

R.A. COLVILLE

It is true of our leisure activities that the vast majority of those who enjoy them have no wish to, nor indeed have the ability to, take any part in their organisation or control. This task invariably falls to a select band of enthusiasts who are prepared to give generously of their time and abilities so that others may enjoy the activity which has given them, themselves, so much pleasure. Our President today, Ron Colville, is one of these dedicated men.

He is a man of many interests - photography, gardening, squash, Royal tennis, geography and geology fieldwork, D.I.Y., travelling and languages, and, of course, fives. It says a great deal for the game of fives that, with so many competing hobbies, it should have played such a large part in Ron's life.

His playing career covers a wide expanse of years. He first played fives in 1934 at Strand School, and then at London University. From 1945 he was a member of the Old



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Strandians team until the late 60's when sadly that popular club closed down because of lack of new blood. Even today he still plays the occasional game for the R.F.A. Club.

But playing fives was not enough for Ron Colville, he had, by nature, to give something back to the game which gave him so much enjoyment. So, in 1950, he became the Honorary Secretary of the Association, and continued in this office until March 1963, when he went to live for a time in Stockholm. In those years, by quiet efficiency and by assiduous work carried out in his own inimitable style, he made his particular contribution to the history of the Association and, indeed, to the game itself. During his 13 years as Secretary he was deeply involved in the appointment of area secretaries, the joining by the Association of the C.C.P.R., amendment of the rules of the game, and clarification of court specification.

In 1976 he became Deputy President of the Association, but served in this capacity for only a few months when, due to an unexpected change of office in the Association, he was asked to act as President for the remainder of the year. In 1977 he was duly appointed President, and in 1978 was unanimously elected to a further year in that position.

As one would expect, Ron is not content to be just a titular head of the Association. He is a working President. In his position as Head of Geography at Mary Datchelor Girls' School, Camberwell Green, and with his many other interests, he leads a very busy life. Nonetheless, he still finds time to attend our Committee Meetings and Championship events whenever possible. We value his advice given in his quiet, unassuming way, and the practical help he gives when he undertakes some job of work that no one else can find time to do.

We must all be grateful to Ron Colville for the work he is doing for the Association and for the game in general. We are, indeed, fortunate to have him at our head for a further year.

W.H.P.

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SOME PRESIDENTIAL THOUGHTS

My recollections of my period of office as Hon. Secretary during the 1950's and early 1960's are of the Association's



administrative time being taken up with a number of well defined topics. These included the finding of a replacement ball for the long used Jeffrey Malings leather panelled one; the revision of the rules of the game as a result of the server throwing up the ball for himself and the need for a redefinition of the words 'striker' and 'server'; a specification for court construction; the creation of Honorary Area Secretaries to enable closer liaison with the regions; the then recent establishment of the R.F.A. Club to provide playing facilities for players whose own club courts had been bombed. The choice of name for the Club has, alas, ever since been a source of confusion, since, apart from its name, it has technically no more favoured connection with the Association than any other affiliated club. Representative matches were started again with visits to Manchester, Durham, Bloxham and Edinburgh. Lastly but not least the Association was represented on the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

Today the Association's efforts are being directed towards making the game more popular. Provincial centres to introduce potential players to our game are being set up with the much appreciated financial help of the Sports Council. Much thought is being directed to the production of a coaching manual and an annual course is held at Exeter University through the kind auspices of the Sports Council.

With the ever increasing pace of life and the demands made on our Honorary Officers to develop the game, I commend to all concerned the question raised at a recent A.G.M. "Are our officers able to cope with running the Association's affairs as efficiently as they would like in their spare time?" or "has the time come for at least sharing some full time paid assistance?"

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