Committee, and also spent many years supporting and coaching Fives at St Paul's School.

But most important of all, Alex was a lovely bloke, always good company and a pleasure to know. Very many fond memories, he will be greatly missed.”

National Schools Championships

St Paul's School, Barnes
Saturday/Monday, 23-25 March 2024

122 players from 19 schools and clubs took part in the various Singles and Doubles competitions at U18, U16 and U14 level over three days of intense play. The RFA would like to thank all those present: the large number of family and friends who came support the players; their coaches and teachers who do so much to encourage the game in the schools and clubs; the staff of St Paul's who so kindly host this annual event; the President and General Secretary of the RFA who

administer the sport; the photographers who record the event; and the organiser, Dave Butler, who is stepping down after five years of running the tournament to hand over to Theo Parker.

In the U18 Singles we have a first time winner, Hammond Giles of St Paul's, who joins a very select club of those who have won this title a year young, this time at the expense of a school leaver, Vernacchio of Alleyn's, who has been a fine representative of his school for several years now. Hammond Giles joined up with another player from St Paul's, Ferro, who is actually an under sixteen to win the Doubles. The Plate competitions for U18 Singles and Doubles were won by players from Scottish schools — Merchiston Castle and Fettes respectively — who we were delighted to see bring large and highly competitive squads to the championships.

In the U16 we also had a year-young winner, Fikhter from the Manchester Y Club, adding to his U14 title from last year, after a long and tough final against James-Duff from Winchester. Having no partner from the Manchester Club, Fikhter teamed up in the U18 Doubles with the Ladies National champion, Beattie, from the City of Durham Club, a first in these championships. In the U16 Doubles James-Duff had the satisfaction of winning Gold with his partner Kennedy, beating the St Paul's pair in the final. In this age-group again there were close fought Plate and Bowl competitions, variously won by St Paul's and Alleyn's.

The busy U14 tournament, run over two days by Dr Jackson, was dominated by players from the Scottish schools, resulting in Singles and Doubles titles for the substantial squad from the Edinburgh Academy, with a double for Henry, but also Silver for Alleyn's. We look forward to seeing many of these enthusiastic young players back again in future years.

Selected scores

U18 Singles

1st round: F Stewart (Lor) bt J Tempest (Blun) 11-0; X Millar (EdAc) bt M Mehta (StP) 11-1; L Tippin (Ton) bt J Frost (Blun) 12-10; T Williams (StP) bt S Richarz (All) 11-5; T Blythe (All) bt S Yanez (Fet) 11-8; B Hull (Blun) bt O Wilson (Ton) 12-10; L Saunders-Aroma (Ton) bt M Teo (Fet) 11-8; L Milner (All) bt J Humphrey (Fet) 11-5; W Milne (Rug) bt P Tamimi (Fet) 11-2; D Thomas (Ton) bt J Gogol (Blun) 12-10

2nd round: F Hammond Giles (StP) bt Stewart 15-0; W Gale (Merc) bt C Beattie (CoDurham) 15-3; A Cloke Browne (Win) bt Millar 15-3; C Lacewing (CHosp) bt Tippin 15-2; JP Cheng (Win) bt F Edelman (Ton) 15-0; A Springford (EdAc) bt C Tomlinson-Hodge (Blun) 15-4; O Gordon (Merc) bt A Noble (Rug) 15-6; J Milburn (Fet) bt Williams 15-1; J Chan (Win) bt Blythe 15-1; O Woolf (Ton) bt O Griffin (Sed) 15-2; E Lim (StP) bt Hull 16-14; Y Negyal (All) bt Saunders-Aroma 15-3; R Brown (EdAc) bt Milner 15-9; A Goodwin (All) bt Milne 15-4; R Zhou (Win) bt A Rackham (Blun) 16-15; T Vernacchio (All) bt Thomas 15-5

3rd round: Hammond Giles bt Gale 15-2; Cloke Browne bt Lacewing 15-5; Cheng bt Springford 15-1; Milburn bt Gordon 15-3; Chan bt Woolf 15-7; Negyal bt Lim 15-2; Goodwin bt Brown 15-9; Vernacchio bt Zhou 15-11

Quarter-finals: Hammond Giles bt Cloke Browne 11-0, 11-0; Cheng bt Milburn 2-11, 11-4, 11-2; Chan bt Negyal 11-1, 11-5; Vernacchio bt Goodwin 11-2, 8-11, 11-9

Semi-finals: Hammond Giles bt Cheng 11-1, 11-4; Vernacchio bt Chan 11-9, 11-9

Final: F Hammond Giles (St Paul's) bt T Vernacchio (Alleyn's) 11-2, 11-0

U18 Singles Plate

Quarter-finals: Gale bt Zhou 11-9; Milner bt Brown 11-9; Gordon bt Noble 11-9; Woolf bt Beattie 11-2

Semi-finals: Gale bt Milner 11-8; Gordon bt Woolf 11-1

Final: O Gordon (Merchiston) bt W Gale (Merchiston) 15-5

U18 Doubles

1st round: Alleyn's 3 bt Fettes 2 15-13; Winchester 2 bt Sedbergh/Stamford 15-0; Tonbridge bt St Paul's 4 15-9; EdAcad 1 bt UCS 15-0; St Paul's 3 bt Blundell's 2 15-6; Rugby bt Sherborne 15-9; Tonbridge 1 bt Caledonian Club 15-8; St Paul's 2 bt Tonbridge 3 15-3

2nd round: St Paul's 1 bt Alleyn's 3 15-0; Winchester 2 bt Merchiston 1 15-6; Alleyn's 2 bt Fettes 1 16-15; Alleyn's 1 bt Tonbridge 2 15-2; EdAcad 1 bt St Paul's 3 15-2; Blundell's 1 bt Rugby 15-7; Durham/Manchester bt Tonbridge 1 15-3; Winchester 1 bt St Paul's 2 15-1

Quarter-finals: St Paul's 1 bt Winchester 2 11-5, 3-11, 11-4; Alleyn's 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-7, 11-9; EdAcad 1 bt

Blundell's 1 11-7, 2-11, 11-6; Winchester 1 bt Durham/Manchester 11-7, 11-0

Semi-finals: St Paul's 1 bt Alleyn's 1 11-2, 11-2; Winchester 1 bt EdAcad 1 11-3, 11-7

Final: St Paul's 1 (J Ferro & F Hammond Giles) bt Winchester 1 (J Chan & JP Cheng) 11-3, 11-6

U18 Plate

Semi-finals: Fettes 1 bt CaledClub 11-2; Merchiston 1 bt Fettes 2 11-2

Final: Fettes 1 (J Humphrey & J Milburn) bt Merchiston 1 (W Gale & O Gordon) 11-8, 9-11, 11-3

Bowl: X Millar & M Russell (EdAc) bt F James & J Toner (EdAc) 11-4

U16 Singles

1st round: O Zbikowski (EdAc) bt J Goodwin (All) 11-8; S Stevenson (Ton) bt F Aird (Fet) 11-8; G Shilton (All) bt J Duff (EdAc) 11-9; T-R Foo (All) bt M Russell (EdAc) 11-6; F James (EdAc) bt D Curry (StP) 11-6; T Fergusson (Win) bt E Efthimiou (StP) 12-10; A Pennington (StP) bt B Weir (Fet) 11-3; N Cortas (StP) bt S Khurana (All) 11-3; P Monro-Davies (StP) bt H Severino (All) 11-5

2nd round: A James-Duff (Win) bt Zbikowski 15-1; F Coleman (Win) bt L Shields (All) 15-13; H Jones (Stam) bt X Arotxa-Lakha (EdAc) 15-6; J Toner (EdAc) bt Stevenson 15-2; E Hunter (Stam) bt Shilton 15-11; L McCreath (Fet) bt C Sharpe (Stam) 16-14; S McMurrans (Bedf) bt J Lawrie (EdAc) 15-7; J Ferro (STP) bt Foo 15-1; J Kennedy (Win) bt James 15-4; P Mannion-Miles (Win) bt O Carroll (Ton) 16-15; T Ritchie (StP) bt L Fraser (Fettes) 15-3; M Arie (All) bt Fergusson 15-1; G Harrison (StokeN) bt Pennington 15-9; Cortas bt T Jarrold (EdAc) 15-8; T Munaretto Day (Win) bt A Shaw (All) 15-4; V Fikhter (ManchY) bt Monro-Davies 15-3

3rd round: James-Duff bt Coleman 15-1; Toner bt Jones 16-14; Hunter bt McCreath 15-9; Ferro bt McMurrans 15-1; Kennedy bt Mannion-Miles 15-10; Arie bt Ritchie 15-13; Cortas bt Harrison 15-3; Fikhter bt Munaretto Day 15-5

Quarter-finals: James-Duff bt Toner 11-4, 11-3; Ferro bt Hunter 11-1, 11-1; Arie bt Kennedy 9-11, 11-9, 11-2; Fikhter bt Cortas 11-8, 11-1

Semi-finals: James-Duff bt Ferro 11-9, 11-3; Fikhter bt Arie 11-4, 11-6

Final: V Fikhter (Manchester Y) bt A James-Duff (Winchester) 8-11, 11-4, 11-1

U16 Plate

Semi-finals: Jones bt Jarrold 11-8; Ritchie bt Mannion-Miles 11-3

Final: T Ritchie (St Paul's) bt H Jones (Stamford) 15-2

Bowl: A Shaw (Alleyn's) bt M Russell (Edinburgh Academy) 11-8

U16 Doubles

1st round: St Paul's 3 bt Edinburgh Academy 4 15-5; Alleyn's 3 bt Fettes 2 15-2; Winchester 3 bt Alleyn's 4 15-1

2nd round: Winchester 1 bt St Paul's 3 15-2; Tonbridge 1 bt St Paul's 4 15-4; Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 3 15-2; Stamford bt St Paul's 2 15-11; St Paul's 1 bt Alleyn's 3 15-0; Edinburgh Academy 2 bt Alleyn's 2 15-5; Winchester 2 bt Fettes 15-10; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Winchester 3 15-4

Quarter-finals: Winchester 1 bt Tonbridge 1 11-0, 11-5; Alleyn's 1 bt Stamford 11-6, 11-8; St Paul's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 2 11-9, 7-11, 11-4; Winchester 2 bt Edinburgh Academy 1 11-8, 11-5

Semi-finals: Winchester 1 bt Alleyn's 1 11-2, 11-2; St Paul's 1 bt Winchester 2 11-4, 5-11, 11-3

Final: Winchester 1 (A James-Duff & J Kennedy) bt St Paul's 1 (E Efthimiou & T Ritchie) 11-8, 11-4

Plate

Semi-finals: Fettes 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 4 11-5; St Paul's 3 bt Edinburgh Academy 3 11-5

Final: St Paul's 3 (N Cortas & D Curry) bt Fettes 1 (T Jarrold & J Toner) 15-8

U14 Singles

Group A: 1st W Henry (EdAc); 2nd L Carnegie (Win); 3rd M New (StP)

Group B: 1st S Negyal (All); 2nd M Mitchell (EdAc); 3rd A Ponte (StP)

Group C: 1st F Murray (EdAc); 2nd M Bogan (Stam); 3rd V Kurup (StP)

Group D: 1st R Puri (StP); 2nd A O'Bryne (All); M Hunter (Stam)

Group E: 1st F McAllister (All); 2nd F Brown (EdAc); 3rd J Hammond Giles (StP)

Group F: 1st W Stephens (Blun); 2nd J Taylor (EdAc); 3rd H Franks (Win)

Group G: 1st J Robertson (Mer); 2nd E Iacuzzi (All)

Group H: 1st L Clark (EdAc); 2nd A Jamieson (Mer); 3rd D Kalia (StP)

Group I: 1st R Kohashi-Khan (All); 2nd E Rockall (Ton); 3rd S Iyer (StP)

Group J: 1st B Mahoney-Muir (EdAc); 2nd A Rankin (Mer); 3rd K Salk (StP)

Group K: 1st T Zhang (Win); 2nd F Derry (EdAc); 3rd O Khanapurkar (StP)

Group L: 1st J Dunn (Mer) ; 2nd T Green (All); 3rd I Song (StP)

Group M: 1st W Gordon (Mer); 2nd H Fletcher (Marl); 3rd M Zhang (Win)

Group N: 1st A Bhalodia (StP); 2nd J Adams (Ton); 3rd H Foley (Mer)

1st round: Henry bt Negyal 15-0; Puri bt Murray 15-4; McAllister bt Rankin 15-4; Robertson bt Stephens 15-10; Kohashi-Khan bt Clark 15-4; Jamieson bt Mahoney-Muir 15-13; Dunn bt Zhang 15-6; Gordon bt Bhalodia 15-2

Quarter-finals: Henry bt Puri 15-3; Robertson bt McAllister 15-10; Kohashi-Khan bt Jamieson 15-3; Gordon bt Dunn 15-10

Semi-finals: Henry bt Robertson 15-2; Kohashi-Khan bt Gordon 15-7

Final: W Henry (Edinburgh Academy) bt R Kohashi-Khan (Alleyn's) 11-2, 11-3

1st Plate: J Taylor (Edinburgh Academy) bt H Foley (Merchiston) 15-2

2nd Plate: H Franks (Winchester) bt J Hammond Giles (St Paul's) 11-5

U14 Doubles

1st round: St Paul's 5 bt Stamford 3 15-7; St Paul's 2 bt Stamford 2 15-7; Edinburgh Academy 4 bt St Paul's 3 15-4; Alleyn's 3 bt St Paul's 1 15-12; Winchester 2 bt St Paul's 4 15-1

2nd round: Edinburgh Academy 1 bt St Paul's 5 15-1; Alleyn's 2 bt Tonbridge 1 15-5; Winchester 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 3 15-11; Merchiston 2 bt St Paul's 2 15-0; Merchiston 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 4 15-8; Edinburgh Academy 2 bt Alleyn's 3 15-4; Merchiston 3 bt Stamford 1 15-4; Alleyn's 1 bt Winchester 2 15-1

Quarter-finals: Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Alleyn's 2 15-2; Merchiston 2 bt Winchester 1 15-11; Merchiston 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 2 15-6; Alleyn's 1 bt Merchiston 3 15-7

Semi-finals: Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Merchiston 2 11-3, 11-4; Alleyn's 1 bt Merchiston 1 9-11, 11-2, 11-6

Final: Edinburgh Academy 1 (W Henry & F Murray) bt Alleyn's 1 (R Kohashi-Khan & F McAllister) 11-5, 5-11, 11-8

1st Plate: Edinburgh Academy 3 (F Brown & B Mahoney-Muir) bt Edinburgh Academy 4 15-4

2nd Plate: Alleyn's 3 (E Iacuzzi & A O'Bryne) bt St Paul's 1 15-9

Bowl: Merchiston 3 (A Jamieson & A Rankin) bt Winchester 1 15-4

SE Regional Girls' Championships

Christ's Hospital, Horsham

March 2024

26 players from three schools contested the annual SE Regional Girls' Fives Championships at Christ's Hospital. There were two age groups, U14 and U18, with singles and doubles at both levels. Players from Alleyn's dominated the main finals, while those from Eastbourne College enjoyed success in the Plate finals.

U18 Singles

Final: T-R Foo (Alleyn's) bt D Tiwari (Alleyn's) 11-5

Plate: D Dunkley (Eastbourne) bt I Steed (Eastbourne) 11-7

U18 Doubles

Final: A McAllister & D Tiwari (Alleyn's) w/o T-R Foo (Alleyn's) & A Williams (Eastbourne)

Plate: D Barrow & D Dunkley (Eastbourne 1) bt S Fellows & I Steed (Eastbourne 3)

U14 Singles

Final: A Ratto (Alleyn's) bt A Brown (Alleyn's)

Plate: K Eley (Alleyn's) bt I De Soyza (Alleyn's)

U14 Doubles

Final: K Eley & A Ratto (Alleyn's) bt A Brown & I De Soyza (Alleyn's)

Plate: E Garton & E Helm (Eastbourne 1) bt J Holgate & S McFarlane (Eastbourne 2)

Updated National Rankings

Rugby Fives Association

3rd March 2024

The RFA is pleased to publish updated rankings, with 237 players ranked in Singles and 213 in Doubles

In Singles the Top 10 remain unchanged with Ed Kay, Dan Tristao and Ben Beltrami occupying the top 3 places; Lewis Keates is the one new entrant, placed at #9. Other upward movers in the Top 20 are Isaac Weaver from #18 to #12 and Theo Parker from #17 to #14. It is good to see 2019 Schools Champion Taylor McGuire enter the rankings at #50 after a period away from the game.

In the Top 10 of the Doubles there are minor changes, but Dan Tristao maintains top ranking, while Tom Watkinson comes in at #8. In the Top 50 a major jump is made by Richie Murby — from 37 to 20. And, following in the footsteps of Louise Mathias, Shinan Zhang enters the Top 50 at #50 while National Women's Champion Camille Beattie rises from #119 to #58.

The full Rankings can be seen at <https://therfa.uk/rankings/>

Third Basque Rugby Fives Championship

San Ignazio Municipal Sports Centre, Bilbao,

27 March 2024

The RFA is delighted to report the latest in a series of competitions held in the Basque Country: the third Basque Rugby Fives Championship. The tournament was contested at the San Ignazio Municipal Sports Centre in Bilbao on 27th March, with six players participating. Early matches were decided by time, rather than by one player scoring a specific number of points.

After an initial knockout round, the subsequent games led to a final between Egoitz Campo and Alain Ibanez de Opakua, with the former emerging victorious. Not only was this his third win in the event, he remains the only person ever to win it. After the success of this event, a doubles tournament is planned for July or August.

Results:

1st round: Egoitz Campo bt Joseba Zubiaurre 8-0; Jan Dabi Romero bt Daniel Barrientos 7-5; Alain Ibañez de Opakua bt Jon Ander Gil 10-2

2nd round: Alain Ibañez de Opakua bt Jan Dabi Romero 10-1

Match for 4^o and 5 position: Joseba Zubiaurre bt Daniel Barrientos 12-8

Final: Egoitz Campo bt Alain Ibañez de Opakua 15-6

National Doubles Championship for the Cyriax Cup

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Saturday/Sunday, 6-7 April 2024

With 12 pairs competing for the Cyriax Cup organiser Hamish Buchanan opted for 4 groups of 3, leading to three competitions for the Cup, the Plate and the 'Alternative Plate'. Defending champions Kay & Tristao cruised through to the final, while Brooks & Watkinson upset expectations by beating last year's runners-up Beltrami & Parker in the semi-final. The final was predictably close and long, though it did not go to a third — Ed and Dan won in two straight games. The Plate involved a round robin culminating in a deciding final, the Alternative Plate a straight round robin.

Organiser Hamish Buchanan reports: Ed Kay and Dan Tristao retained the Cyriax Cup in an intense and close two-game final against Charlie Brooks and Tom Watkinson on the Alleyne's courts on Sunday morning. Both games lasted a shade over 40 minutes and both followed a similar pattern, with the challengers establishing a lead in the middle of each game only to be pegged back by the defending champions as they cut out the errors and exerted increasing pressure all the way to the title.

The ball was fast and the hitting from all four players was pretty relentless, with Tom Watkinson, in his first national final, particularly brutal in pounding the back wall looking for an unplayable nick.

The tournament began on Saturday with four groups of three teams, each team playing the others in the group best of three to 11. This format, with the winners of the groups going through to the semi-finals, the second places through to the main plate and the thirds playing for an 'alternative plate', kept everyone involved. The expected close encounter in group 2 between Aquilina & Tilston and Keates & Russell never really materialised, with the experience of the former pair one of the telling factors in a 7 and 5 win. The real close match in the groups was the second place decider in the top group, where the U18 Champions Hammond Giles & Ferro continued their recent fine form in beating the home court pairing Harrison & Scott in two close games 11-6, 12-10.

The first semi-final saw the defending champions smoothly cruising past Aquilina & Tilston 15-2, 15-6, whereas the other semi produced some real fireworks. With a very fast ball the hitting from Beltrami & Parker and Brooks & Watkinson reminded one of the finals between Buchanan & Perry and Bishop & Minta from 2007/8. Subtlety was not the order of the day as pace was answered with more pace, and the players often found themselves hurtling towards the front wall in an effort to catch up with a ball hit from front to back and forwards again like a pinball, all in under half a second. In the end the speed of footwork and exceptional retrieval skills of Brooks and Watkinson saw them through a very tense first game 15-11 and more comfortable second 15-5.

The group of four playing for the Plate was the toughest to predict and proved to be some of the hardest fought games on Saturday. Low & McCreath achieved a clean sweep in the group stage, which booked their place in the final and a chance to regain the plate they won two years previously. Hammond Giles & Ferro continued their fine form in dispatching the much more experienced and higher ranked Keates & Russell, but could not repeat the feat against Toop & Wiseman, who were beginning to find some form with a 15-3 win over the youngsters: a score that they repeated against Keates & Russell, which took them into the best of 3 final with Low & McCreath. There the latter pair started one game to the good as the result of the original group game was carried over. Unfazed by this deficit Toop & Wiseman took the attack to their opponents and squared the match with a 15-11 second game. The decider was impossible to predict, with the former plate winners showing the resilience that took them to the win two years ago over the same opponents, but Toop & Wiseman were not to be denied and eventually matched the second game score to take the Plate.

The Alternative Plate was won by AOBs Harrison and Scott in a truncated group playoff after sixth-formers Goodwin & Negyal were forced to retire after injury.

On Sunday morning the final began in a similar fashion to the second semi-final with a similarly fast ball and the ferocious hitting not allowing time for any player to develop a more tactical approach. The difference from the semi was that all four players retrieved superbly well. After initially falling behind the defending champions managed to create a few more unusual angles and open up the court, often carrying an attack forward with three, four or five shots pressuring the opposition before winning a rally. The second game could have been interrupted by what was later described as 'an explosion of poo' from Kay. Fortunately this was young Oscar Kay on the viewing gallery and not dad, Ed, who was on court and none the wiser as mum, Venetia, completed the necessary clean-up. The defending champions were under extreme pressure in the second game, with Brooks & Watkinson taking an 8-2 lead which they maintained to lead 12-7, but the champs were not done with this game and reeled off 4 winners to only one error, while the challengers managed only 2 winners versus 6 errors, thereby giving the win to Kay & Tristao 15-12. Concentration and experience in tight situations were probably the deciding factor in a very enjoyable final.

Scores

Group A

E Kay & D Tristao bt Ferro & Hammond Giles 11-2, 11-8; bt Harrison & Scott 11-3, 11-9

J Ferro & F Hammond Giles bt Harrison & Scott 11-6, 12-10; lost to Kay & Tristao 2-11, 8-11

P Harrison & S Scott lost to Kay & Tristao 3-11, 9-11; lost to Ferro & Hammond Giles 6-11, 10-12

Group B

J Aquilina & J Tilston bt Keates & Russell 11-7, 11-5; bt Garratt & Ion 11-1, 11-0
L Keates & S Russell by Garratt & Ion 11-1, 11-1; lost to Aquilina & Tilston 7-11, 5-11
J Garratt & S Ion lost to Aquilina & Tilston 1-11, 0-11; lost to Keates & Russell 1-11, 1-11

Group C

C Brooks & T Watkinson bt Low & McCreath 11-4, 11-6; bt Carr & Hanley 11-2, 11-0
C Low & A McCreath bt Carr & Hanley 11-5, 11-1; lost to Brooks & Watkinson 4-11, 6-11
E Carr & W Hanley lost to Brooks & Watkinson 2-11, 0-11; lost to Low & McCreath 5-11, 1-11

Group D

B Beltrami & T Parker bt Toop & Wiseman 11-8, 11-3; bt Goodwin & Negyal 11-1, 11-3
J Toop & G Wiseman bt Goodwin & Negyal 11-3, 11-1; lost to Beltrami & Parker 8-11, 3-11
AJ Goodwin & Y Negyal lost to Beltrami & Parker 1-11, 3-11; lost to Toop & Wiseman 3-11, 1-11

Semi-finals: Kay & Tristao bt Aquilina & Tilston 15-2, 15-6; Brooks & Watkinson bt Beltrami & Parker 15-11, 15-5

Final: Kay & Tristao bt Brooks & Watkinson 15-13, 15-12

1st Plate: Toop & Wiseman bt Low & McCreath 3-15, 15-11, 15-11

2nd Plate: 1st Harrison & Scott; 2nd Carr & Hanley; 3rd Garratt & Ion

RFA Rugby Fives Mixed Doubles

Alleyn's School, Dulwich; Sunday, 14th April 2024

For the informally dubbed RFA 'Equaliser' Mixed Doubles 9 pairs were selected by the organisers from the 18 competitors and groups were formed to play out a round robin. From these, two competitive semi-final matches emerged and in due course a final took place featuring Helena Tunks and her fellow Executioner, Toby Chan, playing against National U25 Women's Champion Zara Elliot and her partner from Alleyn's School, Yarin Negyal. Helena and Toby won in two straight games.

Scores

Group 1: 1st Helena Tunks & Toby Chan; 2nd Savanna Leboff & Nick Whitney; Sarah Alford & Wyman Chan; 4th Shinan Zhang & Adam Piekos; 5th Lisa Denderuk & Will Edmonds

Group 2: 1st Zara Elliot & Yarin Negyal; 2nd Lizzie Ware & Sarthak Garella; 3rd Abbie Evans & Patrick Harrison; 4th Viola King Forbes & Will Hanley

Semi-finals: Tunks & T Chan bt Ware & Garella 11-3, 12-10; Elliot & Negyal bt Leboff & Whitney 11-7, 11-5

Final: Tunks & T Chan bt Elliot & Negyal 11-5, 11-6

Plate: Abbie Evans & Patrick Harrison

National Veterans Championships

Marlborough College

Saturday/Sunday, 13-14 April 2024

A small but closely fought Singles competition was won by the defending champion, Dave Fox, this time beating Tim Hebblethwaite in the final. Tim had had a lengthy tussle with last year's runner-up, Jim Hughes, in his semi-final, having also played a tough first match against Sam Roberts. Sam went on to win the Plate competition, a highly competitive round robin.

The Doubles competition proved even more competitive, with a number of matches going to three games, in both the main competition and the Plate: Andy Pringle & Morgan Spillane got through to their semi-final with a 16-15 in the third game against Dave Fox & Sam Roberts, while their opponents in the final, John Minta & Marco Skogh, themselves had a 16-15 in their semi-final with Ed Brooke & Chris Jones. In the final Andy & Morgan managed to add the Veterans title to

their Vintage title, meaning also that Andy has now won the Veterans title 4 times since 2016 with three different partners. The Plate final was an epic too.

Scores

Singles

Quarter-finals: D Fox bt A Smith 11-1, 11-7; C Jones bt C Woods 11-2, 11-2; J Hughes bt N Geere 11-2, 11-8; T Hebblethwaite bt S Roberts 12-10, 12-10

Semi-finals: Fox bt Jones 15-8, 15-11; Hebblethwaite bt Hughes 7-15, 15-13, 15-0

Final: Fox bt Hebblethwaite 15-4, 15-11

Plate: 1st S Roberts 45 pts; 2nd C Woods 40 pts; 3rd N Geere 28 pts; 4th T Bury 22 pts

Doubles

1st round: J Birch & T Hebblethwaite bt R James-Duff & A Passey 15-9; J Hughes & C Thomas bt A Smith & C Woods 15-4; H Bishop & T Bury bt J Hawke & D Spiegel 15-3; N Geere & A Landon bt I Carpenter & S Watson 15-4

Quarter-finals: J Minta & M Skogh bt Birch & Hebblethwaite 11-1, 11-9; E Brooke & C Jones bt Hughes & Thomas 11-6, 10-12, 11-7; A Pringle & M Spillane bt Bishop & Bury 11-2, 11-5; D Fox & S Roberts bt Geere & Landon 11-1, 11-5

Semi-finals: Minta & Skogh bt Brooke & Jones 16-15, 15-12; Pringle & Spillane bt Fox & Roberts 15-13, 9-15, 16-15

Final: Pringle & Spillane bt Minta & Skogh 15-6, 15-11

Plate: Birch & Hebblethwaite bt Hughes & Thomas 1-11, 11-4, 11-9

2nd Plate: Bishop & Bury

National Masters and Grand Masters Doubles Championships

Marlborough College

Saturday, 13th April 2024

10 players competed across the two age categories, though this year we were unfortunately without Stuart Kirby, Brian Kirk, Martin Wilkinson and Spencer Beal, whose absence necessitated a change of partner for defending Masters champion Tony Hamilton. Peter Ross stepped into the breach, just as he had done last year when Phil Atkinson suffered a broken wrist while playing, and had the satisfaction of becoming champion himself, as he and Tony won a straight final against Neil Arnott and Mark Kiteley in emphatic style.

In the Grand Masters competition Bernard Atkinson and John East were delighted to return to defend their title and did so undefeated in a round robin consisting of 3 pairs. It was good to welcome Dave Hebden once more to this august gathering.

To guarantee a good day's Fives for all 5 pairs concerned, organiser Brian Kirk invented a competition, appropriately dubbed The Legends Plate, played out as a round robin with pairs randomly selected. From this series of matches John East and Mark Kiteley emerged as winners.

Masters Doubles (over 65s)

Final: T Hamilton & P Ross bt N Arnott & M Kiteley 11-3, 11-1

Grand Masters Doubles (over 75s)

1st B Atkinson & J East 30 pts; **2nd** B Boag & D Hebden 19 pts; **3rd** T Hillman & J Ogle 7 pts

Legends Plate

1st J East & M Kiteley 44 pts; **2nd** B Boag & T Hamilton 41 pts; **3rd** B Atkinson & P Ross 35 pts; **4th** N Arnott & D Hebden 33 pts; **5th** T Hillman & J Ogle 9pts

Club Knock-out Championship: Wood Cup

St Paul's School, Barnes

Saturday, 20th April 2024

The Old Paulines, first seeds and heavy favorites, duly retained the Wood Cup in a small but competitive field. Teams from the Executioners won their respective play-off matches once the two round robins were completed.

Report to follow

Group A

Old Paulines bt Executioners 1 107-74; bt West of England 121-36

Executioners 1 bt West of England 121-29

Group B

Edward Alleyn Club bt Derby Moor 110-59; bt Executioners 2 120-29

Derby Moor bt Executioners 2 113-66

Cup Final: Old Paulines bt Edward Alleyn Club 105-78

3rd/4th Place Match: Executioners 1 bt Derby Moor 90-41

5th/6th Plate Match: Executioners 2 bt West of England 49-38

Teams

Old Paulines: from Charlie Brooks, Theo Parker, Freddie Hammond Giles, Sam Roberts and Seb Ion

West of England: from Cameron Low, Rob Mason, Stephen Brooke, Angus Armour and Alex Hopkins

Executioners 1: from Penn Chai, Christian Blackaby, Terry McElvaney, Wyman Chan and Ben Hale

Executioners 2: from Toby Chan, Joe Garratt, Guy Davies, Shinan Zhang and Zara Elliot

Derby Moor: Lewis Keates, Anthony Goodwin, Richard Christie and Aaron Wheatley

Edward Alleyn Club: from Gwydion Wiseman, Tom Maconie, Inigo Ackland, Patrick Harrison, Ben Kirwan and Tim Hebblethwaite

National Schools Girls' Championships

Oundle School

Sunday, 21st April 2024

45 players from 9 schools enjoyed a very full day's Fives on the fast courts at Oundle School. The RFA's thanks go to the teachers, coaches, family and friends who accompanied the players and to the RFA President and the General Secretary, who supported the organiser, Alex Smith, in his task of running 16 competitions over the course of the day.

In the U18 Singles Jemima Mitchell from Blundell's, a year young, was the stand-out player of the age group, beating Annie Guo from Alleyn's in the final, after Annie had enjoyed, but also suffered, a strength-sapping victory over teammate Emily Erdmeier in her semi-final. Unsurprisingly the Blundell's pair of Mitchell & Talbot then met the Alleyn's pair of Erdmeier & Guo in the Doubles final, with Blundell's winning with reasonable ease. The Plate final was a nerve-racking contest between fellow Eastbourne players Daisy Barrow and Daisy Dunkley, the former winning 12-10. These two then lost the Doubles Plate final to Marlborough 1.

In the 10-strong U16 Singles Eleonora Vallascas from the City of Durham Club, also a year young, won the best game of the whole day, coming back from 2-9 to win 15-9 against a tiring Diva Tiwari in the final. The Plate final was a close all-Academy match of a high quality. The U16 Doubles gave Diva the satisfaction of winning Gold with her Alleyn's partner Annabel McAllister, while the City of Durham pair won Bronze in the Plate.

A large U14 competition was eventually dominated by players from Alleyn's and Stamford, with Alleyn's taking Gold and Bronze in both Singles and Doubles, and with Annabel Brown and Frieda Hebblethwaite the stand-out players in their age-group. In the largest competition, the U13s, Alleyn's, Berkhamsted and the Edinburgh Academy shared the spoils.

U18 Singles

Group A: 1st A Guo (Alleyn's); 2nd D Barrow (Eastbourne); 3rd D Dunkley (Eastbourne); 4th C Grader (Marlborough)

Group B: 1st E Erdmeier (Alleyn's); 2nd N Talbot (Blundell's); 3rd I Steed (Eastbourne)

Group C: 1st J Mitchell (Blundell's); 2nd P Fleming (Marlborough); 3rd S Fellows (Eastbourne)

1st round: Steed bt Grader 11-5; Fellows bt Talbot 11-6

Quarter-finals: Mitchell bt Steed 11-1; Fleming bt Barrow 11-7; Erdmeier bt Fellows 11-2; Guo bt Dunkley 11-2

Semi-finals: Mitchell bt Fleming 11-7; Guo bt Erdmeier 12-10

Final: J Mitchell (Blundell's) bt A Guo (Alleyn's) 15-4

Plate: D Barrow (Eastbourne) bt D Dunkley (Eastbourne) 12-10

U18 Doubles

Quarter-final: Marlborough 1 bt Eastbourne 2 11-1

Semi-finals: Blundell's 1 bt Marlborough 1 1-1; Alleyn's 1 bt Eastbourne 1 11-8

Final: Blundell's 1 (J Mitchell & N Talbot) bt Alleyn's 1 (E Erdmeier & A Guo) 15-7

Plate: Marlborough 1 (P Fleming & C Grader) bt Eastbourne 1 (D Barrow & D Dunkley) 11-8

U16 Singles

Group A: 1st A Hurwitz (Edinburgh Academy); 2nd S Wigley (Alleyn's); 3rd C Lonie (Edinburgh Academy)

Group B: 1st E Vallascas (City of Durham); 2nd A McAllister (Alleyn's); 3rd I Davidson (Edinburgh Academy)

Group C: 1st D Tiwari (Alleyn's); 2nd A Robertson (Edinburgh Academy); 3rd E Hodgson (City of Durham)

1st round: Davidson bt Hodgson 11-2

Quarter-finals: Tiwari bt Davidson 11-0; Wigley bt Robertson 11-2; McAllister bt Hurwitz 11-9; Vallascas bt Lonie 11-0

Semi-finals: Tiwari bt Wigley 11-4; Vallascas bt McAllister 11-5

Final: E Vallascas (City of Durham) bt D Tiwari (Alleyn's) 15-9

Plate: A Hurwitz (Edinburgh Academy) bt I Davidson (Edinburgh Academy) 11-7

U16 Doubles

Semi-finals: Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 2 11-2; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt City of Durham 12-10

Final: Alleyn's 1 (A McAllister & D Tiwari) bt Edinburgh Academy 1 (A Hurwitz & I Davidson) 15-9

Plate: City of Durham (E Hodgson & E Vallascas) bt Edinburgh Academy 2 (C Lonie & A Robertson) 11-5

U14 Singles

Group A: 1st F Hebblethwaite (Alleyn's); 2nd M McQuin (Edinburgh Academy); 3rd A Henwood (Eastbourne)

Group B: 1st S Dobson (Stamford); 2nd I de Soyza (Alleyn's); 3rd S McFarlane (Eastbourne)

Group C: 1st A Brown (Alleyn's); 2nd E Helm (Eastbourne); 3rd B Wienand (Stamford)

Group D: 1st I Derry (Edinburgh Academy); 2nd A Lewis (Eastbourne); 3rd K Eley (Alleyn's)

1st round: Helm bt de Soyza 12-11; McFarlane bt McQuin 12-11; Lewis bt Wienand 12-11; Eley bt Henwood 11-9

Quarter-finals: Dobson bt Helm 11-1; Hebblethwaite bt McFarlane 11-1; Derry bt Lewis 11-5; Brown bt Eley 11-1

Semi-finals: Dobson bt Hebblethwaite 11-9; Brown bt Derry 11-3

Final: A Brown (Alleyn's) bt S Dobson (Stamford) 15-3

Plate: K Eley (Alleyn's) bt E Helm (Eastbourne) 11-1

U14 Doubles

Quarter-finals: Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Eastbourne 2 11-2; Alleyn's 2 bt Eastbourne 1 1-0

Semi-finals: Stamford bt Edinburgh Academy 1 11-3; Alleyn's 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-0

Final: Alleyn's 1 (A Brown & F Hebblethwaite) bt Stamford (S Dobson & B Wienand) 15-2

Plate: Alleyn's 2 (I de Soyza & K Eley) bt Edinburgh Academy 1 (I Derry & M McQuin) 11-6

U13 Singles

Group A: 1st R Whitby (Berkhamsted); 2nd S Antonova (Alleyn's); C Smith (Edinburgh Academy); 4th E Dossa (Alleyn's)

Group B: 1st I Conde (Berkhamsted); 2nd I Lewis (Alleyn's); 3rd Z Armstrong (Edinburgh Academy); 4th E Butler (Alleyn's)

Group C: 1st F Dornan (Alleyn's); 2nd S Vallascas (City of Durham); 3rd D Fox (Edinburgh Academy)

Group D: 1st A Ratto (Alleyn's); 2nd S McWilliam (Edinburgh Academy); 3rd E Morris (Stamford)

1st round: McWilliam bt Armstrong 11-8; Dornan bt Butler; Vallascas bt Morris 11-3; Lewis bt Smith 11-5; Conde bt Dossa 11-0; Fox bt Antonova 12-11

Quarter-finals: Whitby bt McWilliam 11-6; Dornan bt Vallascas 11-9; Ratto bt Lewis 11-1; Conde bt Fox 11-0

Semi-finals: Whitby bt Dornan 11-1; Ratto bt Conde 11-5

Final: A Ratto (Alleyn's) bt R Whitby (Berkhamsted) 11-4

Plate: I Lewis (Alleyn's) bt Z Armstrong (Edinburgh Academy) 11-3

U13 Doubles

Quarter-finals: Edinburgh Academy 2 bt Alleyn's 2 11-3; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Stamford/Durham 11-3; Berkhamsted bt Alleyn's 3 11-3

Semi-finals: Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 2 11-2; Berkhamsted bt Edinburgh Academy 1 11-5

Final: Berkhamsted (I Conde & R Whitby) bt Alleyn's 1 (F Dornan & A Ratto) 15-7

Plate: Edinburgh Academy 1 (Armstrong & S McWilliam) bt Edinburgh Academy 2 (D Fox & C Smith) 11-5

Updated Women's Rankings

1st May 2024

The RFA is delighted to publish updated Women's Rankings, with a change at the top in Singles, where new Women's National Singles Champion Camille Beattie, from the City of Durham Fives Club, takes advantage of Louise Mathias's temporary absence from the game to claim the Number One spot, making Camille the fourth woman to hold this position after Louise, Tessa Mills and Kathleen Briedenhann. Women's National Doubles champion Helena Tunks moves up in the Doubles Rankings from #6 to #4 and Camille rises from #5 to #3, while Louise and Shinan Zhang maintain the top two slots. It is good to see former U18 Champion Phoebe Thornhill back in the higher reaches of both Singles and Doubles.

There are few significant changes in the top 20 of the Singles ranking, but two players enter: Zara Elliot, the new Women's U25 Champion, and Jemima Mitchell, the 2024 U18 Champion. Also, as a result of their performances in the recent Girls' National Championships more young players from Blundell's, Alleyn's and Eastbourne join the other U18s from the Edinburgh Academy and the City of Durham Club in the Top 40. In all 87 players are ranked in this category.

In the Doubles, only Clemmie Davidson enters the Top 20, but a number of players enter the Top 40: Abbie Evans from Oxford University, the U18 Doubles champions from Blundell's School, Jemima Mitchell and Natalia Talbot, plus Phoenix Fleming from Marlborough College and U16 National Champion Eleonora Vallascas from the City of Durham Club. Unable to play in the U18 championships, Rosa Ogilvie and her fellow players from the Academy remain solidly placed in the Top 20. In all 76 players are ranked in Doubles.

Women's Rankings Top 20 May 2024

SINGLES Top 20				DOUBLES Top 20			
<i>Current</i>	<i>December 2023</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>December 2023</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>
1	2	C Beattie	84.8	1	1	L Mathias	81.7
2	1	L Mathias	84.2	2	2	S Zhang	74.0
3	5	S Zhang	75.8	3	5	C Beattie	66.0
4	3	R Ogilvie	73.7	4	6	H Tunks	63.0
5	4	M Nugent	70.7	5	3	M Nugent	62.1
6	7	K Bell	64.5	6	4	S Leboff	59.2
7	6	I Wright	63.9	7	8	L Barton	54.5
8	10	H Tunks	62.1	8	7	R Ogilvie	54.4
9	8	O Smart	61.3	9	17	C Clark	52.1
10	9	I Lee	58.2	10	15	R McN Davis	50.5
11	18	L Barton	57.1	11=	11	I Wright	49.1
12	12	L Ware	56.2		9	O Smart	49.1
13	11	H Brown	54.7	13	10	K Bell	48.6
14	17	C Clark	52.5	14	13	L Ware	46.3
15	14	H Nugent	51.8	15	12	K Sumner	41.4
16	13	K Sumner	51.3	16	13	I Lee	39.3
17	-	Z Elliot	49.6	17	25	C Davidson	35.4
18	16	S Leboff	49.0	18	18	L Hogarth	34.9
19	15	M Raynor	48.0	19	16	M Raynor	33.1
20	-	J Mitchell	47.0	20	20	J McIntyre	30.7

The Scottish Open Championships 2024

Fettes College, Edinburgh
Saturday/Sunday, 4-5 May 2024

15 players contested the Singles and 18 the Doubles, with pairs composed as usual à la President's Cup. The event was played on the two courts at Fettes, where the organiser was still able to schedule the matches to finish comfortably in time for the customary post-match dining.

Defending champion Richie Murby sailed easily through to the final, dropping just 3 points in all. Second seed Andrew Boyd had much more challenging quarter-final and semi-final matches against Terry McElvaney and Ben Jourdan, and got off to a good start in the final, winning the first game 11-9. Richie then found his form, to win the second game to 1, which set up a top-class third game, which the champion took 11-9. In the Plate Terry McElvaney defeated Scottish Schools champion James Milburn, while two other early losers' competitions kept everyone very much involved.

The Doubles pairings, initially allocated to two groups, produced plenty of close games from which 4 pairs emerged to play out the semi-finals. Malcolm Borthwick & Enrique enjoyed victory in a close but energy-sapping battle with Ed Hodges & Terry McElvaney in theirs, but the win left them somewhat depleted in the final against Penn Chai & Max Khurnan. So new names on the magnificent trophy yet again. The Plate meanwhile went to Ewan Lee & Alex Benson.

Scores

Singles

1st round: R Murby bt J McIntyre 11-0, 11-0; R Brown bt N Groombridge Westacott 3-11, 11-9, 11-4; P Chai bt X Millar 11-0, 11-0; J Milburn bt E Hodges 11-0, 11-0; B Jourdan bt P Tamimi 11-0, 11-1; M Teo w/o M Reid; A Boyd bt A Hopkins 11-0, 11-4; T McElvaney bt H McFarlane 11-1, 11-5

Quarter-finals: Murby bt Brown 11-0, 11-0; Chai bt Milburn 11-5, 11-0; Jourdan bt Teo 11-0, 11-3; Boyd bt McElvaney 11-8, 11-2

Semi-finals: Murby bt Chai 11-2, 11-1; Boyd bt Jourdan 11-1, 11-6

Final: Murby bt Boyd 9-11, 11-1, 11-9

Plate: McElvaney bt Milburn 15-4

2nd Plate: Millar bt McFarlane 15-13

Doubles

Group A: 1st E Hodges & T McElvaney; 2nd P Chai & M Khurnan; 3rd A Benson & E Lee; 4th R Murby & C Shears

Group B: 1st A Hopkins & J Milburn; 2nd M Borthwick & EC Carbonell; 3rd N Groombridge Westacott & H McFarlane; 4th B Jourdan & J McIntyre; 5th M Cunningham & H Rintoul

Semi-finals: Chai & Khurnan bt Hopkins & Milburn 15-7; Borthwick & Carbonell bt Hodges & McElvaney 15-11

Final: Chai & Khurnan bt Borthwick & Carbonell 11-0, 11-4

Plate: Benson & Lee bt Cunningham & Rintoul 11-8, 11-4

Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles Championship

Winchester College

Sunday, 12th May 2024

New names on the Paula Smith Trophy: In the absence of last season's champions Louise Mathias & Ollie Arnold, Shinan Zhang, the organiser, and fellow Executioner Penn Chai paired up to defeat Derby Moor's Karen Hird & Lewis Keates in a long and hot day of closely contested Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles involving 9 pairs in all.

Results

Group A

1st Shinan Zhang & Penn Chai 45/45; **2nd** Helena Tunks & Steven Coffey 37/45; **3rd** Emily Scoones & Abhishek Battacharya 26/45; **4th** Maddi Gibbons & Chris Davey 14/45

Group B

1st Karen Hird & Lewis Keates 60/60; **2nd** Phoebe Thornhill & Toby Chan 45/60; **3rd** Julie McIntyre & Sebastian Ion 37/60; **4th** Lisa Denderuk & Patrick Harrison 41/60; **5th** Claire Richards & Quentin Hoad 29 /60

Semi-finals: Zhang & Chai bt Thornhill & Chan 11-1, 11-0; Hird & Keates bt Tunks & Coffey 11-9, 11-1

Final: Shinan Zhang & Penn Chai bt Karen Hird & Lewis Keates 15-11, 15-6

3rd/4th Place: Helena Tunks & Steven Coffey bt Phoebe Thornhill & Toby Chan 11-2, 11-3

Plate: **1st** Emily Scoones & Abhishek Bhattacharya 60/60; **2nd** Lisa Denderuk & Patrick Harrison 52/60

National Vintage Championships

Cambridge University Sports Centre

Sunday, 19th May 2024

Bob Dolby reports: On a warm day on the superb Cambridge courts, with the traditional smallish entry for the Singles it was possible to play the morning matches at a comfortable pace with no need for a shot clock on the services! The scores show that matches were of a comparable standard but do not necessarily indicate the closeness of all contests in their initial and middle stages. The Singles final most certainly hinged on a dour struggle for points round the 7, 8, 9 points stage, after two similarly tough semi-finals had sapped their eventual winners' strength. We must pay tribute to Dave Fox for his second season boasting an impressive double: twice Vintage and Veterans champion no less.

Organiser Brian Kirk likes to give the doubles players value for money, so the six pairs duly played out their round robin matches, then semi-finals, a final, a best-of-three Plate final and eventually a 3rd Place play-off. As the matches wore on defending champions Pringle & Spillane looked increasingly invincible, with Andy's service minimising the chance of points against, and no need for switching to take advantage of Morgan's ferocious left hand. So there too we have a double for the winners to be proud of: Vintage and Veterans Doubles champions 2024.

Our thanks to all the players for their good humour, their commitment, their generosity of spirit. Sorry about the aching limbs.

Singles

1st round: D Fox bt M Kiteley 15-6; M Spillane bt I Jackson 15-8; A Pringle bt R Christie 15-7; S Roberts bt N Geere 15-7

Semi-finals: Fox bt Spillane 15-9; Pringle bt Roberts 15-6

Final: Fox bt Pringle 15-11

Plate: 1st Jackson 30 pts; 2nd Christie 24 pts; 3rd Geere 17 pts

Doubles

Group A

Fox & Roberts bt Geere & Hamilton 15-8; bt Kirk & Kiteley 15-6

Geere & Hamilton bt Kirk & Kiteley 15-5

Group B

Pringle & Spillane bt Jackson & Mathieu 15-1; bt Christie & Stubbs 15-1

Jackson & Mathieu bt Christie & Stubbs 15-9

Semi-finals: Fox & Roberts bt Jackson & Mathieu 15-12; Pringle & Spillane bt Geere & Hamilton 15-3

Final: Pringle & Spillane bt Fox & Roberts 15-3

Plate: Christie & Stubbs bt Kirk & Kiteley 11-3, 11-4

3rd Place Play-off: Jackson & Mathieu bt Geere & Hamilton 15-8

Ladies Winchester Fives Championships

Bradfield College

Sunday, 2nd June 2024

STOP PRESS It was a repeat of 2022, with Shinan Zhang winning the Singles, having earlier paired up with her opponent Helena Tunks to win the Doubles — for the second time in both cases. Rachel Wood and Freya Butler achieved an impressive treble, Rachel winning the Singles and Doubles Plate, the latter with Freya, and Freya winning the Challenger Singles Cup.

Maddy Raynor reports: This year the Ladies Winchester Fives championships were held on a lovely sunny day at Bradfield College. The day started off with the Doubles competition, with 5 pairs entered. All pairs played each other 1 game to 15 in a round robin format. The first matches on court were Shinan Zhang & Helena Tunks taking on Phoebe Thornhill & Lisa Denderuk, whilst on the other court Maddy Raynor & Phoenix Fleming played Rachel Wood & Freya Butler.

Shinan and Helena showed their experience on the courts and playing together to dominate their doubles games in the round robin to comfortably reach the final, where they met Maddy and Phoenix. In the first game Shinan and Helena showed their strong partnership and experience on a Winchester Fives Court and took advantage of Maddy and Phoenix's unfamiliarity of playing together to win 11-2; however, in the second game Maddy and Phoenix fought back and started to gain the edge. There were some fantastic long rallies, where you would see a great 'winning' shot, only to have it amazingly returned by the opposition, with both sides fighting for everything and using the buttress. It was all to play for; however, it was Shinan and Helena who triumphed, winning the game 15-11. Huge congratulations should go to Phoenix for some fantastic shots and holding her own on the court; she is still at school and I can't wait to see her future in Fives, which looks very exciting.

The Doubles Plate Final saw a domination from Rachel Wood & Freya Butler — both players had got ‘into their stride’ and worked very well as a team. They beat Serin Hartopp & Emily Palmer 11-0. Serin and Emily put up a good fight, but the experience of Rachel and Freya playing doubles showed. Then Rachel & Freya played Phoebe Thornhill & Lisa Denderuk and managed to reverse the result from their round robin match to win 11-1 (in the round robin Phoebe & Lisa had beaten Rachel & Freya 15-10).

Once the Doubles competition was over there was no rest for the wicked, as it was straight back on court and into the Singles championship knockout and the new competition, The Ladies Winchester Fives Challenger Cup.

The first round of the Singles knockout saw Phoebe and Phoenix take to the court. Theirs was a good game, though Phoebe’s greater experience on a Winchester fives court showed as she took the game 15-2. On the other court Rachel and Maddy battled it out, and a battle it was proving to be, with the score ever slowly moving forward; it seemed to go on and on, but eventually it was Maddy who prevailed, managing to befriend the buttress with a final effort to take the game 15-11.

The semi-finals saw a battle-wounded Maddy take on Helena. Again both players fought for every point, but Helena showed the greater strength and skill to win 11-5, 11-6. On the other court, Shinan beat Phoebe 15-2, 15-4 (a slight miscommunication happened here, where the players were too keen — the semi-final was meant to be best of 3 games to 11!). There were some great rallies, but it was Shinan’s experience that once again prevailed as she headed to the final.

The Singles Final saw a repeat of 2022. There were some fantastic rallies that had all the spectators on the edge of their feet (I would say seats, but we were all standing to see). Shinan managed to gain the edge and used the buttress to her advantage, which forced Helena’s to second-guess Shinan’s movements and shots. After some great play it was Shinan who was victorious, winning 11-2, 11-4.

The Ladies Challenger Competition was a great success, with all the challenger competitors gaining in confidence and some really competitive games of fives. In 1st place was Freya Butler, an Eton Fives player, turning her hand to play Winchester Fives and proving her skills in being able to use the buttress to her advantage. In 2nd Place was Serin Hartopp, who learnt to play Fives at Blundell’s School, but was unable to continue to play once she left. She has just started to play again after some years. Lisa Denderuk came in 3rd, originally a squash player, who played in the Mixed Winchester in May for her first time on a Fives court. Emily Palmer and Leonie Brown did really well, as they have only just started to learn Fives (and on a squash court), so it was a big bold step to compete, yet they managed to hold their own and produced some fantastic rallies. All ladies seemed to enjoy the day and were interested in future competitions.

A comment from one of the challenger participants: “I’ve very much enjoyed playing my games, but the thing I’ve loved most is watching the ladies playing in the championship. I’m wowed by the shots — it’s memorising.”

A huge thank you must go to Jeremy Ball and Bradfield College for allowing us the use of their wonderful courts. A great day was had by all and I am already excited for next year’s event and the future of ladies Fives.

Scores

Singles

1st round: Phoebe Thornhill bt Phoenix Fleming 15-2; Maddy Raynor bt Rachel Wood 15-1

Semi-finals: Shinan Zhang bt Phoebe Thornhill 15-2, 15-4; Helena Tunks bt Maddy Raynor 11-5, 11-6

Final: Zhang bt Tunks 11-2, 11-4

Plate: Wood bt Fleming 11-3, 11-0

Doubles

Group: 1st Helena Tunks & Shinan Zhang 60 pts; 2nd Phoenix Fleming & Maddy Raynor 49 pts; 3rd Lisa Denderuk & Phoebe Thornhill 41 pts; 4th Freya Butler & Rachel Wood 36 pts; 5th Serin Hartopp & Emily Palmer 15 pts.

Final: Tunks & Zhang bt Fleming & Raynor 15-2, 15-11

Plate: 1st Butler & Wood; 2nd Denderuk & Thornhill; 3rd Hartopp & Palmer

Challenger Singles

1st Freya Butler 44 pts; 2nd Serin Hartopp 39 pts; 3rd Lisa Denderuk 27 pts; 4th Emily Palmer 16 pts; 5th Leonie Brown 4 pts

Rugby Fives National Open Mixed Doubles

Cambridge University
Saturday, 15th June 2024

STOP PRESS 9 pairs contested the Rugby Fives National Open Mixed Doubles Championship on the courts at the Cambridge University Sports Centre. After group matches were completed semi-finals were played, from which Shinan Zhang & Penn Chai emerged to play Camille Beattie & Theo Parker in the final, which Shinan & Penn won. Meanwhile a 5-pair Plate was contested, from which Martha Nugent & Patrick Harrison emerged victorious.

It is worthy of note that Shinan has this season done a Grand Slam of the Doubles championships, winning the Rugby Fives Women's Doubles and the Winchester Fives Women's Doubles, both with Helena Tunks, combined with the Rugby Fives Mixed Doubles and the Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles, both with Penn Chai.

Scores

Group A: 1st Helena Tunks & Ben Beltrami 88 pts; 2nd Zara Elliot & Gwydion Wiseman 71 pts; 3rd Martha Nugent & Patrick Harrison 70 pts; 4th Savanna Leboff & Lewis Keates 60 pts; 5th Freya Butler & Robert Menhart 28 pts

Group B: 1st Camille Beattie & Theo Parker 61 pts; 2nd Shinan Zhang & Penn Chai 55 pts; 3rd Emily Scoones & Freddie Hammond Giles 45 pts; 4th Lizzie Ware & Ben Yass 13 pts

Semi-finals: Zhang & Chai bt Tunks & Beltrami 16-15, 15-9; Beattie & Parker bt Elliot & Wiseman 14-16, 15-5, 15-11

Final: Zhang & Chai bt Beattie & Parker 15-6, 15-9

Plate: Nugent & Harrison bt Ware & Yass 15-10

Derby Moor Invitation Doubles

Derby Moor Academy, Littleover; Sunday, 30th June 2024

Bob Dolby reports: 28 competitors, club members, friends, family, supporters, the President, the General Secretary gathered as is traditional on the last Sunday of June for the 20th playing of the Invitation Doubles on the courts at Derby Moor Academy.

Players came from Durham, Manchester, Winchester, Bedford and Reims to pair up with local players as organised by Lewis Keates and Brian Kirk. The result was a fiercely contested main draw with play of exceptional intensity and games of considerable length, while Plate competitions were also staged as the day drew on.

The main draw saw an unusual number of lengthy three-gamers, all of them involving Kristians Davins & Oscar McIntyre, who deserved their eventual win if not merely for their sheer stamina. For both it was their first time of winning. Unfortunately time ran out for a third-place play-off between Karen Hird & Rob Whitehorn and Anthony Goodwin & Ricky Zhou. It was a delight to see two top school players, Ricky and JP, come up from Winchester to play, as well as two National U16 champions, Val and Eleonora from Manchester and Durham respectively. Val made the final with the hard-hitting Bally Singh, while Eleonora won the third place play-off in the Plate with fellow Durham Club member Dan Swinbank. It was also a pleasure to host Chris Woods and his son Jacob, maintaining the long-standing friendship between the Derby Moor Club and the Manchester Y Club.

Our thanks go to the drivers and supporters of travelling players; to Stuart Kirby for the catering and — with two new knees! — setting such a fine example of commitment to the game; to Brian for running scoresheets and timings; and to Lewis for his unremitting work in communications and promotion of the event.

Scores

1st round: JP Cheng & Lewis Keates bt Adam Hicks & Jacob Woods 15-2; Val Fikhter & Bally Singh bt Dan Swinbank & Eleonora Vallascas 15-3; Karen Hird & Rob Whitehorn bt Stuart Kirby & Dylan Wright 15-7; Brian Kirk & Jeremy Stubbs bt Tony Hicks & Mark Kiteley 15-7; Kristians Davins & Oscar McIntyre bt Max Staryk & Zach Winson Gates 15-2; Richard Christie & Aaron Wheatley bt Chris Woods & Callum Yates 15-4

Quarter finals: Fikhter & Singh bt Cheng & Keates 11-6, 11-7; Hird & Whitehorn bt Kirk & Stubbs 11-2, 11-3; Davins & McIntyre bt Christie & Wheatley 5-11, 11-9, 11-5; Anthony Goodwin & Ricky Zhou bt Hodges & Greaves 15-1

Semi-finals: Fikter & Singh bt Hird & Whitehorn 15-7, 15-11; Davins & McIntyre bt Goodwin & Zhou 15-9, 15-16, 15-12

Final: Davins & McIntyre bt Fikhter & Singh 9-15, 15-13, 15-3

Plate: Woods & Yates bt Kirby & Wright 11-4, 11-3

3rd Place Play-off: Swinbank & Vallascas bt T Hicks & Kiteley 15-8

2nd Round Losers' Plate: Cheng & Keates

End of Season National Rankings

The Rugby Fives Association

26th June 2024

National Rankings comprising 240 players in Singles and 226 in Doubles are now out, with thanks to Will Ellison and Charlie Brooks. At the top Ed Kay has risen from #2 to #1 in Singles since the end of last season, and Dan Tristao similarly in Doubles.

There are several players who have made upward progress in the Top 20 Singles in the course of this season: new National Singles Champion Ben Beltrami (#3), Tom Watkinson (#5) Richie Murby (#7), Lewis Keates (#9), Sam Russell (#10), U25 Champion Isaac Weaver (#11), Theo Parker (#13), Oscar McIntyre (#16), Universities Champion Marcus Cloke Browne (#18) and James Tilston (#19). Other significant rises in the higher reaches see Oxford Nr 1 Shiloh Wu at #27, Scottish Schools Champion James Milburn at #28, and SE Challenger winner Emrys Thursfield at #30.

In Doubles there are several modifications in the Top 10: Ed Kay rises to #2, Charlie Brooks to #3, Ben Beltrami to #4, Theo Parker to #5 and Tom Watkinson to #7. Elsewhere Emrys Thursfield at #19 and Richie Murby at #20 demonstrate significant progress this season, while a number of other regular club players also reap the benefit of good performances in ranking events: among them Stuart Scott, Anthony Goodwin, Penn Chai, Teddy Monro-Davies, Enrique Castillo Carbonell, Richard Christie, Aiden Whitham and Shiloh Wu in the Top 50, and including the impressive Shinan Zhang at #48.

Rankings can be viewed at <https://therfa.uk/rankings/>

End-of-Season Women's Rankings

August 2024

We are delighted to publish End-of-Season Women's Rankings for 2023-2024, as kindly compiled by Chris Burrows. They incorporate performance in events staged since the National Schools Girls' Championships in April, principally the Ladies' Winchester Fives Singles and Doubles Championships at Bradfield College in June.

There is little movement in the Top 20 of the Singles Rankings. Helena Tunks moves up from #8 to #6, Maddy Raynor from #19 to #17, and Phoebe Thornhill enters at #20.

The same applies in the Doubles where Helena, Maddy and Phoebe make similar progress. Phoenix Fleming enters the Top 20 at #19.

For **full rankings**, incorporating 87 entries in Singles and 80 in Doubles, please click [here](#).

Women's Rankings Top 20 August 2024

SINGLES Top 20				DOUBLES Top 20				
<i>Current</i>	<i>May 2024</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>		<i>Current</i>	<i>May 2024</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>
1	1	C Beattie	83.8		1	1	L Mathias	81.7
2	2	L Mathias	83.2		2	2	S Zhang	74.0
3	3	S Zhang	7.92		3	4	H Tunks	66.0
4	4	R Ogilvie	72.7		4	3	C Beattie	63.0
5	5	M Nugent	69.7		5	5	M Nugent	62.1
6	8	H Tunks	66.4		6	6	S Leboff	59.2
7	6	K Bell	63.5		7	7	L Barton	54.5
8	7	I Wright	62.1		8	8	R Ogilvie	54.4
9	9	O Smart	60.3		9	9	C Clark	52.1
10	10	I Lee	56.8		10	10	R McN Davis	50.5
11	11	L Barton	56.1		11	11	O Smart	49.1
12	12	L Ware	55.2		12	11	I Wright	49.1
13	13	H Brown	53.7		13	13	K Bell	48.6
14	14	C Clark	51.5		14	14	L Ware	46.3
15	15	H Nugent	50.8		15	19	M Raynor	41.4
16	16	K Sumner	50.0		16	15	K Sumner	39.3
17	19	M Raynor	49.8		17	16	I Lee	35.4
18	18	S Leboff	48.0		18	22	P Thornhill	34.9
19	17	Z Elliot	47.9		19	24	P Fleming	33.1
20	26	P Thornhill	45.4		20	17	C Davison	30.7

The London League 2023-2024

August 2024

Full results of the first season of the newly inaugurated London League can now be found on this website [here](#)

A League was run in the 1990s but lasted for just a couple of seasons. This season, spearheaded by Shinan Zhang and Penn Chai, it has been reconstituted with four Clubs entering teams to play each other home-and-away -- the Edward Alleyn Club and the Executioners who play in South London and the Stoke Newington Swifts and the UCS Club in North London.

With 12 matches played over a period of 9 months the programme has now been completed, and the Edward Alleyn Club has emerged top of the standings, with a record of 6 wins from 6 matches. The Executioners came second with 4 wins from 6, while the Swifts and UCS shared 3rd place with 1 win each.

The League will continue next season in its present format, as agreed between team captains depending on court numbers, players available and time. The standard 4-a-side, singles and doubles, has been the most commonly seen, but there have been 6-a-side matches and even a 3-a-side at UCS, who have just the one court. Here three singles have preceded three doubles, which, as RFA Club Manager Hamish Buchanan writes, "... makes for an interesting dynamic and there is not too much time spent off court. The main aim is to play some competitive Fives and have fun, possibly with a beer afterwards, and the team with the most match wins tops the League."

End of Season 2023-2024

2023-24 RESULTS ROUND-UP

Full details of these events can be found on www.therfa.uk

SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: O.Arnold & E.Kay

SOUTH EAST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: B.Callaghan & A.Goodwin

CHALLENGER SINGLES Christ's Hospital 8/2023

E.Thursfield

YORKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Singles: T.Watkinson

Doubles: T.Parker & T.Watkinson

OWERS TROPHY 2023

Old Derby Moor

LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Singles: T.Watkinson

Doubles: C.Brooks & D.Tristao

THE LADY'S CUP 2023

Not played

WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Singles: D.Tristao

Doubles: B.Beltrami & D.Tristao

DURHAM LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Singles: C.Beattie

Doubles: C.Beattie & I.Wright

NATIONAL STUDENTS' (BUSF) CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Singles: M.Cloke Browne (Cambridge)

Doubles: S.Scott & I.Weaver (Durham)

SCHOOLS WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

Not played

CHALLENGER SINGLES Barnes 12/2023

C.Blackaby

NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

B.Beltrami

RFA PRESIDENT'S CUP 2023

L.Keates & R.Seddon

WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

U18 Singles: F.Hammond Giles (St Paul's School)

U18 Doubles: St Paul's School (J.Ferro & F.Hammond Giles)

U16 Singles: A.James-Duff (Winchester College)

U16 Doubles: Winchester College (A.James-Duff & J.Kennedy)

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Singles: C.Beattie

Doubles: H.Tunks & S.Zhang

NATIONAL U25 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Singles: I.Weaver

Doubles: C.Low & A.McCreath

NORTHERN SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

U18 Singles: C.Beattie (City of Durham)

U18 Doubles: City of Durham (C.Beattie & L.Hogarth)

U16 Singles: E.Vallascas (City of Durham)

U16 Doubles: Sedbergh School (F.Diez Amitriain & T.Follett)

SOUTH EAST SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

U18 Singles: C.Lacewing (Christ's Hospital)

U18 Doubles: Tonbridge School (L.Saunders-Aroma & O.Woolf)

U16 Singles: O.Carroll (Tonbridge School)

U16 Doubles: Tonbridge School (O.Carroll & D.Radia)

MIDLANDS SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

U18 Singles: A.Noble (Rugby School)

U18 Doubles: Rugby School (W.Milne & A.Noble)

U15 Singles: H.Jones (Stamford School)

U15 Doubles: Rugby School (H.Skailes & H.Turner-Linke)

NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Singles: B.Beltrami

Doubles: B.Beltrami & C.Brooks

CHALLENGER SINGLES Rugby School 2/2024

G.Wiseman

THE VARSITY MATCH 2024

Men's: Oxford

Women's: Oxford

WOMEN'S U25 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Singles: Z.Elliot

Doubles: L.Barton & Z.Elliot

NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Singles: D.Tristao

Doubles: B.Beltrami & T.Watkinson

WINCHESTER FIVES OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

B.Beltrami & T.Parker

COLQUHOUN TROPHY 2024

U18 Singles: A.Cloke Browne (Winchester College)

U16 Singles: P.Mannion-Miles (Winchester College)

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

U18 Singles: J.Milburn (Fettes College)

U18 Doubles: Edinburgh Academy (R.Brown & A.Springford)

U16 Doubles: Edinburgh Academy (T.Jarrold & J.Toner)

SOUTH EAST SCHOOLS GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

U18 Singles: T-R Foo (Alleyn's School)

U18 Doubles: Alleyn's School (A.McAllister & D.Tiwari)

U14 Singles: A.Ratto (Alleyn's School)

U14 Doubles: Alleyn's School (K.Eley & A.Ratto)

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

U18 Singles: F.Hammond Giles (St Paul's School)

U18 Doubles: St Paul's School (J.Ferro & F.Hammond Giles)

U16 Singles: V.Fikhter (Manchester Y Club)

U16 Doubles: Winchester College (A.James-Duff & J.Kennedy)

U14 Singles: W.Henry (Edinburgh Academy)

U14 Doubles: Edinburgh Academy (W.Henry & F.Murray)

U13 Singles: J.Dunn (Merchiston Castle School)

U13 Doubles: Merchiston Castle School (J.Dunn & W.Gordon)

NATIONAL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

U18 Singles: J.Mitchell (Blundell's School)

U18 Doubles: Blundell's School (J.Mitchell & N.Talbot)

U16 Singles: E.Vallascas (City of Durham Club)

U16 Doubles: Alleyn's School (A.McAllister & D.Tiwari)

U14 Singles: A.Brown (Alleyn's School)

U14 Doubles: Alleyn's School (A.Brown & F.Hebblethwaite)

U13 Singles: A.Ratto (Alleyn's School)

U13 Doubles: Berkhamsted School (I.Conde & R.Whitby)

NATIONAL SCHOOLS MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

U18: postponed

U15: postponed

NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 (Cyriax Cup)

E.Kay & D.Tristao

RFA EQUALISER MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

H.Tunks & T.Chan

NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Singles: D.Fox

Doubles: A.Pringle & M.Spillane

NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Singles: D.Fox

Doubles: A.Pringle & M.Spillane

NATIONAL MASTERS' DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

A.Hamilton & P.Ross

NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS' DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

B.Atkinson & J.East

NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT 2024 (Wood Cup)

Old Paulines

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Singles: R.Murby

Doubles: P.Chai & M.Khurnan

WINCHESTER FIVES MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

S.Zhang & P.Chai

WOMEN'S WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Singles: S.Zhang

Doubles: H.Tunks & S.Zhang

NATIONAL OPEN MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

S.Zhang & P.Chai

DERBY MOOR INVITATION DOUBLES 2024

Kristians Davins & Oscar McIntyre

LONDON LEAGUE

Edward Alleyn Club