

A NORTHERN FIVES TOUR.

Accompanied by all the evil portents, three members of the U.C. Fives Club left London on Thursday, December 13th for Halifax. Their ticket numbers were 1311, 1312, and 1313. At Halifax they were joined by C. Smith, the Captain, who being domiciled there, had preceded them by a few days. In the evening they played a match on the Crossley School courts against the Crossley Old Boys.

The courts were really quite good from the point of view of size and speed, etc., but owing to the fact that the walls and floor were of a very light greyish tint, one was very soon hitting the ball from memory. However the match was very enjoyable and was eventually won by the visitors by 171 points to 85.

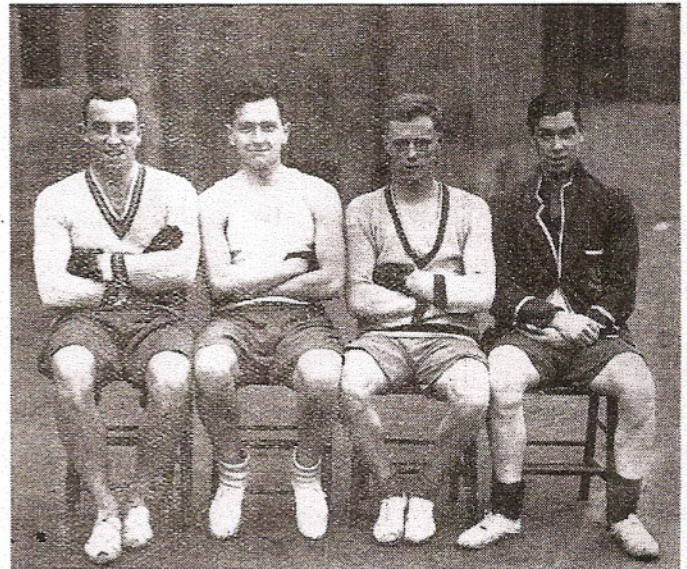
On the following day a match was played at Leeds University. Ill omens still pursued the team. Everyone got up late and the result was that the twenty minutes walk to the station had to be covered in thirteen minutes, and Rees' ticket was numbered 713. But the omens seemed to bode ill for Leeds, who proved most hospitable, even to the extent of providing the tourists with a victory of 73 points. The play throughout the match was very keen. Brown, a left-hander, and Newman in their respective pairs both hit the ball extremely hard, and often produced some really first-class shots. Both pairs, however, were apt to get badly out of position in dealing with short shots. The courts again were excellent except for the door which had a bevel on it and was entirely 'dead.'

On the Saturday the tourists met Heath Grammar School Old Boys on the School courts, which are rather unusual in that the board is set flush into the wall. Despite this there was never any doubt as to whether the ball was up or not, and it certainly eliminated the possibility of the short drop shot hitting the wall fairly and then glancing off the board as it fell. It certainly seemed a most satisfactory arrangement. Here again the games were much keener than the score in some cases represents. Eastwood hit the ball very hard on occasions, and the rallies were always long and closely contested. But here again it proved easy to find gaps in the court when playing short cross shots, and many points were gained in this way.

Finally, on Monday, Heath Grammar School were met. In J. Hutchinson they have a player who has every indication of being extremely good. He hits very hard, particularly the service, and is not afraid to try cross

shots. In his single against Rees he showed that he could retrieve very well, and put up a very good show in reducing the deficit from 1-13 to 8-15. Lewin, a left hander, has a very good style, but unfortunately is inclined to make mistakes which he will doubtless avoid with more experience.

In every case the matches were thoroughly enjoyable and the home sides were most hospitable. The tour was most pleasant from every point of view, and any club wishing to extend their fixtures beyond the home counties would do very well to play a few such games in the North



D. McMILLAN, W. J. REES, C. SMITH and J. R. MORLEY.

The complete scores are as follows:—

Thursday, December 13th.—University College v. Crossley Old Boys. U.C. won by 171 points to 85.

C. Smith and D. McMillan beat Pratt and Cart, 15-9, 15-6-15; beat Baker and Parker, 15-12, 15-7, 15-2.

W. J. Rees and J. R. Morley beat Baker and Parker, 15-3, 15-15-9; beat Pratt and Cart, 15-1, 15-5, 15-13.

Friday, December 14th.—University College v. Leeds University. U.C. won by 180 points to 107.

Smith and McMillan beat R. F. Brown and D. J. Hill, 16-1, 15-9, 15-10; beat J. J. Newman and J. O. Sykes, 16-14, 15-15-10.

Rees and Morley beat Newman and Sykes, 13-15, 15-7, 15-3 beat Brown and Hill, 15-1, 15-4, 15-13.

Saturday, December 15th.—University College v. Heath Grammar School Old Boys. U.C. won by 174 points to 87.

Smith and McMillan beat F. Crossley and F. Wilson, 12-15, 15-6, 15-2; beat H. Whitaker and M. Eastwood, 12-15, 15-6, 15-10.

Rees and Morley beat Whitaker and Eastwood, 15-4, 15-13, 15-4; beat Crossley and Wilson, 15-3, 15-5, 15-3.

Monday, December 17th.—University College v. Heath Grammar School.

Rees beat J. Hutchinson, 15-8.

McMillan beat H. Eyre, 15-2.

Smith beat C. G. Morley, 15-5.

Morley beat J. Lewin, 15-4.

Smith and McMillan beat Hutchinson and Morley, 15-11, 15-2; beat Lewin and Eyre, 15-5, 15-8.

Rees and Morley beat Lewin and Eyre, 15-6, 15-1; beat Hutchinson and Morley, 15-4, 15-10.