

Results and Reports from the RFA Website 2025-2026

p. 2	South West Open Championships	Blundell's	July 2025
p. 4	South East Open Championships	Horsham	August 2025
	4th Basque Doubles Championship	Bilbao	July 2025
p. 5	Yorkshire Open Championships	Derby	September 2025
p. 6	Refurbishment of courts at St Andrew's	Eastbourne	September 2025
	London Open Championships	Alleyn's	October 2025
p. 8	Women's Scottish Open	Edinburg Acad.	October 2025
p. 9	Challenger Singles	Rugby	October 2025
	Men's U25 Championships	Barnes	October 2025
p. 10	Women's U25 Championships	Barnes	October 2025
p. 11	West of England Championships	Sherborne	October 2025
p. 12	2 nd Lake Kezar Challenge	Lake Kezar	October 2025
	Owers Trophy	Stoke Newington	November 2025
p. 13	Draw for the National Singles		November 2025
	Durham Ladies' Championships	Durham	November 2025
p. 14	Schools Winchester Fives Doubles	Winchester	November 2025
p. 15	National Singles Finals	Cambridge	November 2025
p. 17	RFA President's Cup	Winchester	December 2025
p. 18	Updated National Singles Rankings		December 2025
p. 19	Jesters Tour to Edinburgh	Edinburgh	January 2026
	West of England Schools	Sherborne	January 2026
p. 21	Inaugural 112 Tournament	Alleyn's	January 2026
p. 22	How the new Rankings are calculated		January 2026
	BUSF	Cambridge	January 2026
p. 23	North West Open Championships	Manchester	January 2026
	3rd Bizkaia Rugby Fives Championship	Bilbao	December 2025
p. 24	National Women's Championships	Cambridge	February 2026
	Midlands Schools Regionals	Oundle	February 2026
p. 25	South East Schools Regionals	Tonbridge	February 2026
p. 26	Cambridge and Oxford Past versus Present	Cambridge/Barnes	February 2026
p. 27	Varsity Match 2026	Barnes	February 2026
	Northern Schools Regionals	Durham	February 2026
p. 28	South East Girls' Regionals	Horsham	February 2026
	North of England Open	Durham	March 2026
p. 29	Colquhoun Trophy	Marlborough	March 2026
p. 30	Updated National Rankings		March 2026
	National U13 Championships	Barnes	March 2026
p. 31	National Schoolgirls' Championships	Oundle	March 2026
p. 33	National Winchester Fives Doubles	Sedbergh	March 2026
	Club Knock-out: Wood Cup	Barnes/Alleyn's	March 2026
p. 34	National Schools Championships	Barnes	March 2026
p. 37	Scottish Schools U18/U16 Championships	Edinburgh	March 2026
p. 39	National Doubles: Cyriax Cup	Alleyn's	April 2026
p. 41	Challenger Singles	Alleyn's	April 2026
	National Veterans	Marlborough	April 2026
	National Masters and Grand Masters	Marlborough	April 2026
p. 42	Scottish Open Championships	Fettes	May 2026
	5 th Basque Doubles 2026	Bilbao	April 2026
p. 43	Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles	Bradfield	May 2026
	National Vintage Championships	Cambridge	May 2026
p. 44	End-of-Season National Rankings		May 2026
p. 45	Updated Women's Rankings		May 2026
	National Rugby Fives Open Mixed Doubles	Alleyn's	June 2026
	Women's Winchester Fives Championships	Malvern	June 2026
p. 46	Steve Ashton		June 2026
p. 48	Derby Moor Invitation Doubles	Derby Moor	June 2026

See below for reports from the RFA website pp. 2-48. See pp. 48-52 for a round-up of event winners during the season.

South West Open Championships 2025

Blundell's School, Tiverton,

Saturday/Sunday, 12-13 July 2025

Stop Press Three in a row for Ed Kay in the Singles and also in the Doubles, partnering Ben Beltrami — their second together. Several three-gamers in a high-quality Doubles competition.

Wayne Enstone reports: The 2025 Championships were played in possibly the hottest conditions ever, with my car thermometer showing 28 degrees at 9.25 am. All credit to the players for producing many fine performances throughout the weekend. With train cancellations and hold-ups on the motorway we did have a rather later start than scheduled — hence the last match of the day finishing at 8.15 pm.

The Singles started the championships. The first contest of the day was a three-game match, Nick Geere winning that against Shinan Zhang and having then to play Ed Kay! That was followed by the other 3-gamer, with Theo Vernacchio taking the first game 12-10 against Dan Grant. Unfortunately the next two games, whilst hard fought, were won by Dan's dominant shot-making, wonderful to watch. In the lower half of the draw Penn Chai and Dwight Murdoc blasted the ball around the court, with Penn winning in two very entertaining games. In the quarter-finals, Ollie Arnold, who has been in Australia for the past two years but showed no sign in his previous match against Archie McCreath of having not played for a while, made too many errors in his next match against Ed Kay to get close to beating the in-form first seed. The closest quarter-final was between Dan Grant and Lewis Keates, seeded four. Dan had been there in the past, so it was no surprise that, when he turned on the magic, he won their brilliant match 11-8 in both games. In the lower half of the draw Julian Aquilina kept Penn Chai under pressure, which resulted in Penn rushing his shot choices and losing both games in their match. Ben Beltrami did the same with Cameron Low, showing wonderful court coverage in winning in straight games. Despite their loss both Penn and Cameron are certainly improving, and it was a great experience for them to get to play at that level.

In the semi-finals Dan's first game against Ed was very closely contested with Ed under pressure many times; however, Ed's ability to adapt during rallies and his superb movement around the court enabled him to win that game and then dominate the second game, winning through to the final. Ben and Julian met in last year's semi, and unfortunately for Julian, whilst his game has certainly improved, Ben again was able to produce that extra special power shot or short shot to again make it through to the final. That concluded Singles play for the day and lined up the final between Ed and Ben for the Sunday once more.

While the Singles rounds took place the Doubles matches were interspersed among them. As with the Singles there was an upset of the seeding in the quarter-finals, Ollie Arnold & Lewis Keates beating Cameron Low & Archie McCreath in three hard fought games. That set the scene for two semi-finals that produced fireworks, both going to three games. In the lower half of the draw Julian Aquilina & Penn Chai won the first game convincingly; however, Charlie Brooks & Dan Grant were very determined not to allow the second game to go the same way and reversed the score just as comprehensively. In the third game they sustained their level of performance and battled through for a place in the final. Ben Beltrami & Ed Kay similarly lost the first game against Ollie Arnold & Lewis Keates; however, as defending champions Ben and Ed showed their resilience and brilliance and battled back in the second to level at one game each. It was 7.45 pm by that time and the organiser had to leave to explain to the Nawab restaurant in Tiverton that four of the group would be late for the meal. The third game, according to the players, was as one-sided as the score suggests, remarkably won to love by Ben and Ed. The final was set to be played after the Singles on Sunday morning.

As usual, the Plate competitions took place alongside the main competition. The Singles was a straight knockout, with Archie McCreath eventually playing Theo Vernacchio in the final. Theo played ever so well; understandably, though, he looked rather tired by that time of the day and Archie just had that extra energy to win 15-8. A great match to watch. In the Doubles it was decided to organise a round robin between the five pairs. That round robin was won by the Bristol pairing of Angus Armour & Rob Mason, whose victory over fellow West of England Club players Sammy Dansie & Peter Grant 11-9 showed how closely contested it was. As usual the Plate prizes of two Gin and Tonic Glasses, from Devon glassmakers Dartington, were presented to the winners.

Sunday's finals were played again in high temperatures, 27 degrees at 10 am. The Singles final started procedures, Ed taking a 4-1 lead and showing his usual high energy of movement around the court, often returning what looked like winning shots from Ben. Ben's excellent shots eventually paid off and at 4-3 he was certainly back in the game. Ed

continued to miraculously return Ben's brilliant power shots and get to his front court shots, so slowly, with several changes of serve, he moved to 9-3. Ben did rally and at 10-5 very much remained in the game, and it was only after three changes of serve that Ed won the first game 11-5. In the second game Ben looked even more determined to level up the match and went 2-1 up. After numerous changes of serve and wonderful attack and defence by both players Ed managed to head the game 4-3 and, remarkably, at that point did not serve again, winning 11-3. Some of the play was breathtaking and certainly a pleasure to witness. Ed's footwork was exemplary and his ability to recover from what looks like a losing position in rallies is what made the difference in this final. Ben certainly played well enough to win on another occasion and I look forward to seeing the season's future results.

In the Doubles final, Charlie Brooks & Dan Grant had won this event three times each previously with Will Ellison as a partner, so would this be number four together or would this be Ben & Ed's third win in a row? In the first game, after many changes of serve, Ben and Ed moved to an 8-0 lead, and it was only at this stage that Charlie and Dan won their first point and managed another at game-ball down. Unfortunately, as well as Charlie and Dan played, Ben and Ed did look superior and won the first game 11-2. In the second game, Charlie and Dan looked far more dangerous and adventurous and moved into a 3-2 lead, only to have Ben and Ed then go up 6-3. Unlike in the first game Charlie and Dan produced the shots to win numerous rallies and from 9-6 down came back to level the game 9-all. This game at this point could really have gone to either pair; however, Ben and Ed managed to get on top in the last few rallies, win 11-9, and notch up their third South West Doubles title in a row. A fantastic end to this year's Championships.

At the same time as the finals, the Fun Doubles was taking place. Four pairs competed in a round robin, with a scoring system of winning a point on every rally. At the conclusion it was decided by the players that, although Harry & Gus Rackham won it on points-won over Dwight Schultz & Chris Blakeley, the two pairs would have a final game to 15 with normal scoring, which Dwight and Chris won in the true spirit of 'Fun'.

It is worth emphasising what makes Fives so special as once again throughout the weekend, considering the pressure players put on each other in their efforts to win matches, all players maintained the spirit and wonderful standard of fairness we have in this fantastic game of Fives — all credit to them.

Presentation of Trophies followed, with Ed Kay doing the 'Double' again, his fifth Singles and Ben & Ed's third Doubles in a row. Thanks as always went to all the players for supporting the Championships and to Lesley Enstone for her continued and highly valued help with catering and refreshments.

Singles

1st round: N Geere bt S Zhang 12-11, 7-11, 11-0

2nd round: E Kay bt Geere 11-3, 11-0; O Arnold bt A McCreath 11-2, 11-1; D Grant bt T Vernacchio 10-12, 11-2, 11-3; L Keates bt M Raynor 11-0, 11-4; J Aquilina bt H Rackham 11-2, 11-1; P Chai bt D Murdoc 11-7, 11-5; C Low bt K Wiseman 11-0, 11-0; B Beltrami bt J Savery 11-1, 11-5

Quarter-finals: Kay bt Arnold 11-0, 11-1; Grant bt Keates 11-8, 11-8; Aquilina bt Chai 11-2, 11-5; Beltrami bt Low 11-7, 11-1

Semi-finals: Kay bt Grant 11-8, 11-2; Beltrami bt Aquilina 11-3, 11-4

Final: Kay bt Beltrami 11-5, 11-3

Plate: McCreath bt Vernacchio 15-8

Doubles

1st round: K Kennerley & T Vernacchio bt N Geere & A Smith 11-9, 11-2; O Arnold & L Keates bt Armour & Mason 11-0, 11-0; C Low & A McCreath bt H Rackham & D Wiseman 11-5, 11-1; D Schultz & J Savery bt Dansie & P Grant 11-4, 11-4; M Raynor & S Zhang bt C Blakeley & K Wiseman 12-10, 11-2

Quarter-finals: B Beltrami & E Kay bt Kennerley & Vernacchio 11-2, 11-0; O Arnold & Keates bt Low & McCreath 11-4, 6-11, 11-6; J Aquilina & P Chai bt Murdoc & Savery 11-2-11-0; C Brooks & D Grant bt Raynor & Zhang 11-4, 11-1

Semi-finals: Beltrami & Kay bt Arnold & Keates 6-11, 11-7, 11-0; Brooks & Grant bt Aquilina & Chai 6-11, 11-3, 11-7

Final: Beltrami & Kay bt Brooks & Grant 11-2, 11-9

Plate: 1st Armour & Mason 33 pts; 2nd Dansie & Grant 31 pts; 3rd Geere & Smith 16 pts; 4th Blakeley & Rackham 14 pts

American Doubles: Blakeley & Schultz bt Rackham & Rackham 15-10

South East Open 2025

Christ's Hospital, Horsham

Saturday, 16th August 2025

Stop Press Ed Kay wins his 5th SE Singles title; Rupert Mathieu wins his 2nd SE Doubles title; and Emrys Thursfield wins his 2nd Challenger Singles title.

Ed Hatton reports: A dedicated group of some regular and some new competitors gathered at Christ's Hospital to contest the EJP Hatton claret jug and the Christ's Hospital Cup.

In the Singles group stages Ed Kay and Penn Chai proved their accuracy, mettle and energy conservation abilities with smooth progress and very few points dropped. Charlie Lacewing made similarly secure progress to the semis – harder fought was Theo Vernacchio's progress with impressive and narrow wins.

Penn and Ed made comfortable progress to the final despite the valiant efforts of their opponents. It was there that Penn really pushed on the accelerator and in the first game made every point count. Ed's accuracy eventually squeezed this one out 11-7, with a more comfortable win in the second game. He thus becomes the first man to defend the Singles title twice in a row.

A very tight Challenger tournament was then held. Despite some queries as to the organiser's insistence that points scored would be the primary determiner, Emrys Thursfield deservedly edged out the win on both games and on points scored, despite tough competition from Ed Carr and John Keyes.

The Doubles was the now traditional giant round-robin – the fairest and most satisfying way to adjudicate! Games were played to 11 so as to manage encroaching fatigue, and the arrival of Helena Tunks, Tim Hebblethwaite, Savanna Leboff and Rupert Mathieu over the horizon brought a welcome infusion of energy. Again the priority was on points scored but this also ended up correlating with games won. Particular highlights were the indefatigable energy and accuracy of Mathieu, some very well contested matches between, for example, Lacewing & Ord and Vernacchio & Leboff and the former versus Tunks and Hebblethwaite. Chai & Mathieu took a very solid and deserved gold medal, with Carr & Keyes and Thursfield & Hatton fighting hard for silver and bronze respectively.

Singles

Group A: 1st E Kay 45 pts; 2nd T Vernacchio 31 pts; 3rd E Thursfield 29 pts; 4th E Carr 17 pts

Group B: 1st P Chai 45 pts; 2nd C Lacewing 31 pts; 3rd J Keyes 21 pts; 4th M Ord 3 pts

Semi-finals: Chai bt Vernacchio 11-1, 11-4; Kay bt Lacewing 11-0, 11-2

Final: Kay bt Chai 11-7, 11-2

Challenger: 1st E Thursfield 33 pts; 2nd E Carr 30 pts; 3rd J Keyes 29 pts; 4th M Ord 13 pts

Doubles

Round Robin: 1st P Chai & R Mathieu 55 pts; 2nd bt E Carr & J Keyes 49 pts; 3rd E Hatton & E Thursfield 43 pts; 4th T Hebblethwaite & H Tunks 37 pts; 5th C Lacewing & M Ord 28 pts; 6th S Leboff & T Vernacchio 25 pts

4th Basque Rugby Fives Doubles Championship (2025)

On July 30th, the Basque Association of Beach Tennis and Minority Sports organised the fourth Rugby Fives Doubles championship on the squash court of the San Ignazio municipal sports centre in Bilbao. There were six players and the three evenly balanced pairs played a round-robin format, with single games to 15 (one going to 17-15)

Results

Joseba Fernández/Lander Campo bt Joseba Zubiaurre/Jon Proaño 15-12

Egoitz Campo/Daniel Barrientos bt Joseba Fernández/Lander Campo 15-6

Egoitz Campo/Daniel Barrientos bt Joseba Zubiaurre/Jon Proaño 17-15

Champions: Egoitz Campo and Daniel Barrientos

2nd: Joseba Fernández and Lander Campo

3rd: Joseba Zubiaurre and Jon Proaño

The Yorkshire Open 2025

Derby Moor Academy, Littleover

Saturday/Sunday, 6-7 September 2025

A small entry for the Singles, no three-gamers but a very intense series of matches played with the new Spanish ball. It was good to welcome Ed Kay to Derby in his quest for a third Singles title in a row and also to see the unorthodox skills and high tempo of play from Oxford University's Ander Iraizoz, which Anthony Goodwin found difficult to counter in their match. Oscar McIntyre and Simon Beattie renewed their long-standing rivalry, to Oscar's advantage; Richard Christie demonstrated, as ever, his extraordinary persistence; and Ed Kay and Lewis Keates staged a display of ferocious low hitting in the final, with Lewis serving consistently into the nick and Ed wrong-footing Lewis with body serves and explosive drives direct into the back wall. The physical effort involved was palpable. Thus Ed added this Singles title to his previous two this season at the South West Open and the South East.

In the 7-man Plate there were three winners of Challenger tournaments, so it was no surprise to see Emrys Thursfield, Simon Beattie and Anthony Goodwin contending for the honour, with the final, decisive match of the day bringing Anthony victory, his greater experience and steadier defence prompting too many unforced errors from Simon. The comfortable-looking score of 11-2 did not do justice to the quality of the match.

With the defending champions from last season unable to contest the title and no other previous winning pair entering there was the prospect of fresh names on the Doubles trophy this weekend, with Goodwin & Keates seeded to meet either Beattie & McIntyre or Butler & Guthrie in the final. The latter two pairs did indeed meet in the semi-final and it proved the closest contest of the day, except for the all-Derby Moor clash in the Plate final. By the time Dave & Richard beat Simon & Oscar they were clearly not in a fit enough state, though, to cope with the hard-hitting that Anthony & Lewis subjected them to, in a fairly brief final. It was not Lewis's first regional title but it was the first time he and Anthony had won Gold together. Similarly it was the first time that Zach Winson Yates & Dylan Wright had paired up to win a Plate. Our thanks go to John Hawke for hosting and catering for the players, to Lewis for running the tournament and updating the draws on *tournify*, and to the Derby Moor Academy for the use of their courts to perpetuate the championships in the absence of viable courts in Yorkshire. And to our new ball supplier in Spain whose stitched balls prompted a favourable response among the players.

Singles

1st round: R Christie bt D Swinbank 11-3, 11-8; A Iraizoz bt Z Winson Yates 11-1, 11-0; E Thursfield bt M Ord 11-3, 11-0

Quarter-finals: E Kay bt Christie 11-1, 11-0; O McIntyre bt S Beattie 11-8, 11-7; Iraizoz bt An Goodwin 11-2, 11-7; L Keates bt Thursfield 11-2, 11-9

Semi-finals: Kay bt McIntyre 11-2, 11-1; Keates bt Iraizoz 11-3, 11-2

Final: Kay bt Keates 11-2, 11-5

Plate: 1st Goodwin 18 pts; 2nd Beattie 15 pts; 3rd Thursfield 9 pts; 4th Christie 9 pts; 5th Swinbank 6 points; 6th Ord 6 pts; 7th Winson Yates

Doubles

Quarter-finals: R Christie & D Swinbank bt Z Winson Yates & D Wright 15-3, 15-4; D Butler & R Guthrie bt S Kirby & B Kirk 15-3, 15-11; S Beattie & O McIntyre bt D Bazyljiski & C Willbourne 15-1, 15-0

Semi-finals: An Goodwin & L Keates bt Christie & Swinbank 15-3, 15-7; Butler & Guthrie bt Beattie & McIntyre 15-12, 15-13

Final: Goodwin & Keates bt Butler & Guthrie 15-0, 15-3

Third Place: Beattie & McIntyre bt Christie & Swinbank 11-3, 11-7

Plate: Winson Yates & Wright bt Kirby & Kirk 11-12, 11-4, 11-8

Refurbishment of courts at St Andrew's Prep School

St Andrew's Prep School, Eastbourne

27th September 2025

Andy Pringle reports: The Fives court at St Andrew's School in Eastbourne was officially reopened last weekend as part of the celebrations for Old Androvian Day. After a speech by current headmaster Tom Gregory, the ribbon on the court (originally built in 1891, we believe) was cut by former headmaster Gareth Jones, who was at the school when work on the court was started. Then, in front of a crowd of current and former pupils, an exhibition match was staged by Simon Beal, Andy Pringle, James Holman-Dine and Adam de Belder. The first three went to both St Andrew's and Eastbourne College, while Adam (who learned the game at Denstone) plays with the Eastbourne Club.

The match was the end of a long, and occasionally frustrating period for the school, which first refurbished the court almost 10 years ago. However, what soon became clear was that the court was far too long, especially for the young children who would use it, so the decision was taken to install a glass back wall. This would have the twin benefits of shortening the length of the court and allowing any coach and/or spectators to be indoors. However, due to a combination of circumstances – including Covid-19 and some issues with the original contractors – the work was only finished earlier this year.

It was worth the wait, though, and the court is now in really good shape. The glass back wall fits perfectly, the bounce is excellent and the court is well lit and nicely painted too. Adults would certainly find the court rather small – the front wall in particular is much lower than usual – but it's ideal for the young children who will be using the court. There's also a commitment from St Andrew's to grow the game, and the RFA understands that teachers from Eastbourne College, along with a couple of members of the Eastbourne Club, will regularly help with coaching. The aim is to send some children from St Andrews to the U13 championships this season and, in due course, feed Fives-playing kids into Eastbourne College.

All in all, it's more good news for the game on the south coast, especially as Eastbourne College also refurbished its courts over the summer.

London Open Championships 2025

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Saturday/Sunday, 4-5 October 2025

Stop Press A Singles tournament heavily dominated by Paulines past and present, with all four semi-finalists from the Old Paulines and the winner of the Plate also. Ed Kay continued his remarkable run of tournament wins, clocking up his fourth regional Singles title in a row at the expense of Dan Tristao. It was Ed's fourth time of winning this title. Ollie Arnold, returned now from a stint overseas, won the Plate.

10 pairs contested a high-quality Doubles competition, which produced several three-gamers, particularly in the later stages. At the end of a long day Dan Tristao & Charlie Brooks successfully defended their title, making it a hat-trick for them. It was Charlie's 4th time, having won previously with Tom Dean, and the 9th time for Dan, who had already won 6 times with Will Ellison. Lewis Keates & James Tilston fought off a strong challenge from Penn Chai & Terry McElvaney to win the Plate in a 4-pair round robin.

Organiser Penn Chai reports: An exceptional quality field assembled at Alleyn's School for this year's London Open, featuring several of the country's leading players and a number of new faces. The tournament also saw the debut of the *London Open Anthem*, setting the tone for an enjoyable and competitive weekend of Fives.

Singles: The singles draw was particularly strong, with defending champion and current national No. 1 Ed Kay, eight-time National Champion Dan Tristao, six-time National Champion James Toop, two-time National Schools Champion Freddie Hammond Giles, and a number of promising younger players all taking part.

One of the most challenging paths to the title belonged to Ben Beltrami, whose route potentially included Toop, Hammond Giles, Tristao and Kay. Beltrami impressed throughout, notably defeating Toop in a high-quality game before losing to Tristao in three sets in the semi-final.

In the other half of the draw, Kay overcame Julian Aquilina in straight games in the semi-final, setting up a much-anticipated final between the top two seeds. As expected, the final produced play of the highest quality, with both players

demonstrating remarkable shot-making and athleticism. After two tightly contested games, Kay retained his title 11–7, 11–8, winning his third consecutive London Open Singles title and his fourth overall.

Among the earlier rounds, Theo Vernacchio and Peter Hanton contested a close three-setter, as did James Tilston and Gwydion Wiseman, while Penn Chai and Ollie Arnold met in a well-fought “battle of the left-handers”.

The Plate competition was particularly strong this year, with Arnold, Wiseman, and Terry McElvaney among the front-runners. Arnold, returning to the circuit after two years overseas, improved with each match and ultimately secured the Plate with a 15–4 win over Wiseman in the final.

Doubles: Ten pairs contested a high-standard doubles tournament, with several matches going to three games. The event ran closely to seeding in the early rounds, though not without incident — including a notable injury withdrawal after a particularly powerful quarter-final performance.

The semi-finals both went to three games. Ben Beltrami & Dan Grant defeated Ed Kay & Theo Parker after an impressive display of attacking play, while defending champions Dan Tristao & Charlie Brooks came from a set down to beat Julian Aquilina & Ollie Arnold.

The final was a fitting conclusion to an excellent weekend. Beltrami & Grant took the opening game 11–9 before Tristao & Brooks levelled 11–5. The deciding game ebbed and flowed, but the defending champions showed their experience under pressure, producing key winners at 9–8 to take the match 9–11, 11–5, 11–9 and retain their title.

This win marked a hat-trick of London Open doubles titles for Tristao & Brooks, the fourth for Brooks (including one with Tom Dean) and the ninth for Tristao, six of those alongside Will Ellison.

The Doubles Plate was played as a four-pair round robin, with Lewis Keates & James Tilston emerging victorious after a close 15–13 win against Penn Chai & Terry McElvaney in the deciding match.

Scores

Singles

1st round: P Harrison bt M Ord 11-0, 11-3; E Thursfield bt A Irastorza-Fadrique 11-4, 11-2; T Vernacchio bt P Hanton 11-9, 4-11, 11-7; J Toop bt E Carr 11-3, 11-4; T McElvaney bt N Cortas 11-4, 12-10; N Geere bt J Garratt 11-6, 11-3

2nd round: E Kay bt Harrison 11-2, 11-2; J Tilston bt G Wiseman 7-11, 11-8, 12-11; L Keates bt Thursfield 11-6, 11-7; J Aquilina bt Vernacchio 11-0, 11-0; B Beltrami bt Toop 11-7, 11-7; F Hammond Giles bt McElvaney 11-5, 11-1; P Chai bt O Arnold 11-6, 11-9; D Tristao bt Geere 11-2, 11-2

Quarter-finals: Kay bt Tilston 11-0, 11-2; Aquilina bt Keates 11-7, 11-3; Beltrami bt Hammond Giles 11-6, 11-2; Tristao bt Chai 11-0, 11-2

Semi-finals: Kay bt Aquilina 11-0, 11-7; Tristao bt Beltrami 11-5, 10-12, 11-7

Final: Kay bt Tristao 11-7, 11-8

Plate Semi-finals: Wiseman bt Vernacchio 15-5; Arnold bt McElvaney 15-7

Plate Final: Arnold bt Wiseman 15-4

Doubles

1st round: J Ferro & F Hammond Giles bt E Carr & P Harrison 11-2, 11-5; P Chai & T McElvaney bt J Birch & T Hebblethwaite 11-7, 11-3

Quarter-finals: C Brooks & D Tristao bt Ferro & Hammond Giles 11-2, 11-3; J Aquilina & O Arnold bt L Keates & J Tilston 9-11, 11-7, 11-2; B Beltrami & D Grant bt J Toop & G Wiseman 0-11, 11-6, 11-5; E Kay & T Parker bt Chai & McElvaney 11-8, 11-5

Semi-finals: Brooks & Tristao bt Aquilina & Arnold 10-12, 11-4, 11-3; Kay & Parker bt Beltrami & Grant bt Kay & Parker 11-5, 4-11, 11-4

Final: Brooks & Tristao bt Beltrami & Grant 9-11, 11-5, 11-9

Plate: 1st Keates & Tilston W3; 2nd Chai & McElvaney W2; 3rd Carr & Harrison W1; 4th Birch & Hebblethwaite

Scottish Women's Open Championships 2025

The Edinburgh Academy, Edinburgh

Sunday, 5th October 2025

Organiser Louise Mathias reports: The inaugural Women's Scottish Open has started the Women's Fives calendar year off with a bang! With 16 players from Scotland and Durham, it was an action-packed day of both Singles and Doubles competitions, all with brand new shiny silverware to be won.

The Singles started with some great first round matches. Charlotte Smith managed to hold off Evelyn Terry in two tight sets, winning 11-8, 11-8 to make the quarter-finals. Grace Playfair also had a strong start against Faye Smart, taking the win to put her through to play Eleonora Vallasas in the quarters, where despite some strong hitting, she lost 11-1, 11-0. Eleonora was now up against Amelie Hurwitz in the semi-finals. With both players finding the depth of the court, it was Eleonora who, maintaining a strong left-hand, came through 11-4, 11-1 to reach the final.

On the other side of the draw, Julie McIntyre showed her experience in winning both her first round match against Daisy Fox and her quarter-final against Sofia McWilliam with some great rallies, going through to meet Louise Mathias in the semi-final. Despite Julie's best efforts, Louise came away with the win to play Eleonora in the final. A first time for them to play each other and, with some great rallies not fully represented in the score, Louise came away with the win 11-0, 11-0.

Meanwhile, in the Singles Plate, two round robin groups were tightly fought. Faye Smart and Sofia Vallasas both proved the dominant players, coming top of their groups to meet each other in the final. Here it was Sofia who managed to return everything Faye shot at her, winning her first open Singles Plate.

On to the Doubles, where, just as we thought we'd not yet had a match go to three sets, Grace Playfair & Isla Derry made a strong comeback from 8-11 down in the first to win the next two games 11-7, 11-8 against Durham pair Emily Hodgson & Evelyn Terry. After this they met Louise Mathias & Eleonora Vallasas, who, set on making it to their second final of the day, took the win 11-0, 11-0. The other semi-final saw a close first game between Amelie Hurwitz & Isabella Davidson and Zoe Armstrong & Charlotte Smith but, after a short break, Amelie & Isabella didn't waste time in confirming the win. In the final, Louise Mathias & Eleonora Vallasas proved the stronger pair, finishing the day as doubles champions with a 11-0, 11-2 win.

The Doubles Plate, ongoing on the court next door, took the format of another round robin. Here Faye Smart & Julie McIntyre came out on top to earn themselves the first names on the new Doubles Plate trophy.

A fantastic day of Women's Fives all round to start an exciting season to come.

Singles

1st round: Zoe Armstrong bt Sofia Vallasas 11-1, 11-9; Sofia McWilliam bt Emily Hodgson 11-7, 11-0; Julie McIntyre bt Daisy Fox 11-0, 11-2; Amelie Hurwitz bt Florence Byng 11-1, 11-0; Charlotte Smith bt Evelyn Terry 11-8, 11-8; Grace Playfair bt Faye Smart 11-3, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Louise Mathias bt Armstrong 11-1, 11-0; McIntyre bt McWilliam 11-7, 11-4; Hurwitz bt Smith 11-2, 11-0; Eleonora Vallasas bt Playfair 11-1, 11-0

Semi-finals: Mathias bt McIntyre 11-0, 11-0; Vallasas bt Hurwitz 11-4, 11-1

Final: Mathias bt Vallasas 11-0, 11-0

Plate Group A: 1st Faye Smart 22 pts; 2nd Evelyn Terry 14 pts; 3rd Florence Byng 4 pts

Plate Group B: 1st Sofia Vallasas 22 pts; 2nd Daisy Fox 17 pts; 3rd Emily Hodgson 4 pts

Plate final: Vallasas bt Smart 15-2

Doubles

Quarter-finals: Louise Mathias & Eleonora Vallasas bt Daisy Fox & Sofia McWilliam 11-0, 11-0;

Isla Derry & Grace Playfair bt Emily Hodgson & Evelyn Terry 8-11, 11-7, 11-8; Zoe Armstrong & Charlotte Smith bt Julie McIntyre & Faye Smart 11-3, 11-3; Isabella Davidson & Amelie Hurwitz bt Florence Byng & Sofia Vallasas 11-1, 11-2

Semi-finals: Mathias & Vallasas bt Derry & Playfair 11-0, 11-0; Davidson & Hurwitz bt Armstrong & Smith 11-6, 11-0

Final: Mathias & Vallasas bt Davidson & Hurwitz 11-0, 11-2

Plate: 1st McIntyre & Smart 45 pts; 2nd Fox & McWilliam 33 pts; 3rd Byng & Vallasas 26 pts; 4th Hodgson & Terry 23 pts

Challenger Singles 10/2025

Rugby School

Saturday, 11th October 2025

Stop Press Executioner Terry McElvaney won his second Challenger event at the expense of Derby Moor's Anthony Goodwin. Rugby schoolboy Vincent Barnes won the Plate against Nick Geere. The Bowl for quarter-final losers went to Dwight Schultz.

Chris Blakeley reports: We had a busy day of Fives at Rugby with a strong entry of 14 players, including 3 school coaches, and 5 schoolboy players (3 from Rugby, and one each from Winchester and UCS) and 8 ranked players, who were seeded in the first round, with the top two seeds (Terry McElvaney and Emrys Thursfield) receiving a bye.

The first round (one game to 15) produced only one surprise, with the experienced Nick Geere going down to the Arthur James-Duff from Winchester. What was expected was a very tight set between Giles Munn, currently not ranked after a prolonged absence from the courts, and Dwight (Murdoc) Schultz. This proved to be the case, and although Giles came out the winner 15-11, it had been agreed beforehand that whoever lost that match would go into the Bowl, not the Plate, and that the organiser would play in the Plate! The quarter-finals produced relatively straightforward wins for the expected top 4 seeds. In the semi-finals, Terry McElvaney proved too powerful for Theo Vernacchio, but there was a titanic battle for the other final place, with the first two sets being very tightly fought, Emrys winning the first 11-8 and Anthony, seemingly on the verge of defeat, just squeaking the second 12-10. At which point we began to wonder whether there would be time for a break before the final, but the last set went quickly to Anthony 11-1 as Emrys ran out of steam. The final was a repeat of last year's, with the same result. Despite only having about a 25-minute break between the semi and the final (we all had to be out by 6pm) Anthony showed great resilience in an entertaining match with Terry, who ran out the winner 11-6, 11-7.

Due to a twisted ankle for one local schoolboy player and later afternoon commitments of another, the Plate didn't complete all its matches, but it was clear from the results that the best player was Rugby's Vinny Barnes with three good wins, and in the Bowl similarly we were denied the rematch between Dwight and Giles when the latter developed a muscle strain, but, as with the Plate, it was clear that Dwight was the deserved winner of the medal. My thanks to Ben Lane and Rugby School for hosting us (and providing refreshments) and to those players who made long journeys from the SW and from Winchester to compete.

Scores

1st round: B Lane bt C Rollo 15-4; G Munn bt D Schultz 15-11; T Vernacchio bt A Laver 15-2; An Goodwin bt V Barnes 15-4; A James-Duff bt N Geere 15-5; JP Cheng bt J Noble 15-0

Quarter-finals: T McElvaney bt Lane 15-1; Vernacchio bt Munn 15-6; Goodwin bt James-Duff 15-3; E Thursfield bt Cheng 15-7

Semi-finals: McElvaney bt Vernacchio 11-3, 11-3; Goodwin bt Thursfield 8-11, 12-10, 11-1

Final: McElvaney bt Goodwin 11-6, 11-7

Plate Barnes bt Geere 15-13

Bowl: Schultz

Men's National U25 Championships 2025

St Paul's School, Barnes

Saturday/Sunday, 17-18 October 2025

Bob Dolby reports: In a slightly smaller entry than in previous years there was no lack of hard-fought contests, even a surprise or two.

In the Singles Joe Sumner had his traditional strength-sapping three-gamer, this year with Jeremy Hughes, which ended 16-15 to Joe; Theo Vernacchio had a morale-boosting victory over fellow Bristolian Cameron Low; and Patrick Harrison upset the seeding by beating Yarin Negyal. Gwydion Wiseman and defending champion Freddie Hammond Giles eventually met in a final where the score gives very little idea of the intensity and excitement of a match where deft dabs

were as decisive as full-blooded drives and front-wall smashes, with Freddie ultimately edging more of the rallies than his opponent and thus successfully defending the title he won last year for the first time. Yarin Negyal dominated a five-man Plate, winning all of his matches, and Cameron Low demonstrated his true quality in winning the Bowl for quarter-final losers.

6 pairs contested the Doubles. With Archie McCreath no longer eligible, a new winning combination was guaranteed. With all pairs either unfamiliar with each other or not having played together since their schooldays and every player striking the ball ferociously round all four walls we had more lets than the proverbial hot dinners. That notwithstanding, Marcus Cloke Browne & Freddie Kottler produced some cantabrigian magic to overcome Bristol's Jeremy Hughes & Alex Upton in the Plate; and Cameron Low "played a blinder" (thus the GenSec), ably backed up by Theo Vernacchio, to beat Stuart Scott & Gwydion Wiseman in the main final. It was a good day for Alleyn Old Boys: Theo's first title in a senior tournament, Gwydion and Stuart Scott's 3 Silvers between them, and Yarin's Plate. And a day to be proud of for Bristol University's resurgent Fives Club, too.

Warmest thanks go to Chris Blakeley for his support of the tournament over the two days, and to the outgoing organiser Joe Sumner, who has played in these championships every year since 2016, when he was a young schoolboy at Bedford Modern, and has run the event these past several years. A hard act to follow for Stuart Scott, who has kindly agreed to take on the job for the next phase.

Singles

1st round: P Harrison bt Y Negyal 15-9, 15-11; S Scott bt Al Goodwin 15-8, 15-8; V Fikhter bt F Kottler 15-8, 11-15, 15-11; J Sumner bt J Hughes 12-15, 15-9, 16-15; T Vernacchio bt J Pyman 15-3, 15-8

Quarter-finals: F Hammond Giles bt Harrison 15-1, 15-1; Scott bt Sumner 15-1, 15-3; G Wiseman bt Fikhter 15-0, 15-3; Vernacchio bt C Low 15-6, 15-4

Semi-finals: Hammond Giles bt Scott 15-1, 15-1; Wiseman bt Vernacchio 15-3, 15-3

Final: Hammond Giles bt Wiseman 15-4, 15-5

Plate: 1st Negyal W4 44 pts; 2nd Hughes W3 37 pts; 3rd Goodwin W2 37 pts; 4th Kottler W1 29 pts; 5th Pyman 17 pts

Bowl: Low bt Harrison 15-1

Doubles

Quarter-finals: Harrison & Negyal bt Hughes & Upton 15-11, 15-8; Fikhter & Goodwin bt M Cloke Browne & Kottler 12-15, 15-11, 15-9

Semi-finals: Scott & Wiseman bt Harrison & Negyal 15-11, 15-7; Low & Vernacchio bt Fikhter & Goodwin 15-0, 15-4

Final: Low & Vernacchio bt Scott & Wiseman 15-4, 15-3

Plate: Cloke Browne & Kottler bt Hughes & Upton 15-8, 15-13

Women's U25 National Championships 2025

St Paul's School, Barnes

Saturday, 17 October 2025

There was a disappointingly small entry for this event, which was compounded by an injury to one of players early in the proceedings. However, the 2024 Singles champion Kirsten Bell was outstanding in defence of her title, beating Lena Barton and Savanna Leboff with relative ease in a round robin.

In the Doubles Kirsten's partner of last year, Sophie Lundie, was unable to enter, so Savanna teamed up with Kirsten to take on Oxford University's 1st pair of Lena Barton & Abbie Evans. The final score does not do justice to the quality of the contest. Kirsten did the double once more, and Savanna regained the title she won with Holly Nugent in 2021 when the competition was the U23s.

Singles

1st K Bell W2; 2nd S Leboff W1; 3rd L Barton

Doubles

Bell & Leboff bt Barton & Evans 15-3

West of England Open Championships 2025

Sherborne School, Dorset

Saturday/Sunday, 25-26 October 2025

STOP PRESS Dan Tristao and Ben Beltrami dominated these championships, contesting the Singles final, which Tristao won in three games, and then partnering to win the Doubles with some ease against the regular pair from the West of England Club, Cameron Low & Archie McCreath, who had won a marathon three-gamer against Penn Chai & Lewis Keates in their semi-final. A small entry, but two lengthy days of hard-fought Fives.

Nick Geere reports: There were just nine competitors in the Singles this year, but this allowed the luxury of a round robin format, followed by a repechage. With three strong players in each of the two groups, this gave players a second bite of the cherry. (In theory, a slow starter who lost all his round robin games 15-0 could still win the tournament.) Nick Whitney almost took advantage of this system, with a very close match against Theo Vernacchio, and Lewis was able to regain his place in the main draw, after a good win against him by Cameron in the round robin.

The top two players in the draw — Dan and Ben — made their way through to the final, as expected, and were joined in the semi-finals on this occasion by Cameron and Penn, the latter having managed to dislodge Lewis at the quarter-final stage.

In the high quality final, the first game score of 11-4 to Dan belied very close play, with Ben targeting the back left-hand nick well. If anything, Ben was hitting the ball even harder in the second game, which he won 11-6. However, with Ben 7-0 up in the third, the scene was set for a legendary comeback by Dan, who outrageously won the next 11 points, due mainly to incredible retrieving rather than any mistakes on Ben's part.

Eight pairs contested the Doubles, with a round robin format again initially. The semi-finals saw a fiercely contested match between Lewis & Penn and Cameron & Archie, with the latter winning in the third game, and going on to make a good effort against Dan & Ben in the final. In particular, Archie put on an impressive acrobatic display to retrieve some of Ben's power shots.

The Doubles Plate was won by the rapidly improving Alex Upton together with his partner Rudi Beard. Thanks go as usual to Sherborne for hosting the event and keeping the heating on; and thanks also to all the players for supporting this tournament, as well as to Chris Blakeley for helping throughout the weekend.

Singles

Group A: 1st D Tristao W4 60 pts; 2nd C Low W3 54 pts; 3rd L Keates W2 50 pts; 4th N Whitney W1 26 pts; 5th N Geere 8 pts

Group B: 1st B Beltrami W3 45 pts; 2nd P Chai W2 33 pts; 3rd T Vernacchio W1 18 pts; 4th J Hughes 17 pts

1st round: Hughes bt Geere 15-10

2nd round: Keates bt Hughes 11-8, 11-3; Vernacchio bt Whitney 12-10, 3-11, 11-0

3rd round: Chai bt Keates 11-2, 11-8; Low bt Vernacchio 11-2, 11-4

Semi-finals: Tristao bt Chai 11-5, 11-2, Beltrami bt Low 11-5, 11-0

Final: Tristao bt Beltrami 11-4, 6-11, 11-7

Plate: not contested

Doubles

Group A: 1st B Beltrami & D Tristao W3 45 pts; 2nd C Low & A McCreath W2 40 pts; 3rd S Brooke & K Kennerley W1 23 pts; 4th N Geere & A Landon 13 pts

Group B: 1st P Chai & L Keates W3 45 pts; 2nd J Hughes & T Vernacchio W2 36 pts; 3rd R Beard & A Upton W1 26 pts; 4th P Grant & R Mason 19 pts

Semi-finals: Beltrami & Tristao bt Hughes & Vernacchio 11-3, 11-3; Low & McCreath bt Chai & Keates 11-8, 10-12, 11-9

Final: Beltrami & Tristao bt Low & McCreath 11-2, 11-3

Plate: Beard & Upton bt Brooke & Kennerley 15-5

2nd Lake Kezar Invitational Tournament 2025

Maine, USA

17-19 October 2025

The second annual Lake Kezar Fives Invitational Tournament took place at the beloved Rugby Fives court in Lovell, Maine, which dates from 1924.

Despite the court being, as you can see from the photos of last year's event, really a "corridor" singles court, there was some informal warm-up doubles before the serious matter of the singles. There were eight entrants, and the early rounds went according to the expected seedings.

The first semi-final featured Tom Siddall, head heavyweight rowing coach at Harvard University taking on Jacob Knight, an Eton Fives-playing PhD student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (who was last year's runner-up), and produced what was the closest game of the tournament. It was played to 11 points, one ahead, and reached 10-10 without either player being able to establish dominance. There followed several more changes of serve before Siddall eventually played a crucial volley to gain the upper hand in the rally and take the game 11-10.

The second semi-final featured two of last year's semi-finalists, Jason Baldachino and Aaron Nickelsberg, both members of the Union Boat Club in Boston. Nickelsberg came out of the gates swinging, quickly going up 10-1 before faltering at match point. Baldachino was finally able to get a foothold and gather a few more points, but Nickelsberg's consistency was simply too strong and he closed out the match 11-4, stamping his ticket to the final.

In the final, Nickelsberg lost the first point, but then established complete control, not allowing Siddall any further joy, and became this year's champion with a 15-1 win.

The "back draw" (what UK players would call the Plate) final, was between the tournament director, Nick Margitza, and amateur Fives historian, and reporter of this tournament, Trevor Jones. It was a tight back-and-forth contest through much of the match, but at the midway point Jones took the momentum winning the match 11-4, a scoreline that does not do the match justice.

Scores

Semi-finals: T Siddall beat J Knight 11-10. A Nickelsberg beat J Baldachino 11-4

Final: Nickelsberg bt Siddall 15-1

Plate: T Jones beat N Margitza 11-4

The Owers Trophy 2025

Stoke Newington School, London

Sunday, 9th November 2025

Chris Blakeley reports: The Owers Trophy, which was not staged last season, was held this year on the newly renovated courts at Stoke Newington School. The weather stayed dry, and there was general agreement that that the renovation has produced a much more satisfactory playing experience. The newly painted walls are probably a bit lighter than we had intended (the dangers of using a colour palette!) but the experience is similar to playing on the Fettes or Whitgift courts. The format of this Doubles competition is teams of 3 players ranked 1-3 according their Singles ranking (if they have one) and play 3 games to 15 points against their opposite numbers (pairings of 1&2, 1&3 and 2&3).

There were seven teams, divided into two groups: one of 3 teams (Paulines, Derby Moor and Alleyn's) and one of 4 teams (Fettes, Winchester, Malvern and an International team). It was clear at the start that the very strong Paulines team (Beltrami, Aquilina and Hammond Giles) would take a lot of beating, and so it proved.

In Group A Paulines won all their games against the other two sides, and Derby proved stronger than Alleyn's, winning two of their three games. In Group B Fettes had a clean sweep against Winchester, and won two out of three games against the International side. The Internationals and Winchester both had a clean sweep against Malvern. By this time, with the semi-finalists decided, Winchester decided to retire, as they had only two players who had therefore played every single game, leaving Alleyn's and Malvern to compete for the Plate, which was duly won by Alleyn's.

In the semi-finals, Paulines continued their dominant display in defeating the International side, though the matches were more competitive than the scoreline might suggest. The other semi-final was a much closer affair, with Fettes running out winners by 2 games to 1. The final was also hard fought, but Fettes were unable to break the Paulines' stranglehold, and Paulines ended up winners having not lost a single game.

Teams

Old Alleyn's/Edward Alleyn Club: Hamish Buchanan, Ed Carr, Yarin Negyal

Old Derby Moor: Richard Christie, Lewis Keates, Rob Whitehorn

Old Fettesians: Penn Chai, Toby Chan, Archie McCreath and Wyman Chan

Old Malvernians: Andy Passey, xxx Tye, Shinan Zhang

Old Paulines: Julian Aquilina, Ben Beltrami, Freddie Hammond Giles

Old Wykehamists: JP Cheng, Matt Hale

The Internationals: Aitor Arastorza-Fadrique, Ander Iraizoz, Terry McElvaney

Scores

Group A: Old Paulines (Beltrami, Aquilina, Hammond Giles) bt Old Derby Moor (Keates, Whitehorn, Christie) 15-8, 15-5, 15-3, and beat Old Alleyn's (Negyal, Carr, Buchanan) 15-1, 15-0, 15-1. Old Derby Moor beat Old Alleyn's 14-15, 15-3, 15-13.

Group B: Old Fettes (Chai, McCreath, T&W Chan) bt International (McElvaney, Iraizoz, Irastorza) 6-15, 15-8, 15-9, bt Old Winchester (M Hale, Cheng) 15-8, 15-4, 15-6, International bt Old Malvern (Zhang, Passey, Tye) 15-6, 15-3, 15-4, Old Winchester bt Old Malvern 15-13, 15-7, 15-8. International played one game against Old Winchester, winning 15-6.

Semi-finals: Paulines bt International 15-6, 15-2, 15-3; Fettes bt Derby Moor 15-6, 14-16, 15-6

Final: Paulines bt Fettes 15-8, 15-4, 15-6

3rd/4th play-off: International bt Derby Moor 16-14, 15-8

Plate: Alleyn's bt Malvern 45-18

Draw for the National Singles Championship 2025

Rugby Fives Association

22nd November 2025

This year's National Singles Championship, organised by Charlie Brooks, will have a new format. Play will be conducted over the weekend of November 29-30 on the courts at the Cambridge University Sports Centre, with no preliminary qualifying rounds. In a draw conducted online on Saturday 22nd November, the 24 players have been split into 8 groups as follows:

Group A: Ed Kay, Marcus Cloke Browne, Ollie Arnold

Group B: Dan Tristao, James Tilston, Anthony Goodwin

Group C: Ben Beltrami, Charlie Lacewing, Archie McCreath

Group D: Julian Aquilina, Charlie Brooks, Emrys Thursfield

Group E: Lewis Keates, Terry McElvaney, Sam Russell

Group F: Freddie Hammond Giles, Theo Parker, Theo Vernacchio

Group G: Dan Grant, Cameron Low, Ander Iraizoz

Group H: Penn Chai, Gwydion Wiseman, James Milburn

Top two from each group go through to the round of 16. Bottom names go into the Bowl, losers then into the Plate.

Durham Women's Championships 2025

City of Durham Fives Club

Saturday/Sunday. 22-23 November 2025

The 7th Durham Women's Fives Championships, organised by Julie McIntyre and Tom Wakelam, featured 30 players, who completed a total of 105 matches in three age categories over the course of two days. Louise Mathias returned to competitive action, winning her second Singles title after a period working abroad, while Camille Beattie won this Doubles title for the fourth time with her third different partner, Eleonora Vallascas. Eleonora added this title to the Women's Scottish Open Doubles title she recently won with Louise.

Roll of Honour

Singles

Champion: Louise Mathias

Runner-up: Camille Beattie

3rd Place: Sophie Lundie

Doubles

Champions: Camille Beattie & Eleonora Vallasca

Runners-up: Louise Mathias & Sophie Lundie

3rd Place: Zoe Armstrong & Charlotte Smith

Open Category

Gold: Louise Mathias

Silver: Camille Beattie

Bronze: Sophie Lundie

U18 Category

Gold: Chloe McWilliam

Silver: Anya Robertson

Bronze: Connie Lonie

U16 Category

Gold: Zoe Armstrong

Silver: Daisy Fox

Bronze: Sofia McWilliam

U14 Category

Gold: Isobelle Gair

Silver: Kaia Symington

Bronze: Emily Buchan

Schools Winchester Fives Doubles Championship 2025

Winchester College

Sunday, 16th November 2025

St. Paul's 1st pair, Ferro & Hammond Giles, retained their title at the expense of the Winchester College 1st pair, winning the final 15-2, 15-4.

A healthy 13 pairs from 5 different schools contested this year's Schools Winchester Fives Doubles Championship on the new courts at Winchester College. The initial group stage consisted of two large round robins, giving pairs 6 and 5 matches respectively to establish 4 leading pairs, who then contested the semi-finals while the remaining 9 pairs fought out the Plate.

The semi-finals unfortunately saw St Paul's playing St Paul's and Winchester playing Winchester, with all too predictable results. And the final, too, was never likely to produce a surprise, with the formidable pairing of Ferro & Hammond Giles defending their title with comparative ease.

The 9-pair Plate proved to be much more exciting, with 4 pairs — Alleyn's I and Alleyn's II, Stamford I and Winchester III — winning 6 of their 8 matches, and the winner of the trophy having to be decided by just one point on head-to-head performances. By the time they won, Stamford had played fourteen 11-point games, scoring 110 points.

Thanks as ever to Winchester College for hosting and to Jamie McManus and Giles Munn for their running of this special event.

Group stage

Group A: 1st St Paul's I 66 pts W6; 2nd Winchester II 58 pts W5; 3rd Alleyn's II 47 pts W4; 4th Stamford I 48 pts W3; 5th St Paul's III 47 pts W2; 6th Alleyn's III 21 pts W1; 7th Radley II 14 pts W0

Group B: 1st Winchester I 55 pts W5; 2nd St Paul's II 51 pts W4; 3rd Alleyn's I 41 pts W2; 4th Stamford II 31 pts W2; 5th Winchester III 26 pts W1; 6th Radley I 25 pts W1

Semi-finals: St Paul's I bt St Paul's II 11-3, 11-0; Winchester I bt Winchester II 11-4, 11-1

Final: St. Paul's I (J.Ferro & F. Hammond Giles) bt Winchester I (Z.Goulding & A.James-Duff) 15-2, 15-4

Plate

1st Stamford I (C.McNaughton & C. Sharpe) W6 +29; **2nd** Alleyn's I W6 +28; **3rd** Alleyn's II W6 +27; **4th** Winchester III W6 +26

The National Singles Championship 2025

Cambridge University Sports Centre

Saturday/Sunday, 29-30 November 2025

STOP PRESS Ben Beltrami was able to win his second Jesters Club Cup by beating 8-time champion Dan Tristao in a hard-fought three-game final. Dan had earlier overcome number one seed Ed Kay. With 24 players, three courts and two full days at his disposal, organiser Charlie Brooks was able to run both a Plate and a Bowl. Lewis Keates won the Plate for a third year in a row and James Tilston won a particularly tough Bowl for those placed third at the group stage.

Organiser Charlie Brooks reports: Ben Beltrami won his second National Singles title in fine style, overcoming a huge fightback from Dan Tristao in the final. Having lost to Dan in an epic semi-final last year, Ben got his revenge on the Cambridge courts, winning 15-2, 13-15, 15-10 to be crowned National Champion.

This year's tournament will be remembered for many reasons, but it all started with a new format, not seen before at the Nationals... Out with the qualifiers and in with an expanded finals weekend. The top 24 players in the open rankings invited to battle for the biggest accolade in the sport.

The competitors were split into eight groups of three players during a live draw broadcast on YouTube. Each of the first eight players in the rankings were joined by one of the 9th-16th players and another from the 17th-24th pool, drawn randomly from a hat. It threw up some enticing match ups, unpredictable clashes and, inevitably, a group of death (Kay, Cloke Browne and Arnold – strong indeed).

More players means more matches – from 30 matches at last year's finals weekend to 55 this year. With only three courts, it was imperative to keep them full almost the entire weekend. It also shifted a lot of the play to Sunday, where more than half the draw were still involved, either in the main competition, the plate or the newly introduced bowl.

The group stages created some mouth-watering encounters right from the off. James Tilston vs Anthony Goodwin, Sam Russell vs Terry McElvaney and Ander Iraizoz vs Cameron Low all finished 15-14, with many other close battles. There were upsets aplenty with Terry, Anthony and Charlie Brooks all winning their groups against the seedings. The top two in each group progressed to the main knockout, with 3rd place heading to the bowl.

The knockout began with the Round of 16, where the top three seeds all serenely moved into the quarter-finals despite admirable efforts from their foes. Elsewhere, Theo Parker pushed Charlie Brooks in a tight contest, and Ollie Arnold, back from Down Under, didn't make it easy for Dan Grant. Terry continued his fine form to make his first ever Nationals quarter-final, beating Charlie Lacewing, as did Gwydion Wiseman against Anthony.

In the quarters, the top match pitted number one seed Ed Kay against eight-time champ Dan Tristao. Wait, what? How did that happen? It was engineered by Dan to prevent the possibility of having to play the top two seeds on the same day, because the semi-finals were scheduled for the Sunday (unlike previous years where it has been the Saturday evening). Unsurprisingly, it was a high octane affair. Ed simply flew out of the blocks and established a sizeable lead. But Dan bounced back, and then some. He drew level before storming ahead in the first game on the way to taking it 15-10. This momentum continued unabated into the second, and although Ed knuckled down, he couldn't prevent Dan advancing, 15-6 in the second.

Ben Beltrami was up against the teenaged Freddie Hammond Giles, who was already appearing in his second quarter-final at this tournament and has risen into the top ten in the national rankings. Despite some superb retrieval and forcing Ben into errors, Freddie could never get close enough to the 2nd seed on the scoreboard to put him under significant pressure. The other two quarters almost sprang surprises. Terry and Gwydion belied their relative inexperience to give Charlie B and Dan G significant scares. Terry's ferocious serving, mixed with a newly developed short serve, kept him ahead throughout the first game before Charlie edged it 16-14. The second was not so close, but it was a magnificent display over the course of the tournament from the Northern Irishman.

The last match of the round was a nail biter. Gwydion was playing some of his best Fives ever, and duly pinched the opening game 15-11. Dan bottled his frustration to good effect though and was able to fly through the second to set up the decider. It fluctuated this way and that, with Gwydion getting his nose in front towards the latter stages. With cramp starting to hamper Dan's movement, it looked like an upset was on the cards. However, a few winners later from both of Dan's gloves, and some cramp now also affecting Gwydion (did neither of them drink their pickle juice before going on court?), saw the seventh seed advance.

That was Saturday done and dusted, and what a day it had been – a feast of top quality Fives from the country's best players.

Sunday morning brought, for the first time ever, the singles semi-finals – Tristao vs Brooks and Beltrami vs Grant. Dan T and Charlie got off to a slightly scrappy start and were evenly matched in the opening exchanges. The scoreboard was ticking along for both of them before Dan edged ahead as double figures approached and took the game 15-11. His drop shots were becoming more effective as he drew his opponent forward and then took advantage of the resulting open court. The second game followed a similar pattern, although the rallies were getting longer, and Charlie was finding some reverse angles of his own. As Dan cut out his errors, he moved 14-10 up and looked to have sealed the match. Charlie was not giving up without a fight though – a few service winners and determined rallying got it back to 14-all and then 15-all. Tense times, but it was not to be for Charlie and he was beaten 16-15.

On the other court, Ben was asserting his power against Dan G. Dan has a plethora of shots in his toolbox, but Ben was equal to them and gave back as good as he got. Ben kept himself well enough ahead throughout, smashing nicks and somehow reaching the majority of Dan's own barrage. He came through to 7 and 4, never looking particularly troubled. And so to the final, a match-up of differing styles and technique. Two fantastic players at the top of the sport, but would they deliver a fantastic match? Of course they would, although a dominant start from Ben had the crowd worried that wouldn't be the case.

A profusion of winners from Ben, with Dan unable to get any kind of foothold, saw a very one-sided opener. Ben seems almost unbeatable in that kind of form, and it wasn't obvious what Dan could do differently. A speedy final seemed on the cards after a 15-2 thrashing.

But count Dan out at your peril. He has turned many games around from similarly challenging circumstances, and he set about doing the same here. Ben was still playing high quality Fives though, so Dan's work was cut out. In fact, as the second game moved on, it was Ben who still had the slight upper hand, and was once again ahead, taking a 13-9 lead and the title in sight. Maybe it was this that made Ben a little tentative, maybe it was Dan finding those extra reserves of strength from out of nowhere. Maybe even a bit of both. Either way, the tide was finally turned and Dan applied the pressure to slowly draw level and then win the second, 15-13.

The high quality continued into the decider. Breathtaking rallies with both players being dragged all over the court, only to find winners themselves. The anticipation, retrieval and grit was phenomenal. In fact, the second half of the final game was the best Fives of the match, and the whole weekend. It was tit for tat, punch followed by counter-punch, until Ben found just that little bit more to edge ahead in the tense closing stages. He held his nerve this time, and came away victorious, 15-10, to be crowned a very deserving champion.

The Plate and Bowl

The Plate, for those losing in the Round of 16, was played out over the Sunday. After two injury withdrawals, the remaining six were split into two groups; Lewis Keates, Penn Chai, Charlie Lacewing and Cameron Low emerged from these into the semi-finals. The highest ranked players, Lewis and Penn, faced each other in a match that didn't disappoint. Lewis was looking for a hat-trick of National Plate victories, and it was perhaps this extra incentive that got him over the line, 15-12. Cameron was able to take advantage of Charlie's tired legs to progress in the other match.

The final became a classic; there cannot have been many Plates contested with both players digging quite so deep. They used all their reserves of energy, and somehow found more, in two closely fought games; Lewis took the first 15-11 but Cameron sneaked back 15-12. They were out on their feet at the start of the decider, and Cam edged ahead. The energy-sapping rallies continued, with extraordinary retrieval at such a late stage in the tournament, and utter refusal to give in. Lewis slowly started to tick off the points though, and, despite cramp taking hold, stumbled over the line for his third consecutive plate. Bravo!

The Bowl, initiated this year, was taking place in parallel, having started on Saturday afternoon. It had more than its share of tense games as well, epitomised by inaugural winner, James Tilston. His route to the final included a three-gamer against Ander Iraizoz followed by a 12-10, 12-11 victory over Theo Vernacchio. He met Emrys Thursfield there, who had come through impressively against Sam Russell and Marcus Cloke Browne. True to form, James took the opener 12-11, with a marginally more comfortable second game sealing the win.

Throughout the weekend, the three courts were filmed, thanks to Dan Grant, with various players and Fives celebrities taking to the microphones to provide commentary. Keep an eye out for matches and highlights on the RFA's YouTube channel.

Scores

Group Stage

Group A: 1st Ed Kay W2; 2nd Ollie Arnold W1; 3rd Marcus Cloke Browne W0

Group B: 1st Anthony Goodwin W2; 2nd Dan Tristao W1; 3rd James Tilston W0

Group C: 1st Ben Beltrami W2; 2nd Charlie Lacewing W1; 3rd Archie McCreath W0

Group D: 1st Charlie Brooks W2; 2nd Julian Aquilina W1; 3rd Emrys Thursfield W0

Group E: 1st Terry McElvaney W2; 2nd Lewis Keates W1; 3rd Sam Russell W0
Group F: 1st Freddie Hammond Giles W2; 2nd Theo Parker W1; 3rd Theo Vernacchio W0
Group G: 1st Dan Grant W2; 2nd Cameron Low W1; 3rd Ander Iraizoz W0
Group H: 1st Penn Chai W2; 2nd Gwydion Wiseman W1; 3rd James Milburn W0

Round of 16: Kay bt Low 11-4, 11-2; Tristao bt Chai 11-3, 11-2; McElvaney bt Lacewing 11-3, 11-2; Brooks bt Parker 11-9, 11-7; Beltrami bt Keates 11-3, 11-0; Hammond Giles bt Aquilina w/o; Grant bt Arnold 11-9, 11-4; Wiseman bt Goodwin 11-7, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Tristao bt Kay 15-10, 15-6; Brooks bt McElvaney 16-14, 15-2; Beltrami bt Hammond Giles 15-9, 15-6; Grant bt Wiseman 11-15, 15-3, 15-12

Semi-finals: Tristao bt Brooks 15-11, 16-15; Beltrami bt Grant 15-7, 15-4

Final: Beltrami bt Tristao 15-2, 13-15, 15-10

Plate

Semi-finals: Keates bt Chai 15-12; Low bt Lacewing 15-0

Final: Keates bt Low 15-11, 12-15, 15-6

Bowl

Quarter-finals: Cloke Browne bt Milburn 11-0, 11-4; Thursfield bt Russell 11-6, 11-2; Vernacchio bt McCreath 11-7, 11-1; Tilston bt Iraizoz 9-11, 11-8, 11-3

Semi-finals: Thursfield bt Cloke Browne 11-3, 11-2; Tilston bt Vernacchio 12-10, 12-11

Final: Tilston bt Thursfield 12-11, 11-6

The President's Cup 2025

Winchester College

Sunday, 14th December 2025

STOP PRESS The event was held this year for the first time on the new courts at Winchester College. 32 players as usual, familiar names, new ones, players returning to the game, both sexes, past winners, all involved in the usual long and demanding day's play with frequent three-gamers. With thanks to organiser Hamish Buchanan, and to Chris Blakeley and Lewis Keates for the transmission of details and photographs.

Organiser Hamish Buchanan reports: This year's Cup was played on the excellent, new courts at Winchester College and was the first time that the event has not been held on a Rugby Fives court, although the T-Pot still adhered to tradition and was completed on the two Rugby courts at the College. More on that later.

The usual 32 players assembled for the traditional 9.45 start with no one quite sure if the Winchester element would speed up play or not? Could we actually follow the schedule and make the pub by 6.30?

Not a chance. Although the rallies may have been shorter, the number of three-game matches increased. Nevertheless we were on schedule until the unthinkable happened: the new courts started to sweat, with slippery floors, as the temperature and humidity increased, no doubt a result of the effort from the extreme athletes on show.

In the face of disaster the President's Cup management committee moved into full swing with fans procured from the College front desk, the gallery cleared of recovering and perspiring players, and the masterstroke from chief negotiator Rupert Mathieu of convincing the on-site personnel to open a door at the end of the gallery that leads onto a precipitous flat roof, and more importantly, onto cold dry air. The risk of distraught players with their ambitions dashed (possibly only Guy Matthews was in this category) throwing themselves off the roof and into the void, dictated that a college guard was required and the door remained open for only 10 minutes per hour. We all survived and the courts dried out.

In essence, the College personnel helped as much as H&S would allow, and it is hoped that the issue will be solved with a tweak to the automated air conditioning system, which appeared to be on strike.

Unfortunately this sequence of events led to the T-Pot competition being played on the Rugby courts so that the Winchester ones could breathe and dry out. Not all the competitors kept their toys in the pram upon hearing this ruling, especially the newly married ones.

Throughout the four competitions a total of 11 matches went to the deciding game and 7 games reached 14-14, demonstrating the drive and desire that pervades the Cup.

The final of the main event was actually rather one-sided, with Helena Tunks and Theo Parker beating a tired Chris Davey and Nick Whitney in two games. This was Theo's first win and Helena's second and the day was not plain sailing as they

only scraped through the first round, 15-12 in the third against Chris Jones and Andy Passey. Chris D and Nick had endured a three-game quarter-final and also a semi-final against Gwydion Wiseman and Savanna Leboff that went to the wire, 16-14 in the third.

Gwydion and Savanna went on to win the Mate's Plate after a further 5 games and completed an incredible 13 (the maximum is 15) games in the day.

Not to be outdone by his fellow AOB and sometimes coach Gwydion, Yarin Negyal and local first-timer Rob Walton also played 13 games to win the T-Pot. With 8 of these played on the Rugby courts it was perhaps even more attritional. The Love Mug, which is effectively the normal Plate competition, was won by Jeremy Manger and John Keyes, who after losing their first match in a gruelling three games, clearly decided that was a fool's errand and did not drop a match thereafter.

The President's Cup always attracts dedicated followers and over the past few years Abbie Evans and Adam Amine-Piekos have been two of those. This year Adam celebrated his first match win in the tournament, but unfortunately this led to a game against his off-court partner Abbie. Deep in thought, Adam wondered if the RFA had considered providing a relationship councillor for support in this scenario. There was no need as Abbie served out onto the buttress numerous times, indeed quite possibly more times than any other player on the day, and with Lewis Keates moved on to the next match. Adam retired with a cup of tea and a piece of cake — everyone's a winner at the President's Cup.

Scores

1st round: Tom Maconie & Ross Wilson bt Tim Hebblethwaite & James Malton 15-9, 15-8; Yarin Negyal & Rob Walton bt Ashwin Ahuja & Guy Matthews 15-7, 15-7; Will Akerman & Ian Jackson bt Abbie Evans & Lewis Keates 15-9, 15-3; Theo Parker & Helena Tunks bt Chris Jones & Andy Passey 14-16, 15-1, 15-12; Savanna Leboff & Gwydion Wiseman bt Nick Geere & Will Kennedy 15-10, 8-15, 15-13; Alex Goodwin & Rupert Mathieu bt Adam Amine-Piekos & James Tilston 15-9, 15-9; Chris Davey & Nick Whitney bt Sam Roberts & Charles Rollo 15-2, 15-8; Dave Butler & Alex McGee bt John Keyes & Jeremy Manger 16-14, 13-15, 15-8

Quarter-finals: Maconie & Wilson bt Negyal & Walton 15-7, 7-15, 15-12; Parker & Tunks bt Akerman & Jackson 15-8, 15-9; Leboff & Wiseman bt Goodwin & Mathieu 16-15, 15-11; Davey & Whitney bt Butler & McGee 5-15, 15-12, 15-12

Semi-final: Parker & Tunks bt Maconie & Wilson 6-15, 15-8, 15-7; Davey & Whitney bt Leboff & Wiseman 6-15, 15-5, 16-14

Final: Parker & Tunks bt Davey & Whitney 15-1, 15-5

T-Pot: Negyal & Walton bt Goodwin & Mathieu 16-15, 4-15, 15-10

Love Mug: Keyes & Manger bt Jones & Passey 15-6, 15-9

Mate's Plate: Leboff & Wiseman bt Maconie & Wilson

Updated National Singles Rankings

Rugby Fives Association

23rd December 2025

Dan Tristao ends 2025 atop both the Singles and Doubles Rankings, with Ed Kay and Ben Beltrami occupying 2nd and 3rd in both respectively. This season has seen these top three singles players dominant again (so far), sweeping up all the singles titles. Ben's recent win in the Nationals isn't enough to move him higher, but he has closed the gap on the top two. Dan moves ahead of Ed thanks to making the final at the Nationals.

The recent National Singles has had a significant impact on many other rankings, with semi-finalists Dan Grant (now 5th) and Charlie Brooks (8th) inching their way back up in the singles, and first-time quarter-finalists Gwydion Wiseman (12th) and Terry McElvaney (19th) climbing to career-highs. Plate winner Lewis Keates stays 6th, whilst inaugural Bowl winner James Tilston climbs to 13th.

Both Singles and Doubles rankings have over 200 players, reflecting a healthy contingent of tournament goers. Make sure to fulfil those 2026 resolutions and sign up for tournaments to start climbing those rankings yourself!

Jesters Tour to Edinburgh 2026

Chai Family Teapot 2026, Fettes College, Edinburgh (part of Jesters Tour)

The Chai Family Teapot Tournament returned to Fettes College for its fourth consecutive year, continuing its now-established position as one of the most distinctive fixtures on the Rugby Fives calendar.

The format remains unchanged: family doubles, with pairs related by blood or law.

New Faces & Debuts

Two new families made their tournament debuts in 2026: the Eliotts and the Borthwicks, both fielding sibling pairings. The Eliotts brought enthusiasm and energy, with Thomas Eliott completing a notable double debut — his first appearance both on a Jesters tour and in the Chai Family Teapot. Their campaign also produced one of the moments of the day, when a lack of sibling coordination led to the Eliotts colliding mid-rally, followed by Zara Eliott deploying her full Head Girl voice to inform her younger brother that it was his fault the ball ended up in the bar. It was not...

The Borthwicks arrived under more trying circumstances. Malcolm Borthwick, having rolled his ankle the previous day at the Loretto Ice Rink while playing for Caley Club, was unfortunately forced to withdraw. His 13-year-old son Oscar stepped in at short notice to partner his brother Archie, showing composure well beyond his years in a demanding debut. Oscar would later find himself on the receiving end of some highly questionable gamesmanship when a nearly 30-year-old Chai, having not played Fives for several years, informed him that his hands were “too sore” and that he would therefore have to serve from the opposite side.

Experience, Youth & Family Dynamics

The Frasers once again showcased the classic father-and-son combination. Lochie Fraser, a highly promising schoolboy, demonstrated real quality once fully warmed up and reminded how to play Rugby Fives — much to the visible exasperation of his father, who continues his long-running mission to force his son into the sport. Comparisons with his father, often (and loudly) described as Scotland’s GOAT, remain unavoidable.

Once Lochie found his rhythm, the Frasers surged into an 8–3 lead against the eventual champions, pushing them closer than most.

Commitment across the field was also notable, with Louis McCreath — reportedly injured and therefore unavailable to play for the Fettes 1st IV the day before — miraculously recovering after a conversation with older brother Archie and honouring his commitment to the tournament.

The Champions (Again)

Despite several close matches — notably against the Chais and the Frasers — the outcome at the top of the table was familiar.

The Chan brothers once again lifted the Chai Family Teapot, claiming their fourth consecutive title. They remain unbeaten in every match since the tournament’s inception, a record that continues to invite admiration, disbelief — and unsubstantiated allegations of pre-tournament sabotage, following reports of the Chans attempting to encourage excessive hospitality for their rivals at The Shack the night (or morning) before play.

Innovation & Thanks

This year’s event also featured a successful trial of Squash court Fives, made possible through the support of Stuart Kirby and the introduction of the new dipped balls, both of which were very well received.

Sincere thanks go to Fettes College and Peter Worlledge for hosting once again and for their continued support of this increasingly popular event.

West of England Schools Championships 2026

Sherborne School, Dorset

Saturday/Sunday, 17-18 January 2026

STOP PRESS St Paul’s repeated last year’s performance in winning the U18 Singles, U18 Doubles and U16 Singles, while Alleyn’s displaced Winchester as winners of the U16 Doubles.

History was made by the Hammond Giles family, with Freddie winning the U18 Singles title for the third year in a row and then the Doubles with his partner Josh Ferro, also for a third consecutive year. Meanwhile his younger brother Joey won the U16 Singles, beating fellow Pauline Alex Ponte in the final. Joey was unable, though, to make it a clean sweep for St Paul’s, losing with Thomas Outred in the final of the U16 Doubles to the Alleyn’s first pair of Rumi Kohashi-Kahn & Freddie McAllister.

Derby Moor had a good weekend, winning the U18 Singles Plate, the U18 Doubles Bowl and the U16 Doubles Plate, plus Val Fikhter winning Silver in the U18 Singles. Host school Sherborne won the U18 Doubles Plate, the U16 Singles Bowl, and were finalists in the U16 Doubles Plate. Stamford’s Connor McNaughton won the U18 Singles Bowl and was a

finalist with partner Charlie Sharpe in the U18 Doubles Bowl. Winchester's Arthur James-Duff & Zach Goulding won Silver for a second time in the U18 Doubles, with Arthur winning the 3rd place play-off in the U18 Singles. Winchester also had both finalists in the U16 Singles Plate.

It was good to see an entry from Radley, UCS and Marlborough, and to see the continued rise of players from Mount Kelly.

The RFA's thanks go to parents and coaches, to the players, the host school, and particularly to Sam Roberts, Alex Smith, Jamie McManus and Chris Blakeley for their support of this invaluable schools event.

Scores

U18 Singles

1st round: D Cheung (StP) bt F Mason (Rad) 15-1

2nd round: F Hammond Giles bt H Bishop (Sher) 15-0; R Jones (Stam) bt N Wong (Win) 15-12; C McNaughton (Stam) bt J Liu (Win) 15-1; T Munaretto-Day (Win) bt C Rollo (UCS) 15-5; J Ferro (StP) bt F Schelin (Rad) 15-2; C Sharpe (Stam) bt M Stryk (Derby) 15-4; T Moesel (Sher) bt C Burrows (Stam) 15-6; A James-Duff (Win) bt Cheung 15-1; T Ritchie (StP) bt F Carian (Rad) 15-1; J Moesel (Sher) bt E Efthimiou (StP) 15-7; P Mannion Miles (Win) bt J Graham (Sher) 15-3; N Cortas (StP) bt I Corrie (Marl) 15-1; Z Goulding (Win) bt R Vines (Stam) 15-2; Z Okada (StP) bt W Vella (Stam) 15-1; L Ferro (StP) bt H Koma (Rad) 15-4; V Fikhter (YClub) bt W Horton (Sher) 15-2

3rd round: Hammond Giles bt Jones 15-0; Munaretto-Day bt McNaughton 16-14; Ferro bt Sharpe 15-6; James-Duff bt Moesel 15-3; Ritchie bt Moesel 15-6; Cortas bt Mannion Miles 15-7; Okada bt Goulding 15-12; Fikhter bt Ferro 15-0

Quarter-finals: Hammond Giles bt Munaretto-Day 11-0, 11-2; James-Duff bt Ferro 12-11, 12-11; Ritchie bt Cortas 12-10, 12-11; Fikhter bt Okada 11-2, 11-1

Semi-finals: Hammond Giles bt James-Duff 11-0, 11-0; Fikhter bt Ritchie 11-4, 11-4

Final: F Hammond Giles (St Paul's) bt V Fikhter (Manchester Y Club) 11-3, 11-0

3rd/4th place match: A James-Duff (Winchester) bt T Ritchie (St Paul's) 15-6

Plate: M Stryk (Derby Moor) bt C Rollo (UCS) 15-7

Bowl: C McNaughton (Stamford) bt Z Goulding (Winchester) 15-6

U18 Doubles

1st round: Mount Kelly 3 bt Radley 2 15-11; Mount Kelly 2 bt Sherborne 2 15-1

2nd round: St Paul's 1 bt Mount Kelly 3 15-0; Mount Kelly 1 bt Winchester 3 15-8; St Paul's 3 bt Stamford 2 15-3; Derby Moor bt Radley 1 15-0; St Paul's 2 bt Stamford 3 15-2; Winchester 2 bt St Paul's 4 15-2; Stamford 1 bt Sherborne 1 15-9; Winchester 1 bt Mount Kelly 2 15-1

Quarter-finals: St Paul's 1 bt Mount Kelly 1 11-0, (11-0); St Paul's 3 bt Derby Moor 11-5, 11-2; Winchester 2 bt St Paul's 2 11-0, 8-11, 11-9; Winchester 1 bt Stamford 1 6-11, 11-8, 11-6

Semi-finals: St Paul's 1 bt St Paul's 3 11-1, 11-1; Winchester 1 bt Winchester 2 11-6, 11-3

Final: St Paul's 1 (J Ferro & F Hammond Giles) bt Winchester 1 (Z Goulding & A James-Duff) 11-1, 11-0

Plate: Sherborne 1 (J Graham & J Moesel) bt Winchester 3 (J Liu & N Wong) 15-5

Bowl: Derby Moor (V Fikhter & M Stryk) bt Stamford 1 (C McNaughton & C Sharpe) 11-7, 11-5

U16 Singles

1st round: R Xie (Marl) bt R Dhital (Win) 15-4; T Outred (StP) bt S Negyal (All) 15-7; A Bhalodia (StP) bt L Kim (Rad) 15-0; R Puri (StP) bt A Wilson (Sher) 15-3; H Franks (Win) bt J Adams (MKel) 15-3; F McAllister (All) bt H Crosssthaite (Marl) 15-1; W Lee (Win) bt A Tursi (Sher) 15-8; H Hill (Malv) bt I Wang (Win) 15-3; Z Winson Yates (Derby) bt S Stannah (Win) 15-1; R Kohashi-Khan (All) bt S Pereire-Pilling (Rad) 15-1; H Fletcher (Marl) bt X Aparicio (Sher) 15-1; I Baijal (StP) bt F Ayling (MKel) 15-1; T Green (All) bt J Adams (MKel) 15-0

2nd round: J Hammond Giles (StP) bt Xie 15-0; Bhalodia bt Outred 15-6; Puri bt Franks 15-8; McAllister bt Lee 15-3; A Ponte (StP) bt Hill 15-3; Kohashi-Khan bt Winson Yates 15-11; Fletcher bt Baijal 15-1; Green bt L Carnegie (Win) 15-8

Quarter-finals: Hammond Giles bt Bhalodia 11-7, 11-1; McAllister bt Puri 11-8, 11-5; Ponte bt Kohashi-Khan 11-5, 11-8; Green bt Fletcher 9-11, 11-2, 12-11

Semi-finals: Hammond Giles bt McAllister 11-6, 11-3; Ponte bt Green 6-11, 12-11, w/o

Final: J Hammond Giles (St Paul's) bt A Ponte (St Paul's) 11-1, 11-3

3rd/4th place match: F McAllister (Alleyn's) bt T Green (Alleyn's) 15-8

Plate: H Franks (Winchester) bt L Carnegie (Winchester) 15-5

Bowl: A Wilson (Sherborne) bt H Crosssthaite (Marlborough) 11-10

U16 Doubles

1st round: Alleyn's 2 bt Winchester 3 15-2; Mount Kelly 2 bt Derby Moor 15-8; Alleyn's 1 bt Sherborne 15-0; St Paul's 2 bt Mount Kelly 3 15-2; Winchester 2 bt Mount Kelly 1 15-4; St Paul's 3 bt Radley 15-0

Quarter-finals: St Paul's 1 bt Alleyn's 2 6-11, 11-4, 11-9; Alleyn's 1 bt Mount Kelly 2 11-1, 11-1; St Paul's 2 bt Winchester 2 11-1, 11-3; Winchester 1 bt St Paul's 3 12-10, 11-9

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

Final: Alleyn's 1 (R Kohashi-Khan & F McAllister) bt St Paul's 2 (J Hammond Giles & T Outred) 11-6, 11-8

Plate: Derby Moor (H Hill & Z Winson Yates) bt Sherborne (A Tursi & H Walker) 15-3

Inaugural 112 Tournament 2026

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Saturday, 17th January 2026

The 112 Tournament makes its debut in 2026 – a fast-paced, innovative addition to the Rugby Fives calendar. This unique format celebrates versatility and partnership.

Mixed Doubles Pairs enter together.

– Each player competes in Men's/Women's Singles. 7-point games

– The pair will then join forces in Mixed Doubles.

The high-intensity schedule ensures quick-fire matches and will crown the ultimate Rugby Fives all-rounders.

Match report: The new 112 tournament featured a round-robin format across women's singles (one game to 7), men's singles (one game to 7), and mixed doubles (one game to 15). Final standings were decided by combining each pair's singles and doubles scores. With such short games, players had to find their rhythm immediately and show consistent quality in both singles and doubles.

With six pairs competing, a total of 145 points were available. Gold medallists Shinan Zhang and Penn Chai earned every single potential point in a commanding performance. Savanna Leboff and Sam Russell claimed the silver medals with 116 points, narrowly edging out Phoebe Thornhill and Terry McElvaney, who took bronze just four points behind.

Overall, it was a day of competitive and hugely enjoyable Fives, rounded off with a well-earned meal. The success of the event suggests the 112 is set to become a regular fixture on the RFA calendar.

A big thank you to Hamish Buchanan for coming up with the 112 format and to Andrew Boyd and Savanna Leboff for bringing the tournament to life!

Scores

Singles

1st Zhang & Chai 70 pts; **2nd** Leboff & Russell 55 pts; **3rd** Thornhill & McElvaney 48 pts; **4th** Bell & Harrison 45 pts; **5th** Erdmeier & Negyal 29 pts; **6th** Ware & McGee 27 pts.

Doubles

1st Zhang & Chai 75 pts; **2nd** Thornhill & McElvaney 64 pts; **3rd** Leboff & Russell 61 pts; **4th** Bell & Harrison 58 pts; **5th** Ware & McGee 39 pts; **6th** Erdmeier & Negyal 25 pts.

Final positions

1. Shinan Zhang & Penn Chai = 145
2. Savanna Leboff & Sam Russell = 116
3. Phoebe Thornhill & Terry McElvaney = 112
4. Kirsten Bell & Patrick Harrison = 103
5. Lizzie Ware & Alex McGee = 66
6. Emily Erdmeier & Yarin Negyal = 54

How the new Rankings are calculated

Rugby Fives Association

26th January 2026

How often have you looked at the rankings and wondered, “How are my ranking points worked out? Why have I only gone up a couple of places after doing so well in that last tournament? And how can I climb the rankings?”

In the interests of transparency, here’s a peek under the hood. You can then look at the breakdown of the top 10 players shown at the bottom to help understand how this works in practice.

The RFA official rankings are calculated according to Professor* Will Ellison’s system, which uses the following logic: Each tournament carries a certain number of points for the winner, categorised based on the strength of the entry (not only the number of players, but also how many ranking points those players have).

The categories start with Nationals, then A, B+, B, C+ and C.

Tournaments that are not ‘Open’ (e.g. Challenger, Universities, U25s) have fewer points.

The different rounds of the tournament get a certain percentage of the winner’s points. Obviously, the further you get, the higher that figure is, up to 100% for winning

Your results from the past three years count towards your total ranking, split into three 12-month periods:

Your best three results (in terms of points, not necessarily how far you got in a tournament) from each 12-month period are counted.

The most recent 12-months stay weighted at 100% of your points scored, whilst the middle 12 months are ‘decayed’ to 60% and the furthest 12-months ‘decayed’ to 20%

There’s one final tweak that brings the ranking points closer together. Your points that have been calculated above get scaled by taking the square root and then multiplying by 10. All this does is bring all players’ points closer together, it doesn’t change the relative positions of players.

This is a fairly new system, implemented in 2022, taking over from Dave Hebden’s magic, and mirroring many of his principles. Dave started the RFA rankings back in the 1970s. He devised a system unique to Fives, crafted to account for the relatively few tournaments held. Our aim with the changes was to increase transparency, and be able to include more players, whilst maintaining the fidelity of the rankings, especially in the top 20.

So, how do you climb the rankings? Simple – play more Fives, both training and tournaments. It’s a winning formula!

Enjoy getting into the details, and please do email us on tournaments@rugbyFives.com if you have any questions and/or suggestions.

British Universities Championships 2026

Oundle School

Saturday/Sunday, 24-25 January 2026

STOP PRESS Organiser Cameron Low did the double at this year’s British Universities Championships, winning the Singles against Gwydion Wiseman in the final, then picking up the Doubles title with his partner from Bristol University, Theo Vernacchio, at the expense of Warwick’s Patrick Harrison & Isaac Weaver. Theo and Cameron thus did a second double, having won the National U25 Doubles title in October 2025.

Oxford also completed a double, with Kaito Bremner winning the Singles Plate against Yarin Negyal from Warwick University, then pairing with Julian Hanton in the Doubles Plate to beat Will Bishop & Jeremy Hughes from Bristol. Unfortunately, due to his involvement in a road traffic accident on his way to Oundle, the General Secretary was unable to deliver the trophies in his care, hence the absence of medals, cups, plates and bowl from the photographs this year.

Singles

1st round: W Bishop (Bri) bt W Milne (Dur) 15-7, 14-16, 15-10; Y Negyal (Warwick) bt J Pyman (Cam) 15-3, 15-5; K Bremner (Oxford) bt J Hughes (Bri) 15-4, 15-5; A Noble (Dur) bt A Evans (Oxf) 15-0, 15-1; J Hanton (Oxf) bt M Ord (Cam) 15-8, 15-2; A Borthwick (Bri) bt P Fleming (Dur) 15-12, 11-15, 15-7

2nd round: G Wiseman (OxB) bt Bishop 15-6, 15-3; P Harrison (War) bt M Morgan (Dur) 15-9, 15-8; E Thursfield (Cam) bt Negyal 15-5, 15-3; I Weaver (War) bt K Bremner (Oxf) 15-5, 15-5; C Lacewing (Dur) bt Noble 15-1, 15-1; Hanton bt T Vernacchio (Bri) 16-14, 9-15, 15-7; S Scott (Dur) bt A Upton (Bri) 15-4, 15-0; C Low (Bri) bt Borthwick 15-0, 15-1

Quarter-finals: Wiseman bt Harrison 15-4, 15-3; Weaver bt Thursfield 15-11, 15-11; Lacewing bt Hanton bt 15-6, 15-9; Low bt Scott bt 15-9, 15-3

Semi-finals: Wiseman bt Weaver 15-0, 15-7; Low bt Lacewing 15-10, 15-10

Final: C Low (Bristol) bt G Wiseman (Oxford Brookes) 15-9, 15-1
Plate: K Bremner (Oxford) bt Y Negyal (Warwick) 15-11, 15-2
Bowl: W Milne (Durham) bt J Pyman (Cambridge) 15-7, 15-8

Doubles

1st round: Fleming & Morgan bt Evans & Negyal 15-5, 15-11; Milne & Noble bt Borthwick & Upton 12-15, 15-10, 15-11

Quarter-finals: Low & Vernacchio bt Fleming & Morgan 15-0, 15-9; Lacewing & Scott bt Bremner & Hanton 13-15, 15-2, 15-4; Buchan & Wiseman bt Bishop & Hughes 15-10, 7-15, 15-8; Harrison & Weaver bt Milne & Noble 15-0, 15-5

Semi-finals: Low & Vernacchio bt Lacewing & Scott 15-11, 15-5; Harrison & Weaver bt Buchan & Wiseman 15-8, 15-10

Final: C Low & T Vernacchio (Bristol) bt P Harrison & I Weaver (Warwick) 13-15, 15-8, 15-4

Plate: K Bremner & J Hanton (Oxford) bt W Bishop & J Hughes (Bristol) 15-13, 14-16, 15-0

The North West Open Championships 2026

Manchester Y Club

Saturday/Sunday, 30th January-1st February 2026

STOP PRESS Dan Tristao won his 8th North West Open Singles title, beating his doubles partner Dan Grant in the final. Together, the two Dans successfully defended the Doubles title which they first won last year. It took three games, and Charlie Brooks & Ollie Arnold had two match points at 10-9 in the third. The Dans eventually won by 12-10 when Ollie was deemed to have served into himself. Each has now won this title 4 times: Dan Grant previously twice with Will Ellison. and Dan Tristao once with Will Ellison and once with Ed Kay.

Dave Butler won the Singles Plate in a round robin format; Louise Mathias & Richie Murby won all their matches in a five-pair Doubles Plate.

Singles

1st round: V Fikhter bt R Guthrie 11-1, 11-0; T McElvaney bt L Mathias 11-2, 11-2; O Arnold bt Z Winson Yates 11-1, 11-0; O McIntyre bt D Butler 11-6, 11-5

Quarter-finals: D Tristao bt Fikhter 12-10, 11-2; C Brooks bt McElvaney 11-8, 11-3; Arnold bt L Keates 11-0, 11-6; D Grant bt McIntyre 11-2, 11-8

Semi-finals: Tristao bt Brooks 11-7, 11-7; Grant bt Arnold 11-7, 11-9

Final: Tristao bt Grant 11-8, 11-8

Plate: 1st Butler W3; 2nd Guthrie W2; 3rd Mathias W1; 4th Winson Yates

Doubles

1st round: S Maskell & J Minta bt M Staryk & Z Winson Yates 11-1, 11-5

Quarter-finals: D Grant & D Tristao bt Maskell & Minta 11-9, 11-4; V Fikhter & O McIntyre bt D Butler & R Guthrie 9-11, 11-7, 11-8; L Keates & T McElvaney bt L Mathias & R Murby 2-11, 11-4, 11-4; O Arnold & C Brooks bt R Christie & A Wheatley 11-0, 11-0

Semi-finals: Grant & Tristao bt Fikhter & McIntyre 11-9, 11-7; Arnold & Brooks bt Keates & McElvaney 11-4- 11-9

Final: Grant & Tristao bt Arnold & Brooks 11-8, 2-11, 12-10

Plate: 1st Mathias & Murby W4; 2nd Maskell & Minta; 3rd Christie & Wheatley; 4th Butler & Guthrie; 5th Staryk & Winson Yates

Third Bizkaia Rugby Fives (Doubles) Championship 2025

December 13, 2025, Bilbao, Spain

On 13th December 2025, The Basque Association of Beach Tennis and Minority Sports organised the third Bizkaia Challenge of Rugby Fives (Doubles) on the squash court of the San Ignazio municipal sports centre (Bilbao – Basque Country). Three pairs competed in a round-robin format of 10-minute games. All three matches were intense and very even, but with some mistakes, especially on the initial serve.

Egoitz and Lander Campo won their both matches and so were the winners of this Bizkaia Challenge.

The next planned tournament will be a singles tournament in April 2026.

RESULTS

Joseba Fernández/ Galder Etxebarria 15-7 Joseba Zubiaurre/Arrate Elorrieta

Egoitz Campo/ Lander Campo 16-14 Joseba Zubiaurre/Arrate Elorrieta

Egoitz Campo/ Lander Campo 18-16 Joseba Fernández/Galder Etxebarria

Women's National Championships 2026

Cambridge University Sports Centre

Saturday/Sunday, 7-8 February 2026

STOP PRESS Camille Beattie made it 3 in a row in beating 4-time champion Louise Mathias in the very hard fought final of the Women's National Singles Championship. In the early rounds most victories were relatively comfortable with the exception of a mighty 3-game tussle between Maddy Raynor and Savanna Leboff. The four quarter-finals may well rank as being of the highest quality we have yet seen at that stage of this event, the eight players boasting a large number of singles and doubles titles between them. Camille Beattie cruised through her semi-final when the Women's National U25 champion, Kirsten Bell, was forced to retire after one game with an arm injury, but Louise Mathias had more of a test in her semi-final match with her doubles partner, Shinan Zhang. Serin Hartopp won the Plate.

In the Doubles Louise Mathias & Shinan Zhang notched up their fifth title together, Shinan's seventh in a row. In the Plate Phoebe Thornhill & Eleonora Vallasas won all their matches to take the trophy comfortably and deservedly.

Singles

1st round: Louise Hawkins bt Katie Parry 11-5, 11-2; Maddy Raynor bt Florence Byng 11-0, 11-2; Savanna Leboff bt Izzy Gair 11-0, 11-; Eleonora Vallasas bt Leonie Brown 11-0, 11-0; Ivany Mebou Talla bt Emily Hodgson 11-1, 11-0; Evelyn Terry bt Antonia Martino 11-2, 11-0; Phoebe Thornhill bt Ellie Ranson 11-2, 11-0; Lizzie Ware bt Serin Hartopp 11-0, 11-2; Zara Elliot bt Nicole Awad 11-0, 11-0; Julie McIntyre bt Harriet Fearon 11-1, 11-4; Catherine Abercrombie bt Emily Palmer 11-4, 11-3

2nd round: Camille Beattie bt Hawkins 11-0, 11-0; Raynor bt Leboff 11-1, 12-10, 12-10; Kirsten Bell bt Vallasas 11-5, 11-0; Helena Tunks bt Talla 11-3, 11-3; Louise Mathias bt Terry 11-0, 11-0; Ware bt Thornhill 11-5, 11-8; Elliot bt McIntyre 11-0, 11-0; Shinan Zhang bt Abercrombie 11-0, 11-0

Quarter-finals: Beattie bt Raynor 15-1, 15-1; Bell bt Tunks 15-9, 15-11; Mathias bt Ware 15-1, 15-4; Zhang bt Elliot 15-5, 15-2

Semi-finals: Beattie bt Bell 15-2, ret.; Mathias bt Zhang 15-9, 15-8

Final: Camille Beattie bt Louise Mathias 10-15, 15-5, 15-4

Plate

Group A: 1st Hartopp W3; 2nd Parry W2; 3rd Brown W1; 4th Awad

Group B: 1st Hodgson W4; 2nd Ranson W3; 3rd Fearon W2; 4th Byng W1; 5th Martino

Final: Serin Hartopp bt Emily Hodgson 15-4, 15-0

Doubles

1st round: Hodgson & Terry bt Awad & Martino 15-0, 15-2

Quarter-finals: Mathias & Zhang bt Hodgson & Terry 15-0, 15-0; Elliot & Leboff bt Thornhill & Vallasas 15-5, 15-3; Bell & Ware bt Abercrombie & Parry 15-0, 15-0; Beattie & Tunks bt Byng & Ranson 15-0, 15-1

Semi-finals: Mathias & Zhang bt Elliot & Leboff 15-9, 15-7; Beattie & Tunks bt Bell & Ware 15-4, 15-12

Final: Louise Mathias & Shinan Zhang bt Camille Beattie & Helena Tunks 15-5, 15-10

Plate: 1st Thornhill & Vallasas W4; 2nd Hodgson & Terry W3; 3rd Abercrombie & Parry W2; 4th Byng & Ranson W1; 5th Awad & Martino

Midlands Schools Regional Championships 2026

Oundle School

Sunday, 8th February 2026

Stop Press: Titles for Rugby School in the U18s, winning both Singles and Doubles. In the U15s Stamford School did the same double, winning the Singles and the Doubles. There were plates for Stamford in the U18 Singles and U15 Singles, while the Derby Moor U18 pair retained the Doubles Plate they won last year.

U18 Singles

Quarter-finals: S McMurrin (Bedford) bt Smallwood (Bedford) 11-3; C McNaughton (Stamford) bt F Morgan (Bedford) 11-0; J Skailes (Rugby) bt Jones (Stamford) 11-3; V Barnes (Rugby) bt C Burrows (Stamford) 11-6

Semi-finals: McNaughton bt McMurrin 15-7; Skailes bt Barnes 15-10

Final: J Skailes (Rugby) bt C McNaughton (Stamford) 15-4

Plate: C Burrows (Stamford) bt Z Winson Yates (Derby Moor) 11-3

Bowl: M Hunter (Stamford) bt P Robb (Oundle) 11-0

U18 Doubles

Quarter-finals: Rugby 1 bt Stamford 2 15-8; Bedford 2 bt Derby Moor 15-9; Stamford 1 bt Rugby 2 15-5; Stamford/Harington 2 bt Bedford 1 15-13

Semi-finals: Rugby 1 bt Bedford 2 15-1; Stamford 1 bt Stamford/Harington 15-4

Final: Rugby 1 (V Barnes & J Skailes) bt Stamford 1 (C Burrows & C McNaughton) 15-12

Plate: Derby Moor (Staryk & Winson Yates) bt Bedford 1 (Morgan & Smallwood) 11-4

U15 Singles

Quarter-final: M Staryk (Derby Moor) bt J Bews (Stamford) 11-8

Semi-finals: L King (Stamford) bt T Vines (Stamford) 11-0; M Hunter (Stamford) bt Staryk 11-0

Final: M Hunter (Stamford) bt L King (Stamford) 11-3

Plate: 1st T Vines (Stamford); 2nd M Staryk (Derby Moor); 3rd J Bews (Stamford)

U15 Doubles

Final: Stamford 1 (King & Vines) bt Stamford 2 (Bews & Downes) 11-3

South East Regional Schools Championships 2026

Tonbridge School

Saturday, 7th February 2026

STOP PRESS Four schools contested this event, held this year at Tonbridge School and organised by Henry Swales, to whom many thanks for taking on this task and providing such a comprehensive report.

Henry Swales reports: The South East Regional Schools' Championships returned to Tonbridge School for a day of highly competitive Fives. Teams braved wet external conditions and the vicissitudes of M25 traffic, with strong representation from Tonbridge, Alleyn's, Christ's Hospital and, new this year, St Paul's. The standard of play was consistently high, with a number of closely contested matches across both the singles and doubles competitions.

In the U18 Singles, the knockout stages produced a strong semi-final line-up featuring players from Tonbridge and Alleyn's. In the first semi-final, M. Arie (Alleyn's) advanced after a commanding performance, while O. Carroll (Tonbridge) came through the opposite side of the draw. The final proved an excellent match, with Carroll managing to defeat Arie 15-12, securing the senior title for Tonbridge. In the 3rd/4th play-off, H. Thomas (Tonbridge) overcame S. Khurana (Alleyn's) 15-11. The Plate competition was also keenly contested, with Oscar (Christ's Hospital) defeating D. Radia (Tonbridge) 15-13 in the final.

In the U18 Doubles, the Tonbridge pairing of O. Carroll & H. Thomas performed strongly throughout the knockout rounds and carried their form into the final, defeating Arie & Khurana (Alleyn's) 11-8, 11-9. The Plate event was won by Seddon & Radia (Tonbridge), who beat Katz & Graham-Maw (St Paul's) 11-4, 11-3.

The U16 competitions were equally competitive. In the U16 Singles Main draw, Alleyn's players featured prominently, culminating in an all-Alleyn's final in which T. Green defeated R. Kohashi-Khan 15-3. Third place went to F. McAllister (Alleyn's), who beat H. Wilson (Tonbridge) 15-7. Supporting competitions were well contested: the Plate was won by Kavin (Christ's Hospital), who beat Ryu V. (Tonbridge) 15-11, while the Bowl went to Quinn (Christ's Hospital) after an 11-8 victory over M. Choi (St Paul's).

The U16 Doubles competition also provided strong matches, culminating in an all-Alleyn's final in which Kohashi-Khan & McAllister defeated Green & Negyal 15-9. The Plate competition was won by Thor & Quinn (Christ's Hospital), who overcame Mason & Kavin (Christ's Hospital) 11-8 in a closely fought final.

Overall, the championships provided a full programme of closely contested matches, played in excellent spirit across all schools.

U18 Singles

Semi-finals: M. Arie (Alleyn's) beat H. Thomas (Tonbridge) 15–0, 15–2; O. Carroll (Tonbridge) beat S. Khurana (Alleyn's) 15–3, 15–12

Final: Carroll (Tonbridge) beat Arie (Alleyn's) 15–12

3rd/4th Match: Thomas (Thomas) beat Khurana (Alleyn's) 15–11

Plate: Oscar (Christ's Hospital) beat D. Radia (Tonbridge) 15–13

U18 Doubles

Final: Carroll & Thomas (Tonbridge) beat Arie & Khurana (Alleyn's) 11–8, 11–9

Plate: Seddon & Radia (Tonbridge) beat Katz & Graham-Maw (St Paul's) 11–4, 11–3

U16 Singles

Semi-finals: T.Green (Alleyn's) beat F.McAllister (Alleyn's) 15–10; R.Kohashi-Khan (Alleyn's) beat H.Wilson (Tonbridge) 15–10

Final: Green (Alleyn's) beat Kohashi-Khan (Alleyn's) 15–3

3rd/4th Match: McAllister (Alleyn's) beat Wilson (Tonbridge) 15–7

Plate: Kavin (Christ's Hospital) beat Ryuu V. (Tonbridge) 15–11

Bowl: Quinn (Christ's Hospital) beat M. Choi (St Paul's) 11–8

U16 Doubles

Final: Kohashi-Khan & McAllister (Alleyn's) beat Green & Negyal (Alleyn's) 15–9

Plate: Thor & Quinn (Christ's Hospital) beat Mason & Kavin (Christ's Hospital) 11–8

Oxford & Cambridge Past versus Present 2026

St Paul's School, Barnes and the University Sports Centre, Cambridge

Saturday, 14th February 2026

Nick Whitney reports from Oxford: The 40th edition of the Oxford Past vs Present match took place at St Paul's School on Saturday, 14th February, a week before the 96th Varsity Match.

In the Men's match, the top eight were closely matched throughout the singles, sharing the games four apiece and leaving the Past 91–75 ahead going into the doubles.

The depth of the Past squad came to the fore in the doubles, with Adam Hutchinson and Vivek Thakrar too strong for the Present's third and fourth pairs. However, the strength at the top of the Present squad ultimately proved decisive, with Shiloh Wu and Seb Ion winning all their games, including a tight 11–9 victory over the stalwart Past pairing of Matt Hale & Nick Whitney.

There was a record-equalling four members of the Hanton family competing in the fixture. The headline family duel saw Julian Hanton and Present captain Kaito Bremner take on Past's Peter Hanton and John Hayes, with the Present coming out on top in both games. This was enough to secure the overall victory, as the Present narrowly won by 11 points to take home the Mackenzie Bowl for the second time in three years.

The Women's match saw a record nine players competing for the "Warner Tower". In the singles, the Past's Phoebe Thornhill was too strong for Present captain Abbie Evans, but Present wins for Erin Butler and Evie Duckworth gave them a three-point lead heading into the doubles. Eight fiercely contested games later, this had extended to a 22-point advantage thanks to six Present victories, with only Phoebe and her partner Yasmine Amirouch able to steal a couple of games for the Past.

Dick Warner and Chris Blakeley led the Past to a comfortable victory in the Beavers match, ahead of the traditional dinner at Queen's Club, where the Past wished the Present good luck for the coming weekend's Varsity Match.

Bob Dolby reports from Cambridge: The 77th Past v Present was its usual delightful occasion, with three contests played out on the Cambridge Sports Centre courts. In the Men's match the Past were a little too strong overall, steadily building winning totals in both the singles and doubles. There was some swapping around as Emrys Thursfield and Ben Yass dropped out to nurse niggling injuries, while Marcus Cloke Browne was likewise playing it safe with the Varsity Match looming just next week. Consequently the Present were privileged in the second half of the doubles to have the loan of Charlie Brooks.

In the Women's match it was good to see how well the Present coped with playing against experienced players like Juliana Murphy, India Blaksley, Cameron Roker, Harriet Fearon and Holly Nugent, testament to the coaching work Ed Hyde has provided for Catherine Abercrombie's squad.

The Ted Isaacs Trophy for Mixed Doubles produced as good a match as we have ever seen at the PvP: a three-gamer in which Savanna Leboff & Ed Hyde came from behind in the third to win the trophy against Helena Tunks & George Crawley.

The Dinner in the Old Library in Pembroke College was a wonderful occasion marked by the largest attendance yet from ladies past and present, and by the funniest "few words" from a CU captain, Jack Pyman, in many a year. The food was superb as ever and the number of photos posed for was probably a record. Sadly the President, Gareth Quarry, was prevented from attending by joyful family commitments, leaving his deputy, Ian Jackson, to run an immaculately timed day of Fives and to preside with gravitas over the evening's proceedings.

Tom Chase took home the Trapnell Tankard for the Men's match, Holly Nugent the Bob Dolby Quaich for the Ladies contest, and Ed Hyde the Ted Isaacs Trophy.

Varsity Match 2026

St Paul's School, Barnes

Saturday, 21st February 2026

Bob Dolby reports: Last year's Men's Varsity Match was close, with Oxford just one point up after the Singles and Cambridge pulling back 8 points in the Doubles. This year's contest was not quite as tight in the end but the mathematical remarkableness continued, with the Doubles being tied and Cambridge consequently winning by the exact margin of the lead they had earlier amassed in the Singles – 17 points. In victory the Light Blues had much to thank their bottom IV of Pyman, Walton, Glover and Menhart for, while the top IV, without Ben Yass, battled hard against the experienced Oxford first IV, from among whom Seb Ion was declared Man of the Match.

The Cambridge Sparrows versus Oxford Beavers match has tended for some years to be won by Oxford, and it was no exception this year. The Beavers were as delighted as ever to retain the Fist of Iron in a six-a-side contest by a comfortable margin, but the Light Blues could claim to have edged the top four stats. What matters most is: Twelve people played, and one of them even managed to get to the Chelsea match by 3 o'clock. And Isaac M-G can now claim to be perhaps the first to have played for both universities in this particular match.

The Women's Match was 4-a-side this year, with Oxford pleased to have Lena Barton back from Armenia to boost Abbie Evans' side. Cambridge had worked hard to maintain the progress they achieved at last year's match, but found the strengthened Oxford IV tough opponents. The light blue ladies did, though, achieve better results as the day went on, and there is plenty of reason to hope for a closer contest next year, with Oxford now looking to add to their run of three wins in a row.

A big thank you goes to St Paul's, to the young man in reception, to supporting family and friends, and to our organiser and umpire, Viola King Forbes, who manages the unenviable task of getting 36 players through some 8-9 hours of Fives in the space allotted, without once raising her voice. No jelly babies, just quiet authority.

Results

Men's Match: Cambridge VIII beat Oxford VIII 284-267

Second Team Match: Oxford Beavers beat the Cambridge Sparrows 202-154

Women's Match: Oxford University Women beat Cambridge University Women 182-74

Northern Schools Championships 2026

Durham, City of Durham Club

Sunday, 1st February 2026

As usual Sedbergh School brought a team to the Durham University Fives Courts to join players from the City of Durham Fives Club in the Northern Schools Fives Championships.

At U16 level it was Sedbergh's Fred Leslie who won the Singles and then joined up with schoolmate Hector Maclean to win the Doubles.

In the U18s Singles Toby Follett made it three titles for Sedbergh, but in the U18 Doubles it was the top City of Durham pairing, Eleonora Vallascas & Evelyn Terry, who defeated Toby and his partner Charlie Lythe.

Results:

U18 Singles Champion: T Follett (Sedbergh School)

U18 Doubles Champions: City of Durham Club (E Terry & E Vallascas)

U16 Singles Champion: F Leslie (Sedbergh School)

U16 Doubles Champions: Sedbergh School (F Leslie & H Maclean)

Girls' South East Regional Championships 2026

Christ's Hospital, Horsham

Thursday, 26th February 2026

26 players from three schools took part in this year's Girls' SE Regional Championships. Contests in the three age-groups were dominated by the 11-strong squad of players from Alleyn's School, who won all 6 titles on offer. Several of the players from Eastbourne and Christ's Hospital were near-beginners, who deserve credit for the well contested junior competition; the U16 category was particularly closely fought; and Taylor-Rose Foo was impressive in her dominance of the senior group.

Results:**U18**

Singles final: T-R Foo (Alleyn's) bt G Pedley (Eastbourne) 11-0

Singles Plate: A Ripley (Eastbourne) bt N Ezeoke (Christ's Hospital) 11-9

Doubles: 1st Alleyn's School (I De Soyza & T-R Foo); 2nd Eastbourne (G Pedley & A Ripley)

Doubles Plate: Christ's Hospital (N Ezeoke & M Okinrunboye)

U16

Singles final: A Brown (Alleyn's) bt A Ratto (Alleyn's) 11-8

Singles Plate: I De Soyza (Alleyn's) bt K Ely (Alleyn's) 11-9

Doubles: 1st Alleyn's 1 (A Brown & A Ratto); 2nd Alleyn's 2 (I De Soyza & K Ely)

Doubles Plate: Eastbourne (A Kasar & S Vasdev)

U14

Singles final: I Lewis (Alleyn's) bt F Dornan (Alleyn's) 11-10

Singles Plate: S Antonova (Alleyn's) bt H Hay (Alleyn's) 11-3

Doubles: 1st Alleyn's 1 (S Antonova & F Dornan); 2nd Alleyn's 3 (H Hay & I Lewis)

Doubles Plate: Christ's Hospital (E Elliott & D El Choueiry)

North of England Open Championships 2026

Durham University Fives Courts

Saturday/Sunday, 28th February/1st March 2026

Stop Press Ben Beltrami won his second North of England Open Singles title, successfully defending the Ferens Trophy he first won last year, then went on to win his fifth Doubles title, his third with Ollie Arnold. The newly instituted Alex Wilson Singles Plate was won by Nathan Groombridge-Westacott. Dan Grant was denied a second regional Singles title in the final against Ben, while Penn Chai and Richie Murby teamed up for a first time to win the Silver medal in the Doubles. Home pair of Simon and Camille Beattie won the Doubles Plate.

The RFA's thanks go to the City of Durham Fives Club for their hosting of the event, to Julian Aquilina for his organisation, and to the players who made the trip to Durham from several distant parts of the country.

Report to follow

Singles

1st round: W Milne bt E Castillo Carbonell 15-5; T McElvaney bt L Mathias 15-3; C Lacewing bt R Guthrie 15-2; F Hammond Giles bt A Noble 15-0; S Scott bt S Zhang 15-4; S Beattie bt N Groombridge-Westacott 15-7; V Fikhter bt E Hudson 15-0; T Vernacchio bt M Morgan 15-9; O Arnold bt Z Winson Yates 15-0; A McCreath bt P Maddison 15-2

2nd round: B Beltrami bt Milne 15-3; McElvaney bt Lacewing 16-14; Hammond Giles bt Scott 15-1; L Keates bt Beattie 15-9; D Grant bt Fikhter 15-8; P Chai bt Vernacchio 15-7; O Arnold bt C Low 15-11; J Aquilina bt McCreath 15-5

Quarter-finals: Beltrami bt McElvaney 11-3, 11-6; Hammond Giles bt Keates 11-3, 11-5; Grant bt Chai 11-6, 8-11, 11-9; Aquilina bt Arnold 11-1, 9-11, 11-7

Semi-finals: Beltrami bt Hammond Giles 11-5, 11-5; Grant bt Aquilina 11-1, 11-8

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

Plate: N Groombridge-Westacott bt S Zhang 11-1, 11-5

Doubles

1st round: V Fikhter & J Minta bt W Milne & A Noble 15-9; L Keates & T Vernacchio bt L Mathias & S Zhang 15-2; J Aquilina & T McElvaney bt C Beattie & S Beattie 15-4; D Grant & F Hammond Giles bt C Clarke & C Davidson 15-4; C Lacewing & S Scott bt E Castillo Carbonell & N Groombridge-Westacott 15-3; C Low & A McCreath bt G Lythgoe & M Morgan 15-2;

Quarter-finals: O Arnold & B Beltrami bt Fikhter & Minta 11-2, 11-2; Aquilina & McElvaney bt Keates & Vernacchio 11-6, 10-12, 11-9; P Chai & R Murby bt Grant & Hammond Giles 11-9, 2-11, 11-2; Low & McCreath bt Lacewing & Scott 15-5, 15-4

Semi-finals: Arnold & Beltrami bt Aquilina & McElvaney xxx, xxx; Chai & Murby bt Low & McCreath 10-12, 11-7, 11-3

Final: Arnold & Beltrami bt Chai & Murby 11-5, 11-3

Plate: Beattie & Beattie bt Lythgoe & Morgan 11-9, 11-7

The Colquhoun Trophy 2026

Marlborough College

Sunday, 1st March 2026

With the RFA's thanks to organiser Giles Munn, to the various coaches and staff who brought their squads, and to our kind hosts, Marlborough College.

Giles Munn reports: In this year's Colquhoun Trophy tournament, despite some last minute drop-outs, we had a total of 25 players from 6 different schools: Marlborough, Sherborne, Radley, Malvern, Peter Symonds and Winchester, with a total of 84 games played.

The U18 competition was very hard to call, so groups were set up leading to a knock-out competition and a plate. The group stages went as expected with the main contenders making it through, the one upset being T.Fergusson (WinC) beating T.Moesel (Sher) 11-10 to top their group. The knock-out stages proved how difficult it was to call between the top 8 players. J.Graham (Sher), who had come 3rd in his group, beat D.Vorobev (WinC), who had topped his group, and then proceeded to beat his teammate Moesel to reach the final. In the final Graham was to meet N.Wong (WinC), to whom he had lost 9-0 in the group stages. This time Graham showed superior fitness and athletic ability to beat a tiring Wong 11-5, 11-3.

W.Horton (Sher) won the U18 plate competition, beating off his closest rival H.Koma (Rad) 11-5.

The U16 competition was much easier to seed and the top 4 did not disappoint, all making the semi-finals. It was not entirely without incident as H.Hill (Malv) looked like he might be in trouble in his 1st game against W.Lee (WinC); however, he found his rhythm and eventually progressed 1-11, 11-2, 11-3. The semi-finals were of a very good standard and despite both only going to 2 sets the second sets were close games, both won 12-10. In the final H.Franks (WinC) fought hard against the home favourite and 1st seed H.Fletcher (Marl) but was unable to make enough progress against some excellent serving and precision hitting from the left-handed Fletcher, who won 11-1, 11-5.

The U16 plate competition was won for the 2nd year in a row by Winchester's Lee, heading his closest rival R.Xie (Marl), who went one better than his 3rd place from last year. In the rest of the U16 plate it was great to see that everyone won at least 1 game.

Results

U18 Singles: J.Graham (Sherborne School) bt N.Wong (Winchester College) 11-5, 11-3

U18 Singles Plate: W.Horton (Sherborne School) bt H.Koma (Radley College) 11-5

U16 Singles: H.Fletcher (Marlborough College) bt H.Franks (Winchester College) 11-1, 11-5

U16 Singles Plate: 1st W.Lee (Winchester College); 2nd R.Xie (Marlborough College)

Updated National Rankings March 2026

The RFA is delighted to publish Updated Open Rankings, compiled by courtesy of Will Ellison and Charlie Brooks. In the **Singles Rankings** the top 5 players remain the same: Dan Tristao, Ed Kay, Ben Beltrami, Julian Aquilina and Dan Grant. There is upward movement in the Top 10 for Charlie Brooks (up to #6) and for Penn Chai (entering at #10'); in the Top 20 for Theo Parker, Cameron Low, Charlie Lacewing, Terry McElvaney and Ollie Arnold (up from #23 to #19); and in the Top 30 for Anthony Goodwin, Oscar McIntyre (from #28 to #23), Theo Vernacchio, Ben Jourdan and Val Fikhter (entering at #29). 197 players are now ranked.

In **Doubles** there are 224 players ranked. There is only one change in the Top 10, with Ollie Arnold moving from #14 to #9 at the expense of James Tilston. Terry McElvaney (now #16) and Oscar McIntyre (now #18) are newcomers to the Top 20, while Patrick Harrison (#25) and Richie Murby (#26) move into the Top 30.

National U13 Championships 2026

St Paul's School, Barnes

Sunday, 8th March 2026

37 players, from 8 schools, competed in this year's championships: Alleyn's, Berkhamsted, Bloxham, City of London, Goodrich Primary, Merchiston Castle, Stoke Newington and UCS.

The defending champion from Berkhamsted retained his title and then did the same in the Doubles with a new partner; in the Doubles it was an all-Berkhamsted final. Silver went to Stoke Newington in the Singles final. And both plates were won by players from Bloxham.

Third/fourth place matches were played in both the knock-out competition and the plate, and in both Singles and Doubles, with further success for Berkhamsted in the Singles and a much appreciated win for a pair from UCS in the Doubles. UCS entered a squad for the first time for some 20 years.

The RFA's thanks go to host school, St Paul's, to staff and friends who supported the players, to the young players themselves who played with customary enthusiasm, and to organiser Sam Roberts for running such a busy and enjoyable day's competition.

Singles

Group A: Cup: 1st T O'Beirne (Berk); **2nd** A Chan (All); **3rd** A Dunn (Merch). **Plate:** A Tarzynski (All); B Cato (Blox); G Antcliffe (StoN).

Group B: Cup: 1st O Moss (Berk); **2nd** E Pilkington (All); **3rd** W Cornish (Blox). **Plate:** S Davies (All); J Keegan (StoN); W Samuel-Lajeunesse (UCS).

Group C: Cup: 1st J Kapil (All); **2nd** A Chinneck (Berk). **Plate:** T Mayes (All); M John (CofL); Z Viggers-Hussain (GoodP); O Fujishiro (Merch).

Group D: Cup: 1st W Gilbody (StoN); **2nd** W Lloyd-Evans (Berk). **Plate:** S Pool (UCS); H Conway (All); M Acar (All); W Toop (GoodP).

Group E: Cup: 1st H Seddon (Berk); **2nd** H Au (All); **3rd** Z Siu (Merch). **Plate:** C Trevatt (Blox); D Krykun (All); L O'Leary (UCS).

Group F: Cup: 1st C Gie (Berk); **2nd** F Rai (All); **3rd** H Hyotte(UCS). **Plate:** T Nelson (All); J Gaul (Merch); B Howard (StoN).

Cup

1st round: Moss (Berk) bt Siu (Merch) 11-1; Chinneck (Berk) bt Pilkington (All) 11-7; Chan (All) bt O'Beirne (Berk) 11-5; Kapil (All) bt Dunn (Merch) 11-3; Seddon (Berk) bt Cornish (Blox) 11-1; Gie (Berk) bt Rai (All) 11-8; Lloyd-Evans (Berk) bt Au (All) 11-1; Gilbody (StoN) bt Hyotte (UCS) 11-0

Quarter-finals: Moss (Berk) bt Chinneck (Berk) 11-3; Kapil (All) bt Chan (All) 11-3; Gie (Berk) bt Seddon (Berk) 12-10; Gilbody (StoN) bt Lloyd-Evans (Berk) 11-8

Semi-finals: Moss (Berk) bt Kapil (All) 15-1; Gilbody (StoN) bt Gie (Berk) 15-12

Final: O Moss (Berkhamsted) bt W Gilbody (Stoke Newington) 15-3

Third place: C Gie (Berkhamsted) bt J Kapil (Alleyn's) 11-9

Plate final: B Cato (Bloxham) bt J Gaul (Merchiston) 11-0

3rd place: T Nelson (Alleyn's) bt S Pool (UCS) 11-4

Doubles

1st round: Alleyn's 6 bt Bloxham 2 11-5; Goodrich bt Alleyn's 5 11-7

2nd round: Berkhamsted 1 bt Alleyn's 6 11-1; Alleyn's 2 bt UCS 1 11-3; Stoke Newington 1 bt Alleyn's 3 11-0; Alleyn's 4 bt Merchiston 2 11-0; Berkhamsted 2 bt UCS 2 11-9; Alleyn's 1 bt Stoke Newington 2 11-0; Berkhamsted 3 bt Bloxham 1 12-10; Merchiston 1 bt Goodrich 11-3

Quarter-finals: Berkhamsted 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-2; Stoke Newington 1 bt Alleyn's 4 11-3; Berkhamsted 2 bt Alleyn's 1 11-4; Merchiston 1 bt Berkhamsted 3 11-9

Semi-finals: Berkhamsted 1 bt Stoke Newington 1 15-6; Berkhamsted 2 bt Merchiston 1 15-3

Final: Berkhamsted 1 (O Moss & H Seddon) bt Berkhamsted 2 (A Chinneck & W Lloyd-Evans) 15-6

3rd place: Merchiston 1 (A Dunn & Z Siu) bt Stoke Newington 1 (W Gilbody & B Howard) 15-12

Plate final: Bloxham 1 (B Cato & W Cornish) bt UCS 1 (S Pool & W Samuel-Lajeunesse) 15-11

3rd place: UCS 2 (H Hyotte & L O'Leary) bt Alleyn's 3 (M Acar & F Rai) 15-6

National Girls Schools Championships 2026

Oundle School

Sunday, 15th March 2026

An impressive performance by the girls from Alleyn's School in winning all six titles, Singles and Doubles, in the U18, U16 and U14 age-groups. Likewise an encouraging display from the U13 players from the Edinburgh Academy, who won the Singles and Doubles titles in their category.

There were players from 11 schools and clubs: Alleyn's, Bloxham, Bradfield, City of Durham, Eastbourne, Edinburgh Academy, Fettes, Marlborough, Oundle, Rugby and Stamford.

The Rugby Fives Association's thanks go to our hosts, Oundle School, to the staff who brought their players to the tournament, to the enthusiastic players themselves, and to organiser Alex Smith, who manages 16 different draws with such skill.

U18 Singles Preliminary round

Group A: 1st I Mebou Talla (Rug); 2nd E Barnard (Bradf); 3rd F Smith (Ound)

Group B: 1st E Terry (Durh); 2nd A Ripley (Eastb); 3rd E Riddell (Ound)

Group C: 1st D Tiwari (All); 2nd I Machin (Ound); 3rd E Edwards (Eastb)

Group D: 1st P Simons (Blox); 2nd G Pedley (Eastb); 3rd F Smart (Fett)

Group E: 1st C Barnard (Bradf); 2nd C Lonie (EdAc); 3rd F Woodfield (Ound)

U18 Singles Knock-out

1st round: T-R Foo (All) bt F Smart (Fett) 9-0; I Mebou Talla (Rug) bt E Terry (Durh) 9-0; E Barnard (Bradf) bt G Playfair (EdAc) 9-7; E Hodgson (Durh) bt G Pedley (Eastb) 9-2; A Hurwitz (EdAc) bt C Lonie (EdAc) 9-0; I Davidson (EdAc) bt P Simons (Blox) 10-18; D Tiwari (All) bt C Barnard (Bradf) 9-1; A McAllister (All) bt A Ripley (Eastb) 9-2

Quarter-finals: Foo bt Mebou Talla 11-0; Barnard bt Hodgson 11-4; Hurwitz bt Davidson 11-0; Tiwari bt McAllister 11-2

Semi-finals: Foo bt Barnard 11-2; Hurwitz bt Tiwari 11-8

U18 Singles final: T-R Foo (Alleyn's) bt A Hurwitz (Edinburgh Academy) 15-2

U18 Singles Plate final: G Playfair (Edinburgh Academy) bt P Simons (Bloxham) 11-3

U18 Doubles

Round 1: Edbourne bt Eastbourne 1 9-3

Quarter-finals: Alleyn's 1 bt EdBourne 11-0; Durham 1 bt Ed.Academy 2 11-5; Bradfield bt Fettes 11-6; Rugby bt Ed.Academy 1 11-7

Semi-finals: Alleyn's 1 bt Durham 1 11-1; Rugby bt Bradfield 11-1

U18 Doubles final: Alleyn's 1 (T-R Foo & D Tiwari) bt Rugby (G Harwood & I Mebou Talla) 11-3

U18 Doubles Plate final: Edinburgh Academy 1 (A Hurwitz & G Playfair) bt Edinburgh Academy 2 (I Davidson & C Lonie)

U16 Singles Preliminary round

Group A: 1st I De Soyza (All); 2nd M McQuin (EdAc); 3rd L Henderson (Fettes)

Group B: 1st C Smith (EdAc); 2nd I Duncan (Fett); 3rd A Kasar (Eastb)

Group C: 1st K Eley (All); 2nd I Derry (EdAc); 3rd K Fomenko (EdAc)

Group D: 1st J Carter (Rug); 2nd S Vasdev (Eastb); 3rd S Brogan (Fett)

U16 Singles knock-out

1st round: I De Soyza bt McQuin 9-1; C Smith bt Derry (EdAc) 9-2; G Harwood (Rug) bt Duncan 9-1; Carter bt Eley 9-0

Quarter-finals: A Brown (All) bt De Soyza 11-1; Smith bt I Niznik (Fett) 11-1; Fox (EdAc) bt Harwood 11-4; A Ratto (All) bt Carter 11-0

Semi-finals: Brown bt Smith 11-0; Ratto bt Fox 11-0

U16 Singles final: A Brown (Alleyn's) bt A Ratto (Alleyn's) 15-1

U16 Singles Plate final: I Niznik (Fettes) bt I Derry (Edinburgh Academy) 11-6

U16 Doubles

Quarter-finals: Alleyn's 1 bt RugBurgh 11-1; Edinburgh Academy 2 bt Fettes 2 11-1; Alleyn's 2 bt Fettes 1 11-5; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Eastbourne 1 1-0

Semi-finals: Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 2 11-3; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-7

U16 Doubles final: Alleyn's 1 (A Brown & A Ratto) bt Edinburgh Academy 1 (D Fox & S McWilliam) 15-1

U16 Doubles Plate final: RugBurgh (Carter & Smith) bt Fettes 1 (S Brogan & I Duncan) 11-0

U14 Singles Preliminary round

Group A: 1st E Butler (All); 2nd E Morris (Stam); 3rd L Hender (Marl)

Group B: 1st I Stubberfield (EdAc); 2nd G Good (Marl); 3rd A Dennison (Stam)

Group C: 1st B Burt (Marl); 2nd G Copinger-Symes (Marl); 3rd T Cannon (All)

Group D: 1st K Symington (EdAc); 2nd B Brennon (Marl); 3rd I Lavan (Marl)

U14 Singles knock-out

Quarter-finals: F Dornan (All) bt Good 11-1; Symington bt Burt 11-7; S Antonova (All) bt Stubberfield 11-7; S McWilliam (EdAc) bt Butler 11-6

Semi-finals: Dornan bt Symington 11-2; Antonova bt McWilliam 11-8

U14 Singles final: F Dornan (Alleyn's) bt S Antonova (Alleyn's) 15-12

U14 Singles Plate final: E Morris (Stamford) bt L Lavan (Marlborough) 11-4

U14 Doubles

Quarter-finals: Stamford 1 bt Marlborough 2 11-10; Marlborough 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-8; Ed.Academy 1 bt Marlborough 3 11-3

Semi-finals: Alleyn's 1 bt Stamford 1 11-6; Ed.Academy bt Marlborough 1 11-7

U14 Doubles final: Alleyn's 1 (S Antonova & F Dornan) bt Edinburgh Academy (K Symington & I Stubberfield) 11-4

U14 Doubles Plate final: Stamford 1 (A Dennison & E Morris) bt Marlborough 1 (G Good & L Hender) 11-4

U13 Singles Preliminary round

Group A: 1st O Sharp (Stam); 2nd P Negyal (All); 3rd M Linklater (EdAc)

Group B: 1st I Parton (Stam); 2nd M Worthy (All); 3rd A Dixon (All)

Group C: 1st E Buchan (EdAc); C Disley (Stam); 3rd P Brown (All)

Group D: 1st I Dunsmure (EdAc); 2nd G Shaw (Stam); 3rd E Price (All)

U13 Singles knock-out

Quarter-finals: M Nethercot (All) bt G Shaw (Stam) 11-3; M Linklater (EdAc) bt I Parton (Stam) 11-7; E Buchan (EdAc) bt I Dunsmure (EdAc) 11-7; I Gair (EdAc) bt M Worthy (All) 11-1

Semi-finals: Linklater bt Nethercot 11-1; Gair bt Buchan 11-3

U13 Singles final: I Gair (Edinburgh Academy) bt M Linklater (Edinburgh Academy) 11-1

U13 Singles Plate final: M Worthy (Alleyn's) bt I Dunsmure (Edinburgh Academy) 11-3

U13 Doubles

Quarter-finals: EdAc 1 bt Oundle 1 11-0; Stamford 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-4; EdAc 2 bt Alleyn's 3 11-1; Alleyn's 1 bt Stamford 2 11-1

Semi-finals: EdAc 1 bt Stamford 1 11-0; Alleyn's 1 bt EdAc 2 11-8

U13 Doubles final: Edinburgh Academy 1 (I Gair & M Linklater) bt Alleyn's 1 (M Worthy & M Nethercot) 11-1

U13 Doubles Plate final: Stamford 2 (I Parton & O Sharp) bt Alleyn's 2 (A Dixon & E Price) 11-5

Winchester Fives Open Doubles (Barnes Bridge)

Sedbergh School, Cumbria

Sunday, 15th March 2026

Stop Press It's a first Barnes Bridge title for Lewis Keates and a second for Dave Butler, who won with Ben Beltrami in 2017. In the end Dave and Lewis played the runners-up, Richard Guthrie & Rob Walton, in the round robin and in the final, after Richard and Rob had won the match of the day, a 3-gamer against Ian Purvis & Nick Whitney in their semi-final. Former winner John Minta paired up with Simon Maskell to win the Plate at the expense of Ben Hale & Jez Sinton.

Harry Akerman reports: Whilst numbers were not that big at Sedbergh for the Barnes Bridge this year, the excitement levels for a day of Winchester Fives were anything but. Sixteen of the 22 players travelled up on Saturday evening for a pre-tournament meal, kindly organised by Dave Fox, who was at pains to point out that this would definitely, absolutely, almost certainly be his last ever open tournament.

With group accommodation, a hearty meal, a few post-dinner drinks and even a slightly questionable nightclub, the whole thing began to feel suspiciously like a mini Jesters Edinburgh Fives tour.

Sunday morning greeted us with an organiser's nightmare.... classic court-sweating conditions: heavy rain and slightly warmer air than expected. Fortunately, the court heaters had been working overtime (don't tell the bursar!), and we were treated to four courts that remained dry throughout the day.

The morning's play was split into two round-robin groups, with the top two pairs progressing to the semi-finals. Both groups were tightly contested, with several games decided by the odd point and 4 pairs in each group having a genuine chance of progressing as we headed into the final round of games.

The first semi-final saw Butler and Keates take on Fox and Roberts. The younger pair eventually prevailed, ensuring that Dave's glorious farewell tour would not include a third Barnes Bridge title to sit alongside his victories in 2004 and 2005. The other semi-final was a thriller, with Ian Purvis and Nick Whitney facing Sedbergh old boys Richard Guthrie and Rob Walton. In a classic best-of-three to 15, Ian and Nick somehow managed to turn a commanding lead in the first game into a 16-15 defeat. They rallied well to take the second 15-12, but Guthrie and Walton edged the decider 15-13 (overall 43 points each).

By the time the final arrived the Guthrie/Walton energy levels were understandably running a little low, but there were still some excellent exchanges. The standout moment was undoubtedly Rob Walton's extraordinary backward-facing shot into the buttress — a piece of improvisation that was (just) caught on film and can be seen on the RFA WhatsApp group. The Plate competition was equally competitive. Ben Hale and Jez Sinton gained revenge for their earlier round-robin defeat to Chris Woods and Harry Akerman, but in a storyline mirroring the main draw they perhaps ran out of steam when they met a fresher John Minta and Simon Maskell in the final. This was a shame for Ben in particular, who would have completed a unique 'grand slam' of Barnes Bridge plates to go with the ones he has won at the other 3 hosting venues. 4 years' time maybe, Ben....!

All in all it was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. Huge thanks to Sedbergh for the use of their fantastic facilities and for putting on such a generous lunch. It was also great to see Taylor McGuire and Andrew Taylor back on their home courts, and to watch Ian Purvis striking the ball as sweetly as he did all those years ago. Should he ever decide to reunite with Simon Fraser, the rest of us had better watch out!

Scores

Group A: 1st D Butler & L Keates W5 55pts; 2nd R Guthrie & R Walton W4 47pts; 3rd S Maskell & J Minta W3 47pts; 4th T McGuire & A Taylor W2 33pts; 5th R Christie & A Passey W1 29pts; 6th D Spiegel & J Tye W0 19pts

Group B: 1st I Purvis & N Whitney W4 60pts; 2nd D Fox & S Roberts W3 53pts; 3rd H Akerman & C Woods W2 47pts; 4th B Hale & J Sinton W1 44pts; 5th R Follett & T Follett W0 12pts

Semi-finals: Butler & Keates bt Fox & Roberts 15-4, 15-4; Guthrie & Walton bt Purvis & Whitney 16-15, 12-15, 15-13

Final: Butler & Keates bt Guthrie & Walton 15-6, 15-7

Plate: Maskell & Minta bt Hale & Sinton 11-4, 11-7

The Wood Cup – National Club Championship 2026

St Paul's School and Alleyn's School

Saturday/Sunday, 21-22 March 2026

Stop Press The Old Paulines successfully defended the Wood Cup, winning the final against a weakened Edward Alleyn Club 1st IV with some ease. The Plate was won in a close match by the Edward Alleyn Club 2nd IV, at the expense of a rejigged West of England Club IV.

Tom Maconie reports: Another eventful Wood Cup was played out at St Paul's and Alleyn's, with seven clubs vying for what turned out to be a highly polished trophy.

The tournament kicked off with a two-group round-robin on Saturday at St Paul's. In the four-team Group A, the Old Paulines (OP) showed too much strength and depth for the rest of the field. They finished comfortably at the top of the group, just five points short of a maximum 312. Things were closer between the other three teams (West of England 2, Edward Alleyn Club 2 (EAFC 2), and Executioners). The Executioners played well to secure second place but yielded their place in the Plate Final to EAFC 2, as the team was unavailable to play on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Group B was a much tighter contest. It began with an epic four-hour match between Edward Alleyn Club 1 (EAFC 1) and Wessex. This was a hard-fought encounter with both teams playing excellent Fives. Eventually, the depth of EAFC 1 told and they prevailed. The remaining, relatively short matches in Group B saw West of England 1 beat Wessex, before EAFC 1 defeated West of England 1 in a late-finishing, doubles-only encounter to secure a place against the OPs in the final.

Finals day on Sunday saw an even stronger OP side take on EAFC 1. With all four of the OP team ranked in the top 13 nationally, victory was always going to be a tall order for EAFC 1. Despite a fine singles win for Gwydion Wiseman against Julian Aquilina, the OPs won comfortably to retain the Wood Cup for the fourth year in a row. A special mention goes to OP Theo Parker, who recorded a sixth consecutive Wood Cup win—possibly an individual record? Perhaps one for the Fives history buffs to discuss.

The Plate Final was much closer than the main draw, with a hastily rejigged West of England 1 team losing out by just seven points to a solid EAFC 2 side. WoE 1 lost their second pair to illness only two hours before the final, so a very special mention goes to Archie Borthwick and Steve Brooke for stepping in at such short notice. Steve had already completed a nine-mile run before agreeing to play at 10:00 am on Sunday! Hugely impressive.

Overall, it was a great weekend of Fives, despite the usual organisational hurdles (rules, rankings, radiators, and round-robins, to name a few). Many thanks to Hamish Buchanan, Charlie Brooks, and Sam Roberts for helping the tournament run smoothly.

Results

Group A: 1st Old Paulines W3; 2nd Executioners W2; 3rd Edward Alleyn Club 2 W1; 4th West of England 2 W0

Group B: 1st Edward Alleyn Club 1 W2; 2nd West of England 1 W1; 3rd Wessex Club W0

Final: Old Paulines bt Edward Alleyn Club 1 **131-38** [Singles 43-15; Doubles 88-23]

Plate: Edward Alleyn Club 2 bt West of England 1/2 **80-73** [Singles 25-24; Doubles 55-49]

Teams

Edward Alleyn Club 1: G Wiseman, T Vernacchio, E Carr and I Ackland

Edward Alleyn Club 2: P Harrison, Y Negyal, H Shaw, H Buchanan, Al Goodwin and H Wiseman

Executioners: B Chua, A Pringle, A Hutchinson and K Diggins

Old Paulines: C Brooks, F Hammond Giles, T Parker, J Aquilina and J Ferro

Wessex Club: JP Cheng, G Munn, A James-Duff, R James-Duff and E Hawke

West of England 1: C Low, T Maconie, J Hughes and W Bishop

West of England 2: A Borthwick, R Mason, S Brooke and A Amour

The National Schools Rugby Fives Championships 2026

St Paul's School, Barnes

Saturday/Monday, 28-30 March 2026

History was made at this year's championships when Freddie Hammond Giles won the U18 Singles title for the third year in a row, a feat achieved previously only once, by Peter Mellor in 1960, 1961 and 1962. Fittingly Peter was present on finals day to watch Freddie play and then to award the Jesters' Cup to the young champion from St Paul's School. Further history was made later in the day, when Freddie teamed up with his partner, Josh Ferro, to win the U18 Doubles, also for the third year in a row. This has never been done previously. There was a third piece of history to celebrate when Freddie's younger brother Joey won both the Singles and Doubles in the U16 category. This combination of two brothers winning the four titles in the same year has never occurred before at the National Championships.

In the U14 Championships, players from the Edinburgh Academy continued the school's successes in this age group over the past three years. The Academy can now boast the U14 Singles and Doubles Open Champions to add to the U13 Singles and Doubles titles won at last month's Girls' Schools Championships.

The entry of over 140 players from 18 Fives-playing schools and clubs was most probably a record and made for a packed Sunday's programme, brilliantly managed by organiser Theo Parker, ably supported by Sam Roberts and James Harrison from our kind hosts, St Paul's School. Over the three days Theo was aided in the construction and running of the 13 draws in action by General Secretary Chris Blakeley, Alex Smith and Peter Worlledge. The RFA's thanks go as ever to them, to the various coaches, masters-in-charge, staff, drivers, friends and family members who brought and supported the players, and to the many young players who make these championships such a positive experience.

Results

U18 Singles

1st round: F Schelin (Rad) bt B Weir (Fett) 5-9; L Ferro (SPS) bt O Zhou (CHosp) 15-8

2nd round: F Hammond Giles (SPS) bt Schelin 15-1; R Jones (Stam) bt E Efthimiou (SPS) 15-2; F Aird (Fett) bt J Liu (WinC) 16-14; O Carroll (Ton) bt F Morgan (Bedf) 15-3; J Ferro (SPS) bt Stevenson (Ton) 15-0; S McMurran (Bedf) bt T-R Foo (All) 15-4; Z Okada (SPS) bt C Rollo (UCS) 15-10; T Munaretto Day bt H Jones (Stam) 15-5; T Ritchie (SPS) bt M Russell (EdAc) 15-4; Z Goulding (WinC) bt E Hunter (Hari) 15-6; R Hargreaves (Merc) bt C Sharpe (Stam) 15-4; C McNaughton (Stam) bt D Cheung (SPS) 15-3; N Cortas (SPS) bt A Cross (EdAc) 15-0; M Arie (All) bt C Burrows (Stam) 15-3; H Severino (All) bt J Duff (EdAc) 15-9; V Fikhter (YClub) bt L Ferro 15-1

3rd round: Hammond Giles bt Jones 11-0, 11-0; Carroll bt Aird 11-2, 11-1; J Ferro bt McMurran 11-7, 11-1; Munaretto Day bt Okada 6-11, 11-3, 11-7; Ritchie bt Goulding 11-2, 11-4; McNaughton bt Hargreaves 11-4, 11-1; Cortas bt Arie 11-2, 11-5; Fikhter bt Severino 11-0, 11-0

Quarter-finals: Hammond Giles bt Carroll 11-1, 11-0; J Ferro bt Munaretto Day 11-5, 11-8; Ritchie bt McNaughton 11-0, 11-2; Fikhter bt Cortas 11-5, 11-0

Semi-finals: Hammond Giles bt Ferro 11-0, 11-2; Fikhter bt Ritchie 11-5, 11-4

Final: F Hammond Giles (St Paul's) bt V Fikhter (YClub) 11-3, 11-1

Plate final: M Russell (Edinburgh Academy) bt H Jones (Stamford) 11-5, 5-11, 11-4

U18 Doubles

1st round: Rad/Merc bt EdAc 2 15-3

2nd round: SPS 1 bt Rad/Merc 11-0, 11-0; Bedford bt All/Hari 11-1, 11-3; SPS 3 bt Ton/WinC 11-1, 11-5; EdAc 1 bt Alleyn's 11-3, 5-11, 12-11; SPS 2 bt Stamford 2 11-3, 11-6; Tonbridge bt SPS 4 11-5, 11-5; Stamford 1 bt Fettes 11-1, 11-1; Winchester bt Stamford 3 11-5, 11-3

Quarter-finals: SPS 1 bt Bedford 11-0, 11-2; SPS 3 bt EdAc 1 11-5, 11-1; SPS 2 bt Tonbridge 11-8, 11-9; Winchester 1 bt Stamford 1 12-10, 11-1

Semi-finals: SPS 1 bt SPS 3 11-3, 11-5; Winchester bt SPS 2 11-9, 11-4

Final: St Paul's 1 (J Ferro & F Hammond Giles) bt Winchester (Z Goulding & T Munaretto Day) 11-0, 11-1

Plate final: Alleyn's (M Arie & H Severino) bt Stamford 2 (M Hunter & R Jones) 11-6, 11-4

U16 Singles

1st round: E Scott (All) bt Marquinez (Fett) 15-0; P Jesuarul (EdAc) bt Coogan (Ton) 15-5; S Negyal (All) bt R Xie (Marl) 15-5; Dobson (WinC) bt H Durnall (MKell) 15-11; Bauer (SPS) bt Hunter (Stam) 15-11; Macpherson-Raffell (Fett) bt Norton (MKell) 15-6; Lee (WinC) bt Adams (MKell) 15-5; L Scott-Tucker (MKell) bt Theieme (Fett) 15-0; Dyson (MKell) bt Linton (Blox) 15-2; Mitchell (EdAc) bt Allen (All) 15-0; Agostino (SPS) bt D Gilbody (SNS) 15-5; Wilson (Ton) bt Cao (MKell) 15-3; Baijal (SPS) bt Hilder (All) 15-7; Uzzell (Fett) bt Tse (Ton) 15-3; Valentine (EdAc) bt Murray (EdAc) 15-11; Brown (EdAc) bt Knight (MKell) 15-4; Taylor (All) bt Soon (WinC) 15-4

2nd round: J Hammond Giles (SPS) bt Scott 15-1; Jesuarul bt Kininmonth (SNS) 15-1; Kohashi-Khan (All) bt Whybrow (MKell) 15-3; Derry bt Negyal 15-4; Green (All) bt Dobson 15-1; Carnegie (WinC) bt Bauer 15-4; Thomas (PS) bt Macpherson-Raffell 15-6; Clark (EdAc) bt Lee 15-8; Ponte (SPS) bt Scott-Tucker 15-5; Mitchell bt Dyson 15-8; Puri (SPS) bt Agostino 15-9; McAllister (All) bt Wilson 15-1; Fletcher (Marl) bt Baijal 15-6; Bhalodia (SPS) bt Uzzell 15-2; Valentine bt Brown 16-14; Henry (EdAc) bt Taylor 15-5

3rd round: Hammond Giles bt Jesuarul 11-7, 11-3; Derry bt Kohashi-Khan 12-10, 11-5; Green bt Carnegie 11-4, 11-2; Clark bt Thomas 11-1, 11-2; Ponte bt Mitchell 11-0, 11-5; McAllister bt Puri 11-9, 11-7; Fletcher bt Bhalodia 11-8, 11-1; Henry bt Valentine 11-3, 11-0

Quarter-finals: Hammond Giles bt Derry 11-5, 11-2; Green bt Clark 11-7, 11-7; Ponte bt McAllister 12-10, 11-1; Henry bt Fletcher 1-11, 11-7, 12-10

Semi-finals: Hammond Giles bt Green 11-0, 11-5; Ponte bt Henry 11-2, 11-4

Final: J Hammond Giles (St Paul's) bt A Ponte (St Paul's) 11-5, 11-9

Plate final: S Negyal (Alley's) bt W Lee (Winchester) 5-11, 11-7, 12-10

U16 Doubles

1st round: MKelly 2 bt WinC 2 15-11; EdAc 4 bt MKelly 4 15-; SNS bt Fettes 2 15-1; EdAc 3 bt Blox/Ton 15-1; Alley's 4 bt Fettes 1 15-11; SPS 3 bt Alley's 3 15-4; SPS 4 bt MKelly 1 15-13; Tonbridge bt MKelly 3 15-2

2nd round: EdAc 1 bt MKelly 2 15-3; Alley's 2 bt EdAc 4 15-5; SPS 2 bt SNS 15-0; WinC 1 bt EdAc 3 15-8; SPS 1 bt Alley's 4 15-3; EdAc 2 bt SPS 3 15-11; Marlb bt SPS 4 15-1; Alley's 1 bt Tonbridge 15-1

Quarter-finals: Alley's 2 bt EdAc 1 11-7, 7-11, 11-7; SPS 2 bt WinC 1 9-11, 11-0, 11-8; SPS 1 bt EdAc 2 11-1, 11-0; Alley's 1 bt Marlb 11-0, 11-7

Semi-finals: SPS 2 bt Alley's 2 6-11, 11-5, 11-6; SPS 1 bt Alley's 1 8-11, 12-11, 12-10

Final: St Paul's 2 (J Hammond Giles & T Outred) bt St Paul's 1 (A Ponte & R Puri) 11-4, 11-9

Plate final: St Paul's 3 (I Baijal & A Bhalodia) bt Mount Kelly 1 (H Dyson & F Whybrow) 11-4, 12-10

U14 Singles

Groups

Group A: 1st Walker (EdAc); 2nd Hilder (All); 3rd Robinson (WinC)

Group B: 1st Northmore (MKell); 2nd Coondapoor (SPS); 3rd Naidoo (BMod)

Group C: 1st Cowie (EdAc); 2nd Dunbar (Merc); 3rd Rakowski (BMod)

Group D: 1st Sethi (SPS); 2nd Dreher (MKell); 3rd Downs (Ton)

Group E: 1st Pancholi (SPS); 2nd Williams (MKell); 3rd Boyadjian (Fett)

Group F: 1st Dhital (WinC); 2nd Logg (Fett); 3rd Brimacombe (MKell)

Group G: 1st Rees (SPS); 2nd Leiper (Merc); 3rd Hart (Stam)

Group H: 1st Clark (EdAc); 2nd Ayling (MKell); 3rd King (Stam)

Group I: 1st Gilbody (SNS); 2nd Usselman (All); 3rd Nadarajah (SPS)

Group J: 1st Mitchell (EdAc); 2nd McCulloch (Merc); 3rd Acer (All)

Group K: 1st Foo (All); 2nd Narayanaswamy (EdAc); 3rd Wright (CHosp); 4th Sheriden (MKell)

Group L: 1st Pereira Nentwich (All); 2nd Lallu (SPS); 3rd Manifold (Fett); 4th Anthony (MKell)

Group M: 1st Hang (WinC); 2nd Heaton (SPS); 3rd Farish (EdAc); 4th Zhang (Ton)

Group N: 1st Stannah (WinC); 2nd Blake (Ton); 3rd Pilkington (All); 4th Hall (Fett)

Group O: 1st Jamieson (EdAc); 2nd Cameron (All); 3rd Walker (Merc); 4th Vines (Stam)

Group P: 1st Cortas (SPS); 2nd Norsworthy (MKell); Strang (EdAc); 4th Krykun (All)

Knock-out

1st round: Walker (EdAc) bt Robinson (WinC) 11-0; Leiper (Merc) bt Pancholi (SPS) 11-2; Usselman (All) bt Northmore (MKell) 11-3; Foo (All) bt Lallu (SPS) 11-0; Dhital (WinC) bt Williams (MKell) 11-1; Dunbar (Merc) bt Mitchell; (EdAc) 11-4; Rees (SPS) bt Dreher (MKell) 11-3; Coondapoor (SPS) bt Clark (EdAc) 12-10; Cortas (SPS) bt King (Stam) 11-0; Heaton (SPS) bt Stannah (WinC) 11-2; Sethi (SPS) bt McCulloch (Merc) 11-18; Norsworthy (MKell) bt Pereira Nentwich (All) 11-3; Jamieson (EdAc) bt Logg (Fett) 11-4; Gilbody (SNS) bt Narayanaswamy (EdAc) 11-4; Cowie (EdAc) bt Blake (Ton) 11-6; Hang (WinC) bt Walker (Merc) 11-1

2nd round: Walker bt Leiper 11-0; Foo bt Usselman 11-2; Dhital bt Dunbar 11-1; Coondapoor bt Rees 11-6; Cortas bt Heaton 11-6; Sethi bt Norsworthy 11-8; Jamieson bt Gilbody 11-6; Cowie bt Hang 12-10

Quarter-finals: Walker bt Foo 11-3; Dhital bt Coondapoor 11-6; Cortas bt Sethi 11-8; Cowie bt Jamieson 12-10

Semi-finals: Walker bt Dhital 15-4; Cortas bt Cowie 15-8

Final: J Walker (Edinburgh Academy) bt K Cortas (St Paul's) 11-4, 11-2

Plate final: E Strang (Edinburgh Academy) bt F Farish (Edinburgh Academy) 15-13

U14 Doubles

1st round: SPS 2 bt Alley's 3 11-1; MKelly 1 bt Fettes 2 11-1; MKelly 3 bt Tonbridge 12-11; SPS 4 bt Alley's 2 11-3; Fettes 1 bt MKelly 4 11-2; SPS 1 bt Stamford 4 11-2; BedMod bt Stamford 3 11-0; EdAc 3 bt MKelly 2 11-7; Stamford 1 bt Alley's 4 11-3; Winchester 1 bt EdAc 4 11-4; EdAc 2 bt Stamford 2 11-0; Winchester 2 bt SPS 3 11-6

2nd round: EdAc 1 bt Merch 2 11-0; SPS 2 bt MKelly 1 11-8; MKelly 3 bt SPS 4 11-8; SPS 1 bt Fettes 1 11-0; Merch 1 bt BedMod 11-2; EcAd 3 bt Stamford 1 11-3; EdAc 2 bt WinC 1 12-11; Alley's 1 bt WinC 2 11-3

Quarter-finals: EdAc 1 bt SPS 2 15-2; SPS 1 bt MKelly 3 15-4; EdAc 3 bt Merch 1 15-7; EdAc 2 bt Alleyn's 1 15-13
Semi-finals: EdAc 1 bt SPS 1 15-0; EdAc 2 bt EdAc 3 15-10
Final: Edinburgh Academy 1 (R Jamieson & J Walker) bt Edinburgh Academy 2 (N Clark & E Strang) 11-6, 11-4
Plate Final: Mount Kelly 2 (N Brimacombe & B Northmore) bt Edinburgh Academy 4 (F Farish & D Narayanaswamy) 15-8
Bowl final: Mount Kelly 1 (T Dreher & T Williams) bt Fettes 1 11-5

The Scottish Schools U18 and U16 Championships

Fettes College, Edinburgh

March 2026

The Boyd Trophy for Scottish Schools U18 Singles is retained after a superb day of Fives

Hector McFarlane reports: 15 boys from three schools (Edinburgh Academy, Merchiston Castle and Fettes College) entered the 9th edition of the Scottish Schools' U18 Singles. The morning's play consisted of 4 groups of players battling it out to place themselves into the Cup or the Plate. Group A was the tightest, with three players all winning one game, one of them, top seed Jock L (E.A.), winning all of his matches. Total points was the deciding factor, which saw Freddie J (E.A.) sneak into the Cup. Group B went to seeding as Fergus F (MCS) won all his games, dropping only 2 points in the process. A commendable effort should be noted by Robert J (E.A.), who did not look out of place despite still being U14. Group C saw Lochie F (Fettes) win three tight games, 11-6, 11-8, 11-9, to progress as group winner, while last year's runner-up Reggie H (MCS), struggling with a bruised hand, slipped into the Plate. Group D had only three entrants, so games were played to 15, with Ludo C (E.A.) taking top spot ahead of James R (MCS).

A superb lunch was provided by Fettes as competitors mulled over the knock-out draws for the afternoon. In the Cup Jock won an all-E.A. fixture against Oscar Z (E.A.) 15-8, whilst Lochie came from behind in the closest quarter-final to defeat James 15-10. The other half of the draw saw commanding 15-1 wins for Fergus and Ludo over Freddie J and Prannav J (E.A.). Jock's deep serving and accurate left-hand made short work of Lochie in the first semi-final 15-2, before watching on as Fergus and Ludo did battle in the game of the day. Ferocious power from Fergus's right hand was matched by Ludo's retrieving. Ludo took to volleying at every opportunity to try and rush Fergus, but Fergus showed superb court coverage, which led to some scintillating rallies. Fergus edged himself ahead and had match points at 14-9 but Ludo dug deep and eked out solo points before Fergus finally ousted him 15-13. Jock, watching on, was the main beneficiary and Fergus had to find some energy to go again in the final. It was unsurprising that the well-rested Jock got off to a fast start in the final, taking the first game 11-3. Fergus is not player to give up easily though and dug deep, with impressive grit and resolve, to outlast Jock in game two, winning it 11-6. It all came down to the decider as it turned into more of a physical and mental battle than one of pure Fives skill. Jock found an improved length, taking a bit of pace off the ball, before winning in style with a deft left-handed, angled drop shot winner, taking the final game 11-4, thereby retaining the Boyd Trophy that he had successfully lifted last year.

In the Plate Reggie H iced up his hand and applied layers of padding to win through 15-6 in an all-Merchiston final against Angus J (MCS) to win the McEwan Plate.

A superb day of Fives, which bodes well for the Scottish Schools Doubles and for those venturing down to London for the UK Nationals later in the month.

U18 Singles

Final: Jock L (Edinburgh Academy) bt Fergus F (Merchiston Castle) 11-3, 6-11, 11-4

Plate: Reggie H (Merchiston Castle) bt Angus J (Merchiston Castle) 15-6

U18 Scottish Schools Boys Doubles Championship — The Academy survive semi-final scare on way to cup victory

Richie Murby reports: The traditional eight-pairing draw was filled out by three schools this year: Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh Academy and Fettes, who were also the hosts.

The pick of the early games was Fettes II vs EA II. Fettes' Freddie and Beau showed admirable focus against capable but slightly inconsistent opponents in Max and Jamie. A pair like Jamie and Max, consisting of a left-hander and a right-hander, can be a difficult prospect, but Fettes found angles and weaknesses in EA's shape and were able to win enough of their battles at the front, in the middle and round the walls to claim a 15-12 victory.

Max and Jamie were not dismayed for long, bouncing back to win the Plate final against another Fettes opponent, the highly rated but somewhat rusty combo of Lochie and Louis.

In the semi-finals of the main competition, MCS I (Fergus and Reggie), proved a little too strong for Freddie and Beau of Fettes, powering big drives and running-balls into the corners, to break down their valiant defence. In the other semi-final, James and Hamish of Merchiston got within range of a mighty upset against EA I, last year's UK U16 champions Jock and Weems. The younger pairing of MCS (both are still Colts) showed an ability to sweep up almost everything that was being thrown at them without losing their composure or their shape. Frustrated and impatient, EA suddenly found themselves 11-8 down. Sensing the danger, they were able to tighten up their play and sharpen their teamwork to turn the match around and take the match 15-11.

Having survived this impressive challenge, EA's first pair went into the final determined to play with more discipline and purpose. And so it proved as Jock's grit combined with Weems' technical precision and power to gradually push the match into their favour. For spells of the match it felt more like an arm-wrestle than a work of art, although Weems in particular was able to produce clean winners often enough to keep his team ahead. For Merchiston matters were exacerbated by some bruising in the palms, which inevitably blunted their weapons to some extent. With these factors at play, Weems and Jock were able to close out the match in two games and seal victory for Edinburgh Academy.

U18 Doubles Cup

Quarter-finals: Freddie A & Beau W (Fettes II) bt Jamie D & Max R (EA II) 15-12; Reggie H & Fergus F (MCS I) bt Oscar Z & Freddie J (EA III) 15-7; Jock L & Weems H (EA I) bt Lochie F & Louis M (Fettes III) 15-8; James R & Hamish F (MCS II) bt Tom M & Arthur H (Fettes I) 15-3

Semi-finals: Reggie H & Fergus F (MCS I) bt Freddie A & Beau W (Fettes II) 15-6; Jock L & Weems H (EA I) bt James R & Hamish F (MCS II) 15-1

Final: Jock L & Weems H (EA I) bt Reggie H & Fergus F (MCS I) 11-5, 11-3

U18 Doubles Plate

Semi-finals: Jamie D & Max R (EA II) bt Oscar Z & Freddie J (EA III) 15-10; Lochie F & Louis M (Fettes III) bt Tom M & Arthur H (Fettes I) 15-1

Final: Jamie D & Max R (EA II) bt Lochie F & Louis M (Fettes III) 15-8

Edinburgh Academy win the U16 Doubles and completes clean sweep of Scottish Schools Cups

Richie Murby reports: Fettes College was once again the venue for a Scottish Schools tournament, this time the U16 boys' doubles. Eight pairings from four schools took part, as the hosts welcomed Merchiston, Edinburgh Academy and, for the first time this season, Loretto, as their younger players look to bring the school's Loretto's Fives programme back on track.

Although the Loretto pairing did not advance, they performed well enough to raise hopes for next season. In fact, all the quarter-finals were more closely contested than the scorelines suggested. This was most notable with EA III (Harry and Nicholas) who threw the kitchen sink at Merchiston I (James and Hamish) for long periods but ultimately found most of their attacks absorbed and returned with interest by their unflappable opponents.

Harry and Nicholas quickly put their defeat behind them, winning their Plate semi-final against an inexperienced but talented Fettes II pairing (Alex and Donald) and then holding their nerve to edge an intriguing Plate final against Fettes I (Jonty and the promising newcomer Rory)

In the main competition, it was MCS vs EA in both semi-finals. James and Hamish played well against Ludo and Prannav but were ultimately undone by Prannav's steady pressure and Ludo's creative orchestrations. Fin and Murray (EA I) were equally sharp in the other semi-final, giving very little away and playing well-organised and accurate Fives to get the better of Archie and Angus, who created a much closer spectacle than the score would imply.

Despite its being an all-EA final and the cup's destination decided, there was absolutely no lack of intensity on the court, as friendly lunch-break rivalries were renewed on a higher stage. The quality, as it had been in the semi-finals, was high, and long rallies ensued as defending duelled with attacking amongst four evenly matched players. Ultimately Ludo and Prannav proved that little bit harder to break down, bringing a highly entertaining match to a close with a score of 11-4, 11-4.

U16 Doubles Cup

Quarter-finals: Ludo C & Prannav J (EA II) bt Alex U & Donald M-R (Fettes II) 15-2; James R & Hamish F (MCS I) bt Harry W & Nicholas V (EA III) 15-2; Fin D & Murray M (EA I) bt Jack R & Angus D (Loretto I) 15-2; Archie M & Angus R (MCS II) bt Rory L & Jonty C-M (Fettes I) 15-5

Semi-finals: Ludo C & Prannav J (EA II) bt James R & Hamish F (MCS I) 15-4; Fin D & Murray M (EA I) bt Archie M & Angus R (MCS II) 15-2

Final: Ludo C & Prannav J (EA I) bt Fin D & Murray M (EA II) 11-4, 11-4

U16 Doubles Plate

Semi-finals: Harry W & Nicholas V (EA III) bt Alex U & Donald M-R (Fettes II) 15-4; Rory L & Jonty C-M (Fettes I) bt Jack R & Angus D (Loretto I) 15-6

Final: Harry W & Nicholas V (EA III) bt Rory L & Jonty C-M (Fettes I) 15-12

National Doubles Championship for the Cyriax Cup

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Saturday/Sunday 11-12 April 2026

STOP PRESS In this centenary edition of the National Doubles Championship defending champions Ed Kay and Dan Tristao made it four in a row and five titles in all in beating a new combination, Ollie Arnold and Charlie Brooks, in the closely fought final.

In the equally competitive Plate a pairing consisting of 6-time National Singles champion James Toop and twice National Schools Champion Gwydion Wiseman emerged as winners in a final played against Julian Aquilina and James Tilston.

Hamish Buchanan reports: It is doubtful that the first final of the Cyriax Cup in 1926 matched the excitement or the nail-biting finish witnessed with this year's centenary spectacle. Three-game finals are rare but 14-14 tie breaks in the decider are unheard of, certainly not in the living memory of the game's statisticians.

Victory was claimed by the defending champions and now five-time winners Dan Tristao and Ed Kay, but the match was anything but easy. The challengers, Charlie Brooks and Ollie Arnold, making their first appearance as a pair in the Cup, started the final with an avalanche of destructive hitting and continual pressure; they pressed on from 3-3 to 11-3 in under 10 minutes and finished the first game 15-6 after 24 minutes. Everything looked simple for them and the defending champs had some serious thinking to do. On the back foot for most of the game with some scrambled defence and no apparent way to apply pressure, how could they stop the destructive power from Ollie on the left and the variations with precision from Charlie on the right?

Game two and angles

In the first game both Ollie and Charlie created pressure by hitting the ball hard into the angle on the opposite side of the court, bringing it back diagonally through the middle of the court at pace and causing difficulty and confusion to Dan and Ed, who struggled to work out who should be covering these shots and then what was the most effective defence. In game two Dan and Ed took the initiative and hit hard cross-court shots, with the ball striking either the left or right wall first before hitting the front wall and finding the nick on the opposite side. They played these shots at every opportunity and dragged either Charlie or Ollie, and sometimes both, forwards to retrieve. This left gaps in behind the advanced player which Dan and Ed could exploit; also, as the ball inevitably slowed, the power of Charlie and Ollie diminished and the hard hit angles were more easily defended. From 7-5 up Dan and Ed slowly extended their lead to 13-7 before Ollie and Charlie stemmed the tide, claiming a couple more points before losing to 9. Had they done enough to reclaim the momentum going into the decider?

Game three and the title in the balance

After seven rallies Charlie and Ollie were 4-1 up, five more and it was 4-4 and so it continued: twelve more rallies and the defending champions had wrestled a 7-6 lead, but then Ed had a mini-meltdown, the next seven rallies ending with him making five errors and two winners, leaving his team 10-7 down. The tension began to bite on both pairs, and with Charlie and Ollie making mistakes we were soon back to parity at 10-10. There were then several changes of hand before the challengers eked out a 13-11 lead, with Dan now serving second hand to Ollie.

Up to now in the third game Dan had struck nine winners with just two errors, keeping his team in touch with the challengers. Many of these winners were rather unexpected left hand cross-courts, an uncharacteristic shot for Dan, displaying an inventive and almost desperate bid to keep alive their defence of the title. It therefore stunned everyone as he served into the bar to give Ollie and Charlie championship point. Perhaps even the strongest minds can scramble in such moments. Ed stepped up and served hard across the court, found the 'nick' but not a dead one; Ollie made the shot, aiming hard back at the server, the ball clipped the top of the bar, match point gone.

It's not easy to see an opportunity slip and continue to hold your concentration and inevitably Ollie then made a couple more errors before regrouping with a winner. This was followed by one from Charlie and they were back in at 14-13 championship point with a second chance. A winner from Ed in the next rally took it to the second hand, with Dan serving to Charlie. As Dan served short Charlie retrieved and the rally began but within a few shots Dan was impeded whilst playing his shot and a let was played. Again Dan aimed for the short sidewall nick, with the same result of Charlie getting the ball into play. This time the rally had barely started before two or three players collided on the right, which resulted in

another let. Both were pretty unavoidable and were just the result of some tired players in an extremely tense situation. The tension was also spreading to the gallery where some wondered if the challengers' opportunity had gone. A third serve and this time Dan found the dead nick, match point saved for the third time. The champions were now receiving, and with an error from Charlie and a winner from Ed the tables were turned — their first championship point at 15-14. Ollie served to Ed, a short rally ensued before Ollie clipped the bar and it was over. Handshakes all round and a long time spent on court with congratulations, commiserations and dissection of play before players left the court to the applause of the gallery. The 100th anniversary final certainly delivered.

The day before witnessed some intense shuffling of the pack as to who might challenge the finalists. Third seeds Aquilina & Tilston and fourth seeds Low & McCreath came under some serious pressure from Wiseman G & Toop and new pair Murby & Parker. With four groups of three in the preliminary round delivering the top two from each group to the quarter-finals, these four pairs became entwined in an almost Gordian scenario to see who would make it to the semi-finals and in which half of the draw would they play. Archie and Cam squeezed past Gwydion and James while Theo and Richie steadily beat James and Julian. In the quarter-finals Archie and Cam were much too solid for a rather underprepared James and Julian, whereas Theo and Richie eventually came through in a very close and somewhat haphazard three-gamer with Gwydion and James.

In the first semi-final Theo and Richie had clearly not taken advantage of the wonderful catering provided and ran out of gas against Charlie and Ollie. In the second Archie and Cam had an impressive middle part of the second game where they matched the defending champions, but nowhere near enough to cause an upset. For many players the shot quality and retrieval skills are in place but the ability to maintain them consistently for an entire match is a struggle; Archie and Cam are at this stage and it will be interesting to see if they can challenge in the future.

The Plate began with a group of the four third-places in the provisional stage. After two rounds all four pairs had won one and lost one, all was to play for in the final round. Ben Chua & John Minta topped the group, with Stuart Scott & Patrick Harrison coming second. These two then played against the last teams standing from the losing quarter-finals, namely Toop & Wiseman and Aquilina & Tilston. The matches were close but the quarter-finalists edged through, leaving another match combination of the earlier 'Gordian' group. A one-to-fifteen final meant tiredness played its part as all four players failed to inject any decisiveness into the play, that is until they both made double figures, whereupon the intensity increased and James and Gwydion won their second Plate in the last three years.

Many thanks to Alleyn's School for the use of their courts and to Gloves&Balls for the special edition 100th anniversary balls.

So, who's up for the start of the second century of tournament Fives in 2027?

Group Stage

Group A: 1st E Kay & D Tristao w2 +24pts; 2nd T Hebblethwaite & T Maconie W1 -3pts; 3rd P Harrison & S Scott W0 -21pts

Group B: 1st O Arnold & C Brooks W2 +28pts; 2nd K Diggins & T McElvaney W1 -10pts; 3rd Al Goodwin & Y Negyal W0 -18pts

Group C: 1st R Murby & T Parker W2 +17pts; 2nd J Aquilina & J Tilston W1 -1pt; 3rd E Carr & R Sulkin W0 -16pts

Group D: 1st C Low & A McCreath W2 +13pts; 2nd J Toop & G Wiseman W1 +11pts; 3rd B Chua & J Minta W0 -24pts

Knock-out

Quarter-finals: Kay & Tristao bt Diggins & McElvaney 15-3, 15-7; Low & McCreath bt Aquilina & Tilston 15-8, 15-12; Murby & Parker bt Toop & Wiseman 16-15, 9-15, 15-10; Arnold & Brooks bt Hebblethwaite & Maconie 15-0, 15-3

Semi-finals: Kay & Tristao bt Low & McCreath 15-2, 15-9; Arnold & Brooks bt Murby & Parker 15-2, 15-8

Final: Kay & Tristao bt Arnold & Brooks 6-15, 15-9, 16-14

Plate

Group stage: 1st Chua & Minta; 2nd Harrison & Scott; 3rd Carr & Sulkin; 4th Goodwin & Negyal

Semi-finals: Aquilina & Tilston bt Harrison & Scott 15-12; Toop & Wiseman bt Chua & Minta 15-13

Final: Toop & Wiseman bt Aquilina & Tilston 15-11

Challenger Singles

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Sunday, 12th April 2026

STOP PRESS In a field of 14 James Toop, 6-time National Singles Champion, always looked the man to beat — and to learn from. It was a particularly good weekend for James, who also won the Plate with Gwydion Wiseman at the National Doubles Championship the day before.

There were several young players from Alleyn's involved in this first Challenger event of the year, and it was good to see that two of them, Thomas Green and Fred McAllister, played out a close final in the Plate.

Groups

Group A: 1st E Thursfield W3; 2nd M Ord W1; 3rd F McAllister W1; 4th S Negyal

Group B: 1st J Toop W3; 2nd G Munn W2; 3rd M Arie W1; 4th T-R Foo

Group C: 1st S Scott W2; 2nd S Negyal W1; 3rd T Green

Group D: 1st P Harrison W2; 2nd N Whitney W1; 3rd J Schafer

Quarter-finals: Thursfield bt Whitney 15-9; Toop bt Negyal 15-5; Scott bt Munn 15-12; Harrison bt Ord 15-1

Semi-finals: Toop bt Thursfield 15-4; Harrison bt Scott 15-12

Final: Toop bt Harrison 11-2, 11-6

Plate: Green bt McAllister 11-9, 11-9

The Veterans Championships 2026

Marlborough College, Wiltshire

Saturday/Sunday, 18-19 April 2026

STOP PRESS No such thing as an easy win in this age category. Both the Singles and the Doubles final went to three games, with the defending champions successfully retaining their titles only after the closest of contests. The Singles saw an impressive performance from debutant Giles Munn, who fought his way through the field from 1st round to the final; the Doubles remains memorable among other things for Tom Kiggell and Dwight Murdoc playing in both round robins, in one group as Kiggell & Murdoc and in the other as Murdoc & Kiggell. Mr Hawke, ever inventive.

Singles

1st round: N Geere bt M Wade 11-5, 11-7; G Munn bt J Keyes 11-5, 11-0

Quarter-finals: T Maconie bt Geere 11-0, 11-0; J Hughes bt S Roberts 11-4, 11-0; D Fox bt T Hebblethwaite 12-10, 8-11, 11-8; G Munn bt J Minta 11-1, 11-3

Semi-finals: Maconie bt Hughes 15-8, 15-1; Munn bt Fox 15-0, 15-0

Final: Maconie bt Munn 2-15, 15-13, 15-13

Plate: 1st Minta 45 pts; 2nd Keyes 43 pts; 3rd Geere 37 pts

Doubles

Group stage

Group A: 1st T Hebblethwaite & T Maconie W4; 2nd D Fox & C Jones W3; 3rd T Kiggell & D Murdoc W2; 4th A Passey & R Thompson W1; 5th H Carpenter & N Witcombe

Group B: 1st T Bury & G Munn W4; 2nd H Buchanan & J Minta W3; 3rd A Pringle & M Spillane W2; 4th D Murdoc & T Kiggell W1; 5th A Smith & R Walton

Semi-finals: Fox & Jones bt Bury & Munn 11-7, 4-11, 12-10; Hebblethwaite & Maconie bt Buchanan & Minta 11-4, 11-4

Final: Hebblethwaite & Maconie bt Fox & Jones 11-1, 2-11, 11-4

Plate: Pringle & Spillane bt Kiggell & Murdoc 15-13

The Masters and Grand Masters Championships 2026

Marlborough College, Wiltshire; Saturday, 18th April 2026

STOP PRESS Understandably there is never a large field for these two events, traditionally played side by side, but the entry is always distinguished, and never more so than this year, with multiple champion Wayne Enstone and former RFA President Dick Warner joining some familiar and welcome faces. At the end of the day Stuart Kirby & Brian Kirk from

the Derby Moor Club retained their Masters (Over 65) Doubles title against their opponents from the Wessex Club, while Wayne joined previous champion John East in winning their first Grand Masters Doubles for the Over 75s, reliving their immensely successful partnership of the late 1970s.

MASTERS DOUBLES

Group Stage: 1st: S Kirby & B Kirk 56 pts; **2nd** A Passey & D Spiegel 53 pts; **3rd** C Blakeley & R Warner 31 pts

Final: Kirby & Kirk bt Passey & Spiegel 15-13

Plate: Blakeley & Warner

GRAND MASTERS DOUBLES

Group Stage: 1st J East & W Enstone; **2nd** T Hillman & J Sanders; **3rd** N Arnott & C Horrocks; **4th** B Boag & G Stimson

Final: East & Enstone bt Hillman & Sanders 15-1

Plate: Arnott & Horrocks bt Boag & Stimson 15-9

The Scottish Open Championships 2026

Fettes College, Edinburgh

Saturday/Sunday, 2-3 May 2026

STOP PRESS In the concluding regional open championships of the season, Ed Kay wins his first Cuthbertson Quaich, beating Ben Beltrami 11-1, 11-1 in the final. Ben Jourdan won the Plate, beating Scottish Women's Champion, Louise Mathias, in the final. Colm Grace won the Bowl. The Doubles, no longer organised as a President's Cup-style event, was won for the first time by Ollie Arnold & Ben Beltrami, who beat Dan Grant & Terry McElvaney, who had deposed defending champions Penn Chai & Lewis Keates in the semi-final. Caley Club's Enrique Castillo Carbonell & Simon Fraser won a round robin Plate.

The RFA's thanks to hosts Fettes College, to organisers Ben Jourdan and Andrew Boyd, and to Penn Chai for his stream of video clips posted on the RFA Love In.

Singles

1st round: E Kay b C Chai 11-0, 11-0; O Arnold bt B Jourdan 11-8, 11-2; L Keates bt E Castillo Carbonell 11-1, 11-2; D Grant bt S Zhang 11-6, 11-8; P Chai bt C Grace 11-0, 11-2; T McElvaney bt L Mathias; B Beltrami bt H Weir 11-0, 11-3

Quarter-finals: Kay bt Arnold 11-0, 11-7; R Murby bt Keates 11-1, 11-1; Grant bt Chai 11-5, 3-11, 11-3; Beltrami bt McElvaney 11-4, 11-5

Semi-finals: Kay bt Murby 11-1, 11-4; Beltrami bt Grant 5-11, 11-5, 11-7

Final: E Kay bt B Beltrami 11-1, 11-1

Plate: B Jourdan bt L Mathias 15-1

Bowl: 1st C Grace; **2nd** H Weir; **3rd** C Chai

Doubles

Quarter-finals: O Arnold & B Beltrami bt L Clark & P Jesuarul 11-0, 11-4; B Jourdan & R Murby bt B Hale & E Lee 11-4, 11-2; P Chai & L Keates bt L Mathias & S Zhang 11-4, 11-0; D Grant & T McElvaney bt E Castillo Carbonell & S Fraser 11-2, 11-7

Semi-finals: Arnold & Beltrami bt Jourdan & Murby 11-3, 11-6; Grant & McElvaney bt Chai & Keates 11-7, 11-7

Final: Arnold & Beltrami bt Grant & McElvaney 11-7, 11-7

Plate: 1st Castillo Carbonell & Fraser W3; **2nd** Mathias & Zhang W2; **3rd** Hale & Lee W1; **4th** Clark & Jesuarul

Fifth Basque Rugby Fives Doubles Championship 2026

April 11 2026, Bilbao, Spain

The Fifth Basque Rugby Fives Doubles Championship was held in April on the squash court of the San Ignazio municipal sports centre in Bilbao.

Six players participated in a round-robin format, playing short matches to 12 or 15 points.

The organisers tell us that they plan to play the Fifth Basque Singles Championship in July or August. They also hope to get the official gloves and balls that the members of the RFA use and are looking into the possibility of coming to England to represent the Basque Country in a European Championship.

Results

Egoitz Campo/Lander Campo 15-8 Jon Proaño/ Mikel Torde
Egoitz Campo/Lander Campo 12-5 Jon Ander Gil/Arrate Elorrieta
Jon Proaño/ Mikel Torde 15-5 Jon Ander Gil/Arrate Elorrieta

Overall classification

1st Egoitz Campo & Lander Campo
2nd Jon Proaño & Mikel Torde
3rd Jon Ander Gil & Arrate Elorrieta

Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles 2026

Bradfield College
Sunday, 10th May 2026

With an entry of seven pairs this year's Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles Championship was won for the third season in a row by Shinan Zhang & Penn Chai, who beat Phoebe Thornhill & Terry McElvaney in a final arrived at after completion of a round robin. Helena Tunks & Cameron Low won the 3rd place play-off, beating Lizzie Ware & Adam Hutchinson. The RFA's thanks go to organiser Lizzie Ware and to host school, Bradfield College.

Group Stage

1st= Shinan Zhang & Penn Chai W 5 of 5 and Phoebe Thornhill & Terry McElvaney W 5 of 5; **3rd** Helena Tunks & Cameron Low W 4 of 6; **4th** Lizzie Ware & Adam Hutchinson W 3 of 6

Also played: Emma Graham & Ahishek Bhattacharaya W 2 of 6; Savanna Leboff & Fred Prickett W 1 of 6; Sophia Breese & Alex McGee W 0 of 6;

Final: Zhang & Chai bt Thornhill & McElvaney 15-6, 16-14

3rd Place play-off: Tunks & Low bt Ware & Hutchinson 15-7, 15-8

National Vintage Championships 2026

Cambridge University Sports Centre
Sunday, 17th May 2026

Bob Dolby reports: The National Vintage Championships for the Over 55s, run with his customary light touch by non-playing Brian Kirk, was a fabulous Day of Fives and Friendship. A 10-strong entry for the Singles and 8 pairs in the Doubles brought together players from the West of England, Marlborough, Derby, Manchester, Tonbridge, Dulwich and Barnes to play out both categories on the three superb Cambridge University glass-backed courts.

With the players perhaps no longer so fleet of foot but with a wealth of experience and highly developed powers of anticipation, there were some hard fought early contests in the upper half of the ever contentious Singles draw. In the quarter-finals defending champion Andy Pringle was stretched far further in his first match of the day than he would have liked by James Hughes, as was Ian Jackson by his nigh-on annual contest with Sam Roberts at the same stage. Y Club stars John Minta and Dave Fox had it easier at that stage before their inevitable meeting in the semi-finals. Both these players were aware that Dave had never beaten John in a competitive match but most probably a number of times in a friendly game at Manchester. Whether the earth moved this day when Dave did in fact break his duck remains unknown, but the photographer did get a snap of the victor kissing the vanquished. Andy Pringle's semi-final win over Ian Jackson was much less emotional but played out in an appropriately friendly spirit.

In the final there was more than a hint of the toll the earlier 3-gamer had taken on the defending champion and the spectators were denied the much anticipated prospect of a lengthy tussle between Andy and Dave. Dave was impressively consistent in his line and length and gave Andy particular trouble with his service, duly and deservedly walking away with his third title and Mackenzie Cup in 4 years. Why not a fourth next year? As far the clock is concerned it proved a blessing that the match didn't go to a third game, as a subsequent two-hour overrun of the Doubles competition meant that your reporter barely got home to Nottingham in time for 'Silent Witness' as it was. The Singles Plate final did not get the audience it deserved, for which we can only apologise: James Hughes was suffering from a leg injury and seems to have decided to get the match over asap. Which he did.

The aforesaid Doubles started pretty well as planned, with a straightforward knockout draw (ever contentious, of course), and a projected completion time envisaged to be in line with the booking of the courts. The quarter-finals immediately

threatened a surprise when Harvey Bishop & James Hughes took the first game off Hamish Buchanan & John Minta. Hamish & John got back to 14-10 in the second game, when, sadly, James became so hampered by his increasingly painful leg and Harvey by an issue with his back that they had to retire.

A 3-pair Plate got underway on one court while the semi-finals proceeded. No great drama in Hamish & John's straight-games semi-final win over Rupert Mathieu & Guy Harman, but by the time it finished barely one game had been completed next door, where defending champions Andy Pringle & Morgan Spillane were taking on Dave Fox & Sam Roberts in a closely fought and drawn-out match well worthy of a final. By the time the winners, Andy & Morgan, were sufficiently recovered to begin their final against Hamish & John it was almost time for the table tennis players to roll their mobile tables into the three courts and put an end to any Fives proceedings. The gods proved to be on our side, however, because, for once, table tennis players came there none.

The score in the final — 15-5, 15-16, 16-14 — may give some idea of the struggle the match was but little of the rollercoaster nature of the second and third games, where both pairs had multiple game balls. The excitement was considerable, heightened by Hamish's commendable enunciation of the score after every rally (thank you, Hamish). The game was played in a wonderful spirit, with lets galore offered (Morgan, and even Andy at times, got drawn to, and trapped in, the back corners as John attacked those same corners relentlessly). All four players hit purple patches — left-handed Morgan producing shots of perfect length from somewhere under his ribs; Andy on both the left and the right forcing his opponents into unsuccessful half-volleys with relentless drives à la Charlie Brooks; John bullying his opponents onto the back foot and into the corners; Hamish producing magic in the front third of the courts with touch shots that provoked gasps of admiration from selected spectators. When the final mistake was forced from the losing pair there was a brief, curious silence, as if no one could quite believe it had happened. Or that it was gone 6.30. And, oh yes, Ian Jackson & Nick Geere had won the Doubles Plate a good hour earlier.

Words were spoken, medals were hung around necks, trophies and champagne awarded (thank you, Jeremy Stubbs), photos taken, beer distributed (thank you again, Hamish). A memorable day.

Singles

1st round: J Hughes bt G Harman 11-2, 11-7; R Mathieu bt J Stubbs 11-0, 11-1

Quarter-finals: A Pringle bt Hughes 3-11, 11-9, 11-2; I Jackson bt S Roberts 11-9, 12-10; J Minta bt N Geere 11-1, 11-3; D Fox bt Mathieu 11-4, 11-0

Semi-finals: Pringle bt Jackson 11-3, 11-4; Fox bt Minta 11-4, 11-4

Final: Fox bt Pringle 11-4, 11-5

Plate: Hughes bt Roberts 11-0

Doubles

Quarter-finals: A Pringle & M Spillane bt S Kirby & J Stubbs 15-4, 15-3; D Fox & S Roberts bt H Carpenter & B Davison 15-3, 15-4; G Harman & R Mathieu bt N Geere & I Jackson 15-7, 15-8; H Buchanan & J Minta bt H Bishop & J Hughes 2-15, 14-10 retd.

Semi-finals: Pringle & Spillane bt Fox & Roberts 15-2, 15-6; Buchanan & Minta bt Harman & Mathieu 15-5, 15-11

Final: Pringle & Spillane bt Buchanan & Minta 15-5, 15-16, 16-14

Plate: 1st Geere & Jackson W2; 2nd Kirby & Stubbs W1; 3rd Carpenter & Davison

End-of-Season National Rankings

May 2026

The RFA is pleased to announce the end-of-season National Rankings for 2025-26, kindly compiled by Will Ellison. In Singles the rankings are headed by Ed Kay, Ben Beltrami and Dan Tristao, maintaining their clear dominance in this category. In Doubles these three are joined by Charlie Brooks, this group of four maintaining their advantage over the rest.

There are several major upward moves in the Top Twenty of the Singles: Dan Grant up from #13 to #4, Freddie Hammond Giles from #14 to #6, Penn Chai from #20 to #10, Gwydion Wiseman from #17 to #11, Terry McElvaney from #27 to #13, Cameron Low from #26 to #14, Charlie Lacewing from #25 to #16, Ollie Arnold from #22 to #17, and Theo Vernacchio from #47 to #20.

In the Doubles rankings there are also several upward movers in or into the Top Twenty: Ollie Arnold from #15 to #5, Dan Grant from #12 to #6, Penn Chai from #11 to #9, Archie McCreath from #13 to #11, Terry McElvaney from #21 to #15, Val Fikhter from #20 to #17, and Freddie Hammond Giles from #25 to #19. Special mention should go to Theo Vernacchio, who adds a rise from #52 to #18 in Doubles to match his equally impressive rise in the Singles.

In all 200 players are ranked in Singles and 215 in Doubles.

Updated Women's Rankings

May 2026

The Women's Rankings have been updated for the first time in some months, and this time with a twist. The system used to calculate the rankings has changed to be in line with the Open Rankings, which will provide more transparency into how tournament results translate to ranking points. We thank Chris Burrows for his work in compiling the rankings for Women's Fives since they were introduced in 2016 and commend Will Ellison for taking on the task of compiling these new rankings.

It is the respective National Champions — Camille Beattie in the Singles and Shinan Zhang in the Doubles — who top these inaugural lists. In both cases, however, the competition is not far behind.

In Singles, Louise Mathias is hot on Camille's heels, fresh from a couple of years out of the country. Louise is closely followed by Shinan in third place. There are strong moves into the top ten from Eleonora Vallascas, Julie McIntyre, Savanna Leboff and Maddy Raynor. Meanwhile, Zoe Armstrong is the highest new entrant at #12.

Helena Tunks is right behind Shinan in the Doubles, with Louise, Camille and Eleonora close by. As with the Singles, the top twenty showcases an impressive mix of experience and youth. It is Charlotte Smith who is the strongest debutant, coming in at #15.

It is proposed to increase the number of ranking events for Women's Fives Singles and Doubles to 7 in all:

- the Women's Scottish Open Championships in September in Edinburgh
- the Women's U25 Championships in October at St Paul's School
- the Women's London Open Championships in October at Alleyn's School
- the Women's North of England Open Championships in November in Durham
- the Women's British Universities Championships in January in Edinburgh
- the Women's National Championships in February in Manchester
- the Women's Winchester Fives Championships in May at Bradfield College

National Rugby Fives Open Mixed Doubles Championship 2026

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Saturday, 13th June 2026

9 pairs entered the fourth staging of the National Open Mixed Doubles Championship at Alleyn's, organised by Helena Tunks and Savanna Leboff. Yet again a new pair — Helena Tunks & Ben Beltrami — wins the trophy, but defending co-champion Camille Beattie has been in the final every year since the event's inauguration. Lizzie Ware & Terry McElvaney won the final of a 5-pair Plate, beating Martha Nugent & Patick Harrison 16-15 in the final.

Scores

Group A: 1st L Mathias & O Arnold 11 pts; 2nd Z Elliot & P Chai 9 pts; 3rd M Nugent & P Harrison 7 pts; 4th L Ware & T McElvaney 3 pts; 5th A Brown & T Green

Group B: 1st H Tunks & B Beltrami 8 pts; 2nd C Beattie & F Hammond Giles 6 pts; 3rd S Leboff & T Watkinson 4 pts; 4th F Butler & C Low

Semi-finals: Beattie & Hammond Giles bt Mathias & Arnold 15-4, 16-15; Tunks & Beltrami bt Elliot & Chai 15-8, 15-12

Final: Tunks & Beltrami bt Beattie & Hammond Giles 15-12, 15-0

Plate: Ware & McElvaney bt Nugent & Harrison 16-15

Women's Winchester Fives Championships 2026

Malvern College, Saturday 27th June 2026

Organiser Maddy Raynor reports: Eight players travelled to Malvern College on Saturday 27th June to compete in the Ladies Winchester Fives Championships and Challenger Cup. It was an enjoyable day with lots of competitive matches, though the heat did test those playing; luckily, though, a good breeze and lunchtime ice cream helped cool the players down. The competitors were Leonie Brown, Holly Nugent, Martha Nugent, Emily Palmer, Maddy Raynor, Phoebe Thornhill, Helena Tunks and Rachel Wood.

The day began with the Doubles competition, which was played as a round-robin. This produced a morning of closely contested matches, with all players demonstrating excellent skill, determination and sportsmanship. At the end of the round-robin stage, the two leading pairs were Helena Tunks & Maddy Raynor, and sisters Holly & Martha Nugent. These

two partnerships met in a thrilling final that showcased some outstanding Winchester Fives. The match was extremely close, but Helena & Maddy held their nerve to secure victory and claim the doubles title.

We also held a Doubles Plate final that saw Phoebe Thornhill & Rachel Wood take on Leonie Brown & Emily Palmer in an enjoyable contest. Phoebe and Rachel's greater Fives experience dominated and enabled them to claim victory.

Following lunch, attention turned to the Singles competition, which was played as a knockout tournament seeded according to the players' rankings. Every match was fiercely contested, but it was Martha Nugent who stood out from the very beginning. Playing with confidence, composure and attacking intent, Martha produced a series of dominant performances as she progressed through the draw.

We had very competitive and close semi-final matches between Martha and Helena, and Phoebe and Maddy, with Phoebe and Maddy's match being "nip and tuck" until Maddy eventually battled to victory. The final saw Martha Nugent face Maddy Raynor. Maddy fought hard throughout, but Martha's consistency, accurate shot-making and relentless pressure proved decisive; she won the match convincingly to become the Ladies Winchester Fives Singles Champion and carry off the Crayke Cup.

In addition to the main Singles competition, we held two further singles finals, the Singles Plate and a Ladies Challenger Cup, which provided an exciting conclusion to the day.

The Plate Final featured Rachel Wood and Holly Nugent in a match that was closely contested from start to finish. Rachel fought fiercely throughout against a strong challenge from Holly, and after three hard-fought games, Rachel emerged victorious to claim the Plate, with both players deserving great credit for their grit and determination.

The Challenger Cup was contested by Leonie Brown and Emily Palmer, two players who are both relatively new to the sport of Winchester Fives. They produced an excellent match that demonstrated just how much progress they have both made. Emily ultimately came out on top, but both players should be congratulated for embracing the competition with such enthusiasm.

The additional finals rounded off a superb day of Winchester Fives, highlighting not only the high standard of play across the competition but also the camaraderie, sportsmanship and enjoyment shared by everyone involved. Congratulations go to all eight players for their enthusiasm, competitive spirit and excellent standard of play throughout the day. A special word of congratulations to Helena Tunks & Maddy Raynor on winning their first Doubles title together, and to Martha Nugent for her superb Singles victory after an exceptional series of performances. The competition was a great success and proved to be another enjoyable day of Winchester Fives at Malvern College.

During the lunch break, the competition paused to welcome a group of Year 9 students from Malvern College for a Winchester Fives taster session. The competitors were delighted to demonstrate the game, offering a short masterclass and introducing the students to the basic skills and techniques of the sport. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase Winchester Fives to a new audience, and we hope the demonstrations and coaching inspired some of the students to take up the game in the future.

Doubles

Round Robin:

Raynor & Tunks bt Brown & Palmer 15-0; bt Thornhill & Wood 15-7

Nugent & Nugent bt Thornhill & Wood 15-12; bt Brown & Palmer 15-1

Championship Final: Raynor & Tunks bt Nugent & Nugent 11-5, 11-5

Plate Final: Thornhill & Wood bt Brown & Palmer 11-1, 11-2

Singles

1st round: Tunks bt Palmer 15-3; M Nugent bt Wood 15-1; Raynor bt Brown 15-2; Thornhill bt H Nugent 15-0

Semi-finals: M Nugent bt Tunks 15-8; Raynor bt Thornhill 15-13

Championship Final: M Nugent bt Raynor 11-5, 11-0

Plate Final: Wood bt H Nugent 11-5, 7-11, 11-3

Challenger Cup: Palmer bt Brown 11-0, 11-0

Steve Ashton 1959-2026

The Rugby Fives Association is sad to report the death of Cyriax Cup winner Steve Ashton (1959-2026). Please see below for an appreciation.

Steve Ashton (centre) with Wayne Enstone, Geoff Sherratt, Brian Jones, Bob Holland and Mick Ayres at the Wood Cup on the Bank of England courts, March 1987

When Steve Ashton came down to London to begin his Fives journey, playing in the National Schools U16 competition at St Paul's in 1975, little did his host Dave Hebden expect that in future years Steve and one of his partners from the Manchester YMCA Club — Wayne Enstone or Tony Wynn — would regularly form opponents in the later stages of tournaments national and regional.

Young Steve's appearance in what was in those days known as the Colts Singles, representing Greatstone Secondary Modern School, was warmly welcomed in the RFA's report, but his draw in the first round was not so kind, a match against the Paul's number one and second seed. Steve did well to get 4 points in the second game. He may not have noticed that the report listed him as G.Ashton.

A year later, in 1976, Steve was back with his mentor Wayne, this time reaching the quarter-final of the U18 Singles representing South Trafford College. The following year Steve won the West of England Schools U18 Singles, so it was no surprise to Dave Hebden that in the same year, in his third appearance at the National Schools Championships, Steve reached the final of the U18 Singles, losing in three hard-fought games to Kim Smith of Bradfield College.

Progress was rapid thereafter. In 1978 Steve and Tony Wynn won the Universities Doubles title representing Manchester University. Together they then won the North of England Doubles in 1978 and 1979, Steve's first regional successes. Changing partner, Steve won the West of England Doubles with Wayne Enstone three years running (1981-83) and in 1983 the Yorkshire Doubles with Wayne. Steve also picked up the South West Doubles title with Tony Wynn in 1985 and the North West Doubles in 1987, on his home courts, playing with Wayne.

The most sought-after title is, of course, the National Doubles, played since 1926 for the Cyriax Cup. Twice Wayne & Steve were runners-up, in 1983 and 1984. In 1985 Wayne paired up with Tony Wynn, but came second once more, all three times losing to Ian Fuller & Dave Hebden. In 1986 Steve & Wayne won at their third attempt, finally beating Fuller & Hebden 11-15, 15-8, 15-6.

Of Steve Dave Hebden says "Yes, I have some very vivid memories of Steve. What a talented player! He was a member of six Wood Cup winning YMCA teams – 1983-1987, and 1992. Only five players have played in more winning finals. The so-called 'World Championships' were only held for three years from 1983 to 1985. The Singles was won each year by Wayne, and the Doubles by Wayne with Steve. I remember Steve as a real character, and he will be greatly missed. But he will live on in our memories. He had a diving retrieve shot at the front of the court that was truly unique to him!"

John Beswick, whose father Fred recruited Steve, writes with similar great affection: "At the YM we knew him simply as "Ashy". Great company, full of fun, he was a brilliant, flamboyant player who loved to entertain, a true natural two-handed player, who volleyed with both of them. He had three trademarks: the full length dive to the front of the court, both feet off the floor; the shot down the line but his head would go the opposite way, the no-look shot; and he loved to chase back to the back wall when lobbed and the blast the ball back to the front wall off the back wall. He had a cheeky side to him: he always loved that on a trophy the engraving read Ashton then Enstone!"

Peter Woods totally agrees: "Steve was well loved by all at the Y Club for being a genuine character. I shall miss that cheeky smile. Never arrogant on court, even though he had the ability to make our game look simple, and in his time could have been number one."

Wayne too has only good memories: "Fabulous to be on court with, so exhilarating with such a variety of angle and short spin shots, very difficult to read, Dave and Ian would agree for sure. I was only thinking of him when I played with John East at the Grand Masters recently, I had the best spectator position watching their brilliant shot play, a real privilege."

For Ian Fuller "Steve was a player of fantastic natural ability who could play any shot in the book — and more! Playing against him was always a case of expecting the unexpected!"

Though never a winner of a senior Singles title, Steve was a very good singles player who, in the 1984-85 National Singles Rankings, achieved a high point of #5, this after Enstone, Fuller, Hebden, and Wynn. The fact that this was achieved at age 24 demonstrates his status in the game at that point. With him winning the National Doubles in 1986 it is clear that Steve was at his Fives-playing peak in the mid-eighties. Sadly he rather drifted away from mainstream Fives after this point, although he did continue to play at a high level for a period, e.g. winning the Wood Cup in 1992.

Derby Moor Invitation Doubles 2026

Derby Moor Academy, Littleover

Sunday, 28th June 2026

Bob Dolby reports: The Derby Moor Invitation Doubles is no ordinary tournament. It has always been an event organised to give as much closely fought Fives as possible to as many different players of differing abilities as possible in the space of 9 hours or so, testing the players of the greater ability while giving those with lesser experience a chance to learn, while all having fun. The pairing of players, masterminded these days by Lewis Keates, and the creative structuring of the draws, Brian Kirk's speciality, means that even with games played to 15 points and a typical entry of 20-30 players, there is non-stop good quality Fives, all on just two courts.

This year was no exception and, in some respects, can claim to have been extraordinary. The field contained the 3-time National Women's Champion, Camille Beattie; the National U13 Singles and Doubles Champion from Berkhamsted School, Oscar Moss; the 2-time National U16 Champion and recent runner-up in the U18 event, Val Fikhter; and the 2-time Masters Doubles Champions, Brian Kirk & Stuart Kirby. The ages ranged over 7 decades, with the youngest ever participants from the City of Durham Club, twins Rufus and Teddy, looking like champions of the future. Matt Ord, who won the tournament with Val Fikhter, did not attend a Fives-playing school and has learned to play as a post-graduate student at Cambridge University with huge encouragement from Emrys Thursfield. There was a Past President of the RFA playing – Julie McIntyre – and the current General Secretary – Chris Blakeley. The players came from Derby, Manchester, Durham, Edinburgh, London, Oxford, Cambridge and Berkhamsted.

What other tournament is structured so that not only is there a main semi-final and final, but also three separate Plate competitions, each geared to produce close matches and sometimes surprises: Who would have expected Alex Goodwin & Chris Woods to beat Camille Beattie & Yarin Negyal (15-13 in Pool 3)? The final between Lewis Keates & Dylan Wright and Val Fikhter & Matt Ord could easily have gone to 3 games, the first two having equally been cliffhangers both. In what other event could Yarin Negyal have managed to pick up medals in both the knock-out competition and one of the Plates – the headline to this report could have been 'Yarin does the Double'.

In days when we have concerns about the future of our legendary Manchester Y Club we can be much encouraged by the ongoing success of the Derby Moor Club, of the City of Durham Club spearheaded by Tom Wakelam and Julie McIntyre, of Berkhamsted School, where Chris Davey has produced champions in both codes. Lewis was spot on to tweet "A great day of Fives, so nice to see so many new faces! Seeing the quality of the youngsters today fills me with confidence that the game will live on for years to come."

Results

Pool 1: 1st Lewis Keates & Dylan Wright 30 pts; 2nd Oscar Moss & Tom Wakelam 18 pts; 3rd Craig Willbourne & Callum Yates 10 pts

Pool 2: 1st Val Fikhter & Matt Ord 30 pts; 2nd Zach Winson Yates & Jacob Woods 17 pts; 3rd Chris Blakeley & Julie McIntyre 9 pts

Pool 3: 1st Alex Goodwin & Chris Woods 30 pts; 2nd Camille Beattie & Yarin Negyal 28 pts; 3rd Durham 1 (Rufus & Teddy) 4 pts

Pool 4: 1st Ben Hale & Sarath Prakash 45 pts; 2nd Chris Davey & Harry Hill 43 pts; 3rd Stuart Kirby & Brian Kirk 24 pts; 4th Durham 2 (Ranveer & Sam) 10 pts

Knock-out

Semi-finals: Fikhter & Ord bt Goodwin & Woods 15-10, 16-15; Keates & Wright bt Hale & Prakash 15-10, 16-14

Final: Fikhter & Ord bt Keates & Wright 16-14 15-13

Third Place Play-off: Hale & Negyal bt Goodwin & Woods 15-10, 15-11

1st Plate: Willbourne & Yates

2nd Plate: Beattie & Negyal

2025-26 RESULTS ROUND-UP

SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: B.Beltrami & E.Kay

SOUTH EAST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: P.Chai & R.Mathieu

YORKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: An.Goodwin & L.Keates

LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: C.Brooks & D.Tristao

CHALLENGER SINGLES Rugby 10/2025

T.McElvaney

WOMEN'S SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Singles: L.Mathias

Doubles: L.Mathias & E.Vallascas

WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Singles: D.Tristao

Doubles: B.Beltrami & D.Tristao

NATIONAL U25 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Singles: F.Hammond Giles

Doubles: C.Low & T.Vernacchio

NATIONAL WOMEN'S U25 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Singles: K.Bell

Doubles: K.Bell & S.Leboff

OWERS TROPHY 2025

Old Paulines

SCHOOLS WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

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

DURHAM WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Singles: L.Mathias

Doubles: C.Beattie & E.Vallascas

NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

B.Beltrami

RFA PRESIDENT'S CUP 2025

T.Parker & H.Tunks

WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

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

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

U16 Singles: J.Hammond Giles (St Paul's School)

U16 Doubles: Allyn's School (R.Kohashi-Khan & F.McAllister)

112 TOURNAMENT 2026

S.Zhang & P.Chai

BRITISH STUDENTS' (BUSF) CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Singles: C.Low (Bristol)

Doubles: C.Low & T.Vernacchio (Bristol)

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Singles: C.Beattie

Doubles: L.Mathias & S.Zhang

NORTHERN SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

U18 Singles: T.Follett (Sedbergh School)

U18 Doubles: City of Durham Club (E.Terry & E.Vallascas)

U16 Singles: F.Leslie (Sedbergh School)

U16 Doubles: Sedbergh School (F.Leslie & H.Maclean)

NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Singles: D.Tristao

Doubles: D.Grant & D.Tristao

SOUTH EAST SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

U18 Singles: O.Carroll (Tonbridge School)

U18 Doubles: Tonbridge School (O.Carroll & H.Thomas)

U16 Singles: T.Green (Alleyn's School)

U16 Doubles: Alleyn's School (R.Kohashi-Khan & F.McAllister)

MIDLANDS SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

U18 Singles: J.Skailes (Rugby School)

U18 Doubles: Rugby School (V.Barnes & J.Skailes)

U15 Singles: M.Hunter (Stamford School)

U15 Doubles: Stamford School (L.King & T.Vines)

SOUTH EAST SCHOOLS GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

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

U18 Doubles: Alleyn's School (I.De Soyza & T-R.Foo)

U16 Singles: A.Brown (Alleyn's School)

U16 Doubles: Alleyn's School (A.Brown & A.Ratto)

U14 Singles: I.Lewis (Alleyn's School)

U14 Doubles: Alleyn's School (S.Antonova & F.Dornan)

THE VARSITY MATCH 2026

Men's: Cambridge

Women's: Oxford

NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Singles: B.Beltrami

Doubles: O.Arnold & B.Beltrami

COLQUHOUN TROPHY 2026

U18 Singles: J.Graham (Sherborne School)

U16 Singles: H.Fletcher (Marlborough Collegel)

WINCHESTER FIVES OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

D.Butler & L.Keates

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

U18 Singles: J.Lawrie (Edinburgh Academy)

U18 Doubles: Edinburgh Academy (W.Henry & J.Lawrie)

U16 Doubles: Edinburgh Academy (L.Clark & P.Jesuarul)

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

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

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

U16 Singles: J.Hammond Giles (St Paul's School)

U16 Doubles: St Paul's School (J.Hammond Giles & T.Outred)

U14 Singles: J.Walker (Edinburgh Academy)

U14 Doubles: Edinburgh Academy (R.Jamieson & J.Walker)

U13 Singles: O.Moss (Berkhamsted School)

U13 Doubles: Berkhamsted School (O.Moss & H.Seddon)

NATIONAL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

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

U18 Doubles: Alleyn's School (T-R.Foo & D.Tiwari)

U16 Singles: A.Brown (Alleyn's School)

U16 Doubles: Alleyn's School (A.Brown & A.Ratto)

U14 Singles: F.Dornan (Alleyn's School)

U14 Doubles: Alleyn's School (A.Antonova & F.Dornan)

U13 Singles: I.Gair (Edinburgh Academy)

U13 Doubles: Edinburgh Academy (I.Gair & M.Linklater)

NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT 2026 (Wood Cup)

Old Paulines

NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2026 (Cyriax Cup)

E.Kay & D.Tristao

CHALLENGER SINGLES Dulwich 4/2026

J.Toop

NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Singles: T.Maconie

Doubles: T.Hebblethwaite & T.Maconie

NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Singles: D.Fox

Doubles: A.Pringle & M.Spillane

NATIONAL MASTERS' DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

S.Kirby & B.Kirk

NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS' DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

J.East & W.Enstone

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: O.Arnold & B.Beltrami

WINCHESTER FIVES MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

S.Zhang & P.Chai

NATIONAL OPEN MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

H.Tunks & B.Beltrami

WOMEN'S WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Singles: M.Nugent

Doubles: M.Raynor & H.Tunks

DERBY MOOR INVITATION DOUBLES 2026

Val Fikhter & Matt Ord

LONDON LEAGUE 2026

Edward Alleyn Club

NATIONAL SCHOOLS MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

Not played

THE LADY'S CUP 2025-26

Not played