

Results and Reports from the RFA website: Season 2012-2013

Index

p. 2	South West Open	Blundell's	July 2012
p. 3	Olympic Torch Relay	Redbridge	July 2012
p. 4	Obituary Barry Trapnell		August 2012
p. 5	RFA AGM Agenda; RFA AGM Resolutions		
p. 7	RFA AGM General Secretary's Report; AGM Club Manager's Report		
p. 10	RFA AGM Financial Report		
p. 12	CIJB World Handball Championships	Holland	September 2012
p. 14	London Open	Alleyn's	September 2012
p. 15	Owers Trophy	Barnes	September 2012
p. 16	Latest RFA rankings		October 2012
p. 21	Yorkshire Doubles	Giggleswick	October 2012
p. 22	West of England Championships	Clifton	October 2012
p. 24	Latest RFA rankings		November 2012
p. 29	Fives Federation Coaching Course		November 2012
	Schools Winchester Fives	Winchester	November 2012
p. 30	Cambridge University Fives Courts Fund-Raising		
p. 31	National BUCS Championships	Horsham	November 2012
p. 32	National Singles	Barnes	December 2012
p. 33	National Ladies Championships	Barnes	December 2012
p. 34	RFA President's Cup	Northwood	December 2012
	Cambridge Fives Courts Fund-Raising Match		December 2012
p. 36	Latest RFA Rankings		December 2012
p. 40	Cambridge University Courts project confirmation		December 2012
	Obituary: Christopher Martin-Jenkins		January 2013
p. 41	West of England Schools	Sherborne	January 2013
p. 43	North West Open	Manchester	January 2013
p. 44	South East Regional Schools	Horsham	February 2013
p. 45	National U25s	Oundle	March 2013
p. 46	Varsity Match	Barnes	February 2013
p. 47	UK Wallball Championships	Northwood	February 2013
p. 50	Latest RFA rankings		February 2013
p. 55	Colquhoun Trophy	Sherborne	March 2013
p. 56	North of England Open	Durham	February 2013
	Ladies Winchester Fives	Bradfield	March 2013
p. 57	RFA v. BUCS	Barnes	March 2013
p. 58	Midlands Schools Regional	Bedford	March 2013
p. 60	National U13s	Barnes	March 2013
p. 61	National Winchester Fives	Malvern	March 2013
p. 62	Latest RFA rankings		March 2013
p. 66	National Vintage Championships	Oundle	March 2013
p. 67	National Schools	Barnes	April 2013
p. 71	National Doubles	Alleyn's	March 2013
p. 72	End of Season rankings		April 2013
p. 78	Wood Cup	Barnes	April 2013
p. 80	National Girls	Marlborough	April 2013
p. 82	National Veterans Championships	Marlborough	April 2013

p. 84	National Masters	Marlborough	April 2013
p. 85	Scottish Open	Loretto	May 2013
p. 86	RFA rankings		May 2013
p. 92	Winchester Mixed Fives	Bradfield	May 2013
	Derby Moor Invitation Doubles	Derby Moor	June 2013

SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Blundell's School, Tiverton, Devon, 6/7th July 2012

Players braved all manner of diabolical weather conditions to make it to Devon for the 2012 South West Championships, and their dedication produced a tournament rich in quality.

In the singles tournament, all went according to the seedings in the early rounds, although Marcus Bate had to dig very deep to get past Stuart Watson in the first round. The result was that the top four seeds made it through to the semis, with Dan Tristao facing John Minta, and defending champion Will Ellison taking on Matt Cavanagh.

The matches could not have been more different. Will was able to dispatch Matt with surprising ease, but John and Dan played out a wonderful match that went to the full three games. John won the first, but Dan hit back to take the second and third, securing another final against Will.

The final was played in front of an expectant crowd, and it didn't disappoint. It was a match full of outstanding athleticism, awesome shot-making and heart-stopping retrieval that ebbed and flowed one way then the other, with countless long rallies. Dan took the first game 11-7, but in the second Will started superbly, and with a 9-4 lead, looked set for an easy win. Dan then fought back to 9-9, only for Will to show steely determination to close it out 11-9. The third game was another cracker, and this time it was Dan's turn to build up a big lead, only to see it pegged back. But, as in the second game, the man who first built up the lead ended up winning the match - Dan took the third game 11-6, and with it the title.

The doubles tournament, too, went with the seedings in the quarter-finals, although Jay Gravatt and Dick Warner (who deservedly went on to win the plate) pushed Alex Rew and Jim Hughes very hard before finally losing out in the third game. Their reward was a semi-final against the defending champs, Will Ellison and Marcus Bate, and although it was a fine match, the top seeds just had enough to hold on for the win. In the bottom half of the draw, the semi was even closer: Dan Trisato (fresh from his national title) teamed up with Gareth Price to face John Minta and Andy Pringle, and it was the younger pair who came through - but only after coming back in both games to win them 11-9.

Come the final, Dan and Gareth (playing in his first ever final) again fell behind in the first game, but this time there was no way back. Will and Marcus Bate started at a canter, forcing several mistakes from their opponents, and they took the game 11-3, seemingly set on an easy defence of their title.

They started the second game brightly, too, and soon built up a decent - and, the crowd assumed, match-winning - lead. However, this seemed to spark Dan and Gareth into action, and they started playing much better, finding the nicks and winners that had eluded them in the first game. They saved two match points and went on to nick the game 12-10, sending the match into a deciding third game. This was another fantastic game, but by now the momentum was with Dan and Gareth, and they went on to clinch it to secure the title - the first title ever in Gareth's eight

years of tournament play.

Last, but not least, huge thanks must go to Stuart Watson and Tim Lewis who stepped in to run the competition – and run it very capably – at the last minute when Wayne Enstone, who usually runs this event, had to hand over the reins.

Singles

1st round: D.Tristao bt J.Gravatt 11-6, 11-0; A.Rew bt G.Price 11-5, 11-1; M.Bate bt S.Watson 12-10, 11-8; J.Minta bt D.Warner 11-7, 11-1; M.Cavanagh bt K.Kennerley 11-2, 11-3; J.Hughes bt H.Scott 11-2, 11-5; A.Pringle bt N.Geere 11-1, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Tristao bt Rew 11-1, 11-4; Minta bt Bate 11-5, 11-2; Cavanagh bt Hughes 11-5, 11-2; W.Ellison bt Pringle 11-5, 11-2

Semi-finals: Tristao bt Minta 7-11, 11-5, 11-5; Ellison bt Cavanagh 11-0, 11-2

Final: Tristao bt Ellison 11-7, 9-11, 11-6

Plate: Gravatt

Doubles

Quarter-finals: Bate & Ellison bt Geere & Scott 11-0, 11-1; Hughes & Rew bt Gravatt & Warner 9-11, 11-5, 11-9; Minta & Pringle bt Lewis & Watson 11-0, 11-1; Price & Tristao bt Kennerley & Hill 11-3, 11-1

Semi-finals: Bate & Ellison bt Hughes & Rew 11-7, 11-9; Price & Tristao bt Minta & Pringle 11-9, 11-9

Final: Price & Tristao bt Bate & Ellison 3-11, 12-10, 11-7

Plate: Gravatt & Warner

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

Redbridge, North-East London, 22nd July 2012

National Doubles Champion **Dan Grant** is carrying the Olympic torch on Sunday - in recognition of his hard work and dedication in promoting WallBall as President of the UK Wallball Association.

This is where you can see him:

Sunday 22nd July

Location: Redbridge from Icknield Drive to Shere Rd

Time: ~8:33am

Runner number: 17

Dan says you are more than welcome to come and watch in the crowd and come for a pint/early morning coffee afterwards, or you can always watch the live stream on the BBC, using the link below. For more info, you may be interested in a 10min radio interview with the other 2 UCL torchbearers - Tom & James, who both have outstanding stories to tell.

OBITUARY

London, 10th August 2012

The RFA is sad to report the death, at 88 years of age, of **Barry Trapnell**, the oldest surviving National champion, as well as previously President of Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club. His funeral will be on the 14th of August at 2.20 pm at Kingston Crematorium, and by way of tribute, we publish this obituary, sent in by the current CURFC President Bob Dolby.

Barry Maurice Waller Trapnell, CBE, DL (1924 – 2012) (UCS & St. John's)

Born in Hampstead, London, Trapnell was an outstanding sportsman. He had a short career in first-class cricket, lasting one season - 1946 - his last year as a student at Cambridge. In nine matches he took 15 wickets at 31.46 and scored 258 runs at 16.12, including 5 for 73 against MCC a week before the Varsity match. He turned out for the Gentlemen against the Players a fortnight later and made one Championship appearance for Middlesex late in the season. He also played squash for Cambridge.

A formidable Fives player, he became National Singles Champion in 1949 and National Doubles Champion twice - in 1949 (with Ted Isaacs) and in 1953 (with John Rogers). He was President of Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club 1989-2004, succeeding the legendary Jock Burnet, co-founder of the Jesters, in that post. Cambridge Past play Cambridge Present each year for the Trapnell Tankard in a fixture known as the Past versus Present.

Barry became a chemistry don at Worcester College, Oxford, a researcher at Liverpool University, and consultant on catalysis at ICI. Later he was appointed headmaster of Denstone College as, at that time, the youngest headmaster of a public school in England. At Denstone he instituted many reforms and, in educational terms, strongly promoted science education, encouraged more pupils to study a second modern language, and modernised religious education. He went on to become headmaster of Oundle School.

In 1986, Trapnell became chairman of Cambridge Occupational Analysts (COA), eventually retiring in 2005. He put enormous effort into establishing the uptake of COA career programmes throughout the country and in organising training courses and visits to schools in the late eighties and nineties. His combination of scientific insight, wide ranging interest in the arts, writing skills and personal contacts were of immense value.

RFA AGM

London, 6th September 2012

The RFA has published the paperwork for the Association's 86th Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Thursday 6th September at the offices of Ashursts in central London. All members are invited to attend (and should also soon be receiving the documents in the post - if you haven't, it may be that the Gen Sec has an old address for you, so please send him the current one!), and the Agenda includes the election of the Deputy President.

Members are also entitled to add items to the Agenda, but must do so in writing by August 28th. They are also allowed to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf if they are unable to attend the meeting in person.

**THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the 86th Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday 6th September 2012 at 6.30 pm at the offices of Ashursts, Broadwalk House, 5 Appold Street, London EC2A 2DA

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 85th Annual General Meeting of the Rugby Fives Association held on Thursday 8th September 2012
3. Any matters arising
4. General Secretary's report - enclosed
5. Presentation of the Accounts as at 31st July 2012 – audited accounts enclosed
6. Election of Deputy President – see attached Resolution 1
7. Election of Board members – see attached Resolution 2
8. Election of Hon Auditor and Hon Archivist – see attached Resolutions 3 & 4
9. Any Other Business

Ian Fuller
General Secretary
August 2012

Notes

1. Any member wishing to add any item to the Agenda must contact the General Secretary in writing by 28th August 2012
2. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is also entitled to appoint one or more proxies to attend and, on a poll, vote instead of him/her. The proxy need not be a member of the company.
3. To be effective, the instrument appointing a proxy and any authority under which it is executed must be deposited with the General Secretary of the company not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting.

4. Copies of the Minutes of last year's AGM will be available at the meeting or on request from the General Secretary.

The Rugby Fives Association, 2 Rose Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2BN
Company number: 4837244

THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 6th SEPTEMBER 2012

RESOLUTION 1 (Agenda item 6)

It is proposed that R.Dolby be appointed Deputy President of the Association in succession to J Schroeter.

RESOLUTION 2 (Agenda item 7)

It is proposed that the following Board members be re-elected: Messrs F. Akerman, C.Brooks, H.Buchanan, P.d' Ancona, I Fuller, D.Gardner, K.Henry, P.King, S.Kirby, A.Pringle, A.Smith, D.Tristao and Miss A.Steel

RESOLUTION 3 (Agenda Item 8)

It is proposed that F W P de Winton be re-elected as Hon. Auditor.

RESOLUTION 4 (Agenda Item 8)

It is proposed that D. Barnes be re-elected as Hon. Archivist.

**THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2012**

General Secretary's Report

At the very beginning of the season we were thrilled to hear that our request to the Jesters Club for financial assistance towards our plans for supporting Fives more directly in schools had been approved and we were awarded a grant of £5000. This has enabled us to cover the travel costs of coaches to schools, assist younger competitors in their travel and accommodation costs to championships and to offer schools where Fives has 'died' some financial support to revive the game there. We are extremely grateful to the Jesters for their generosity in providing us with this grant and for funding a reception at the National Schools Championships which was much enjoyed by players and spectators alike. In talking to schools and in providing funding to competitors we have made them aware of the source of the funds and promoted the benefits of the Jesters Club to them.

Continuing with the theme of coaching, many of you will be aware that under the auspices of the Fives Federation we have developed a coaching qualification for Fives which was launched at the beginning of this year. The Board was delighted that Wayne Enstone led the way by becoming the first Rugby Fives player to qualify and he is now actively involved in accrediting others to become qualified coaches. More courses will be run in the autumn and details of these will be widely advertised once available. This initiative will both raise the profile of the game and enable us in due course to apply for funding from Sports bodies for development purposes.

After many many years of 'hope', the building of courts at Cambridge University has become reality and the first bricks have been laid. Whilst some funding is already available, more will be required and we will be initiating a fund raising campaign among members later this year or early in the New Year. The number of individuals providing financial support, regardless of amount, will be an important factor in demonstrating to the University the level of interest that exists among our membership. We are greatly indebted to Bob Dolby for all his tireless work over the years and for his continuing active involvement with the Cambridge authorities in this exciting project.

Other areas that have occupied your Board's time have included a review of our Insurance cover, Health & Safety policies and our control of risks. Stuart Kirby has now produced a revised and comprehensive Risk Assessment document which also includes some guidance to tournament organisers on Health & Safety and medical issues. Stuart has also started work on revising our court specifications and we are very grateful to him for his excellent and extremely thorough output. Apart from producing wonderfully readable and professional publications in the form of the Annual Review and Newsletters, Andy Pringle has been busy overseeing the inclusion of our website on the Federation's 'Fives Online' site and whilst for the present time both sites will run in parallel we will eventually move to a single site. Our thanks go to Andy for all his high quality work.

We were very pleased to mark the life of Ian Roberts in tangible form by presenting a trophy to Giggleswick school which they will use for their inter-house Fives competition. We are indebted to some of Ian's close friends and Board members for their generosity in providing funds towards the cost of this trophy.

In a similar vein we are looking at ways of recognising the life of Fred Beswick who sadly died early this year. Fred, a past President of the Association, was a true legend of the game in every sense and over the years inspired many people with his humour and passion for the game. The huge attendance at his funeral, with some people travelling hundreds of miles, was testimony to the popularity that Fred enjoyed. He will be sadly missed.

In Olympic year, but not actually for that reason, the Board decided to switch from presenting tankards at championships to awarding medals. Part of the reason was cost driven but also it was felt that it was time for a change and that medals were a more 'modern' and appropriate award. This change has generally been well received.

On court, entries overall at senior competitions were good and we congratulate Dan Tristao and Dan Grant in becoming the youngest National Doubles winners for many years. Schools competitions were extremely well supported and the Board is very encouraged by not only the number of young players in the game but also the quality of their play. We believe the game is in a very healthy position at the present time. This season saw the first of what we hope will be more Regional schools competitions enabling some players to take part and gain success at the game which they might not otherwise be able to achieve at National level. The South East competition, held at Tonbridge, was a great success and will become a permanent fixture in the calendar.

The success of all our competitions (approx 30 in a season) is largely attributable to the huge efforts of our volunteer organisers and we greatly appreciate all their hard work.

Due to ill health, Jeremy Schroeter regrettably had to resign as Deputy President in January. We are delighted that Bob Dolby agreed to take his place and his appointment will be formally ratified by this meeting later. Adrian Lee has indicated his wish to step down from the Board and we thank him for his significant contribution whilst on the Board.

Ian Fuller
General Secretary
August 2012

**THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2012**

RFA Club Manager's Report

The Club played five new fixtures this season. The first match of the season saw Brian Kirk's team take a detour to play the White Rose Club after Manchester YM cancelled. In the inaugural match against Rugby School, father and son Richard and Rob Christie stepped up at the eleventh hour to save the day. Meanwhile in Barnes Tom Dean and Marcus Bate managed to get a full eight-a-side for the Old Paulines match.

There was also an eight-a-side match for the first ever RFA Club vs 'Winchester Fives Association' where a feast of Winchester fives was had with five games of doubles against four different opponents for each pair. This was followed by a further, and very welcome, feast of chips, sandwiches and beer superbly organised by the Wessex Club to celebrate the Winchester victory.

The last of the new matches was against a combined Derby Moor School and Club side where, as it was too cold and wet to play singles, the match began with the unique situation of Robert & Robert (Sandie & Ross) shaking hands with Robert & Robert (Whitehorn & Christie) while Robert (Dolby) looked on.

The award for the furthest travelled by one player looked as if it would go to Dave Hebden after coming out of retirement and driving 250 miles to play against The Dalesmen, but he was pipped by Chris Jones travelling from Singapore for a game against Cambridge followed by a game for the Old Whigiftians against the Club.

Reports of lavish post-match teas have come from places as far and disparate as Scarborough, Croydon and Sherborne. The last of these was enjoyed solely by match manager Andy Passey as, with snow falling, his team hit the road. Andy remained, unwilling to let a little inclement weather spoil a deserved tea after a good day's fives.

The odd old genial rivalry can surface in a Club match. Indeed, at the aforementioned Old Whigiftians fixture, Messrs Warner (yes, the President) and Hamilton could be heard bemoaning each other's court position and lack of movement – a common theme for these gentlemen heard by anyone attending the last few Vets championships. This waggery continued at the Old Whit's clubhouse where it was suggested that the pair should join the ongoing tango class in an effort to quell their differences.

Thanks the tenacity of several match managers this season, a number of postponed fixtures had to be rearranged and, happily, were eventually played. Unfortunately it is to often a struggle to organise a match, what with courts being closed (for renovation or, unforgivably, being used for storage), courts sweating, or just the difficulty in finding eight players able to commit to few hours of fives. Though struggle on we must, as these matches help keep the game alive and stop courts falling into disuse.

Please contact Ed Hatton for any new school and university matches and Hamish Buchanan for clubs.

The President's Cup was, again, a great success. Magnificently run by Gareth Price with a new e-mail entry form, so there are no excuses for not entering like forgetting to post the form off! The Cup was won by ex-Christ's Hospital pair Luke Thomson and Guy Matthews in a tense final with Mark Kitely and John Minta. Congratulations should also go to Alex Satterfield, another ex-Christ's Hospital player, who went home with the Love Mug after only returning to the game six weeks previously from a five-year break.

Comments from many match managers indicate that a great deal of fun was had this season and I look forward to that continuing in the next.

Hamish Buchanan
August 2012

THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2012

Financial Report

The loss incurred this year is largely attributable to the fact that we purchased three years' worth of medals to take advantage of the significant price discounts available. So, whilst we have taken the 'hit' this year, the next two years should show a good profit for competitions and feed into the 'bottom line'.

Subscriptions held up well this year with small increases in all areas. We are actively looking at moving to using Direct debits for the collection of subscriptions which will enable us to offer a broader range of options for subscriptions.

On the expenditure side, secretarial fees increased in line with RPI. The significant increases in postal tariffs resulted in far greater costs in distributing the Annual Review and this is an area that the Board is looking to address. Website expenditure went up as we merged our site into Fives Online and work need to be carried out to ensure compatibility between both sites.

It is pleasing to see increased subscriptions for the 100 Club following the membership drive at the Dinner and in the Annual Review. Grants were given in respect of coaching at Edinburgh Academy, Denstone and Radley, although following the receipt of the Jesters funds, future payments were made out of that Fund.

Overall, the Board is content with the position shown and recommends the accounts for approval by the meeting.

Ian Fuller
General Secretary
August 2012

THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION
COMPANY NO:04837244
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31st July 2012

	£ 2012	£ 2012
GENERAL FUND		
Opening balance	27,849	27,096
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	(635)	753
Closing balance	27,214	27,849
100 CLUB FUND		
Opening balance	1,199	1,738
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	461	(539)
Closing balance	1,660	1,199
TRAVEL FUND		
Opening and closing balance	869	869
TROPHY FUND		
Opening and closing balance	500	500
JESTERS FUND		
Opening balance	0	
Grant received	5,000	
Disbursements	995	
Closing balance	4,005	0
TOTAL FUND VALUE	34,248	30,417
REPRESENTED BY		
Cash at bank		
General Fund	32,588	29,218
100 Club Fund	1,660	1,199
TOTAL	34,248	30,417

For the year ended 31st July 2012 the company was entitled to exemption under section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

R. Warner - President

I P Fuller -
Hon. Treasurer

I have examined the books and accounts of the Rugby Fives Association. In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention that indicates that the accounts do not agree with the books.

F W P de Winton - Hon. Examiner

CIJB WORLD HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Franeker, Holland, 27th August/1st September 2012

Team England returned from the CIJB World Handball Championships in Franeker, Holland, with a host of new friends and a growing reputation in the international arena – if not a great deal of success in the competition itself.

The championships featured four games, but England were concentrating on 1-Wall handball, as they aimed to defend the title they had won two years ago in Valencia, Spain.

First, though, they had to tackle the International Game and Kaatsen, a game only played in the northern Dutch province of Friesland. Both are field games, played on large pitches and reward the ability to hit the ball – a shaven tennis ball in the International game and something like a smaller Rugby Fives ball in Kaatsen – a very long way.

Sadly, this is a skill the English court-game specialists struggle to master, and matters were not helped by having to face very strong teams in their opening encounters: defending champions Spain in the International Game and Holland in Kaatsen.

The International Game is perhaps best described as five-a-side tennis, with each team defending a half of the pitch and trying to either prevent the ball being returned or hit the ball straight out of the back of the court – an instant winning shot. The game is scored similarly to tennis, with much of the emphasis on serving and returning serve.

Against Spain, considering none of the team (Dan Grant, Gareth Price, Peter White, Luke Thomson and Andy Pringle) had played the sport competitively for two years, England put in a decent performance; and, although they lost 6-2, each individual game was close.

The second game in the round-robin format was against Mexico, with England again going down 6-2, but the team saved the best till last – a match with Ecuador. With England's confidence growing and tactics improving all the time, it was a tremendously close match that went to a deciding game, with the teams tied at 5-5. Sadly, England were receiving and Ecuador's best server stepped up – despite England's protests that he was taking his turn out of order. Unable to deal with his good shots, England lost the game, but went away feeling sure that, with more experience, they could become a force in this game.

The team's Kaatsen campaign ran a similar course, opening with a heavy loss to Holland, the only country that regularly plays this game – a three-a-side game that features elements of tennis and cricket, with each team trying to set marks that they defend against their opponents.

This game took place against an embarrassing background, as the English team tried to clear up any possible offence caused by one player's comments that he thought Kaatsen was 'boring'. Sadly, he realised too late that the friendly young man he had been chatting to while watching a demonstration match the previous day was a newspaper journalist, who unsympathetically published these comments on the day the competition started!

Happily, England's team (Price, White and Pringle) responded in the best way in their second game, recording a win against Venezuela, but they couldn't repeat the feat in their final match against Argentina. Although England went 4-0 up, the Argentinians picked up their game at the same time as England's serving fell to pieces, and England eventually lost 6-4. Mind you, at least the team were happy to be quoted that the game wasn't as boring as they had first thought.

At the same time, England's ladies – Tessa Mills and Wendy Carling – were also trying their hand at Kaatsen; and, although they played their hearts out in an unfamiliar game, they weren't able to score a win.

Instead, both the men's and ladies' teams were concentrating on the 1-Wall, and the men (Grant, Thomson and White) opened up with a 100% record in the group stages, beating Argentina, Belgium and Peru. The format was doubles-only, best-of-three games, and it was close stuff all the way: the wins against Argentina and Belgium only came in the tie-breaker third game.

Worse, though, as the team found out in these opening games – and a huge, hand-shaped bruise on the back of Pete's thigh showed – neither the players nor the referees seemed familiar with some important details of the rules, in particular those dealing with screening and blocking.

This was to haunt the team in their next match – a quarter-final against Spain, the team they had beaten in the 2010 final. With England struggling to contain their indignation at what they saw as unpunished infringements by their opponents, it soon turned into a bad-tempered encounter. Arguably, England were the better handball players, with a wider variety of shots and better tactics, but the situation got the better of them and they ended up losing in two games.

It was a disappointing end to a campaign that had promised much, and to rub salt into the team's wounds, the Belgians (who lost to England in the group stages) went on to claim third place with a win against Spain in the bronze medal play-off match.

By contrast to their male colleagues, England's ladies were rather less experienced in international competition and that showed. However, while they lost all their matches, there were many crumbs of comfort: Wendy and Tessa improved throughout and have learned much from their time in Holland. They were unfortunate to lose to Italy in a tie-breaker, while the eventual winners – Puerto Rico – took the time to give them a 'master class'.

England's last on-field action of the week was Llargues, a similar game to Kaatsen, but in which two good servers can win the day for their team: a serve straight over the back of the court is an instant, unanswerable, point for the serving side. Sadly, England came up against two strong-serving teams – Belgium and Colombia – and they could only watch as serve after wind-assisted serve sailed over their heads.

Overall, then, it was an occasionally frustrating week for the team, but one which will teach them much about future international competition.

It has also taught the international competition much about the English sense of humour as the team created a new rallying cry. True to form, this new call was the result of a mistake: mis-hearing the French/Belgian teams' cry of 'Allez les gars', which translates roughly as 'Come on, lads.'

Believing they had heard them say 'Allez à la gare', the English now start all their matches – much to the confusion of their opponents – with a group cry of 'To the Station!'.

LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Alleyn's School, Dulwich, 15/16th September 2012

The 2012 London Open produced a feast of Fives, as well as one of the most nail-biting doubles finals in recent history. Grabbing the headlines were title-winners James Toop (in the singles) and Charlie Brooks and Tom Dean (in the doubles), but behind the headlines were plenty of amazing stories.

These started as early as the first round of the singles, when Tom Maconie – as well as organising the event – upset the seedings by knocking out BUCS singles champion Luke Thomson. Tom was then unlucky not to take a game off Dan Tristao in the quarter-finals.

Otherwise, the tournament followed the seedings, with the country's top four ranked singles players reaching the semi-finals: James Toop went on to defeat Matt Cavanagh fairly comfortably, but at the same time Will Ellison and Dan Tristao were engaged in the latest in their series of titanic clashes. Will took the first game easily, only for Dan to edge the second and send the match into a deciding third game. Here, Will took an early lead and seemed destined to close it out, but at a crucial point – and completely out of keeping with the rest of his play – hit four shots into the bar. This handed the momentum to Dan and it was he who came off court a surprised winner.

Come the final, though, there was to be no such escape. James was always in command and he took the match in two games to successfully defend the title he won last year at St Paul's.

Compared to the singles, the doubles event looked much harder to call, with several unfamiliar and relatively untried partnerships taking to the courts. As if to prove the point, one quarter-final featured the national doubles champions – Dan Grant and Dan Tristao – playing against each other, partnered by Gareth Price and Tom Chase respectively. It was a magnificent match that went right to the wire, with Dan and Gareth eventually winning 12-11 in the third game. Their 'reward' was a semi-final against defending champs, Will Ellison and Hal Mohammed, and it was the top seeds who won through to the final.

The second semi-final was between Tom Dean & Charlie Brooks and John Minta & James Toop, who had won through only after a tough three-game quarter-final with Hamish Buchanan & Chris Burrows. John and James did all they could, but in the end it was Old Paulines' power and consistency that saw them through.

In the first game of the final, that same combination looked set to win them the title at a canter.

Despite going 0-5 down early on, they regrouped and took 11 unanswered points to win the game. In the second game, however, the defending champions upped their game: they seemed better able to cope with their opponents' power, cut out the errors and found winners of their own.

They took the second game to 8 and, in the third game, carried on where they had left off. Hal hit a succession of outright winners early in the game, while Will was able to soak up the pressure from Tom, all of which combined to give them a seemingly unassailable 10-5 lead. Amazingly, though, Charlie and Tom fought back, saving several match points and re-finding the line and length that had eluded for much of the final game. Both pairs had the chance to take the match as the third game reached a nail-biting climax, but it was Tom and Charlie who finally forced the error that gave them the title - and deserved round of applause from the spellbound spectators.

Singles

Preliminary Round: B Beltrami bt P A'Hern 11-1,11-0; Z Brubert bt R Warner 11-6, 11-5

First Round: J Toop bt Z Brubert 11-1,11-0; D Grant bt C Burrows 11-6, 11-3; J Minta bt N Patel 11-6,11-2; M Cavanagh bt J Aquilina 11-3,11-2; W Ellison bt B Beltrami 11-2,11-1; H Buchanan bt J Tilston 11-2,11-2; T Maconie bt L Thomson 11-8,11-4; D Tristao bt R Dyke 11-2,11-2

Quarter-finals: Toop bt Grant 11-2,11-4; Cavanagh bt Minta 11-9,11-0; Ellison bt Buchanan 11-5,11-1; Tristao bt Maconie 11-2,12-11

Semi-finals: Toop bt Cavanagh 11-3,11-5; Tristao bt Ellison 1-11,11-8,11-8

Final: Toop bt Tristao 11-7,11-4

Plate: Burrows

Doubles

First round: L Thomson & E Hatton bt J Aquilina & J Tilston 11-4, 11-0; D Tristao & T Chase bt R Warner & R Matthieu 11-2, 11-3; J Toop & J Minta bt D Neale & R Bridge 11-0,11-0; A Pringle & T Maconie bt R Sutcliffe & J Walter 12-10,11-3

Quarter-finals: Ellison & Mohammed bt Thomson & Hatton 11-3, 9-6 retd; Grant & Price bt Tristao & Chase 11-8, 8-11, 12-11; Toop & Minta bt Burrows & Buchanan 11-9, 5-11, 11-3; Dean & Brooks bt Maconie & Pringle 11-2, 11-0

Semi-finals: Ellison & Mohammed bt Grant & Price 11-3, 11-6; Dean & Brooks bt Toop & Minta 11-6,11-4

Final: Dean & Brooks bt Ellison & Mohammed 11-5, 8-11, 12-11

Plate: Aquilina & J Tilston

OWERS TROPHY

St Paul's School, Barnes, 29th September 2012

The Old Paulines successfully defended their Owers Trophy title with a series of emphatic wins against anyone who the misfortune to face them. In fact, such was their domination that the squad – Tom Dean, Charlie Brooks, Dan Tristao, Ed Kay and Sam Roberts – lost only a single game in the entire day's play.

Right from the off, they had looked in impressive form, brushing aside the Old Bradfieldians and the Old Eastbournians in their group games to claim a place in the semi-finals. It even looked destined to be an all-Pauline final, as the Old Paulines second team also won their group, scoring

wins over the Alleyn Old Boys and Old Derby Moor.

The semi-final line-up was completed by the AOBs and the OEs, playing the OPs' first and second teams respectively. The Alleyn Old Boys (Hamish Buchanan & Bruce Hanton, plus the Brubert brothers, Jacob and Zack) at least managed the distinction of taking a game off the OPs, but the Paulines still won comfortably to claim a place in the final – as they have now done for seven years on the trot.

However, it was not to be an all-Pauline final, as the Old Eastbournians (Marcus Bate & Simon Beal, and Andy Pringle and Charles Compton) beat the OPs' second team (Mark Gibbor & James Tilston and schoolboy champions Francis Thomas & Theo Parker).

That meant the final would be a repeat of an earlier group game, and the result was the same: an emphatic win for the Paulines. The OEs had played well to reach the final, but they couldn't come close to beating a Pauline team that could boast three of the four finalists from April's National Doubles Championship. It says something of the strength of the Paulines that their lowest-ranked player was Ed Kay - and he (with Dan Tristao) is the current National Under 25 Doubles Champion. They scored a decisive win over the OEs, and set a couple of new records in the process. They have now won the title more times than anyone else (four times, while their closest rivals – the AOBs – have won it three) and appeared in a record-breaking seven finals; the AOBs have managed six....

The day's final piece of silverware – the Plate – was won by the Old Bradfieldians (Jez Sinton, Tony Brown, Ed Ronan, David Butler and Ian Mettam) under the approving gaze of David Barnes, who had coached them all in his time at the school.

Owers Trophy results

GROUP STAGES:

Group A: Old Paulines 1 bt Old Eastbournians 60-23, bt Old Bradfieldians 60-60-11; Old Eastbournians bt Old Bradfieldians 55-35

Group B: Old Paulines 2 bt Alleyn Old Boys 43-36, bt Old Derby Moor 60-33; Alleyn Old Boys bt Old Deby Moor 58-36

KNOCKOUT STAGE:

Semi-finals: Old Paulines 1 bt Alleyn Old Boys 56-28; Old Eastbournians bt Old Paulines 2 59-44

Final: Old Paulines 1 bt Old Eastbournians

Plate: Old Bradfieldians

OFFICIAL RFA RANKINGS

London, 6th October 2012

The RFA has today published the latest official rankings, prepared on its behalf by Dave Hebden. They take into account last month's London Open Championships, as well as July's South West Open, and show that James Toop and Will Ellison have retained their top spots in the singles and doubles rankings, respectively.

In the singles rankings, there is not much movement at the very top, beyond Tom Maconie's move into the Top 10 after his victory over Luke Thomson at the London Open. Lower down, South West quarter-finalists Andy Pringle and Alex Rew climb up the rankings, while Niraj Patel is a new entrant into the list after reaching the Plate final at the London Open.

There's not much change in the personnel in the Top 10 of the doubles rankings, but – with the exception of Will in top spot – there has been a fair shuffling of the order they appear in. London champions Tom Dean and Charlie Brooks are now in the top five, while Dan Tristao moves up into second spot and Gareth Price makes the top 10 after winning in the South West Open. Lower down, Alex Rew and Jim Hughes make good jumps up the rankings after South West semi-finalists.

NATIONAL SINGLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after National Singles Championship, December 2012

Previous positions – after West of England Open Championships, November 2012

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	J Toop	94.5
2	2	W Ellison	87.9
3	3	D Tristao	86.9
4	4	J Minta	68.4
5	5	M Cavanagh	64.3
6	6	H Buchanan	38.3
7	7	D Grant	33.4
8	10	C Brooks	32.9
9	16	E Kay	30.7
10	8	L Thomson	27.7
11	44	I Ackland	27.6
12	11	T Maconie	25.9
13	12	C Burrows	25.2
14	9	M Bate	25.1
15	15	M Bowness	22.2
16	13	T Dean	22.0
17	13	M Skogh	19.9
18	17	N Roberts	18.9
19	20	E Hatton	17.3
20	18	J Major	17.2
21	31	G Rees	16.9
22	33	D Fox	15.5
23	19	P Hanton	14.3
24	23	D Butler	14.1

25	21	A Rew	13.0
26	24	N Hillier	11.7
27	21	A George	11.4
28	26	A Lee	11.1
29	27	R Murby	10.9
	28	A Pringle	10.9
31	30	S Fraser	10.2
32	29	T Widdop	10.1
33	58	S Wyatt-Haines	10.0
34	~	H Jefferies	9.8
	45	F Thomas	9.8
36	34	J Gravatt	9.7
37	24	H Mohammed	9.3
38	37	J Aquilina	8.7
39	35	R Patel	8.2
40	38	J Hughes	8.1
41	35	G Price	7.5
42	54	T Parker	6.4
43	42	R Lamb	6.2
44	43	S Coffey	6.0
	39	K Henry	6.0
46	40	N Patel	5.5
47	32	C Legget	5.3
48	40	E Brooke	5.0
49	48	S King	4.4
	46	J Tilston	4.4
51	49	S Rolls	4.1
52	46	S Moger	3.6
53	~	J Malde	3.1
54	51	N Austin	3.0
	50	A Griffiths	3.0
56	~	G Barnes	2.4
	53	A Goodwin	2.4
58	55	M Kemp	2.3
59	~	A Bowden	2.2
60	52	J Savery	1.9
61	~	M Shaw	1.8
62	56	C Waller	1.7
63	59	M Frost	1.6
64	56	T Kiggel	1.0
65	~	J Wren	0.8
66	60	S Adcock	0.5
	60	T Chase	0.5

NATIONAL DOUBLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after BUCS Championships, December 2012

Previous positions – after West of England Open Championships, November 2012

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	W Ellison	100.7
2	2	H Buchanan	90.0
3	3	D Tristao	84.7
4	4	T Dean	77.6
5	5	D Grant	76.2
6	6	C Brooks	75.1
7	7	J Minta	68.0
8	8	M Bate	66.5
9	9	H Mohammed	62.5
10	10	G Price	55.9
11	11	A Pringle	51.1
12	12	N Roberts	48.3
13	18	E Kay	45.7
14	13	J Toop	43.6
15	14	P Hanton	43.5
16	15	A Lee	39.6
17	16	C Burrows	39.0
18	17	R Perry	38.2
19	19	M Skogh	36.5
20	20	J Hawke	31.4
21	21	E Hatton	30.1
22	22	L Thomson	29.4
23	25	J Aquilina	28.3
	23	J Gravatt	28.3
25	24	J Beswick	26.2
26	26	T Widdop	24.8
27	~	J Brubert	24.5
	27	R Pearson	24.5
	27	R Sandie	24.5
30	29	T Chase	21.6
	29	A Griffiths	21.6
	29	P Manning	21.6
33	49	I Ackland	21.2
34	32	C Brechin	21.1
35	33	R Christie	20.2
	33	M Frost	20.2

37	60	S Rolls	20.0
38	35	T Maconie	19.9
39	37	J Hughes	19.3
40	36	W Enstone	19.0
41	38	S Kirby	18.2
42	39	A Rew	17.3
	42	R Warner	17.3
44	39	M Cavanagh	17.2
	39	A Goodwin	17.2
46	43	H Akerman	16.4
47	44	A Beverly	14.8
48	60	D Butler	14.1
	60	J Tilston	14.1
50	45	S Hodgson	13.9
51	53	A George	13.2
	47	T Parker	13.2
	47	F Thomas	13.2
54	46	J Pearce-Smith	13.0
55	49	V Patel	12.2
56	51	C Legget	11.0
	51	J Major	11.0
58	54	M Baxter	10.5
59	60	A Bowden	10.0
	60	E Hawke	10.0
	60	M Mohammed	10.0
	60	J Spencer	10.0
	60	C Waller	10.0
64	55	H Aveston	9.9
	55	S King	9.9
	55	J Savery	9.9
67	55	P Bishop	9.8
	55	G McIntyre	9.8
69	85	J Malde	9.3
	68	S Watson	9.3
71	70	N Austin	8.6
	70	C Butler	8.6
	70	S Coffey	8.6
	70	N Finney	8.6
	70	A Hanton	8.6
	70	N Hillier	8.6
	70	T Kiggell	8.6
	70	B Kirk	8.6
	70	R Lebon	8.6

	70	E Malone	8.6
81	69	J Marshall	8.5
82	82	R Sutcliffe	7.1
	82	J Walter	7.1
84	82	K Ward	7.0
85	80	E Ronan	6.9
	80	N Wolstenholme	6.9
87	85	N Edmonds	6.1
	85	J Goodwin	6.1
89	88	J Bristow	4.9
	88	P Cohen	4.9
	88	J Furniss	4.9
	88	K Henry	4.9
	88	M Hine	4.9
94	93	T Lewis	3.5
	93	S Maskell	3.5
	93	M Moger	3.5
	93	D Murray	3.5

YORKSHIRE OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Giggleswick, 13th October 2012

The Giggleswick gods provided us with a beautiful, cold, day for the tournament this year, so any worries that the courts might sweat proved unfounded, writes organiser John Hawke.

In spite of clashing with the early days of the Handball Worlds in Dublin, the turnout was impressive, matching the 12 pairs of last year. As last year, the competition was run as 4 round-robins of 3 in the first round, with the winners of each group going on to the Cup semi-finals, the second to the first plate semis, and the third in the group to the second plate. Within the restrictions imposed by two courts, this format appears to give each pair a reasonable number of competitive games whilst compressing the competition into a single day.

The round-robin stage provided two dents to the organiser's pride: first, the almost local pair of Pearson and Sandie bucked the seeding by beating Gravatt and Warner in a thrilling 16-15 game; second, an upset might have appeared on the horizon in the game between Buchanan & Ellison and Hawke & Hawke. One Hawke came out of the blocks like lightning, gaining a 7-0 advantage over last year's champions. However, the other Hawke failed to give the required assistance, cowering in one back corner or the other until the game eventually went with the form book, 15-7 to Buchanan & Ellison. I will leave it to cognoscenti to insert the initials E and J in the correct places, and allocate blame accordingly.

Closest of knockout competitions was the second plate. Both semi-finals went to three games, leaving a final between the White Rose club and Bedford School. The final was less nail-biting, though still exciting, with the Bedford pair of Davey & Jones sinking Paul McIntyre & Woodhouse in two games. Gravatt and Warner were victorious in the 1st plate, winning a close fought pair of games against Christie and Kirby 16-15, 15-12.

After relatively easy wins for Minta & Roberts over Peter Hanton and Aquilina (15-8, 15-5), and for Buchanan & Ellison over Sandie & Pearson (15-3, 15-6), the final turned out a cracking affair with the long, fast rallies which typify quality doubles. Eventual, deserved, winners were Hamish Buchanan and Will Ellison, who defeated John Minta and Neil Roberts 15-12, 15-7.

All in all an excellent day; an enormous quantity of food was devoured, old friendships continued and new ones made. Much praise must go to the lads from Durham, who were as competitive as ever, and especially to Matthew Jamieson who brought himself and three pupils from Bedford School for their first adult tournament. They return to school in triumph, bearing the proceeds of their efforts in the form of the Second Plate.

Thanks are due to Giggleswick School, who loan us the courts and let us use their beautiful sports centre, and to Neil Roberts for liaising with the school and ensuring that the courts were ready for use. The tournament would be nothing, however, without all those who gave up their Saturday, and in many cases travelled great distances, in order to play, talk and otherwise take part. Many thanks to all of you.

Cup

Semi-Finals: Minta & Roberts bt P Hanton & Aquilina 15-8, 15-5; Buchanan & Ellison bt Pearson & Sandie 15-3 15-6

Final: Buchanan & Ellison bt Minta & Roberts 15-12, 15-7

1st Plate

Semi Finals: Christie & Kirby bt Hawke & Hawke 11-2, 11-9; Gravatt & Warner bt Bowden & Spencer 11-9, 11-8

Final: Gravatt & Warner bt Christie & Kirby 16-15, 15-12

2nd Plate

Semi Finals: Davey & Jones bt Baxter & Rob Christie 9-11 11-8 11-4; P McIntyre & Woodhouse bt Jamieson & Sorensen 7-11, 11-8, 11-7

Final: Davey & Jones bt P McIntyre & Woodhouse 11-4, 11-8

WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Clifton College, Bristol, 27/28th October 2012

This year saw an increased number of participants both in the singles and doubles, writes organiser Simon Werkshagen, with all but two of the top 10 players on show. At this stage, thanks must go to two people: Tom Maconie for allowing me to use and develop his London Open website, which I believe is the way forward for any other organiser; and, of course, Lionel Lawson, who assisted most ably in the courts and in the pub both before and during the tournament.

The first round of the singles kicked off at 9am on Saturday morning and we saw games of high quality right from the very start. Two matches went to three games, with Alex Rew and Sam Rolls eventually making their way into the second round. It was great to see so many players from Durham, Oxford and Cambridge universities, but I was particularly pleased with the number of Bristol players who came back to their home courts to do battle. Chris Waller and Alex Mullan – now with Oxford – the Byron-Evans boys from London, Gareth Rees who won the plate singles and of course our Wednesday evening regulars Angus Boyd, Jeremy Wren and our two students Sam Rolls and Inigo Ackland, who won the doubles plate.

As the tournament reached the quarter finals, all eight seeds made it through and the top four seeds then played their way into the semi-finals. It was here that the tournament took a twist, with two fantastic quality matches that saw Will Ellison beat James Toop and John Minta beating Dan Tristao. Sunday morning saw another large crowd ready to watch a final between two heavyweights of the Fives world, with Will coming through in two games.

Sunday saw the doubles kick off with the same quality as the day before, and there were no easy games. First-round losers went on into the plate, which was fiercely competitive and ended with Sam and Inigo beating the established pair of Alex Rew and Jim Hughes.

In the main tournament, the match of the day was between Tom Dean and Charlie Brooks against Will Ellison and Hamish Buchanan. It went to three games, with Will and Hamish just coming through. The final was a quick affair with Will and Hamish out of the blocks very quickly and capitalising on the Dans' [defending champions Grant and Tristao] slow start. Before they knew it, both games were over and Will had succeeded in taking two trophies back to London.

That brought an end to another eventful tournament, during which the competitors ate a total of 100 bananas and, apparently, more than 200 mandarins. There must also be a special mention for Laura's chocolate cake and the Presidents flapjack, thanks to which the West of England is fast becoming known as the eating and drinking club!

Scores

Singles

1st round: D.Tristao bt C.Davey 11-4, 11-1; T.Dean bt T.Parker 11-4, 11-7; I.Ackland bt S.Byron-Evans 3-11, 12-10, 11-5; C.Brooks bt A.Boyd 11-0, 11-0; J.Minta bt R.Warner 11-4, 11-4; A.Rew bt G.Rees 6-11, 11-7, 11-6; D.Butler bt J.Wren 11-5, 11-2; M.Cavanagh bt F.Thomas w/o; W.Ellison bt S.Werkshagen 11-0, 11-1; P.Hanton bt J.Byron-Evans 11-1, 11-5; S.Rolls bt J.Hughes 11-8, 8-11, 11-1; H.Buchanan bt M.Jamieson 11-2, 11-0; D.Grant bt J.Gravatt 12-11, 11-8; J.Aquilina bt S.Watson 11-3, 11-5; E.Kay bt A.Mullan 11-0, 11-2

2nd round: Tristao bt Dean 11-4, 11-12, 11-2; Brooks bt Ackland 11-0, 11-5; Minta bt Rew 11-4, 11-2; Cavanagh bt Butler 11-7, 11-5; Ellison bt Hanton 11-5, 11-0; Buchanan bt Rolls 11-2, 11-0; Grant bt Aquilina 11-3, 11-7; Toop bt Kay 11-7, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Tristao bt Brooks 7-11, 11-5, 11-7; Minta bt Cavanagh 11-3, 11-6; Ellison bt Buchanan 11-6, 11-1; Toop bt Grant 11-3, 11-5

Semi-finals: Minta bt Tristao 11-4, 7-11, 12-10; Ellison bt Toop 11-7, 0-11, 11-7

Final: Ellison bt Minta 11-3, 11-3

Plate: Rees

Doubles

Preliminary round: Aquilina & Gravatt bt Warner & Boyd 11-1, 11-2; Thomas & Waller bt Mullan & Esin 11-5, 11-0

1st round: Tristao & Grant bt Watson & Lewis 11-4, 12-11; Akerman & Mohammed bt Goodwin & Frost 11-6, 11-9; Kay & Hanton bt Acknad & Rolls 12-11, 11-7; Toop & Bate bt Aquilina & Gravatt 11-2, 12-11; Brooks & Dean bt Brierley & Coffey 11-1, 11-2; Butler & Parker bt S&J Byron-Evans 11-8, 11-2; Thomas & Waller bt Rew & Hughes 11-0, 9-11, 11-7; Ellison & Buchanan bt Barnes & Jefferies 11-3, 11-7

Quarter-finals: Tristao & Grant bt Akerman & Mohammed 11-9, 11-8; Kay & Hanton bt Toop & Bate 8-11, 11-1, 11-1; Brooks & Dean bt Butler & Parker 11-1, 11-0; Ellison & Buchanan bt

Thomas & Waller 11-8, 11-1

Semi-finals: Tristao & Grant bt Kay & Hanton 11-7, 12-11; Ellison & Buchanan bt Brooks & Dean 10-12, 11-8, 11-3

Final: Ellison & Buchanan bt Grant & Tristao 11-0, 11-2

Plate: Ackland & Rolls

OFFICIAL RFA RANKINGS

London, 31st October 2012

The RFA has today published the latest official rankings, prepared on its behalf by Dave Hebden. They take into account last month's West of England Open Championships, as well as the Yorkshire Open, and show that James Toop and Will Ellison have retained their top spots in the singles and doubles rankings, respectively. However, there have been some significant moves below these two.

In the singles rankings, James Toop, Dan Tristao and Will Ellison remain at positions 1 to 3, but the margins have narrowed significantly between them. In particular, Will has closed the gap at No 3 after his fine win in Bristol, where he defeated National Champion James Toop in the semis. In another important move, John Minta (who lost to Will in the Final) overtakes Matt Cavanagh at No 4 to secure his automatic qualifying spot for the National Singles in December. Meanwhile, Gareth Rees enters the Rankings at No. 31 after winning the Singles Plate in Clifton, and Sam Rolls becomes the first Marlborough player ever to feature in the rankings following his win in the first Round against Jim Hughes.

At the same time, although Will Ellison remains at No 1 in the doubles rankings, Hamish Buchanan moves up to No 2 after the two players combined to win both the West of England and Yorkshire Championships. Meanwhile, Neil Roberts, Peter Hanton, Julian Aquilina, Roger Pearson and Bob Sandie all make progress following good results in the Yorkshire Doubles, while Dick Warner, Theo Parker, Francis Thomas, Inigo Ackland also make good upward moves lower down the rankings. For the full details of the latest rankings, simply click on the link below.

=

NATIONAL SINGLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after National Singles Championship, December 2012

Previous positions – after West of England Open Championships, November 2012

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	J Toop	94.5
2	2	W Ellison	87.9
3	3	D Tristao	86.9
4	4	J Minta	68.4
5	5	M Cavanagh	64.3
6	6	H Buchanan	38.3
7	7	D Grant	33.4
8	10	C Brooks	32.9

9	16	E Kay	30.7
10	8	L Thomson	27.7
11	44	I Ackland	27.6
12	11	T Maconie	25.9
13	12	C Burrows	25.2
14	9	M Bate	25.1
15	15	M Bowness	22.2
16	13	T Dean	22.0
17	13	M Skogh	19.9
18	17	N Roberts	18.9
19	20	E Hatton	17.3
20	18	J Major	17.2
21	31	G Rees	16.9
22	33	D Fox	15.5
23	19	P Hanton	14.3
24	23	D Butler	14.1
25	21	A Rew	13.0
26	24	N Hillier	11.7
27	21	A George	11.4
28	26	A Lee	11.1
29	27	R Murby	10.9
	28	A Pringle	10.9
31	30	S Fraser	10.2
32	29	T Widdop	10.1
33	58	S Wyatt-Haines	10.0
34	~	H Jefferies	9.8
	45	F Thomas	9.8
36	34	J Gravatt	9.7
37	24	H Mohammed	9.3
38	37	J Aquilina	8.7
39	35	R Patel	8.2
40	38	J Hughes	8.1
41	35	G Price	7.5
42	54	T Parker	6.4
43	42	R Lamb	6.2
44	43	S Coffey	6.0
	39	K Henry	6.0
46	40	N Patel	5.5
47	32	C Legget	5.3
48	40	E Brooke	5.0
49	48	S King	4.4
	46	J Tilston	4.4

51	49	S Rolls	4.1
52	46	S Moger	3.6
53	~	J Malde	3.1
54	51	N Austin	3.0
	50	A Griffiths	3.0
56	~	G Barnes	2.4
	53	A Goodwin	2.4
58	55	M Kemp	2.3
59	~	A Bowden	2.2
60	52	J Savery	1.9
61	~	M Shaw	1.8
62	56	C Waller	1.7
63	59	M Frost	1.6
64	56	T Kiggel	1.0
65	~	J Wren	0.8
66	60	S Adcock	0.5
	60	T Chase	0.5

NATIONAL DOUBLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after BUCS Championships, December 2012

Previous positions – after West of England Open Championships, November 2012

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	W Ellison	100.7
2	2	H Buchanan	90.0
3	3	D Tristao	84.7
4	4	T Dean	77.6
5	5	D Grant	76.2
6	6	C Brooks	75.1
7	7	J Minta	68.0
8	8	M Bate	66.5
9	9	H Mohammed	62.5
10	10	G Price	55.9
11	11	A Pringle	51.1
12	12	N Roberts	48.3
13	18	E Kay	45.7
14	13	J Toop	43.6
15	14	P Hanton	43.5
16	15	A Lee	39.6
17	16	C Burrows	39.0

18	17	R Perry	38.2
19	19	M Skogh	36.5
20	20	J Hawke	31.4
21	21	E Hatton	30.1
22	22	L Thomson	29.4
23	25	J Aquilina	28.3
	23	J Gravatt	28.3
25	24	J Beswick	26.2
26	26	T Widdop	24.8
27	~	J Brubert	24.5
	27	R Pearson	24.5
	27	R Sandie	24.5
30	29	T Chase	21.6
	29	A Griffiths	21.6
	29	P Manning	21.6
33	49	I Ackland	21.2
34	32	C Brechin	21.1
35	33	R Christie	20.2
	33	M Frost	20.2
37	60	S Rolls	20.0
38	35	T Maconie	19.9
39	37	J Hughes	19.3
40	36	W Enstone	19.0
41	38	S Kirby	18.2
42	39	A Rew	17.3
	42	R Warner	17.3
44	39	M Cavanagh	17.2
	39	A Goodwin	17.2
46	43	H Akerman	16.4
47	44	A Beverly	14.8
48	60	D Butler	14.1
	60	J Tilston	14.1
50	45	S Hodgson	13.9
51	53	A George	13.2
	47	T Parker	13.2
	47	F Thomas	13.2
54	46	J Pearce-Smith	13.0
55	49	V Patel	12.2
56	51	C Legget	11.0
	51	J Major	11.0
58	54	M Baxter	10.5
59	60	A Bowden	10.0

	60	E Hawke	10.0
	60	M Mohammed	10.0
	60	J Spencer	10.0
	60	C Waller	10.0
64	55	H Aveston	9.9
	55	S King	9.9
	55	J Savery	9.9
67	55	P Bishop	9.8
	55	G McIntyre	9.8
69	85	J Malde	9.3
	68	S Watson	9.3
71	70	N Austin	8.6
	70	C Butler	8.6
	70	S Coffey	8.6
	70	N Finney	8.6
	70	A Hanton	8.6
	70	N Hillier	8.6
	70	T Kiggell	8.6
	70	B Kirk	8.6
	70	R Lebon	8.6
	70	E Malone	8.6
81	69	J Marshall	8.5
82	82	R Sutcliffe	7.1
	82	J Walter	7.1
84	82	K Ward	7.0
85	80	E Ronan	6.9
	80	N Wolstenholme	6.9
87	85	N Edmonds	6.1
	85	J Goodwin	6.1
89	88	J Bristow	4.9
	88	P Cohen	4.9
	88	J Furniss	4.9
	88	K Henry	4.9
	88	M Hine	4.9
94	93	T Lewis	3.5
	93	S Maskell	3.5
	93	M Moger	3.5
	93	D Murray	3.5

FIVES FEDERATION COACHING COURSE

London, 8/9th December 2012

The Fives Federation's has ambitious plans to develop official nationally approved training courses for Fives coaches, and following the success of the first courses, it is looking for people to fill the places available on the next Level 2 training course in December.

The Level 2 course is taking place in London over the weekend of December 8/9th, the Saturday session at the Westway Centre and the following day's at St Paul's School, Barnes. The two days will include both classroom and court time, and all the necessary paperwork will be covered in that time.

The qualification is extremely valuable to anyone considering becoming a full- or part-time coach. Not only does it give you a formal qualification, which will almost certainly be insisted on before any institution allows you to coach, having the Level 2 qualification allows you to train/qualify your own players to Level 1.

The RFA feels such qualifications are vital to the future of all codes of Fives/Handball, particularly as we look to extend the reach of the game beyond its traditional homes, and we encourage anyone and everyone who is considering coaching – no matter how informally – to gain this qualification.

The format is this:

Attend a 2 day course/spend 2 hours in preparing the session plans (that are almost done for you), then have an hour's assessment session on their own site/ and that's it!

You have a Nationally Recognised Coaching Qualification.

The expected cost is about £340.

If you are interested in this course, please contact either **Ian Fuller** or **Wayne Enstone**.

SCHOOLS' WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES

Winchester College, 11th November 2012

Home pairs dominated this year's tournament at Winchester, but a strong challenge was mounted, as ever, by St. Paul's, writes organiser David Barnes. Sadly, Marlborough had to withdraw because of injury, but it was good to see two pairs from Derby Moor – setting a fine example in their support of tournaments – and a pair from Radley, whose players gave a good account of themselves despite having only one court to play on at the moment.

The final was the highlight of the day, with all four players producing top-quality volleying and retrieving. Winchester took the first game, but St. Paul's, having been a long way down in the second, rallied superbly and hit the ball consistently hard to win the second. The Wykehamists duly regrouped in the final game and carried the attack back to their opponents, hitting the buttress regularly and retaining the initiative despite the best efforts of the Paulines. An enthusiastic gallery added to the enjoyment of the match, which was a credit to both pairs.

Winchester's third pair completed the clean sweep by taking a well-contested plate competition, winning all four of their games.

Scores

1st round: Derby Moor I bt St. Paul's III 15-10; 16-14; Winchester III w/o Marlborough

Quarter-Finals: Winchester I bt Derby Moor II 15-2, 15-1; St. Paul's II bt Winchester III 15-9, 15-3; Winchester II bt Derby Moor I 15-3, 15-10; St. Paul's I bt Radley 15-2, 15-0

Semi-Finals: Winchester I bt St. Paul's II 15-7, 15-10; St. Paul's I bt Winchester II 15-9, 15-2

Final: Winchester I (E. Wyld & J Ganendra) bt St. Paul's I (M Shaw & Y Kahn-Pascual) 15-9; 10-15, 15-5

Plate: Winchester III (J Pinder & T Watkinson)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FIVES COURTS FUND-RAISING

St Paul's School, 14/15th December 2012

As part of the fund-raising for the planned new Cambridge Fives courts, the Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club is holding a 24-hour Fives event at St Paul's School in December. This will start at 4pm on Friday 14th December and run through to the same time on Saturday, and the club is looking for as many people as possible to play and contribute to the money raised.

Anyone who is interested in playing – for as much of the 24 hours as they feel able – is encouraged to sign up by following the link at the bottom of this story. Here, players can enter their name, preferred playing time and how long they want to play for. Even those who have unofficially retired from the game are encouraged to get back on court, even if only for a brief cameo appearance. Food, drink and entertainment (in the form of some excellent Fives) will be on offer, so spectators are equally welcome – as are their cheque books!

The event has come about as a result of a challenge from Bob Dolby, CURFC President, for the boys to raise £5000 towards the ultimate target. If the undergraduates can do such a thing, it will help convince the Vice Chancellor and the other decision-makers to go ahead with the build of the courts.

Many people have already signed up, but more are wanted; they are also encouraged to bring their cheque book to help make the students' venture a success.

For further information on the appeal, including how to donate, click on the links below. Please note two things: to ensure the money goes to the right place, mark the donation form for 'Fit Out' and 'Rugby Fives' at the top; and, all UK taxpayers should sign the Gift Aid section, as it will allow the University to claim 25% Gift Aid – in other words, making any £100 donation worth £125.

Finally, all those who want to take part should click on the appropriate link below, where they can sign up for as much (or as little) of the 24 hours as they want.

NATIONAL STUDENT/BUCS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Christ's Hospital, Horsham, 23rd/25th November 2012

The weekend's titles at the National Student Championships went to Dan Grant of UCL (singles) and to the Cambridge pair of Ed Kay and Jacob Brubert. For Dan, that meant he regained the title he had won two years ago, but been unable to defend because of an injury. In the final, he played Inigo Ackland, who had caused something of an upset by beating defending champion Luke Thomson in the quarter-finals.

Inigo (partnered by fellow Bristol student Sam Rolls) was also on the losing side in the doubles final, meaning that he wasn't able to complete a hat trick of wins [he won the title twice with Alex Griffiths when at Durham]. Instead, it was the new Cambridge pairing of Ed Kay (the 2010 champion) and Jacob Brubert who came out on top.

Singles

1st Round: Quarry (Dur) beat Tugwell (UCL) 15-6, 15-2; Legget (Dur) beat Whiteman (UCL) 15-0, 15-0; Evan (Ox) w.o. Lane (Cam); Bowden (Dur) beat Mehta (UCL) 15-0, 15-0; Woollard (Dur) beat Mullen (Ox) 15-2, 15-0; Chai (UCL) beat Davey (Bed) 14-16, 15-10, 16-15; Whitney (Ox) w.o. Yamazaki (Imp)

2nd Round: Thomson (Lou) beat Quarry 15-0, 15-2; Gravatt (Dur) w.o. Roberts (Ox); Aquilina (Dur) beat Esin (Ox) 15-3, 15-4; Ackland (Bri) beat Legget 15-0, 15-0; Burrows (Imp) beat Bowden 15-4, 15-1; Barnes (Ox) beat Malde (Cam) 15-9, 10-15, 15-8; Jefferies (Ox) beat Bhattacharya (Imp) 15-0, 15-0; Hanton (Dur) beat Evan (Ox) 15-0, 15-0; Kay (Cam) beat Woollard 15-0, 15-0; Tilson (Dur) beat Constantine (UCL) 15-0, 15-0; Thomas (Ox) beat Spencer (Dur) 15-4, 15-2; George (St. A.) beat Chai (UCL) 15-2, 15-2; Butler (Dur) beat Whitney (Ox) 15-2, 15-0; Brubert (Cam) beat Fenton (Dur) 15-0, 15-2; Rolls (Bri) beat Waller (Ox) 15-4, 15-7;

Grant (UCL) beat Wakelam (Dur) 15-5, 15-4

3rd Round: Thomson beat Gravatt 15-6, 15-8; Ackland beat Aquilina 15-2, 15-6; Burrows beat Barnes 15-10, 15-11; Jefferies beat Hanton 15-13, 14-16, 15-2; Kay beat Tilston 15-2, 15-6; Thomas beat George 15-12, 15-6; Butler beat Brubert 15-11, 15-12; Grant beat Rolls 15-0, 15-6

Quarter-Finals: Ackland beat Thomson 15-6, 15-12; Burrows beat Jefferies 13-15, 15-10 4-2 (ret inj); Kay beat Thomas 15-3, 15-5; Grant beat Butler 15-3, 15-3

Semi-Finals: Ackland beat Burrows 15-3, 15-5; Grant beat Kay 15-12, 15-9

Final: Dan Grant (UCL) BEAT Inigo Ackland (Bristol) 15-9, 15-5

Plate: Malde (Cambridge) beat Bowden (Durham)

Doubles

1st Round: Bowden & Quarry (Dur) beat Tugwell & Mehta (UCL) 15-1, 15-1; Wylde & Ganendra (Win) beat Evan & Whitney (Ox) 15-2, 15-1

2nd Round: Kay & Brubert (Cam) beat Bowden & Quarry 15-5, 6-15, 15-7; Jefferies & Barnes (Ox) beat Gravatt & Woollard (Dur) 15-12, 15-11; Ader & Mathias (Cam) beat Wilman & Mullen (Ox) 15-2, 15-9; Aquilina & Tilston (Dur) beat Chai & Constantine (UCL) 15-4, 15-4; Ackland & Rolls (Bri) beat Wakelam & Fenton (Dur) 15-0, 15-0; Thomas & Waller (Ox) beat Legget & Spencer (Dur) 15-4, 15-6

Wylde & Ganendra beat Grant & Whiteman (UCL) 15-4, 15-4; Hanton & Butler (Dur) beat Esin & Roberts (Ox) 15-0, 15-2

Quarter-Finals: Kay & Brubert beat Jefferies & Barnes 15-1, 15-7; Aquilina & Tilston beat Ader & Mathias 15-0, 15-4; Ackland & Rolls beat Thomas & Waller 15-7, 15-5; Hanton & Butler beat Wylde & Ganendra 15-10, 15-6

Semi-Finals: Kay & Brubert beat Aquilina & Tilston 15-2, 15-13; Ackland & Rolls beat Hanton & Butler 15-11, 15-11

Final: Ed Kay & Jacob Brubert (Cambridge) beat Inigo Ackland & Sam Rolls (Bristol) 15-13, 15-11

Plate: Malde (Cambridge) and George (St. Andrews) beat Grant & Whiteman (UCL)

NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

St Paul's School, Barnes, 1st/2nd December 2012

James Toop has reaffirmed his position as the top singles player in Rugby Fives at the moment by sealing his fifth successive – and sixth in total – National Singles title. For the third year running, he beat Will Ellison in the final, and although the scores looked quite close, James was always in control.

The first round of the tournament produced a few tight matches, with Dave Fox and Inigo Ackland pushing their higher-seeded opponents close, but not quite far enough. Ed Kay and Charlie Brooks went a step further and knocked out Luke Thomson and Dan Grant, respectively, in hard fought contests. In the quarter-finals, the top three seeds had comfortable victories, as did fifth seed Matt Cavanagh in his game against John Minta.

James continued this trend in his semi-final encounter with Matt, winning to 6 and 4, and consequently reaching the final in relative comfort. As with last year, the match of the tournament was the other semi-final, between Will and Dan Tristao – once again, it went to 3 games, with Will winning the third 15-13. Fantastic retrieving and superb shot-making made for very entertaining Fives, but ultimately it was Will's superior fitness that carried him through.

The final was, as expected, a high-quality, high-attrition match, with rallies consistently lasting over 50 shots. The first game was neck and neck up to 8-8, when James upped the intensity, went on a run of points and took it 15-9. Will was stung into action, raising his game to put much more pressure on his opponent, and a 10-4 advantage was the upshot at the start of the second game. James dug in once again and his ability to move Will around the court with precision line and length paid dividends as he moved ahead and took the game, match and title, 15-9, 15-11.

The plate was hotly contested, with the first-round losers keen to make amends. With five students (and Dave Fox!) in the plate, it highlighted the youth on show over the weekend. The final, in a repeat of the previous weekend's BUCS final, was between Inigo and Dan Grant, with Dan taking the glory.

Scores

1st round: J.Toop bt S.Wyatt-Haines 15-2, 15-1; C.Brooks bt D.Grant 15-5, 15-12; M.Cavanagh bt T.Dean 15-8, 15-1; J.Minta bt I.Ackland 16-14, 15-7; W.Ellison bt G.Rees 15-2, 15-0; H.Buchanan bt C.Burrows 15-3, 15-3; E.Kay bt L.Thomson 15-13, 15-12; D.Tristao bt D.Fox 15-13, 15-7

Quarter-finals: Toop bt Brooks 15-3, 15-0; Cavanagh bt Minta 15-5, 15-5; Ellison bt Buchanan 15-5, 15-6; Tristao bt Kay 15-8, 15-7

Semi-finals: Toop bt Cavanagh 15-6, 15-4; Ellison bt Tristao 12-15, 15-11, 15-13
Final: Toop bt Ellison 15-9, 15-11
Plate: Grant

NATIONAL LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

St Paul's School, Barnes, 2nd December 2012

This year we had new champions win the doubles and singles titles at the Ladies Nationals, writes organiser Alex Steel. The competition was dominated by several girls from Rugby, Rossall and Eastbourne, as well as a few members of their staff.

The competition started with the doubles, where all ladies played with great enthusiasm. The semi finals were very enjoyable matches played by the well trained partnership of Kathleen Briednhamm and Tessa Mills who came up against Milly Richards and Kate Broad from Rugby. The other match was between Liz Tilley and Dani Black who faced Chessie Ruffell and Hannah Hawkesley. The matches were well played by the Rugby girls containing high quality rallies. The final score was 15-2 to Kathleen and Tessa and 15-11 to Chessie and Hannah putting both couples through to the final.

Kathleen and Tessa made an experienced and strong pair who showed strong hitting and good movement around the court during the day. Chessie and Hannah showed great tenacity throughout the doubles final, relentless with their returns and energy, it is however unfortunate that the scores did not match their efforts. Kathleen and Tessa knew how to hit the winners and won both games 15-0 and 15-3. The Doubles Plate was also an interesting mix of girls from Rossall and Rugby. Two unknown players Maddy Raynor and Kate Shilinia from Rossall, played extremely well together and went on to win the Plate.

The Singles competition was exciting as the doubles with all ladies showing great effort and skill. The singles was a knock-out round with all girls playing 1 game to 15. The semi-finals were fought between Tessa and Maddy (Eastbourne and Rossall) and Kathleen and Milly Richards (Eastbourne and Rugby). The former game was extremely well matched with both girls showing good power in their shots and demonstrating similar styles. It was a thoroughly exhausting game with the end result going to Tessa 15-10. Milly played well against Kathleen however Kathleen's experience won out in the end and took the game 15-0.

Much to our surprise the singles final was between two great friends and Fives partners Kathleen and Tessa. It was an excellent match to watch as both girls tried to bring their experience to the game to win the points. Both girls being very well matched, points were hard to win as long rallies dominated the game. However Tessa hit some amazing back wall shots in the second game indicating the need for a third game but Kathleen was relentless in her hitting and eventually won both games 15-9. A well deserved winner.

It was wonderful to see such talented young girls show so much enjoyment in the game and I hope they really train hard to participate in further competitions.

Singles

1st Round: Hannah Hawkesley (Rugby) bt. Dani Black 15-9; Chessie Ruffell (Rugby) bt. Emily Jackson (Rossall) 15-0; Maddy Raynor (Rossall) bt. Kate Broad (Rugby) 15-3; Millie Browne (Rugby) bt. Kate Shilinia (Rossall) 15-2; Milly Richards(Rugby) bt. Liz Tilley 15-13; Eliza

Talbot-Williams (Rugby) bt. Jodie Finn (Rossall) 15-3

Quarter-finals: Tessa Mills bt. Hawkesley 15-4; Raynor bt. Ruffell 15-3; Kathleen Briedenhann bt. Browne; 15-0; Richards bt. Talbot-Williams 15-13.

Semi-finals: Mills bt. Raynor 15-10; Briedenhann bt. Richards 15-0.

Final: K Briedenhann bt. T Mills 15-9, 15-9

Doubles

Round-robin: Kathleen Briedenhann & Tessa Mills bt. Chessie Ruffell & Hannah Hawkesley 15-6, bt. Millie Browne & Eliza Talbot-Williams 15-2, bt. Kate Shilinia & Maddy Raynor 15-1; Ruffell & Hawkesley bt Browne & Talbot-Williams 15-3, bt. Shilinia & Raynor 15-6; Browne & Talbot-Williams lost to Shilinia & Raynor 7-15.

Placings: 1st Briedenhann & Mills, 2nd Ruffell & Hawkesley, 3rd Shilinia & Raynor, 4th Browne & Talbot-Williams

Final: K Briedenhann & T Mills bt. F Ruffell & H Hawkesley 15-0, 15-3

PRESIDENT'S CUP

Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, 16th December 2012

The country's top doubles player confirmed his status with a win in the President's Cup. Will Ellison teamed up with Jeremy Stubbs to beat Dan Grant and Keith Kennerley in the final. Meanwhile, the current President ensured he got his money's worth, with Dick Warner partnering Bruce Hanton to win the T Pot in a match that finished well after 9pm!

Scores

1st round: Hanton & Warner bt Price & Golding 15-10, 15-11; Ellison & Stubbs bt Smith & Compton 9-15, 15-4, 15-9; Passey & Gravatt bt Buchanan & Kiteley 15-6, 15-9; Kirk & Pringle bt Perry & Gemade 16-15, 15-9; Tristao & Bridge bt Aquilina & Atkinson 15-12, 7-15, 16-14; Grant & Kennerley bt Baral & Burrows A 15-10, 16-14; Hatton & Stroma bt Brooks & Ford 15-8, 15-7; Hawke & Abecassis bt Burrows C & Woods 15-10, 15-4

Quarter-finals: Ellison & Stubbs bt Hanton & Warner 15-5, 15-13; Passey & Gravatt bt Kirk & Pringle 15-13, 11-15, 16-14; Grant & Kennerley bt Tristao & Bridge 15-10, 15-13; Hatton & Stroma bt Hawke & Abecassis 15-13, 15-9

Semi-finals: Ellison & Stubbs bt Passey & Gravatt 15-13, 15-3; Grant & Kennerley bt Hatton & Stroma score unknown

Final: Ellison & Stubbs bt Grant & Kennerley 15-9, 15-7

T Pot: Hanton & Warner

Mates' Plate: Gravatt & Passey

Love Mug: Buchanan & Kiteley

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FIVES COURTS FUND-RAISING

St Paul's School, 14/15th December 2012

Challenged by their President to raise £5000 towards the proposed Cambridge University Rugby Fives courts, Ed Kay, captain of CURFC, organised and ran a 24-hour sponsored Fives Match at St. Paul's School on Friday/Saturday 14/15 December.

Over the course of 61 games, the Rest steadily built a commanding lead over an increasingly tired group of undergraduates. Ed Kay played some seven hours of Fives, Will Sloper getting on for nine! The Rest were represented by an array of extraordinary talent: the youngest was the National U13 champion Julian Hanton, the oldest the venerable David Barnes. Hamish Buchanan gave a master class in Doubles play late on Friday evening; Dan Tristao & Gareth Price vied with each other to forfeit sponsored points in the early hours; three boys from Bedford School drove down with their master to play the three-hour pre-breakfast stint; five-times National Singles Champion James Toop and top-ranked Doubles player Will Ellison teamed up on Saturday morning. Dave Hebden and Bob Dolby dusted off trusty gloves for cameo appearances.

Ed Kay got the Best Flair Shot Award for an overhead, retreating windmill shot against Toop & Ellison; Richard Lebon won the One-Point Chief Sparrow's Challenge; Dick Warner got the First Prize for Flapjacks; Joe Gribble left his gloves behind; Sam Russell didn't get out of bed; George Barnes got a rosette for the Most Naff (Oxford) Kit; Richard Kemp got the Most Persuasive Fund-raiser Award.

Sums remain to be done, but £5K looks a safe bet.

Results of the 24-hour match

4pm-6pm: Peter Judge & Will Sloper lost to Joe Gribble & (Ed Kay) & Rupert Mathieu: 9-15, 11-15, 12-15, 14-16, 15-4 ([61-65])

6pm-8pm: Tom Chase & Will Sloper lost to Dick Warner & Henry Jefferies: 4-15, 5-15, 13-15, 7-15 [29-60]

8pm-10pm: Jamie Lane & Matt Chipping lost to Charles Compton & Fred Kelly: 15-6, 14-16, 9-15, 7-15 [45-52]

10pm-Midnight: Ed Kay & Jacob Brubert lost to Hamish Buchanan & Chris Burrows: 5-15, 8-15, 8-15, 9-15, 6-15 [36-75]

Midnight-2am: Peter Judge & Jamie Lane lost to George Barnes & Julian Aquilina: 15-13, 1-15, 3-15, 7-15, 8-15, 10-15, 15-7 [59-95]

2am-4am: Ed Kay & Tom Chase beat Dan Tristao & Gareth Price: 15-5, 15-11, 14-16, 15-13 [59-45]

4am-6am: Jamie Lane & Jacob Brubert lost to Theo Parker (& Ed Kay): 8-15, 15-13, 11-15, 15-9, 15-12, 2-15 [66-79]

6am-9am: Will Sloper, Matt Chipping & Peter Judge beat Matthew Jamieson, Chris Davey, Olly Jones & Dan Sorensen: 15-12, 15-9, 10-15, 15-9, 15-9, 6-15, 15-11 [91-80]

9am-11am: Robert Mathias, Will Sloper & Tom Chase lost to Richard Lebon, Malcolm Reid & Iain de Weymarn: 13-15, 2-15, 6-15, 14-16, 6-15 [41-76]

11am-1pm: Ed Kay & (guest) Charlie Brooks lost to James Toop & Will Ellison: 11-15, 8-15, 2-15, 8-15, 4-15 [33-75]

1pm-2pm: Ben Quarry & Robert Mathias lost to Richard Kemp & Dave Hebden 7-15, 8-15 [15-30]

2pm-3pm: Robert Mathias & Will Sloper beat Peter Hanton, Julian Hanton & Richard Kemp: 9-15, 15-3 [24-18]

3pm-3.45: Robert Mathias & Will Sloper lost to Matt Shaw & Tim Edmonds: 4-15, 0-15, 7-15, 11-15 [22-60]

3.45-4pm: Ed Kay & Ben Quarry beat Bob Dolby & David Barnes 12-10.

Match Score CURFC 593 - The Rest 820

OFFICIAL RFA RANKINGS

London, 12th December 2012

The RFA has today published the latest official singles and doubles rankings, prepared on its behalf by Dave Hebden. They take into account the recent National Singles Championship and the BUCS championships, and see James Toop and Will Ellison cement their positions on top of the singles and doubles rankings, respectively.

In the singles list, James consolidates his position as Number 1 after his fifth successive National Singles title. Below him, Will Ellison moves into second after his third national final in three years, while Ed Kay moves into the top 10 for the first time and Inigo Ackland is the biggest riser up to number 11 after both scored good wins in the Nationals and at BUCS. National Singles qualifiers Gareth Rees and Dave Fox also rise up the rankings to just outside the top 20, while qualifier Sam Wyatt Haines is another high riser.

The BUCS Doubles did not have any impact on the top 10 in the doubles list, but Ed Kay moves up to No. 13 following his win with Jacob Brubert. Jacob himself is a new entry at No. 27, while Inigo Ackland and Sam Rolls also make good upward progress after reaching the BUCS final.

NATIONAL SINGLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after National Singles Championship, December 2012

Previous positions – after West of England Open Championships, November 2012

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	J Toop	94.5
2	2	W Ellison	87.9
3	3	D Tristao	86.9
4	4	J Minta	68.4
5	5	M Cavanagh	64.3
6	6	H Buchanan	38.3
7	7	D Grant	33.4
8	10	C Brooks	32.9
9	16	E Kay	30.7
10	8	L Thomson	27.7
11	44	I Ackland	27.6
12	11	T Maconie	25.9
13	12	C Burrows	25.2
14	9	M Bate	25.1
15	15	M Bowness	22.2
16	13	T Dean	22.0
17	13	M Skogh	19.9
18	17	N Roberts	18.9
19	20	E Hatton	17.3
20	18	J Major	17.2

21	31	G Rees	16.9
22	33	D Fox	15.5
23	19	P Hanton	14.3
24	23	D Butler	14.1
25	21	A Rew	13.0
26	24	N Hillier	11.7
27	21	A George	11.4
28	26	A Lee	11.1
29	27	R Murby	10.9
	28	A Pringle	10.9
31	30	S Fraser	10.2
32	29	T Widdop	10.1
33	58	S Wyatt-Haines	10.0
34	~	H Jefferies	9.8
	45	F Thomas	9.8
36	34	J Gravatt	9.7
37	24	H Mohammed	9.3
38	37	J Aquilina	8.7
39	35	R Patel	8.2
40	38	J Hughes	8.1
41	35	G Price	7.5
42	54	T Parker	6.4
43	42	R Lamb	6.2
44	43	S Coffey	6.0
	39	K Henry	6.0
46	40	N Patel	5.5
47	32	C Legget	5.3
48	40	E Brooke	5.0
49	48	S King	4.4
	46	J Tilston	4.4
51	49	S Rolls	4.1
52	46	S Moger	3.6
53	~	J Malde	3.1
54	51	N Austin	3.0
	50	A Griffiths	3.0
56	~	G Barnes	2.4
	53	A Goodwin	2.4
58	55	M Kemp	2.3
59	~	A Bowden	2.2
60	52	J Savery	1.9
61	~	M Shaw	1.8
62	56	C Waller	1.7
63	59	M Frost	1.6

64	56	T Kiggel	1.0
65	~	J Wren	0.8
66	60	S Adcock	0.5
	60	T Chase	0.5

NATIONAL DOUBLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after BUCS Championships, December 2012

Previous positions – after West of England Open Championships, November 2012

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	W Ellison	100.7
2	2	H Buchanan	90.0
3	3	D Tristao	84.7
4	4	T Dean	77.6
5	5	D Grant	76.2
6	6	C Brooks	75.1
7	7	J Minta	68.0
8	8	M Bate	66.5
9	9	H Mohammed	62.5
10	10	G Price	55.9
11	11	A Pringle	51.1
12	12	N Roberts	48.3
13	18	E Kay	45.7
14	13	J Toop	43.6
15	14	P Hanton	43.5
16	15	A Lee	39.6
17	16	C Burrows	39.0
18	17	R Perry	38.2
19	19	M Skogh	36.5
20	20	J Hawke	31.4
21	21	E Hatton	30.1
22	22	L Thomson	29.4
23	25	J Aquilina	28.3
	23	J Gravatt	28.3
25	24	J Beswick	26.2
26	26	T Widdop	24.8
27	~	J Brubert	24.5
	27	R Pearson	24.5
	27	R Sandie	24.5
30	29	T Chase	21.6
	29	A Griffiths	21.6
	29	P Manning	21.6

33	49	I Ackland	21.2
34	32	C Brechin	21.1
35	33	R Christie	20.2
	33	M Frost	20.2
37	60	S Rolls	20.0
38	35	T Maconie	19.9
39	37	J Hughes	19.3
40	36	W Enstone	19.0
41	38	S Kirby	18.2
42	39	A Rew	17.3
	42	R Warner	17.3
44	39	M Cavanagh	17.2
	39	A Goodwin	17.2
46	43	H Akerman	16.4
47	44	A Beverly	14.8
48	60	D Butler	14.1
	60	J Tilston	14.1
50	45	S Hodgson	13.9
51	53	A George	13.2
	47	T Parker	13.2
	47	F Thomas	13.2
54	46	J Pearce-Smith	13.0
55	49	V Patel	12.2
56	51	C Legget	11.0
	51	J Major	11.0
58	54	M Baxter	10.5
59	60	A Bowden	10.0
	60	E Hawke	10.0
	60	M Mohammed	10.0
	60	J Spencer	10.0
	60	C Waller	10.0
64	55	H Aveston	9.9
	55	S King	9.9
	55	J Savery	9.9
67	55	P Bishop	9.8
	55	G McIntyre	9.8
69	85	J Malde	9.3
	68	S Watson	9.3
71	70	N Austin	8.6
	70	C Butler	8.6
	70	S Coffey	8.6
	70	N Finney	8.6
	70	A Hanton	8.6

	70	N Hillier	8.6
	70	T Kiggell	8.6
	70	B Kirk	8.6
	70	R Lebon	8.6
	70	E Malone	8.6
81	69	J Marshall	8.5
82	82	R Sutcliffe	7.1
	82	J Walter	7.1
84	82	K Ward	7.0
85	80	E Ronan	6.9
	80	N Wolstenholme	6.9
87	85	N Edmonds	6.1
	85	J Goodwin	6.1
89	88	J Bristow	4.9
	88	P Cohen	4.9
	88	J Furniss	4.9
	88	K Henry	4.9
	88	M Hine	4.9
94	93	T Lewis	3.5
	93	S Maskell	3.5
	93	M Moger	3.5
	93	D Murray	3.5

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COURTS

Cambridge, 21st December 2012

STOP PRESS Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club President (and RFA Deputy President) Bob Dolby has just passed on the wonderful news that he has today received confirmation that the project to build three Rugby Fives courts and three Eton Fives courts in the Cambridge University Sports Centre (which is now being built), is to go ahead. The RFA has raised the necessary money for its part of the project; the Eton Fives team have likewise put together the funds required for theirs.

There are no more details at the moment, except that design work will begin after Christmas. However, Bob believes that there is a real chance that the courts could be played on by next autumn.

Watch this space for more details....

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN-JENKINS

London, 1st January 2013

The RFA is sad to note the death of Christopher Martin-Jenkins. The writer and broadcaster is – quite rightly – known for his love of cricket, but he was also a great lover of our game, President of the RFA from 1993-95, and regularly kept in touch with the association. He played Fives at

Marlborough College, before going to read History at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, where he won Half Blues in 1966 and 1967, playing alongside current RFA Deputy President Bob Dolby on both occasions. He was going to be captain of Fives, but left when offered a job to edit The Cricketer.

Our very best wishes go to his family.

WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sherborne School, Dorset, 5/6th January 2013

Organiser Lionel Lawson has sent us this report from the West of England Schools' Championships, where there were 64 boys involved from 10 schools.

The Senior Singles was won emphatically by Matt Shaw of St Paul's who beat Sam Wyatt-Haines of Blundell's 11-3 11-4 in the final with a display of controlled hitting and great composure. Meanwhile, the Colts Singles was won by Tom Watkinson of Winchester College who fought back to win in three games against Simon Whait of Loretto School 5-11, 11-7, 11-2 in a keenly contested encounter.

The senior Doubles was an all St Paul's affair with their No 1 pair (Matt Shaw and Tim Edmonds) coming from behind to beat their No 2 pair (Ben Beltrami and Ollie Arnold) 9-11 11-1 11-3.

The Colts Doubles was won by Derby Moor 1 (Matt Blunden and Robert Whitehorn) who beat St Paul's 1 (Zac Jopling and Matthew Nunes) 11-4 12-11. This was a fitting reward for Derby Moor who had entered 10 players for the Colts competition.

The Senior Singles plate was won by Ben Ashraf of St Paul's, The Colts Singles Plate by Sid Bhushan of St Paul's, The Senior Doubles Plate by Alexander Frosell and Bertie Heath of Marlborough College and the Colts Doubles Plate by Balraj Singh and John Halligan of Derby Moor.

West of England Schools' Championships results

Senior Singles

1st round: Hale (Winchester) bt Rice (Bedford) w/o; Barnes (Eastbourne) bt Robson (St. Paul's) 15-8; George-Carey (Marlborough) bt Sorensen (Bedford) w/o

2nd round: Shaw (St. Paul's) bt Scott (Blundell's) 15-0; Frosell (Marlborough) bt Davey (Bedford) 15-5; Jones (Bedford) bt Richards (Eastbourne) 15-2; Arnold (St. Paul's) bt Hubbard (Alleyn's) 15-0; Ganendra (Winchester) bt Heath (Marlborough) 15-4; Pinder (Winchester) bt Ashraf (St. Paul's) 15-10; McPherson (Blundell's) bt Uddin (Alleyn's) 15-4; Brubert (Alleyn's) bt Chilcot (Blundell's) 15-4; Wylde (Winchester) bt Rees (Bradfield) 15-1; Kent (Eastbourne) bt Hale 15-0; Barnes bt Grandfield (Blundell's) 15-3; Beltrami (St. Paul's) bt Webber (Blundell's) 15-0; Browett (Alleyn's) bt Christie (Derby Moor) 15-12; Edmonds (St. Paul's) bt Tickle (Eastbourne) 15-3; Prabhu (St. Paul's) bt George-Carey 15-3; Wyatt-Haines (Blundell's) bt Taylor (St. Paul's) 15-2

3rd Round: Shaw bt Frosell 15-3; Arnold bt Jones 15-1; Ganendra bt Pinder 15-10; Brubert bt McPherson 15-5; Wylde bt Kent 15-4; Beltrami bt Barnes 15-2; Browett bt Edmonds 15-7; Wyatt-Haines bt Prabhu 15-2

Quarter-finals: Shaw bt Arnold 11-6, 11-1; Brubert bt Ganendra 11-7, 11-5; Beltrami bt Wylde 11-2, 11-5; Wyatt-Haines bt Browett 11-0, 11-0
Semi-finals: Shaw bt Brubert 11-0, 11-0; Wyatt-Haines bt Beltrami 11-8, 12-10
Final: MJR Shaw (St. Paul's) bt S. Wyatt-Haines (Blundell's) 11-3, 11-4
Plate: Ben Ashraf (St Paul's)

Senior Doubles

Preliminary Round: Alleyn's II bt Bedford I 15-13
1st round: Winchester I bt Marlborough II 15-0; Eastbourne I bt Alleyn's II 15-3; Blundell's I bt Bedford II 15-3; St. Paul's II bt Blundell's II 15-0; Alleyn's I bt St. Paul's III 15-11; St. Paul's IV bt Marlborough I 16-14; Winchester II bt Eastbourne II 15-8; St. Paul's I bt Blundell's III 15-2
Quarter-finals: Winchester I bt Eastbourne I 11-1, 11-5; St. Paul's II bt Blundell's I 11-1, 11-7; Alleyn's I bt St. Paul's IV 11-3, 11-2; St. Paul's I bt Winchester II 11-3, 11-3
Semi-finals: St. Paul's II bt Winchester I 7-11, 11-5, 11-5; St. Paul's I bt Alleyn's I 11-4, 11-1
Final: St Paul's I (MJR Shaw & TB Edmonds) bt St Paul's II (B. Beltrami & O. Arnold) 9-11, 11-1, 11-3
Plate: Marlborough I (A. Frosell & B. Heath)

Colts Singles

1st round: Taylor (St. Paul's) bt B. Singh (Derby Moor) 15-5; Zehner (Winchester) bt L. Taylor (Derby Moor) 15-3; Nunes (St. Paul's) bt Corpe (Derby Moor) 15-4; Mahajan (St. Paul's) bt Halligan (Derby Moor) 15-13; Heidrich (St. Paul's) bt Jessell (Alleyn's) 15-3; Jopling (St. Paul's) bt Klinkenberg (Blundell's) 15-0; Dawber (Alleyn's) bt Lockwood (Blundell's) 15-8; J. Singh (Derby Moor) bt McFarlane (St. Paul's) 15-7; Whait (Loretto) bt Johnson (Derby Moor) 15-0; Baxter (Derby Moor) bt Callender (Marlborough) 15-12; Hanton (Alleyn's) bt Timney (Derby Moor) 15-7; Fry (Marlborough) bt Jagger (Alleyn's) 15-1
2nd round: Blunden (Derby Moor) bt Taylor 15-3; Nunes bt Zehner 15-6; Heidrich bt Mahajan 15-9; Watkinson (Winchester) bt Jopling 15-6; Whitehorn (Derby Moor) bt Dawber 15-0; Whait bt Singh 15-0; Baxter bt Hanton 15-1; Fry bt Bhushan (St. Paul's) 15-8
Quarter-finals: Blunden bt Nunes 11-3, 11-4; Watkinson bt Heidrich 11-4, 11-1; Whait bt Whitehorn 11-7, 11-4; Fry bt Baxter 1-11, 11-1, 11-5
Semi-finals: Watkinson bt Blunden 11-1, 11-9; Whait bt Fry 11-2, 11-2
Final: TWP Watkinson (Winchester) bt S. Whait (Loretto) 5-11, 11-7, 11-2
Plate: S. Bhushan (St Paul's)

Colts Doubles

1st round: St. Paul's III bt Alleyn's II 15-0; St. Paul's II bt Blundell's 15-3; Winchester bt Derby Moor III 15-6; Alleyn's I bt Derby Moor V 15-0; Marlborough bt Derby Moor IV 15-10
Quarter-finals: Derby Moor I bt St. Paul's III 11-3, 11-5; Winchester bt St. Paul's II 11-6, 12-11; Derby Moor II bt Alleyn's I 11-4, 11-9; St. Paul's I bt Marlborough 11-8, 9-11, 11-1
Semi-finals: Derby Moor I bt Winchester 11-9, 11-3; St. Paul's I bt Derby Moor II 11-8, 11-5
Final: Derby Moor (M Blunden & RJ Whitehorn) I bt St. Paul's I (Z. Jopling & M. Nunes) 11-4, 12-11
Plate: Derby Moor III (J. Halligan & B. Singh)

NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Y Club, Manchester, 19/20th January 2013

The forecast was for harsh weather, writes organiser John Beswick, and there was a whisper going round talking about postponement! But as we all know, Fives players are made of stern stuff and to a man they turned up on a cold snow covered morning to do battle at the Y.

The singles started with a bang. Dave Fox had a great win over the young up-and-coming star of the South West, Sam Wyatt-Haines. It is easy to forget that the young man is only 17! He makes the court look very small. Also, Gareth Price deserves a mention after putting in a great performance against John Minta.

In the first semi-final, Dan Grant and John Minta went head to head; Grant, playing out of his skin with great attacking play, won in two. In the other semi, Charlie Brooks gave defending champion Dan Tristao a three game thriller - so close, Charlie!

The final brought the two Dans together. Grant won the first, hitting winner after winner - fab Fives. In the second game, the champ dug in deep: Tristao simply would not roll over, retrieving everything Grant threw at him. Tristao won in three to retain his title. An excellent match by two fine players,

Sadly Stuart Watson had to pull out of the singles, with rumoured stomach pains after his brown tank top had been finally binned after a half a century! Tim Lewis stepped in for him: the two points he scored were fabulous. If the Fives world had a Hall of Fame, Tim would be in it - Mr Entertainment.

The singles plate was won by Sam Wyatt-Haines, with a big win against Alex Rew. The young man is one to watch for the future.

On the Sunday the doubles started bright and early, though after a bad curry some players were looking a little green! Rew and Wyatt-Haines gave Skogh and Grant two very hard games but the four seeds moved through to the semis.

Play was stopped for a moment while Pete Woods did a special presentation to Shirley Beswick, wife of the late great Fred, for all the help and support she had given to the Fives club over many years. Shirley then presented the Club with a new trophy for the doubles plate tournament, in memory of her husband.

In the final of the doubles Will Ellison was on fire! With the master of volley and angles backed up by the power of Minta, it was over in two. Brooks and Dean will be back, though. The doubles plate was won by Frost and Goodwin from Derby Moor, again another young pair improving every year.

I would like to thank all players and supporters for their continuing support of this tournament, especial Sedbergh school and the Exeter club! See you next year!

Singles

1st Round: W.Harrison bt J.Lidiard 11-5, 11-1; J.Beswick bt L.Stone (Sedbergh) 11-3, 11-0;

K.Kennerley bt C.Farmer (Sedbergh) 11-2, 11-4

2nd Round: D.Tristao bt Harrison 11-2, 11-4; D.Fox bt S.Wyatt-Haines (Blundell's) 11-2, 11-8;

T. Dean bt B.Lowry (Sedbergh) 11-3, 11-0; C.Brooks bt O.Thompson (Sedbergh) 11-2, 11-1; D.Grant bt Beswick 11-3, 11-3; N.Roberts bt F.Hameed 11-2, 11-8; G.Price bt A.Rew 11-3, 11-6; J.Minta beat Kennerley 11-3, 11-3

Quarter-finals: Tristao bt Fox 11-3, 11-7; Brooks bt Dean 11-3, 11-2; Grant bt Roberts 11-2, 11-9; Minta bt Price 12-10, 11-0

Semi-finals: Tristao bt Brooks 11-7, 5-11, 11-9; Grant bt Minta 11-5, 11-4

Final: Tristao bt Grant 6-11, 12-10, 11-3

Plate: Wyatt-Haines

Doubles

1st Round: Kennerley & R.Wyatt-Haines bt Kirk & Christie 12-10, 12-10; Beswick & N. Roberts bt Farmer & Stone 11-4, 11-0; Price & Tristao bt Harrison & Lidiard 11-3, 11-3; Rew & S. Wyatt-Haines bt Lowry & Thompson 11-5, 11-0; Max Frost & Anthony Goodwin bt Tim Lewis & Peter Woods 11-0, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Brooks & Dean bt Kennerley & R. Wyatt-Haines 11-0, 11-0; Price & Tristao bt Beswick & N. Roberts 11-7, 2-11, 11-6; Skogh & Grant bt Rew & S.Wyatt-Haines 11-9, 11-8; Ellison & Minta bt Frost & Goodwin 11-1, 11-2

Semi-final: Brooks & Dean bt Price & Tristao 11-2, 11-8; Ellison & Minta bt Grant & Skogh 11-3, 11-2

Final: W Ellison & JF Minta bt CG Brooks & T Dean 11-3, 11-2

Plate: MB Frost & AS Goodwin

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL SCHOOLS' TOURNAMENT

Christ's Hospital, 9th February 2013

On Saturday 9th February 2013, five schools – Christ's Hospital, Eastbourne, St Dunstan's, Tonbridge and Whitgift – gathered at Christ's Hospital for the second South East Regional Schools Fives Tournament. St Dunstan's were a welcome new participant and we hope to include Sutton Valence in future years, as well as eagerly awaiting the prospect of a London Regional tournament.

In the U16 Singles the standard of play was particularly high in terms of both retrieval and tactical awareness. In the singles two of the favourites Hutt (Tonbridge) and Ahmed (CH) managed to top their groups, although not without difficulty. Muscat (Tonbridge) also did well to top his group but perhaps the surprise was Owen (St Dunstan's) placing first in his group in a typically close win against Horner (Whitgift).

Hutt looked calm and assured in a comfortable semi-final victory against teammate Muscat. The other semi-final was anything but comfortable, as Owen took on Ahmed (at that time the National U14 Singles Champion). A close win in the first game for Owen was followed by a quick and brutal fightback in the second by Ahmed. As the match ebbed and flowed, Owen's superior stamina and confidence eventually told as he won an epic three-gamer lasting around an hour.

The final between Owen and Hutt was of similar quality, but despite or perhaps because of Owen giving everything to the point of physical exhaustion, a fightback by Hutt to win the second game was not quite enough to gain a firm foothold, and Owen came through comfortably in the third as a worthy champion. The plate was won by Horner.

In the U16 Doubles there was again some excellent play, but Whitgift were dominant, topping both groups, although their second pair only by the narrowest of margins against Tonbridge's first

pair. The final between the Whitgift pairs saw a close first game but the first pair of Horner & Raison ran out comfortable winners in the second. The Tonbridge pair of Hutt & Segun gained some compensation with a decisive victory in the plate.

The U18s was the Eastbourne show. The singles was more fast-paced, as perhaps to be expected, and although at times lacking the subtlety of the colts was excellent from a spectator's perspective. The top seeds and last year's finalists Gemade (CH) and Kent (Eastbourne) came through their groups as expected without difficulty. The other groups were much tighter and Tickle (Eastbourne), a last minute entry, did particularly well to squeeze his way out of a very tough group. Similarly Teterin (Eastbourne) accomplished the same feat, creating three Eastbourne semi-finalists.

The top seeds again came through this stage without too much difficulty, and a replay of the 2012 final began. The pattern of the games was the same, with a narrow win for Kent in the first followed by a clearer win for Gemade in the second. However Gemade failed to impose himself on the decider, and Kent's very physical pace and style eventually told for him to emerge as champion 12-11. Strutt-Clare (St Dunstan's) won several tough games to take the plate.

In the U18 Doubles Kent & Barnes (Eastbourne) made magisterial progress through their group, dropping only one point. They were joined by Jones & Martyn (Tonbridge), who won much tighter games against Christ's Hospital & the Eastbourne 2nd pair. Given these respective scorelines, the final was a very close affair, Kent & Barnes coming out as champions 11-7, 12-11. Gemade & Eastwood had compensation by winning the plate against Whitgift.

U16 Singles Champion – Owen (St Dunstan's)

U16 Singles Plate – Horner (Whitgift)

U16 Doubles Champions – Horner & Raison (Whitgift)

U16 Doubles Plate – Hutt & Segun (Tonbridge)

U18 Singles Champion – Kent (Eastbourne)

U18 Singles Plate – Strutt-Clare (St Dunstan's)

U18 Doubles Champions – Kent & Barnes (Eastbourne)

U18 Doubles Plate – Gemade & Eastwood (Christ's Hospital)

NATIONAL UNDER 25s CHAMPIONSHIP

Oundle School, March 9/10 2013

In advance of organiser Chris Burrows' full report, we present a brief update on events at the Under 25s Championships:

We're told it was an exciting and unbelievably fast weekend's competition, with Dan Tristao winning the Singles, fairly comfortably on the score, from Ed Kay; then, Dan & Ed beating Julian Aquilina & James Tilston with some ease in the Doubles, after a superb three-set semi between Hanton & George and Aquilina & Tilston. The Singles Plate went to Adam George, the Doubles Plate to Waller & Rolls, both of which were engraved "Donated by David Barnes" since he had been too modest to put his name on them.

Singles

1st round: J Malde bt A Goodwin 15-8, 15-9; S Rolls bt J Gravatt 15-2, 15-4; H Jefferies bt C McKelvie 15-2, 15-1; P Hanton bt A Mullan 15-0, 15-7; J Brubert bt O Quarry 15-7, 15-4; T Parker bt S Woollard 15-0, 15-3; C Waller bt W Lau 15-2, 15-0; J Tilston bt J Lane 15-6, 15-11; A George bt J Spencer 15-1, 15-4; S Wyatt-Haines bt R Mathias 15-3, 15-2; J Aquilina bt M Baxter 15-3, 15-2; M Shaw bt J Ader 15-5, 15-6

2nd round: D Tristao bt Malde 15-9, 15-7; Rolls bt Jefferies 15-9, 15-7; Brubert bt Hanton 15-11, 15-6; C Burrows bt Parker 15-10, 15-11; I Ackland bt Waller 15-5, 15-13; Tilston bt George 15-4, 15-2; Wyatt-Haines bt Aquilina 15-6, 15-11; Kay bt Shaw 15-4, 15-4

Quarter-finals: Tristao bt Rolls 15-10, 15-6; Brubert bt Burrows 15-16, 15-11, 15-4; Ackland bt Tilston 15-5, 15-6; Kay bt Wyatt-Haines 15-5, 15-2

Semi-finals: Tristao bt Brubert 15-6, 15-4; Kay bt Ackland 15-3, 15-3

Final: DC Tristao bt EI Kay 15-7, 15-3

Plate: A George

Doubles

1st round: Gravatt & O Quarry bt Baxter & J Goodwin 15-11, 15-11; Frost & A Goodwin bt McKelvie & Mullan 15-0, 15-3; Burrows & Jefferies bt Ader & Judge 15-9, 15-2; Malde & Lane bt Waller & Rolls 15-9, 8-15, 15-10; J & Z Brubert bt Woollard & Spencer 15-0, 15-8

Quarter-finals: Tristao & Kay bt Gravatt & Quarry 15-9, 15-1; Burrows & Jefferies bt Frost & Goodwin 15-9, 15-3; Aquilina & Tilston bt Malde & Lane 15-11, 15-11; Hanton & George bt Brubert & Brubert 15-13, 15-1

Semi-finals: Tristao & Kay bt Burrows & Jefferies 15-13, 15-3; Aquilina & Tilston bt Hanton & George 9-15, 16-15, 15-8

Final: DC Tristao & EI Kay bt J Aquilina & J Tilston 15-7, 15-4

Plate: CLY Waller & S Rolls

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE 83rd VARSITY MATCH

St Paul's School, Barnes, 23rd February 2013

Sadly, long-standing and highly respected umpire, David Barnes, was indisposed, so his role was taken by the President of the 'home side', Cambridge. In a match conducted by all concerned with the customary good spirit there was little more for him to do than take down scores delivered with alacrity and hand out the jelly babies and trophies at the end.

Oxford, attired in their Neptune-sponsored 'stash', took the award for sartorial elegance; Cambridge took the Jock Burnet trophy and the 'Fist of Iron'. It was Cambridge's first hat-trick in the Varsity Match for 20 years. For the Sparrows it was the first time they had retained the 'Fist of Iron' since its inception a decade ago.

In the main match, Cambridge had too much fire-power at the top, with Ed Kay and Jacob Brubert winning every one of their games with room to spare, while in the bottom half Chase, Sloper, Judge and Ader had more than enough experience to overwhelm their opponents.

In a topsy-turvy contest between the Sparrows and the Beavers, Mathias and Chipping were also rather too match-hardened for their opponents, but Oxford's left-handed Eton Fives player Birkett caught the eye.

Both captains are to be congratulated on raising 12 players each to make the day's contest an engaging spectacle for the large number of parents and supporters. Our thanks go to the latter for creating a lively atmosphere in the gallery. The players' thanks go to Pol Roger for sponsoring the event with a dozen bottles of champagne, which Ed Kay had much pleasure in distributing – for the most part – to his victorious team. Cambridge now counts 53 wins against 30 by Oxford.
Bob Dolby

Singles (Cambridge names first)

El Kay (*Captain*) (St. Paul's & Emmanuel) beat HKE Jefferies (St. Paul's & Oriel (*Hon. Sec.*) 15-4; JB Brubert (Alley's & Queens') beat FR Thomas (St. Paul's & BNC) 15-6; JK Malde (St. Paul's & Clare) (*Hon. Sec.*) lost to GWJ Barnes (St. Paul's & LMH) (*Captain*) 14-16; JN Lane (Winchester & St. Catharine's) beat CLY Waller (Clifton & New) 15-13.

Doubles

Kay and Brubert beat Thomas and Waller 15-6, 15-12; beat Jefferies and Barnes 15-5, 15-1. Malde & Lane lost to Jefferies and Barnes 0-15, 10-15; beat Thomas and Waller 10-15, 15-9. TJG Chase (St. Paul's & Churchill) and WJ Sloper (St. Paul's & Girton) beat CDH McKelvie (St. Paul's & Trinity) and AD Esin (St. Paul's & Pembroke) 16-14, 15-8; beat H R Wilman & Whitney 15-1, 15-2.
PRH Judge (Merchant Taylors' & Robinson) and JS Ader (St. Paul's & Pembroke) beat HR Wilman (Giggleswick & Hertford) and NA Whitney (Tonbridge & Magdalen) 15-1, 15-3; lost to McKelvie and Esin 9-15, 11-15.

Cambridge won by 265 points to 176

Sparrows v Beavers

Singles (Cambridge names first)

RM Mathias (Chr. Hospital & Fitzwilliam) [*Captain*] bt. AJW Mullan (Clifton & Balliol) [*Captain*] 15-1; MA Chipping (Tonbridge & Queens') bt. OA Even (St. Paul's & New) 15-5; WCK Lau (Tonbridge & Trinity) lost to EM Birkett (Charterhouse & Trinity) 4-15; BSI Quarry (St. Paul's & Selwyn) bt. S Glynne-Jones (St. Paul's & St. Anne's) 15-1.

Doubles

Mathias & Chipping bt. Mullan & Even 15-5, 15-6; bt. Birkett & Glynne-Jones 15-2, 15-1. Lau & Quarry lost to Birkett & Glynne-Jones 11-15, 11-15; lost to Mullan & Even 0-15, 0-15.

Cambridge won by 131 points to 96

2013 UK WALLBALL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, 23rd February 2013

With apologies to UK Wallball supremo Dan Grant for its belated appearance on this website, we have great pleasure in publishing Dan's report from the recent UK Wallball Championships.

The largest and most successful UK Open to date took place on the 23rd of February at Merchant Taylors' School. Some of the best players from around the world competed at the highest level

and inspired many novices and youngsters to raise their standards and embrace wallball. In total 41 players took part and played a whopping 102 matches over the 9 hours.

Let's start with the Challenger grade, this year a packed entry featuring several regular social players and, pleasingly, many novices. The opening test was a round-robin for all and old stalwarts like Richard Dyke and Damien O'Dowd progressed as expected. They were joined by our international guests from Canada, Ireland and France, who we were delighted to host. At this early stage it was also clear who was taking to the game naturally and individuals like Michael Baxter from Derby and Theo Parker from Durham, who had never played wallball before amazingly topped their groups.

The top two from each round-robin progressed to a knock-out and sadly that meant it was either the plate or the end of the day for players like Alexandra Steel (holding the fort for British women's wallball this year, and showing real potential), Alex Whiteman & Christopher Wheeler (playing their first ever competitive games) and veterans Bob Sandie & John Hawke from Yorkshire. Players like these really encapsulated the inclusive spirit of wallball and it was fantastic to see them visibly improve over the course of the day, relishing the experience. We're so pleased they've taken to wallball and I'm sure it won't be the last we hear of them.

In the knock-out last 16, Parker continued his form dispatching the highly competitive (and natural blocker) GB Olympic Rower, Cameron Nichol. Brian O'Sullivan from Ireland and Rudy Couteau from France progressed over our Westway regulars Rowe and O'Dowd. Sadly our third international – the ever buoyant Samantha England from Canada fell to Will Ellison, the runner-up from the 2009 UK Open who was on fierce form.

In the quarters, Parker really pushed Ellison in a tremendous match that went right down to the wire before Ellison came through on top and in a pool of sweat. He then moved past O'Sullivan with relative ease to reach his second Challenger final. In the other half of the draw Couteau maintained his strong form to reach the semis where he played Richard Dyke who had fought his way past novice Goodwin of Derby. This semi was one of the matches of the tournament and Dyke, who had performed so admirably in Dublin last year, used every bit of skill and cunning he could muster to fight it out with the powerful and reliable Frenchman. Richard and Rudy battled for well over half an hour but it was Dyke who maintained a slight edge all the way to the end, overcoming all the pressure to win 21-18.

The final was over faster than Richard would have hoped. Visibly exhausted from a long day's play he was no match for the machine of fitness and lethal quality that is Will Ellison. The 26 year old powered the ball from side to side and masterfully dominated the court to win 15-1, 15-7. The score should take nothing away from Dyke, who played out of his skin this weekend. Ellison has really taken to the sport and we look forward to seeing him in the Open category next year.

In the plate competition eight Challengers, including Alex Smith, Wheeler, Sandie and RFA President, Dick Warner competed in the enclosed surrounding of English squash-court 4-wall. Dick and Bob came out on top here and their final on the 1-wall show court pleased all who happened to watch it. Dick, our superb over 50's warrior from the World Championships last year was never going to yield. He won like a true Emerald Master.

The Under-21 event this year was a doubles event and four pairs waged war in a decisive round-robin. Andrew Rennie and James Burchill, our youngest competitors from Aldenham school, really took to the game and began to play like real pros. They fought valiantly but alas were no

match for the power pairs of Goodwin & Baxter from Derby and Golding & Parker. In the end it was the latter pairing that came through on top. Parker's excellent retrieval combined with Golding's deft kills proved too strong for the Midlands pairing.

The Open grade this year was the strongest we've ever had. The top players from the UK were joined by the best from France, Belgium, Ireland and the USA. The top 2 players from each group were joined by the two highest losers. The top 6 seeds progressed as expected and were joined by Daniel Tristao and Gerome Gamez who had both fought off tough opposition from Team GB regulars Stradwick, Price, Pringle and Irishman Paul Fitzpatrick. The latter group progressed to a plate which was eventually tiringly won by Stradwick.

In the knock-out competition we were treated to some real quality. Vlad Klym of the USA started the proceedings by taking out French no.1 Gerard Picard, who had performed so well at the Belgian Open just a few months ago. Grant then took out Tristao comfortably in the second quarter. Potiez of Belgium, who had recently topped that country's internal rankings, easily dispatched Gamez of France. Potiez was on real form this weekend and had beaten Grant in the round-robin with his mighty left hand.

The quarter to savour, however, was fought between Guillaume Dumoulin of Belgium and the UK's star in the making, second best U23 player in the world, Luke Thomson. Luke had had a tough group earlier in the day where he finished second to Klym. Playing out of his skin he began to trouble the powerful Belgian with precise fly kills and lightning fast footwork. The Belgian was initially riled but then took a medical time-out after Thomson accidentally thumped a ball into the Belgian's eye. Gathering his composure, Dumoulin came back strongly and then began to lead. At one stage it could have gone either way but then a few errors began to slip into the young Brit's game. He ended up losing by the narrowest of margins, 21-18. We are sure Thomson will go far and if he gets an industry job in New York next year he'll be unstoppable.

The semi-finals were best of three sets. In the first the two Belgians relived the internal final they'd played just a few weeks prior. This time however the result was different. Dumoulin began to find inspirational form. He conquered his best friend 21-2, 21-11 in relative ease. In the second semi-final GB Captain, Daniel Grant took on top 8 player in the world, Klym. The first set was close up to the half-way mark until Klym changed his serving tactics and the errors crept into Grant's game. Klym then closed out the second set with superb kill shots and smart blocking.

The final between Dumoulin and Klym was a real treat. On paper Dumoulin had no chance but pumped full of Adrenalin and hungry for a first singles title has a way of making paper turn to mush. The Belgian raced out the blocks and what he lacked in finesse, he made up with brute power and bodily sacrifice – diving around the court to make simply phenomenal retrievals. The situation shook Klym and he went way behind in the first set before falling badly and twisting his knee. The first set slipped away 21-5 to the Belgian.

In the second set Klym adjusted his game and although he couldn't do his trademark serve he cleverly began to move the Belgian around, wrong-footing him and forcing the errors. He won 21-13.

And so it went to a decider. Klym on the ascendancy seemed to be en route for a victory, but no-one had read that script to Dumoulin. Where most wallballers begin to flag over the course of a day, Guillaume upped his game and then upped it some more. Quite phenomenal to see, there was almost nothing the American could do. Dumoulin thrashed his way to a 10-0 lead – match point!! But then the American began to respond and Vlad began to claw it back. He got it 10-5 before

Dumoulin broke serve again and had another shot at glory. But it was not to be! An uncharacteristic error meant a ball shot wide. Could the pressure be getting to the strong-headed European? Apparently not. He broke straight back and this time, on his third opportunity, he closed out the match with a fine drive down the right. Visibly ecstatic, Dumoulin ran around the court and slapped the wall in a mix of relief and joy; he had won his first singles title.

Play therefore finished at 7:30 – remarkably for a wallball tournament, bang on time. The players then enjoyed a very tasty dinner and a pleasant awards ceremony.

On Sunday several wallballers, Vlad, Samantha and the French contingent took part in the first of many Fives Federation cross-over initiatives to try their hand at Rugby Fives. The players were naturals and under the guidance of top players Ellison and Tristao quickly became good. Scarily good! Importantly we've enthused several players to take up the sport alongside wallball as well as send stories of fives back to the Europe and America. This bodes exceptionally well for Gareth Price's Wallball/Fives/Raquetball/Squash club, which is opening in the coming month.

All-in-all the weekend was a tremendous success and we were absolutely delighted to have so many players from all back grounds, countries and skill levels taking part. We hope that our novices will be inspired and that our Pros will be motivated to work towards the Irish Open and the World 3-Wall in Vegas. Most importantly, however, role on the bigger and better 2014 Open!

OFFICIAL RFA RANKINGS

London, 20th February 2013

The RFA has today published the latest official Singles and Doubles rankings, prepared on its behalf by Dave Hebden. They reflect results in the North West Open and Under 25s Championships, and are released ahead of the North of England Championships in Durham.

In the Singles rankings, there is only minimal change in the Top 10, with the top 5 holding station and just a little shuffling of the order below them. Lower down, though, there are some major moves, with Sam Wyatt-Haines jumping 10 places and Gareth Price climbing 15 places. The sole new entrant into the list is Cambridge student Jacob Brubert, who is 25th after reaching the semis at the Under 25s Championships.

In the doubles list, too, there is minimal change in the Top 10, and the big climbers are further down: James Tilston and Anthony Goodwin jump 17 and 12 places respectively to sit just outside the top 30 after good results at the Under 25s Championships.

NATIONAL SINGLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after U25s Championships, February 2013

Previous positions – after National Singles Championship, December 2012

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	J Toop	93.8
2	2	W Ellison	87.9
3	3	D Tristao	87.3
4	4	J Minta	64.6

5	5	M Cavanagh	63.7
6	7	D Grant	43.1
7	8	C Brooks	41.1
8	6	H Buchanan	36.7
9	9	E Kay	32.1
10	11	I Ackland	29.2
11	10	L Thomson	26.7
12	12	T Maconie	25.5
13	16	T Dean	22.7
14	18	N Roberts	22.4
15	14	M Bate	22.2
16	15	M Bowness	21.0
17	13	C Burrows	20.7
18	22	D Fox	19.5
19	17	M Skogh	18.7
20	20	J Major	17.3
21	19	E Hatton	16.9
	21	G Rees	16.9
23	33	S Wyatt-Haines	14.8
24	25	A Rew	14.4
25	~	J Brubert	14.2
26	41	G Price	13.4
27	24	D Butler	13.0
28	23	P Hanton	12.5
29	26	N Hillier	11.2
30	27	A George	11.1
31	29	A Pringle	10.5
32	51	S Rolls	10.3
33	29	R Murby	10.1
	34	F Thomas	10.1
35	28	A Lee	10.0
36	34	H Jefferies	9.8
37	31	S Fraser	9.6
	36	J Gravatt	9.6
	32	T Widdop	9.6
40	38	J Aquilina	9.5
41	50	J Tilston	8.4
42	40	J Hughes	8.1
43	39	R Patel	7.7
44	42	T Parker	6.4
45	43	R Lamb	6.2
46	44	S Coffey	5.9
	37	H Mohammed	5.9

48	46	N Patel	5.7
49	44	K Henry	4.4
50	53	J Malde	4.1
51	47	C Legget	3.6
52	50	S King	3.3
53	48	E Brooke	3.1
54	52	S Moger	2.5
55	54	N Austin	2.4
	56	G Barnes	2.4
	59	A Bowden	2.4
58	54	A Griffiths	2.2
59	58	M Kemp	2.0
60	61	M Shaw	1.8
61	63	M Frost	1.4
62	56	A Goodwin	1.3
	60	J Savery	1.3
64	62	C Waller	1.0
65	65	J Wren	0.8
66	66	T Chase	0.5

NATIONAL DOUBLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after U25s Championships, February 2013

Previous positions – after BUCS Championships, December 2012

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	W Ellison	100.2
2	2	H Buchanan	86.6
3	3	D Tristao	84.6
4	4	T Dean	82.7
5	6	C Brooks	80.6
6	5	D Grant	77.4
7	7	J Minta	77.1
8	8	M Bate	62.3
9	10	G Price	59.4
10	9	H Mohammed	58.9
11	13	E Kay	50.8
12	11	A Pringle	48.2
13	12	N Roberts	48.0
14	15	P Hanton	42.7
15	19	M Skogh	42.6
16	14	J Toop	41.7

17	17	C Burrows	38.0
18	16	A Lee	36.8
19	18	R Perry	34.7
20	23	J Aquilina	31.6
21	20	J Hawke	30.2
22	21	E Hatton	28.3
23	22	L Thomson	28.2
24	23	J Gravatt	26.8
25	25	J Beswick	26.4
26	27	J Brubert	24.5
	27	R Pearson	24.5
	27	R Sandie	24.5
29	35	M Frost	23.8
30	26	T Widdop	23.6
31	48	J Tilston	22.4
32	44	A Goodwin	21.5
33	37	S Rolls	21.2
34	33	I Ackland	20.9
35	30	A Griffiths	20.6
	30	P Manning	20.6
37	34	C Brechin	20.2
	30	T Chase	20.2
39	42	A Rew	19.6
40	35	R Christie	19.3
41	38	T Maconie	18.9
42	39	J Hughes	18.8
43	41	S Kirby	17.5
44	42	R Warner	17.3
45	40	W Enstone	16.7
46	44	M Cavanagh	16.5
47	51	A George	16.1
48	46	H Akerman	15.4
49	48	D Butler	14.1
50	47	A Beverly	13.2
51	51	T Parker	12.9
	51	F Thomas	12.9
53	59	C Waller	12.2
54	50	S Hodgson	11.9
55	54	S Pearce-Smith	11.8
56	55	V Patel	11.6
57	58	M Baxter	10.1
58	59	A Bowden	10.0
	59	E Hawke	10.0

	~	H Jefferies	10.0
	~	K Kennerley	10.0
	59	M Mohammed	10.0
	59	J Spencer	10.0
	~	R Wyatt-Haines	10.0
	~	S Wyatt-Haines	10.0
66	56	C Legget	9.4
	56	J Major	9.4
68	64	H Aveston	9.2
	64	S King	9.2
	69	J Malde	9.2
	64	J Savery	9.2
72	69	S Watson	8.7
73	67	P Bishop	8.4
	67	G McIntyre	8.4
75	71	N Austin	8.2
	71	C Butler	8.2
	71	S Coffey	8.2
	71	N Finney	8.2
	71	A Hanton	8.2
	71	N Hiller	8.2
	71	T Kiggell	8.2
	71	B Kirk	8.2
	71	R Lebon	8.2
	71	E Malone	8.2
85	81	J Marshall	7.3
86	~	B Lowry	7.1
	82	R Sutcliffe	7.1
	~	O Thompson	7.1
	82	J Walter	7.1
90	84	K Ward	6.5
91	85	E Ronan	5.9
	85	N Wolstenholme	5.9
93	87	N Edmonds	5.8
	87	J Goodwin	5.8
95	89	J Bristow	4.2
	89	P Cohen	4.2
	89	J Furniss	4.2
	89	K Henry	4.2
	89	M Hine	4.2
100	94	T Lewis	3.0
	94	S Maskell	3.0
	94	M Moger	3.0

COLQUHOUN TROPHY

Sherborne, Dorset, 3rd March 2013

For the second year, it was boys from Blundell's School who dominated the events at the Colquhoun Trophy. Tom McPherson beat fellow Blundellian Sam Combe to win the Open singles title, while in the best match of the tournament Blundellian Tobias Francis came back from a game down to beat Sherborne's Henry Newman in the Colts.

In all, five schools (Blundell's, Sherborne, Malvern, Kelly and King's Bruton) sent boys to play at Sherborne, and their sportmanship and play would have delighted Charlie Colquhoun, after whom the tournament is named. As in previous years, Open and Colts sections were played, with round-robin pools deciding who would progress to the main and Plate competitions in each category.

In the Open, Blundellians Tom McPherson and Sam Combe came through their pool to reach the semis alongside Bruton's Alex Grabilov and Sherborne's Ollie Boon; and, it was the Blundellians who both won through to the final, where McPherson's power and aggressive use of the angles proved too much for his opponent. Tom won comfortably in two games and, with Sugru Saito coming through to win the plate, it was a Blundellian clean sweep for the prizes in the Open category.

In the Colts section, too, there were two Blundellians in the semi-finals – Tobias Francis and Ben Clarke – but they were drawn to play each, preventing an all-Blundellian final. Their match was a very close one, but Tobias just won through to face Sherborne's Henry Newman, who had beaten Malvern's Ed Best in the second semi.

The resulting final was reckoned by one seasoned observer to have been one of the best Colts finals he had ever seen, and that was no exaggeration. It went to the full three games, with the left-handed Newman edging the first game, as his power told. Come the second game, though, Francis started to change his tactics, attacking his opponent's right hand and varying his length. It was a display of intelligence and tactical nous rare in any Fives player, let alone one at Colts level. Throughout the match, there was never more than a few points between the two players, but in the end Francis had just enough to claim the title. Still, Sherborne didn't end the day empty-handed: Gregor Tims took the Colts plate, with a close win over Teddy Knollys, who – given that he was playing two years ahead of his age – looks an excellent prospect for the future.

Open Singles

Pool 1: 1st Ollie Boon (Sherborne), 2nd Alex Grabilov (King's Bruton), 3rd Sam Davenport (Blundell's), 4th Sugru Saito (Blundell's)

Pool 2: 1st Tom McPherson (Blundell's), 2nd Sam Combe (Blundell's), 3rd Fred Drake (Sherborne), 4th Ognjen Lukacevic (Kelly College)

Knockout:

Semi-finals: Combe bt Boon 15-7; McPherson bt Grabilov 15-1

Final: McPherson (Blundell's) bt Combe (Blundell's) 11-2, 11-1

Plate: Saito (Blundell's)

Colts Singles

Pool 1: 1st Tobias Francis (Blundell's), 2nd Ed Best (Malvern), 3rd Teddy Knollys (Sherborne), 4th Gregor Tims (Sherborne), 5th Justin Luk (Malvern), 6th Braden Hall (Kelly)

Pool 2: 1st Henry Newman (Sherborne), 2nd Ben Clarke (Blundell's), 3rd Reed (Sherborne), 4th Andrew Tudor (Malvern), 5th Will Pisani (Sherborne), 6th Jom Wherling (Malvern)

Knockout:

Semi-finals: Francis bt Clarke 15-11, Newman bt Best 15-6

Final: Francis (Blundell's) bt Newman (Sherborne) 8-11, 11-9, 11-7

Plate: Tims (Sherborne)

NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Durham, 2nd/3rd March 2013

It was a case of history repeating itself in the North of England Open, as Will Ellison won the singles title before teaming up with Tom Dean to take the doubles title as well. In both cases, this

Singles

1st Round: M.Roberts bt J.Gravatt 11-9, 10-12, 11-5; S.Rolls bt O.Quarry 11-1, 11-8; J.Beswick bt T.Wakelam 11-0, 11-2; J.Aquilina bt S.Woollard 11-5, 11-1; M.Lidgitt bt J.Spencer 11-9, 7-11, 11-8

2nd Round: W.Ellison bt J.Beswick 11-1, 11-1; S.Rolls bt N.Roberts 11-6, 11-8; H.Buchanan bt J.Tilston 11-4, 11-1; C.Brooks bt J.Aquilina 11-0, 11-6; D.Grant bt M.Roberts 11-4, 11-3; I.Ackland bt M.Bate 12-10, 11-3; P.Hanton bt T.Dean 11-8, 11-7; J.Minta bt M.Lidgitt 11-3, 11-0

Quarter-finals: W.Ellison bt S.Rolls 11-2, 11-2; C.Brooks bt H.Buchanan 11-5, 12-10; D.Grant bt I.Ackland 11-2, 11-8; J.Minta bt P.Hanton 11-2, 11-4

Semi-finals: W.Ellison bt C.Brooks 11-8, 11-0; D.Grant bt J.Minta 7-11, 11-5, 12-11

Final: W.Ellison bt D.Grant 11-4 11-2

Plate: Dean

Doubles

1st Round: Beswick & Roberts bt Spencer & Wakelam 11-2, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Ellison & Dean bt Bowden & Gravatt 11-5, 11-4; Ackland & Rolls bt Bate & Minta 11-5, 11-3; Brooks & Grant bt Beswick & Roberts 11-6, 11-7; Buchanan & Tristao bt Tilston & Aquilina 11-3, 11-7

Semi-finals: Ellison & Dean bt Ackland & Rolls 11-2, 12-10; Buchanan & Tristao bt Brooks & Grant 12-10, 12-10

Final: Ellison & Dean bt Buchanan & Tristao 11-1, 12-10

Plate: Minta & Bate

LADIES WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Malvern, 3rd March 2008

Eton Fives players showed how well they could adapt to the demands of Winchester Fives in the Ladies Championships. Karen Hird beat Alex Steel to take the singles title before teaming up with Fiona Barnes to beat Alex and Tessa Mills in the doubles final.

Singles

Preliminary round: Josie Guthrie bt Jodie Finn 15-5

1st Round: Tessa Mills w/o , Karen Hird bt Melanie Whitehead 15-1, Maddy Raynor bt Fiona Barnes 15-6, Alexandra Steel bt Kate Shilina 15-0.

Semi-Finals: Karen Hird bt Tessa Mills 15-9,15-5, Alexandra Steel bt Maddy Raynor 15-7, 15-10

Final: Karen Hird bt Alexandra Steel 15-6 15-4

Plate: Barnes

Doubles

Plate: Tessa Mills & Alexandra Steel bt Josie Guthrie & Jodie Finn 15-0 15-2, Karen Hird & Fiona Barnes bt Kate Shilina & Maddy Raynor 15-9 15-7, Karen Hird & Fiona Barnes bt Tessa Mills Alexandra Steel 9-15 15-11 15-11

Winners: Hird & Barnes

Plate: not contested

RFA v BUCS REPRESENTATIVE MATCH

St Paul's School, Barnes, 10th March 2013

At the time of selection, the BUCS team looked extremely strong and likely to give the RFA a close match, writes team manager David Gardner. However, by the time the day arrived, we had lost three of our top four players: Luke Thomson, temporarily retired from playing competitive events; Ed Kay involved in a clash with Real Tennis; and Dan Grant, our champion and No 1 player, injured playing in Durham the week before.

Thus, all the reserves were called upon, and although everyone gave very good account of themselves, especially in the singles matches, they were unable to compete with the skills and experience of the very strong RFA team in the doubles, and conceded 90 per cent of their points in this section of the event.

We did well to be only nine points adrift in the singles, winning two out of six matches. However, we ran up a deficit of 86 points in the doubles, before losing the match by 252 points to 181. In the circumstances a very good effort.

The event was unique in that players from six different universities (in a six-man team) represented BUCS, which we believe has never occurred before. Even with the original selection, this would have been the same!

The RFA put out a very strong team, with two of the top players in the country, Will Ellison & Dan Tristao (both former BUCS representatives) as the mainstays, with multiple National champion Hamish Buchanan at Number three.

Thus the BUCS team were not disgraced, but were left to dream of what might have been!

Singles

I Ackland (Bristol) lost to W Ellison 0-15; J Brubert (Cambridge) lost to D Tristão 9-15; C Burrows (Imperial) lost to H Buchanan 11-15; H Jefferies (Oxford) lost to T Dean 12-15; P Hanton (Durham) beat R Perry 15-6; A George (St. Andrews) beat B Hanton 15-6.

Singles totals: BUCS 62 RFA 71

Doubles

Ackland & Brubert lost to Ellison & B Hanton 14-16; lost to Dean & Tristão 4-15; lost to Buchanan & Perry 4-15, 10-15. George & P Hanton lost to Dean & Tristão 8-15; lost to Buchanan & Perry 8-15; lost to Ellison & B Hanton 12-15, 5-15. Burrows & Jefferies lost to Buchanan & Perry 7-15; lost to Ellison & B Hanton 6-15; lost to Dean & Tristão 10-15, 7-15.

Doubles totals: BUCS 95 RFA 181

Match result: RFA beat BUCS by 252 to 157

MIDLANDS SCHOOLS' REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bedford, 17th March 2013

Thick snow in the south and driving sleet from the north didn't augur well for the Inaugural Midlands Schools Fives Championships, writes Bob Dolby, but in fact everyone arrived on time and the courts at the two Bedford schools held out well despite near-continuous rain, much of it very heavy.

Five centres were represented: Derby Moor, Bedford School, Bedford Modern School, Rugby School and Oundle School. The decision to split the age groups into U18 and U15 worked well: more or less equal numbers in each category.

We played the Doubles first, on a knock-out basis, managing to finish the whole of the U15 matches before lunch and leaving only the U18 final for after. In neither age-group were there any great surprises: Derby Moor and Rugby dominated the younger category, Derby Moor and Bedford the older one. In the U15s the well balanced pairing of George Romain and Freddie Evans from Rugby were too consistent for the hard-hitting but slightly erratic John Halligan and Bally Singh from Derby Moor; in the U18s Robert Whitehorn and Rob Christie from Derby Moor had too much firepower for both the Bedford 1st and 2nd pair.

Singles were played initially in pools. From these 8 players emerged in each age-group to contest the final stages. Here too Bedford and Derby Moor fought out much of the senior group, with Robert Whitehorn, actually an U16 Colt, winning the U18 title with room to spare. In the U15s George Romain was again too nimble and steady for John Halligan in a hard-fought final.

The biggest grins of the day were to be seen on the faces of the Plate winners in the doubles: Gupta & Wright from Bedford in the seniors, Derby Moor's Keates & Johnson in the U15s. In the singles the losing semi-finalists played for the Plate: a kind of bronze medal match. Chris Davey and Freddie Evans were worthy winners.

It was good to see players from Bedford Modern competing. Jake Rees-Bidder made his mark in singles and doubles, reaching the semi-final in both. Oundle had a full complement of 12 competitors, building for the future. Only inexperience prevented their senior pair from reaching the doubles final.

Many thanks to Michael Croker and Phil Smith for laying on courts, transport, lunch and tea, and to Stuart Kirby for rejigging and running the U18 draw. And to Gareth Quarry, Jerry Cooper, Stuart Kirby, Matt Cavanagh and a modestly anonymous Old Oundelian for joining me in donating the trophies.

Senior Singles

Pool A: Qualifier: Gupta (Bedford). Also played Glover (Oundle), Johnson (Derby Moor), Shields (Bedford Modern).

Pool B: Qualifiers: Jones (Bedford) and Christie (Derby Moor). Also played: Bateson (Oundle), Wright (Bedford), Hale (Bedford Modern).

Pool C: Qualifiers: Whitehorn (Derby Moor) and Baxter (Derby Moor). Also played: Cannon (Oundle), Rice (Bedford)

Pool D: Qualifiers: Blunden (Derby Moor) and Matthews (Oundle). Also played: Sorensen (Bedford), Goodman (Bedford Modern).

Pool E: Qualifier: Davey (Bedford) . Also played: Gifford (Oundle), Perumatantri (Oundle), Singh (Derby Moor).

Quarter-finals: Baxter bt Gupta 15-11; Whitehorn bt Matthews 15-1; Jones bt Christie 15-3; Davey bt Blunden 15-7

Semi-finals: Whitehorn bt Baxter 15-2; Jones bt Davey 15-11

Final: RJ Whitehorn (Derby Moor) bt A Jones (Bedford) 15-6

Plate for losing semi-finalists: CG Davey (Bedford)

Senior Doubles

1st round: Derby Moor I bt Oundle III 15-1; Bedford II bt Bedford Modern I 15-5; Derby Moor III bt Bedford III 15-11

Quarter-finals: Derby Moor I bt Bedford Modern II 15-1; Bedford I bt Oundle II 15-0; Bedford II bt Derby Moor II 15-12; Oundle I bt Derby Moor III 15-12

Semi-finals: Derby Moor I bt Bedford I 15-6; Bedford II bt Oundle I 16-14

Final: Derby Moor I (RJ Whitehorn & RAN Christie) bt Bedford II (D Sorensen & J Rice) 15-5

Plate: Bedford III (K Gupta & M-J Wright)

U15 Singles

Pool A: Qualifiers: Rogers (Oundle) and Rees-Bidder (Bedford Modern). Also played Law (Oundle), Billington (Bedford), Keates (Derby Moor)

Pool B: Qualifiers: Evans (Rugby) and McKay (Rugby). Also played: Manger (Oundle), Shah (Bedford), Ali (Derby Moor), Varesteh (Oundle)

Pool C: Qualifiers: Halligan (Derby Moor) and Hunter (Rugby). Also played: Marshall (Oundle), Aslanoba (Bedford), Evans (Bedford Modern), Johnson (Derby Moor)

Pool D: Qualifiers: Romain (Rugby) and Singh (Derby Moor). Also played: Pitman (Oundle), Hart (Bedford), Attwood (Bedford Modern), Rehman (Derby Moor).

Quarter-finals: Rees-Bidder bt Rogers 11-0; Halligan bt McKay 11-0; Evans bt Singh 11-0; Romain bt Hunter 11-7

Semi-finals: Halligan bt Rees-Bidder 11-0; Romain bt Evans 11-8

Final: GPM Romain (Rugby) bt J. Halligan (Derby Moor) 11-5

Plate for losing semi-finalists: FJE Evans (Rugby)

U15 Doubles

1st round: Rugby II bt Bedford II 15-5; Bedford I bt Bedford Modern II 15-4; Oundle 3 bt Derby Moor 2 15-10; Derby Moor III bt Oundle II 15-11

Quarter-finals: Rugby II bt Oundle I 15-7; Derby Moor I bt Bedford I 15-0; Rugby I bt Oundle III 15-1; Bedford Modern I bt Derby Moor III 15-4

Semi-finals: Derby Moor I bt Rugby II 15-2; Rugby I bt Bedford Modern I 15-4

Final: Rugby I (GPM Romain & FJE Evans) bt Derby Moor I (J Halligan & B Singh) 15-11

Plate: Derby Moor II (LG Keates & SJ Johnson)

NATIONAL UNDER 13s CHAMPIONSHIPS

St Paul's School, Barnes, 17th March 2013

There was a very healthy entry of 46 players for the singles and 23 doubles pairs for the Under 13 Championships, which were held at St Paul's School on Sunday March 17th. It was good to see entries for the first time from Oundle School, St Andrew's Eastbourne, Shrewsbury House and St Olave's. Altogether eight schools were represented.

The singles players were divided into six pools and the six pool winners and next two highest points scorers proceeded to a knock-out formula from the quarter-final stage. It soon became clear that the players from St Olave's were very strong and adapting well to Rugby Fives despite Eton Fives being their usual game. In particular their ability to volley the ball strongly and effectively gave them an advantage over their opponents. Thus it was that by the end of the pool rounds St Olave's provided five pool winners and one qualifier under the points scored rule. The other two qualifiers were from Pilgrims School, Winchester.

St Olave's provided three of the singles semi-finalists along with Sebastian Byers from Pilgrims. In the first semi-final, Byers fought hard against Sohayl Ujoodia from St Olave's who eventually prevailed to move into the final. In the second semi-final, Kameron Swanson proved too strong on the day for his team mate James Tate. Swanson continued his good form into the final and proved too steady for Ujoodia who gave all he could to provide a very creditable final.

St Olave's continued to take their good form into the Doubles competition and all of their three pairs reached the semis where they were joined by Blundell's I. The final between the top two St Olave's pairs was a credit to all four players and eventually after numerous thrilling rallies James Tate and Kieran Walton overcame the two singles finalists, Kameron Swanson and Sohayl Ujoodia.

The day was a rewarding experience for all the players involved and also for the gallery packed with family and friends. All the games were played in a good and sporting spirit and it is hoped that the players obvious enthusiasm for the game will be nurtured and developed in the years ahead.

Singles

Singles Pools Winners: Walton, Swanson, Ujoodia, Carew and Caine (all St Olave's) Byers (Pilgrims) other qualifiers - Tate (St Olaves) and Choi (Pilgrims)

Quarter-finals: Byers bt Caine 15-8, Ujoodia bt Walton 15-10, Swanson bt Carew 15-9, Tate bt Choi 15-11

Semi-finals: Ujoodia bt Byers 15-9, Swanson bt Tate 15-1

Final: Swanson (St Olave's) bt Ujoodia (St Olave's) 15-3

Plate: Tate(St Olave's) bt Byers (Pilgrims) 15-11

Doubles

Quarter finals: St Olaves II bt Alleyn's I 11-0, St Olaves III bt Merchant Taylors I 11-1, Blundell's I bt Alleyn's II 11-2, St Olaves I bt St Andrews I 11-0

Semi-finals: St Olaves II bt St Olaves III 11-2, St Olaves I bt Blundell's I 11-2

Final: St Olave's I (James Tate and Kieran Walton) bt St Olave's II (Kameron Swanson and Sohayl Ujoodia) 15-10

Plate: Pilgrims (Sebastian Byers and Junho Choi) bt Blundell's (James Maclaurin and Henry Olsen) 15-6

WINCHESTER FIVES NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Malvern College, 17th March 2013

The courts at Malvern are unusual, writes David Barnes. One of them has no door – you have to climb in (and out!) over the 5ft high back wall; one of them is marked 'Rugby' – it was apparently once a plain-wall court; and they all have an oversized buttress, which forces the player on the right to stand further up the court and volley more than usual, making the game at times quite spectacular.

There were no three-game matches this year, also an unusual feature. The biggest surprise was the quarter-final defeat of second seeds Buchanan and Roberts by Kiggell and Thomas, the latter now master-in-charge at Malvern and clearly enjoying the courts.

Two other quarter-finals produced well-fought matches: past champions Akerman and M Mohammed just got the better of Hughes and Rew, while Cavanagh and Fox eventually managed to tame the ferocious hitting of Bristol University pair Ackland and Rolls.

The semi-finals saw top seeds Ellison and H Mohammed defeat Akerman and M (Dad) Mohammed comfortably, while Cavanagh and Fox took a while to work out how to beat the canny Kiggell and Thomas, which they did after a close first game. The final was rather one-sided, Ellison volleying devastatingly from the right and Mohammed showing no signs of lack of practice when the ball eluded his agile partner. For all their experience, Fox and Cavanagh had no real answer to the barrage of winners to which they were subjected, and the holders duly took both games with ease, making it their fifth consecutive win in this event.

Two pairs from Sedbergh School acquitted themselves well in the plate, one of them only narrowly losing in the final to Frost and Goodwin from Derby, who hit the ball just that bit harder, making up for their lack of experience in the buttress game.

Many thanks to Malvern College for its hospitality, and good wishes to Chris Thomas in his task of building teams to represent the school at every level.

Next year – back to Bradfield!

Round 1: Cooper & Thompson bt Stone & Wainwright 15-13, 15-9; Hughes & Rew bt Neale & Sinton 15-2, 15-6; Akerman & M Mohammed bt Lawry & Robinson 15-10, 15-2; Cavanagh & Fox bt Lidiard & Warner 15-3, 15-3; Ackland & Rolls bt Gunyon & Kirk 15-2, 15-4; Kiggell & Thomas bt Frost & Goodwin 15-1, 15-3; Buchanan & Roberts bt Hale & Hale 15-6, 15-4.

Quarter-finals: Ellison & H Mohammed bt Cooper & Thompson 15-2, 15-1; Akerman & M Mohammed bt Hughes & Rew 15-11, 15-10; Cavanagh & Fox bt Ackland & Rolls 15-8, 15-11; Kiggell & Thomas bt Buchanan & Roberts 16-14, 15-7.

Semi-finals: Ellison & H Mohammed bt Akerman & M Mohammed 15-3, 15-4; Cavanagh & Fox bt Kiggell & Thomas 15-12, 15-3.

Final: Ellison & H Mohammed bt Cavanagh & Fox 15-3, 15-3.

Plate Final: Frost & Goodwin bt Lawry & Robinson 15-11

OFFICIAL RFA RANKINGS

London, 20th March 2013

The RFA has today published its latest official rankings, prepared on its behalf by Dave Hebden. They take into account the championships up to and including the North of England Championships, held in Durham at the beginning of this month.

However, they show little change over the previous rankings, with James Toop remaining on top of the singles rankings and Will Ellison still on top of the doubles list. The most notable moves in the singles rankings are from Peter Hanton and Sam Rolls, who make good progress to positions 20 and 23 respectively after reaching the Quarter-finals at Durham. Meanwhile, Manchester's Mark Roberts enters the rankings for the first time after his first-round in the North of England Championship.

In the doubles rankings, Will's win in Durham consolidates his position at the top of the rankings, while his title-winning partner, Tom Dean, overtakes Dan Tristao to move into third spot. Among the biggest risers are Inigo Ackland and Sam Rolls, who make good progress into the top 30 after reaching the semi-finals.

NATIONAL SINGLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after North of England Championships, March 2013

Previous positions – after U25s Championships, February 2013

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	J Toop	92.4
2	2	W Ellison	88.5
3	3	D Tristao	86.6
4	4	J Minta	62.5
5	5	M Cavanagh	61.7
6	6	D Grant	48.8
7	7	C Brooks	45.2
8	8	H Buchanan	35.5
9	9	E Kay	31.8
10	10	I Ackland	30.2
11	11	L Thomson	26.2
12	12	T Maconie	25.1
13	13	T Dean	22.4
14	15	M Bate	22.1
15	16	M Bowness	20.3
16	17	C Burrows	20.2
17	14	N Roberts	19.9
18	18	D Fox	19.4
19	19	M Skogh	18.2
20	28	P Hanton	17.3

21	21	G Rees	16.9
22	21	E Hatton	16.1
23	32	S Rolls	15.9
24	23	S Wyatt-Haines	14.7
25	20	J Major	14.6
26	24	A Rew	14.3
27	26	G Price	13.2
28	27	D Butler	13.0
29	25	J Brubert	12.0
30	30	A George	1.8
	29	N Hillier	10.8
32	31	A Pringle	10.2
33	33	F Thomas	10.0
34	36	H Jefferies	9.8
35	33	R Murby	9.7
36	37	S Fraser	9.4
37	35	A Lee	9.3
	37	T Widdop	9.3
39	40	J Aquilina	9.1
40	41	J Tilston	8.3
41	42	J Hughes	8.1
42	43	R Patel	7.4
43	37	J Gravatt	7.3
44	44	T Parker	6.5
45	45	R Lamb	5.9
46	48	N Patel	5.7
47	46	S Coffey	5.6
48	~	M Roberts	4.9
49	50	J Malde	4.1
	46	H Mohammed	4.1
51	52	S King	4.0
52	49	K Henry	3.1
53	51	C Legget	2.5
54	55	N Austin	2.4
	55	G Barnes	2.4
	55	A Bowden	2.4
57	53	E Brooke	2.2
58	59	M Kemp	2.0
59	54	S Moger	1.8
	60	M Shaw	1.8
61	58	A Griffiths	1.5
62	61	M Frost	1.4
63	62	A Goodwin	1.3

64	64	C Waller	1.0
65	62	J Savery	0.9
66	65	J Wren	0.8

NATIONAL DOUBLES RANKINGS

Current positions – after North of England Championships, March 2013

Previous positions – after U25s Championships, February 2013

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	W Ellison	98.5
2	2	H Buchanan	87.7
3	4	T Dean	85.2
4	3	D Tristao	83.0
5	5	C Brooks	79.5
6	7	J Minta	76.2
7	6	D Grant	76.0
8	8	M Bate	61.0
9	9	G Price	58.6
10	10	H Mohammed	57.0
11	11	E Kay	50.3
12	13	N Roberts	47.3
13	12	A Pringle	46.8
14	14	P Hanton	42.4
15	15	M Skogh	42.0
16	16	J Toop	40.8
17	17	C Burrows	36.8
18	18	A Lee	35.3
19	19	R Perry	32.9
20	20	J Aquilina	31.6
21	21	J Hawke	29.6
22	23	L Thomson	27.6
23	22	E Hatton	27.3
24	24	J Gravatt	26.1
25	25	J Beswick	25.6
26	34	I Ackland	25.1
27	26	J Brubert	24.5
	26	R Pearson	24.5
	33	S Rolls	24.5
	26	R Sandie	24.5
31	29	M Frost	23.3
32	30	T Widdop	23.0

33	31	J Tilston	22.4
34	32	A Goodwin	21.2
35	35	A Griffiths	20.0
	35	P Manning	20.0
37	37	C Brechin	19.7
38	37	T Chase	19.5
	39	A Rew	19.5
40	40	R Christie	18.8
41	42	J Hughes	18.5
42	41	T Maconie	18.4
43	44	R Warner	17.3
44	43	S Kirby	17.0
45	46	M Cavanagh	16.1
46	47	A George	15.9
47	45	W Enstone	15.5
48	48	H Akerman	14.9
49	49	D Butler	14.1
50	51	T Parker	12.8
	51	F Thomas	12.8
52	50	A Beverly	12.3
53	53	C Waller	12.2
54	56	V Patel	11.4
55	55	S Pearce-Smith	11.1
56	54	S Hodgson	10.8
57	58	A Bowden	10.0
	58	E Hawke	10.0
	58	H Jefferies	10.0
	58	K Kennerley	10.0
	58	M Mohammed	10.0
	58	J Spencer	10.0
	58	R Wyatt-Haines	10.0
	58	S Wyatt-Haines	10.0
65	57	M Baxter	9.8
66	68	J Malde	9.1
67	68	H Aveston	8.9
	68	S King	8.9
	68	J Savery	8.9
70	66	C Legget	8.5
	66	J Major	8.5
	72	S Watson	8.5
73	75	N Austin	8.0
	75	C Butler	8.0
	75	S Coffey	8.0

	75	N Finney	8.0
	75	A Hanton	8.0
	75	N Hillier	8.0
	75	T Kiggell	8.0
	75	B Kirk	8.0
	75	R Lebon	8.0
	75	E Malone	8.0
83	73	P Bishop	7.6
	73	G McIntyre	7.6
85	86	B Lowry	7.1
	86	R Sutcliffe	7.1
	86	O Thompson	7.1
	86	J Walter	7.1
89	85	J Marshall	6.6
90	90	K Ward	6.3
91	93	N Edmonds	5.7
	93	J Goodwin	5.7
93	91	E Ronan	5.4
	91	N Wolstenholme	5.4
95	95	J Bristow	3.8
	95	P Cohen	3.8
	95	J Furniss	3.8
	95	K Henry	3.8
	95	M Hine	3.8
100	100	T Lewis	2.7
	100	S Maskell	2.7
	100	M Moger	2.7
	100	D Murray	2.7

NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Oundle, 24th March 2013

The Vintage, over 55's Rugby Fives tournament was held on Sunday 24th March at a very snowy Oundle School. The format for the day was singles in the morning with seven players entering, followed by doubles in the afternoon with six pairs entering.

The singles kicked off with two pools of players fighting for the chance to play in the three set final. The winner of each pool playing in the final and second and third going through to two semi finals and then a final for the plate. Wayne Enstone forged ahead in pool one winning both his matches.

The second pool had four players of very similar standard and we were entertained to some fine fives with Brian Nithsdale eventually winning through to take on Wayne in the final. Wayne, consistent as ever, conducted a masterclass in singles fives with superbly controlled touch shots against the front wall and deep diagonal shots into the opposite angles allowing him to win

through in two games. The plate was eventually won by new boy Stuart Kirby over tournament regular Phil Atkinson.

The doubles kicked off with two pools of three teams. The doubles tournament semi finals consisted of winners from pool 1 playing second in pool 2 and vice versa for the privilege of playing in the final. Eventual finalists Hamilton and Beal had an epic battle with Sandie and Sutcliffe with serve changing hands over and over again.

Sandie's steadfastness and Sutcliffe's incredibly powerful hitting resulted in a first game win. Hamilton and Beal however, changed gear in the second game and through managing to return Sutcliffes hard shots combined with far more accurate ball placement into the back corner angles and side wall nicks allowed them to win the second game. The atmosphere was tense as the third game commenced since the finely balanced match could have gone either way. Eventually Sandie and Sutcliffe gained a lead, consolidated their position and the tiring Hamilton and Beal capitulated to tumultuous applause. The match, lasting for over one hour, was a classic.

Phil Atkinson and Mark Kitely won a two game match against the tiring Nithsdale and the evergreen stalwart Bernard Atkinson for the plate

Singles

Pool A: W.Enstone bt R.Warner 15-3, bt P.Atkinson 15-10; Warner bt Atkinson 15-9

Pool B: S.Kirby bt R.Sandie 15-3, bt A.Hamilton 15-11, lost to B.Nithsdale 10-15; Sandie bt Hamilton 15-4, lost to Nithsdale 8-15; Hamilton lost to Nithsdale 3-15

Final: W.G.Enstone bt B.Nithsdale 11-4, 11-3

Plate: S.J.Kirby

Doubles

Pool A: A.Hamilton & S.Beal bt R.Warner & E.Clarke 15-4, bt B.Atkinson & B.Nithsdale 15-12; Warner & Clarke bt Atkinson & Nithsdale 15-5

Pool B: R.Sandie & R.Sutcliffe bt M.Kitely & P.Atkinson 15-9, bt B.Kirk & S.Kirby 15-9; Kitely & Atkinson lost to Kirk & Kirby 7-15

Semi-finals: Hamilton & Beal bt Kirk & Kirby 15-3; Sandie & Sutcliffe bt Warner & Clarke 15-9

Final: R.G.Sandie & R.J.Sutcliffe bt A.S.Hamilton & S.Beal 11-4, 6-11, 11-6

Plate: M.Kitely & P.Atkinson

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

St. Paul's April 1-4

This year's tournament enjoyed another excellent entry, writes organiser Peter King, only a couple fewer than in 2012, and with twenty-two schools represented in at least one of the three age groups; and it was especially good to welcome a small contingent of senior boys from Edinburgh Academy. Eleven of these schools had representation in one or other of the singles or doubles finals, and the standard of play was excellent.

In the Open tournament, Matt Shaw (St Paul's) was seen as the player to beat, and as in the West of England, his game, mature and free from unforced errors, prevailed. There were few upsets in the earlier rounds, but Ben Beltrami (St Paul's) produced a ruthless semi-final performance to defeat Sam Wyatt-Haines (Blundell's), 2012 Colts champion and runner-up in Sherborne. And in

the all-Pauline doubles final, the West of England result was also reversed, as the younger pair of Beltrami and Oliver Arnold came through in two games. Winchester had been strongly represented with three singles quarter-finalists, and their first pair (Wylde and Ganendra) almost upset the champions in the semi-final, winning the first game 11-1.

The Colts' tournament contained a small number of extremely strong players, and a large "chasing pack". Rob Whitehorn of Derby Moor confirmed his steady advance with a powerful all-round game and after a semi-final victory against the steady Simon Whait (Loretto) in the final just edged out Tom Watkinson (Winchester) in two close-fought games. Hardest worker of the week award probably went to Sid Bhushan (St Paul's), who followed a tough 3-game match against Hutt (Tonbridge) with a third-game 12-11 win in his quarter-final against Matt Blunden, former U14 champion.

The Colts' doubles final was a repeat of the West of England, with Derby Moor (Whitehorn/Blunden) just ahead of St Paul's I (Nunes/Jopling). Two-game matches don't come closer (12-11, 12-11) and the spectators were enthralled by this game.

The Under 14 competition had a slightly reduced entry (by coincidence 44 in the singles, the same as both the other events), but the standard of play was extremely high. The final was an epic, won in three games – and 80 minutes - by Kosi Nwuba (St Olave's) against Dominic Shaw (St Paul's), who in his first year of playing the game narrowly failed to emulate his brother's victory, which would have been a first! Both players looked exhausted, and in the end Nwuba's power just had the edge. A strong contingent of (mainly U13) Eton fives players from St Olave's made a big impact especially on the plate competitions. Tiredness from the singles final may have contributed to the semi-final doubles defeat of St Olave's, or it may have been the greater experience of Alleyn's pair Hanton and Kirwan (last year's U13 champions), and in the final against St Paul's the first game seemed to reflect that in a narrow 11-9 win, but the Paulines (Shaw and his partner Monty Evans) learned and improved as the match wore on, eventually hitting some very successful winners and completing a victory in 3 games.

Many thanks to all involved in organisation and support, especially to a large number of parents who clearly enjoyed the experience and learnt a bit about the game as well! The whole championship was played in an excellent spirit, with the highest standards of sportsmanship and manners on court and camaraderie off it. (Connoisseurs of these reports will recognise the final sentiments, as true as ever in this year's event!)

RESULTS

Open Singles

Pool A: 1st M.Shaw (St Paul's); 2nd S.Redmayne (Alleyn's); 3rd W.Rider (Tonbridge); 4th J.Tolley (Aldenhams)

Pool B: 1st M.Hale (Winchester); 2nd G.Ramsey (Edinburgh Academy); 3rd J.Papadopoulos (Merchant Taylors')

Pool C: 1st T.Walters (Whitgift); 2nd C.Farmer (Sedbergh); 3rd J.Rice (Bedford)

Pool D: 1st Z.Brubert (Alleyn's); 2nd T.Chadwick (Rugby); 3rd P.Prabhu (St Paul's)

Pool E: 1st J.Balfour (Edinburgh Academy); 2nd C.Davey (Bedford); 3rd T.Woods (Merchant Taylors')

Pool F: 1st O.Arnold (St Paul's); 2nd J.Webber (Blundell's); 3rd L.Stone (Sedbergh)

Pool G: 1st E.Wylde (Winchester); 2nd D.Barnes (Eastbourne); 3rd L.Brandon (Whitgift)

Pool H: 1st B.Beltrami (St Paul's); 2nd L.Brady (Merchant Taylors'); 3rd R.Smith (Edinburgh)

Academy)

Pool I: 1st M.Hunter (Rugby); 2nd A.Hubbard (Alleyn's); 3rd D.Sorenson (Bedford)

Pool J: 1st J.Ganendra (Winchester); 2nd R.Christie (Derby Moor); 3rd J.Robson (St Paul's)

Pool K: 1st B.Lawry (Sedbergh); 2nd H.MacPherson (Edinburgh Academy); 3rd S.McKenzie-Boyle (Tonbridge)

Pool L: 1st T.Edmonds (St Paul's); 2nd C.Kent (Eastbourne); 3rd G.Fordham (Merchant Taylors')

Pool M: 1st S.Browett (Alleyn's); 2nd O.Thompson (Sedbergh); 3rd A.Jones (Bedford)

Pool N: 1st S.Wyatt-Haines (Blundell's); 2nd J.Pinder (Winchester); 3rd J.Cameron (St Paul's); 4th A.Rennie (Aldenham)

Round 1: Hale beat Walters 11-0, 11-2; Brubert beat Balfour 11-1, 11-5; Wylde beat Arnold 11-8, 11-6; Beltrami beat Hunter 11-1, 11-1; Ganendra beat Lawry 11-7, 11-0; Edmonds beat Browett 6-11, 11-0, 11-3

Quarter-finals: Shaw beat Hale 11-0, 11-2; Brubert beat Wylde 11-6, 11-4; Beltrami beat Ganendra 11-2, 11-5; Wyatt-Haines beat Edmonds 11-3, 11-6

Semi-finals: Shaw beat Brubert 11-4, 11-8; Beltrami beat Wyatt-Haines 11-1, 11-1

Final: MJR Shaw beat BMJ Beltrami 11-4, 11-9

First plate: Hubbard

Second plate: Stone

Open Doubles

Preliminary round: Winchester II beat Merchant Taylors' II 11-0, 11-2; St Paul's III beat Bedford II 11-2, 11-2; Sedbergh II beat Tonbridge 11-2, 11-0;

1st round: St Paul's I beat Winchester II 11-1, 11-4; Blundell's beat Edinburgh Academy II 11-7, 11-3; Sedbergh I beat Whitgift 11-3, 12-10; Alleyn's I beat St Paul's III 11-0, 11-12, 11-2;

Winchester I beat Sedbergh II 11-2, 11-3; Bedford I beat Edinburgh Academy I 6-11, 11-6, 11-5; Merchant Taylors' I beat Eastbourne 11-8, 11-6; St Paul's II beat Alleyn's II 11-0, 11-1

Quarter-finals: St Paul's I beat Blundell's 11-5, 11-4; Alleyn's I beat Sedbergh I 0-11, 11-3, 11-6; Winchester I beat Bedford I 11-0, 11-1; St Paul's II beat Merchant Taylors' I 11-1, 11-0

Semi-finals: St Paul's I beat Alleyn's I 11-3, 11-4; St Paul's II beat Winchester I 1-11, 11-3, 11-7

Final: St Paul's II (BMJ Beltrami & OR Arnold) beat St Paul's I (MJR Shaw & TB Edmonds) 11-6, 11-2

Plate: Eastbourne (Kent/ Barnes)

Colts Singles

Pool A: 1st T.Watkinson (Winchester); 2nd J.Halligan (Derby Moor); 3rd A.Vogel (Merchant Taylors'); 4th C.McKinney (Sedbergh)

Pool B: 1st T.Owen (St Dunstan's); 2nd J.Grut (Whitgift); 3rd L.Baird (Merchiston Castle);

Pool C: 1st H.Fry (Marlborough); 2nd M.Segun (Tonbridge); 3rd T.McFarlane (St Paul's)

Pool D: 1st S.Bhushan (St Paul's); 2nd I.Jagger (Alleyn's); 3rd A.Wheal (Merchant Taylor's)

Pool E: 1st D.Hutt (Tonbridge); 2nd H.Thompson-Green (Sedbergh); 3rd D.Kuteyi (St Dunstan's)

Pool F: 1st M.Blunden (Derby Moor); 2nd J.K.Hunt (St Paul's); 3rd R.Hunter (Rugby) (scr);

Pool G: 1st T.Robinson (Sedbergh); 2nd C.Baxter (Derby Moor); 3rd B.Ford (Whitgift)

Pool H: 1st R.Whitehorn (Derby Moor); 2nd L.Heidrich (St Paul's); 3rd A.Armstrong (Whitgift)

Pool I: 1st E.Tebboth (Merchant Taylors'); 2nd G.Wainwright (Sedbergh); 3rd W.Husaini (St Dunstan's)

Pool J: 1st T.Dawber (Alleyn's); 2nd J.Raison (Whitgift); 3rd A.Shah (Merchant Taylors')

Pool K: 1st J.Singh (Derby Moor); 2nd M.Nunes (St Paul's); 3rd J.Byford (Tonbridge)

Pool L: 1st Z.Jopling (St Paul's); 2nd G.Bentley (Sedbergh); 3rd R.Harbord (St Dunstan's)

Pool M: 1st O.Horner (Whitgift); 2nd J.Miller (Rugby); 3rd O.Aucamp (Sutton Valencef)

Pool N: 1st S.Whait (Loretto); 2nd K.Jessel (Alleyn's); 3rd B.Singh (Derby Moor); 4th F.Connolly (Sedbergh)

Round 1: Owen beat Fry 11-5, 11-9; Bhushan beat Hunt 11-9, 8-11, 11-5; Blunden beat Robinson 11-0, 12-10; Whitehorn beat Tebboth 11-2, 11-4; J.Singh beat Dawber 11-2, 2-11, 11-8; Jopling beat Horner 12-10, 11-2

Quarter-finals: Watkinson beat Owen 11-5, 11-3; Bhushan beat Blunden 4-11, 11-9, 12-11; Whitehorn beat Singh 11-3, 11-0; Whait beat Jopling 11-0, 11-2

Semi-finals: Watkinson beat Bhushan 11-5, 11-8; Whitehorn beat Whait 11-4, 11-2

Final: RJ Whitehorn beat T.Watkinson 11-8, 11-9

First plate: Miller (Rugby)

Second plate: McFarlane

Colts Doubles

1st round: Whitgift II beat Alleyn's II 11-5, 11-2.

2nd Round: Derby Moor I beat Whitgift II 11-2, 11-1; St Paul's III beat Merchant Taylors' I 11-6, 11-7; Tonbridge I beat Sedbergh II 11-9, 12-10; St Paul's II beat Derby Moor III 11-7, 11-3; St Paul's I beat Sedbergh III 11-3, 11-5; Whitgift I beat Tonbridge II 11-0, 11-3; Alleyn's I beat Merchant Taylors' II 11-6, 11-2; Sedbergh I beat Derby Moor II 11-5, 11-8.

Quarter-finals: Derby Moor I beat St Paul's III 11-1, 11-0; St Paul's II beat Tonbridge I 12-10, 12-10; St Paul's I beat Whitgift I 11-4, 11-5; Sedbergh I beat Alleyn's I 6-11, 11-6, 11-1

Semi-finals: Derby Moor I beat St Paul's II 11-5, 11-0. St Paul's I beat Sedbergh I 11-8, 7-11, 11-9;

Final: Derby Moor I (RJ Whitehorn & M Blunden) beat St Paul's I (M Nunes & Z Jopling) 12-11, 12-11

Plate: Merchant Taylors' I (Tebboth/Vogel)

Under 14 Singles

Pool A: 1st J.Hanton (Alleyn's); 2nd A.Song (Winchester); 3rd S.Ragudasan (Merchant Taylors'); 4th K.Patel (St Paul's)

Pool B: 1st A.Connolly (Sedbergh); 2nd A.Ahuja (St Paul's); 3rd A.Patel (merchant Taylors')

Pool C: 1st J.Salkeld (Merchant Taylors'); 2nd J.Tate (St Olave's); 3rd W.Stevens (Bradfield)

Pool D: 1st M.Evans (St Paul's); 2nd J.Denison (Bradfield); 3rd C.Needham (Tonbridge)

Pool E: 1st K.Nwuba (St Olave's); 2nd T.Knollys (Sherborne); 3rd A.Younger (Winchester)

Pool F: 1st S.Yang (Alleyn's); 2nd J.Oxley (St Olave's); 3rd J.Walker (Merchant Taylors')

Pool G: 1st G.Hollings (Sedbergh); 2nd K.Shah (St Paul's); 3rd J.Norris (Bradfield)

Pool H: C.Holden (Bradfield); 2nd M.Palacci (St Paul's); 3rd T.Smith (Sedbergh)

Pool I: 1st K.Swanson (St Olave's); 2nd E.Taberham (Merchant Taylors'); 3rd S.Patel (Tonbridge);

Pool J: 1st W.Saunter (St Paul's); 2nd R.Kim (Winchester); 3rd J.Savage (Merchant Taylors')

Pool K: 1st B.Kirwan (Alleyn's); 2nd K.Walton (St Olave's); 3rd J.Thompson (Bradfield)

Pool L: 1st O.Balcombe (Tonbridge); 2nd G.Barnard (Alleyn's); 3rd M.Cheung (St Paul's)

Pool M: 1st B.Derrick (Bradfield); 2nd W.Green (Sedbergh); 3rd J.Hopkins (Merchant Taylors')

Pool N: 1st D.Shaw (St Paul's); 2nd S.Ujoodia (St Olave's); 3rd R.Patel (Merchant Taylors'); 4th J.Norris (Tonbridge)

1st round: Connolly beat Salkeld 11-5; Nwuba beat Evans 11-2; Yang beat Hollins 11-4;

Swanson beat Holden 11-5; Kirwan beat Saunter 11-3; Balcombe beat Derrick 11-3

Quarter-finals: Hanton beat Salkeld 15-4; Nwuba beat Yang 15-7; Kirwan beat Swanson 15-1; Shaw beat Balcombe 15-0

Semi-finals: Nwuba beat Hanton 15-7; Shaw beat Kirwan 15-9

Final: K Nwuba beat DCP Shaw 11-3, 8-11, 11-9

First plate: Tate

Second plate: Younger

Under 14 Doubles

1st round: St Paul's III beat Bradfield III 15-8; St Paul's IV beat Tonbridge II 15-0; St Olave's III beat Merchant Taylors' II 15-4; Bradfield II beat Merchant Taylors' III 15-4.

2nd round: Alleyn's I beat St Paul's III 15-1; Merchant Taylors' I beat St Olave's II 15-7; Bradfield I I beat Sedbergh II 15-2; St Olave's I beat St Paul's IV 15-0; St Olave's III beat Sedbergh I 15-4; St Paul's II beat Tonbridge I 15-7; Alleyn's II beat Winchester 15-6; St Paul's I beat Alleyn's II 15-1.

Quarter-finals: Alleyn's I beat Merchant Taylors' I 15-4; St Olave's I beat Bradfield I 15-1; St Olave's III beat St Paul's II 15-13; St Paul's I beat Alleyn's II 15-1.

Semi-finals: Alleyn's I beat St Olave's I 15-13; St Paul's I beat St Olave's III 15-2.

Final: St Paul's I (DCP Shaw & MME Evans) beat Alleyn's I (J Hanton & B Kirwan) 9-11, 11-7, 11-5

Plate: St Olave's II (Tate/Walton)

NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Alleyn's School, Dulwich, 6/7th April 2013

Not since 1950 have there been four new names in consecutive years engraved on the Cyriax Cup, such has been the dominance of defending or past champions, writes Hamish Buchanan. This year, three times runner-up Will Ellison teamed up with last year's runner-up Charlie Brooks to defeat the defending champions Dan Grant and Dan Tristao in a highly entertaining and close final.

The tournament began on a sunny but cold Saturday morning at Alleyn's School. Eleven pairs entered, with an average age of around 25, significantly lower than the 35 of 2003. The three preliminary matches were generally close-fought affairs with the all-Old Pauline tie between Aquilina/Tilston and Parker/Thomas the pick of the bunch, and the former, slightly more experienced pair went through in three.

The quarter-finals proved to be comfortable matches for the top four seeds, and all were victorious in straight games. By contrast, the semis were poles apart. In the bottom half of the draw, Ellison – with his new partner Brooks – finally overcame former champions Buchanan and Perry at his sixth attempt in two short games. The other semi was a much closer and unpredictable battle, in which defending champions Grant and Tristao took the first game from another new pairing – last year's runner up Dean and new younger partner Kay – in almost empyrean fashion, albeit aided by the opposition's consternation in the level of grip afforded by the floor. Taking to a new court, a new velitation ensued, Dean and Kay found their rhythm and took the second game with pace and accuracy. This they continued in the early part of the deciding game, building a slight lead, but a certain lassitude overtook them and the strength and experience of the defending champions was decisive.

Sunday morning and the final. To those not in the know, this final is generally witnessed by the organiser, one or two committee members and a girlfriend or two (of different players, that is). This year was not much of an exception to the rule apart from the inclusion of a dog, so to be precise there were four men, two women and a dog. All witnessed (although I'm not sure the dog was paying that much attention, or indeed could see over the back wall!) an excellent first game from the service rally to the last.

Closely fought early rallies led to a 2-1 lead for the challengers after close to 10 minutes' play, but the champions then faltered, making a string of errors to extend that to 7-1, but with a brace of winners the tide turned and now it was the challengers' turn to lose concentration and the champs pulled back to 7-8. Now there were winners and errors (forced and unforced) from both pairs, but steadily the defending champs edged ahead to take it to 14-11 and what seemed an inevitable first-game win, but the challengers were not inclined to cede so easily, and after fighting off three game points, took the opening game 16-14. This proved to be the decisive point of the match, Brooks and Ellison again took an early lead in the second game and, after a short fightback, Grant and Tristao rapidly capitulated 15-4.

For those people craving a few more stats, the scorer of the final undertook a winners/errors count for all four players. The possibly somewhat harsh criterion for an error was that any ball struck before dying should be returned. As doubles pairs live and die as a team, the scores are presented for each pair: First game: Grant/Tristao 18 winners, 20 errors; Brooks/Ellison 15 winners, 16 errors. Second game: G/T 4 winners, 15 errors; B/E 4 winners, 5 errors. (Individual scores may be revealed at a later date unless certain payments are received). Although on the surface the bias leans towards more errors than winners struck, in fact most of these were 'forced' errors and in general there was a great deal of attacking and counter-attacking play.

The plate was contested by six pairs who lost in the first and second rounds. It was won by the scratch pair of Gareth Price and James Marshall (their original partners both sustained injuries) who beat Theo Parker and Francis Thomas in an engrossing three-game final, winning 12-10 in the third having saved a match point.

My thanks to Alleyn's School and all the players for making a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

First round: Marshall/Ronan bt Gravatt/P.Hanton 15-3,15-12; Aquilina/Tilston bt Parker/Thomas 15-5,13-15,15-8; Ackland/Rolls bt Carr/Sulkin 15-0,15-0

Quarter-finals: Grant/Tristao bt Marshall/Ronan 15-3,15-12; Dean/Kay bt Cavanagh/Price 15-2,15-6; Buchanan/Perry bt Aquilina/Tilston 15-1,15-6; Brooks/Ellison bt Ackland/Rolls 15-1,15-2

Semi-finals: Grant & Tristao bt Kay & Dean 15-4, 7-15, 15-9; Ellison & Brooks bt Buchanan & Perry 15-5, 15-4

Final: Ellison & Brooks bt Grant & Tristao 16-14, 15-4

Plate: Price & Marshall

End of Season Rugby Fives Rankings as at April 8th 2013

Latest Singles positions
Current shows position following: North of England Championships
Previous shows position following: U25s Championships
Latest Doubles positions
Current shows position following: National Doubles Championships
Previous shows position following: U25s Championships

SINGLES

Current Position	Previous rank	Name	Points
1	1	J Toop	92.4
2	2	W Ellison	88.5
3	3	D Tristao	86.6
4	4	J Minta	62.5
5	5	M Cavanagh	61.7
6	6	D Grant	48.8
7	7	C Brooks	45.2
8	8	H Buchanan	35.5
9	9	E Kay	31.8
10	10	I Ackland	30.2
11	11	L Thomson	26.2
12	12	T Maconie	25.1
13	13	T Dean	22.4
14	15	M Bate	22.1
15	16	M Bowness	20.3
16	17	C Burrows	20.2
17	14	N Roberts	19.9
18	18	D Fox	19.4
19	19	M Skogh	18.2
20	28	P Hanton	17.3
21	21	G Rees	16.9
22	21	E Hatton	16.1
23	32	S Rolls	15.9
24	23	S Wyatt-Haines	14.7
25	20	J Major	14.6
26	24	A Rew	14.3
27	26	G Price	13.2
28	27	D Butler	13.0
29	25	J Brubert	12.0
30	30	A George	10.8
	29	N Hillier	10.8
32	31	A Pringle	10.2
33	33	F Thomas	10.0
34	36	H Jefferies	9.8
35	33	R Murby	9.7
36	37	S Fraser	9.4

37	35	A Lee	9.3
	37	T Widdop	9.3
39	40	J Aquilina	9.1
40	41	J Tilston	8.3
41	42	J Hughes	8.1
42	43	R Patel	7.4
43	37	J Gravatt	7.3
44	44	T Parker	6.5
45	45	R Lamb	5.9
46	48	N Patel	5.7
47	46	S Coffey	5.6
48	0	M Roberts	4.9
49	50	J Malde	4.1
0	46	H Mohammed	4.1
51	52	S King	4.0
52	49	K Henry	3.1
53	51	C Legget	2.5
54	55	N Austin	2.4
	55	G Barnes	2.4
	55	A Bowden	2.4
57	53	E Brooke	2.2
58	59	M Kemp	2.0
	60	M Shaw	1.8
60	54	S Moger	1.8
61	58	A Griffiths	1.5
62	61	M Frost	1.4
63	62	A Goodwin	1.3
64	64	C Waller	1.0
65	62	J Savery	0.9
66	65	J Wren	0.8

DOUBLES

Current position	Previous rank	Names	Points
1	1	W Ellison	98.1
2	5	C Brooks	89.8

3	3	D Tristao	85.6
4	2	H Buchanan	83.5
5	4	T Dean	81.1
6	6	D Grant	80.0
7	7	J Minta	72.7
8	9	G Price	55.6
9	8	M Bate	52.4
0	11	E Kay	52.4
11	10	H Mohammed	49.5
12	13	N Roberts	44.8
13	14	P Hanton	42.2
14	12	A Pringle	40.9
15	19	R Perry	40.2
16	15	M Skogh	39.4
17	16	J Toop	37.0
18	20	J Aquilina	33.9
19	17	C Burrows	32.1
20	18	A Lee	29.1
21	24	J Gravatt	27.1
	21	J Hawke	27.1
23	34	I Ackland	26.6
24	33	S Rolls	26.5
25	31	J Tilston	25.5
26	23	L Thomson	25.1
27	26	J Brubert	24.5
	26	R Pearson	24.5
	26	R Sandie	24.5

30	22	E Hatton	23.4
31	85	J Marshall	22.6
32	25	J Beswick	22.1
33	29	M Frost	21.6
34	51	T Parker	21.3
	51	F Thomas	21.3
36	30	T Widdop	20.6
37	32	A Goodwin	19.7
38	39	A Rew	18.9
	35	P Manning	17.9
40	35	A Griffiths	17.9
41	37	C Brechin	17.8
42	46	M Cavanagh	17.6
	42	J Hughes	17.6
44	44	D Warner	17.3
45	40	R Christie	17.1
46	37	T Chase	16.6
47	41	T Maconie	16.3
48	43	S Kirby	15.4
49	47	A George	15.2
50	91	E Ronan	14.3
51	49	D Butler	14.1
52	48	H Akerman	12.8
53	53	C Waller	12.2
54	56	V Patel	10.3
	61	S Wyatt-Haines	10.0
	61	R Wyatt-Haines	10.0

	61	J Spencer	10.0
	61	M Mohammed	10.0
	61	K Kennerley	10.0
	60	H Jefferies	10.0
	58	E Hawke	10.0
62	58	A Bowden	10.0
63	45	W Enstone	9.3
64	57	M Baxter	8.9
65	68	J Malde	8.7
66	50	A Beverly	8.4
67	55	J Pearce-Smith	8.0
68	68	H Aveston	7.5
	68	S King	7.5
	68	J Savery	7.5
71	72	S Watson	7.4
	75	E Malone	7.3
	75	R Lebon	7.3
	75	B Kirk	7.3
	75	T Kiggell	7.3
	75	N Hillier	7.3
	75	A Hanton	7.3
	75	N Finney	7.3
	75	S Coffey	7.3
	75	C Butler	7.3
78	75	N Austin	7.3
	86	J Walter	7.1
	86	O Thompson	7.1

	86	R Sutcliffe	7.1
82	86	B Lowry	7.1
86	90	K Ward	5.3
87	93	N Edmonds	5.1
	93	J Goodwin	5.1
89	54	S Hodgson	4.8
	66	J Major	3.8
91	66	C Legget	3.8
92	73	P Bishop	3.4
	73	G McIntyre	3.4
94	91	N Wolstenholme	2.4
	95	M Hine	1.7
	95	K Henry	1.7
	95	J Furniss	1.7
	95	P Cohen	1.7
99	95	J Bristow	1.7
100	100	T Lewis	1.2
	100	S Maskell	1.2
	100	M Moger	1.2
	100	D Murray	1.2

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (WOOD CUP)

St Paul's School, 13 & 17th April 2013

The Old Paulines have successfully defended their National Club Championship again, scoring an ultimately comfortable win over the Executioners in the final and notching up their third win in succession.

As in the last couple of years, their strength in depth proved crucial, and even with a second team in the competition, the OPs' first team could call on a squad including an unrivalled combination of champions.

The four in the final were Charlie Brooks (National Doubles champion), Dan Tristao (U25 singles champion), Tom Dean (North of England doubles champion) and Matt Shaw (Schools' singles champion), while Ed Kay (U25 doubles champion) played in earlier rounds.

They scored a relatively easy win over the West of England in the quarter-finals, but faced a much stiffer challenge in the semi-finals, against an Alleyn Old Boys' side boosted by the addition of newly crowned national doubles champion Will Ellison. It was a match that went down to the wire, but in the end the Paulines' greater strength in depth saw them win through to the final by a margin of just over 20 points.

In the bottom half of draw, meanwhile, a withdrawal meant the Executioners had a bye into the semis, where they faced the Old Paulines' second team, who had breezed past Christ's Hospital in the quarter-finals.

From the off, the Executioners were in command, winning three of the four singles; and, although the Paulines started off well in the doubles, the greater experience of the Executioners (Tom Maconie, Marcus Bate, Chris Burrows and Andy Pringle) told, and they won through to clinch a place in the final for only the second time in the club's history.

It was such unexpected success that almost led a non-final, as the Executioners captain had not booked his team's services for the Sunday, when the final was planned – and three of the four weren't able to make it at short notice. However, in a sign of true sportsmanship, the Paulines agreed to play the final on the following Wednesday evening.

With players struggling to get to the courts after work, it was agreed that two singles matches would be played, followed by the doubles, and that the final singles would then be played only if necessary.

When the doubles started, it was the Executioners who had a slight lead, but after the first round of doubles, the OPs had taken the lead comfortably. Although each match (Burrows/Maconie v Brooks/Dean and Pringle/Dyke v Tristao/Shaw) was very keenly contested and featured some excellent play, the Paulines won every game.

It was the same story in the second round of doubles: close games that all went to the Paulines. That gave them a lead large enough to ensure the final singles were not necessary and secured them a third successive title in this competition. On top of their five successive wins in the Owers Trophy, it confirms their position as the strongest Rugby Fives-playing club in the country.

Scores:

Preliminary round: Alleyn Old Boys bt Old Tonbridgians; Old Paulines 2 bt Wessex; Christ's Hospital bt OMTs; West of England bt Exeter

Quarter-finals: Old Paulines 2 bt Christ's Hospital 121-31; Old Paulines 1 bt West of England 130-53; Alleyn Old Boys bt Derby Moor 126-68

Semi-finals: Old Paulines 1 bt Alleyn Old Boys 119-97; Executioners bt Old Paulines 2 101-59

Final: Old Paulines I bt Executioners 99-58

NATIONAL SCHOOL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Marlborough College, Wiltshire, 21st April 2013

This year's tournament was a fantastic mix of the familiar and the new, writes organiser Alex Smith. The familiar and impressive skills of the girls from Eastbourne College, Rugby School, Christ's Hospital and Marlborough College were joined by two new schools, Rossall and Aldenham. These new arrivals among the junior competitions certainly helped to make the tournament as fiercely contested as previous years. As ever, no school managed victory across all four age-groups, but the girls of Christ's Hospital again showed their dominance at the lower ages, claiming the "clean sweep" of junior singles titles, winning gold at U16, U14 and U13.

At senior level it was Eastbourne College who were dominant in singles and doubles, whereas Christ's Hospital and Rugby School shared the spoils at U16, with Christ's Hospital dominating the junior age groups at U14 and U13, fighting off strong challenges from Aldenham. The girls from Rossall and Aldenham did not go home empty-handed, winning a clutch of silver and bronze medals. These new participants were hugely committed and played hard in U13, U14 and U16 categories, and it was the three Aldenham girls who caused the most problems for the seeding committee with players reaching finals and pushing the winners close in two tournaments before claiming silver in the U13 and U16 age-groups.

In the senior (U18) singles, Tessa Mills of Eastbourne College proved why she has held the senior singles for the past three years, progressing from her group without losing a point. Her team-mate Izzy Why came ahead in the other group after a tough final game with Milly Browne from Rugby School. Tessa went on to come through her semi-final comfortably, whereas in the other semi an injured Izzy didn't have quite enough left to overcome the other strong Rugby player, Eliza Talbot-Williams. Tessa and Eliza then met in the final, with Tessa's power and accuracy being the decisive factor, meaning that Tessa finished as senior singles champion for the fourth year running.

In the U18 doubles, Tessa completed her dominance by pairing up with Izzy Why to take the senior title, against the strong Rugby pair of Eliza and Milly, with Marlborough College girls Emma Colebatch & Melinda Hudson finishing with bronze medals.

At the U16 singles it was Christ's Hospital, Rugby and Rossall who looked set to dominate, with their experienced top players all reaching the knock-out stages. However, Amy Flood from Aldenham, playing in her first Rugby Fives tournament, had other ideas. Amy won her singles group and, having fought off Kate Shelina from Rossall in the semi-final, took on Louise Matthias, previous U14 and U13 Singles champion, and last year's U16 semi-finalist. Newcomer Amy started in impressive fashion, and reached championship point first, her powerful serves and volleying discomfiting Louise. But Louise, aided by her tournament experience, fought back hard and with some very accurate hitting to Amy's left hand managed to take the title 12-11.

At U14 Christ's Hospital dominated singles and doubles. The four CH girls reaching the semi-finals, but this did not make the games any less competitive, as Beatrix Crinnion had a very narrow win in her semi against Phoebe Thornhill. Molly Todd finished with the gold against Beatrix, whilst Phoebe Thornhill took the bronze against Tamsin Denny after both girls had seen off opposition from the two novice Rugby girls. The Christ's Hospital pairs also took gold and silver in the doubles, with Rugby taking bronze.

In the U13 tournament, however, Christ's Hospital found the going harder against girls from Aldenham and Rossall. Abigail James and Emma Conway of Aldenham, playing their first Rugby fives, learnt quickly. Abigail reached the singles semi-final, where she reached game point against Stella Saunt-Hills of CH, but Abbie could not hold on. Stella went on to win gold against her team-mate Ines, whilst Abbie took bronze. The Rossall girls, also new to the game, fought hard in both tournaments, and took the bronze doubles. The girls from Aldenham finished with doubles silver, whilst Christ's Hospital claimed a third set of gold doubles medals, their coach Mr Hatton pleased to have won the Oxford Cup as well as the Cambridge.

The championship was kindly hosted by Marlborough College, and all participants are looking forward to next year.

Senior (U18) Singles

Group A: (1) Tessa Mills (Eastbourne), (2) E. Talbot-Williams (Rugby), (3) J. Urtasun (Marlborough), (4) M. Hudson (Marlborough)

Group B: (1) Izzy Why (Eastbourne), (2) M. Browne (Rugby), (3) S. Spink (Marlborough), (4) E. Colebatch (Marlborough)

Semi-finals: T. Mills bt M. Browne 15-0, E. Talbot-Williams bt I. Why 15-8.

Plate: M. Browne bt I. Why 15-10

Final: T. Mills bt E. Talbot-Williams 15-2

Senior (U18) Doubles

Round-robin: (1) Eastbourne I, (2) Rugby I, (3) Marlborough II

U16 Singles

Group A: (1) L. Mathias (Christ's Hospital), (2) K. Martin (Rugby), (3) J. Jones (Marlborough)

Group B: (1) A. Flood (Aldenham), (2) K. Broad (Rugby), (3) K. Valieva (Rossall)

Group C: (1) K. Shelina (Rossall), (2) M. Richards (Rugby), O. Walsh (Christ's Hospital),

Semi-final: Flood bt Shelina; Mathias bt Richards

Plate: Broad bt Martin

Final: L. Mathias bt A. Flood 12-11

U16 Doubles

Round-robin: (1) Rugby I, (2) Christ's Hospital I, (3) Rugby II, (4) Rossall I

U14 Singles

Group A: (1) M. Todd (Christ's Hospital), (2) P. Thornhill (Christ's Hospital), (3) K. Mehta (Rugby)

Group B: (1) B. Crinnion (Christ's Hospital), (2) T. Denny (Christ's Hospital), (3) H. Byrne (Rugby)

Semi-finals: M. Todd bt T. Denny 11-4, B. Crinnion bt P. Thornhill 12-11.

Plate: P. Thornhill bt T. Denny 11-5

Final: M. Todd bt B. Crinnion 11-7

U14 Doubles

Round-robin: (1) Christ's Hospital I, (2) Christ's Hospital II, (3) Rugby I,

U13 Singles

Group A: (1) I. Barnard-Masterson (Christ's Hospital), (2) A. James (Aldenham), (3) S. Pan (Rossall), (4) T. Walkden (Rossall)

Group B: (1) S. Saunt-Hills (Christ's Hospital), (2) A. Gned (Rossall), (3) E. Conway

(Aldenham), (4) S-A. Storm-Eckersley (Rossall)

Semi-finals: S. Saunt-Hills bt A. James 12-10, I. Barnard-Masterson bt A. Gned 11-4.

Plate: A. James bt E. Conway 11-3

Final: S. Saunt-Hills bt I. Barnard-Masterson 11-7

U13 Doubles

Round-robin: (1) Christ's Hospital I, (2) Aldenham, (3) Rossall I, (4) Rossall II

NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Marlborough College, Wiltshire, 27/28th April 2013

In one of the largest fields for an RFA tournament this season, it was the experience of defending champions Hamish Buchanan and Bruce Hanton that won through again in the 2013 National Veterans' Championships. Hamish beat Sam Roberts (playing in the championships for the first time) in the singles final, before teaming up with Bruce to beat Sam and his partner Andy Pringle (also making his debut in this event) in the doubles final.

(Full report to come – see below):

The 2013 Veterans' Tournament moved from the now-usual venue of Christ's Hospital to the superb courts at Marlborough College, writes organiser John Hawke. This relocation was firmly supported by the very strong Marlborough Town Fives Club, and also attracted players from the South West, who had not previously travelled the additional miles to Christ's. These new entrants, augmented by the crop of players who first qualified as Veterans this year, allowed us to achieve a record entry, with 24 singles players and 18 doubles pairs taking part in a gruelling weekend of Fives.

Unfortunately the change of location did catch out one player, who turned up at Christ's on Sunday morning, only to be mystified by the peace and quiet surrounding the Fives Courts. Luckily for his partner, who was waiting patiently in Wiltshire, Grem McIntyre (who had participated in the Masters event on the Saturday) stepped in as a last-minute replacement. We all look forward to seeing Angus (Hanton) at the correct venue next year!

The organiser works on the basis that every player, of whatever ability, should end each day regretting that they had played too much. This was accomplished by running three competitions on singles day, and four for the doubles on Sunday.

Star of the new qualifiers, if not of the whole show, was Andy Pringle. While not winning a trophy, he pushed the eventual Singles Cup winner Hamish Buchanan hard in his semi-final, squandering more than one match point in the second game, eventually to lose the closest of matches. He followed this up in the doubles, along with partner Sam Roberts, by reaching the final and eventually losing a very competitive match in two games.

As has become the norm in recent years, Hamish took home both Singles and Doubles cups, ably assisted in the doubles by the ever-young Bruce Hanton.

In addition to entering a string of players, the Marlborough club members organised a Saturday evening meal at the Wellington Arms, and even provided beds for some of the out-of-town participants. The meal, and the in-tournament catering (sourced and cooked by Stuart Kirby), aided in making it a memorable weekend. However, the size of the entry really brought the weekend alive. Every game was watched by a good number of people; the place was buzzing all

weekend.

We are all very grateful to Marlborough College for the loan of their fantastic Fives centre for the weekend, to the Marlborough club, especially Tom Hillman, for organising the Saturday evening festivities, and to all the other competitors. The organiser, for one, cannot wait for next year, and an even bigger entry.

Singles

1st round: J.Hawke bt P.Westwood 15-3, R.Christie bt T.Lewis 15-3, B.Nithsdale bt K.Kennerley 16-14, R.Sandie bt T.Hillman 15-3, J.Stubbs bt R.Thompson 15-1, N.Geere bt R.Clark 15-4, R.Warner bt P.Grant 15-12, T.Brown bt T.Fevyer 15-8

2nd round: H.Buchanan bt Hawke 15-1, T.Hamilton bt Christie 15-8, J.Walter bt Nithsdale 15-8, A.Pringle bt Sandie 15-2, S.Roberts bt Stubbs 15-1, S.Watson bt Geere 15-10, S.Kirby bt Warner 15-4, N.Roberts bt Brown 15-3

Quarter-finals: Buchanan bt Hamilton 11-1, 11-5; Pringle bt Walter 11-3, 11-0; S.Roberts bt Watson 11-1, 11-6; N.Roberts bt Kirby 7-11, 11-4, 11-0

Semi-finals: Buchanan bt Pringle 7-11, 12-11, 11-3; Roberts S bt Roberts N 11-5, 5-11, 11-7

Final: Buchanan bt Roberts S

Plate

1st round: Kennerley bt Hillman 15-1, Grant bt Stubbs 16-14, Christie bt Westwood 15-1, Nithsdale bt Thompson 15-0, Sandie bt Clark 15-4, Warner bt Fevyer 15-3, Brown bt Hawke 15-9

Quarter-finals: Kennerley bt Grant 15-3, Nithsdale bt Christie 16-14, Warner bt Sandie 15-8, Geere bt Brown 15-7

Semi-finals: Nithsdale bt Kennerley 15-4, Warner bt Geere 15-6

Final: Warner bt Nithsdale 15-8, 2-15, 16-14

Second Plate (Bottle of Beer)

1st round: Stubbs bt Hillman 15-8, Hawke bt Thompson 15-7

Semi-finals: Stubbs bt Hawke 15-12, Clark bt Westwood 15-2

Final: Stubbs bt Clark 15-12

Doubles

Cup Competition

Preliminary Round: Kennerley & Kirk bt Grant & Kiteley 15-1, Hawke & Westwood bt McIntyre & Stubbs 16-14

1st Round: Buchanan & Hanton bt Lewis & Watson 15-3, Lewis & Watson bt B Atkinson & Geere 15-5,

Hamilton & Warner bt Brown & Clark 15-7, Sutcliffe & Walter bt P Atkinson & Ryan 15-11, Enstone & N Roberts bt Fevyer & Thompson 15-2, Christie & Kirby bt Hillman & Jenkinson 15-7,

Nithsdale & Sandie bt Rayner & Sanders 15-7, Pringle & S Roberts bt Hawke & Westwood 15-1

Quarter Finals: Buchanan & Hanton bt Lewis & Watson 11-0, 11-5, Hamilton & Warner bt Sutcliffe & Walter 6-11, 11-9, 11-7, Enstone & N Roberts bt Christie & Kirby 11-9, 11-9, Pringle & S Roberts bt Nithsdale & Sandie 11-1, 11-3

Semi Finals: Buchanan & Hanton bt Hamilton & Warner 11-1, 11-0, Pringle & S Roberts bt Enstone & N Roberts 11-8, 11-5

Final: Buchanan & Hanton bt Pringle & S Roberts 16-15, 15-3

Plate

Preliminary: Grant & Kiteley bt Hillman & Jenkinson 15-2, Hawke & Westwood bt Fevyer & Thompson 15-3

Quarter Finals: P Atkinson & Ryan bt Kiteley & Grant 15-4, Brown & Clark bt McIntyre & Stubbs 15-8,

B Atkinson & Geere bt Rayner & Sanders 15-9, Kirk & Kennerley bt Hawke & Westwood 15-2

Semi Finals: P Atkinson & Ryan bt Brown & Clark 11-2, 11-4, Kirk & Kennerley bt B Atkinson & Ryan 11-9, 9-11, 11-5

Final: P Atkinson & Ryan bt Kirk & Kennerley 15-12, 5-15, 15-8

Bottle of Beer (Round Robin) - Winners: Kiteley & Grant

McIntyre & Stubbs bt Hawke & Westwood 15-13, Kiteley & Grant bt Hawke & Westwood 15-6, Hillman & Jenkinson bt Hawke & Westwood 15-11, Kiteley & Grant bt McIntyre & Stubbs 15-9, Kiteley & Grant bt Hillman & Jenkinson 15-12

Additional Competition for Quarter-Final losers (Round Robin) - Winners: Christie & Kirby

Christie & Kirby bt Nithsdale & Sandie 15-7, Christie & Kirby bt Sutcliffe & Walter 15-4, Sutcliffe & Walter bt Nithsdale & Sandie 15-9

Geographic: Venue bt A Hanton (CH)

NATIONAL MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Marlborough College, Wiltshire, 27th April 2013

Venturing into the arcane realms of Geriatric Fives may well be seen by the more level-headed exponents of our sport as something of a triumph of hope over experience, writes Bernard Atkinson. However, the manifold enticements, ranging from self-immolation to utter loss of self respect, were so well packaged by the immaculate organizer of the event, David Bawtree – he who will not see 75 again – that no less than five pairs rose to the challenge. For the Masters, this represents a seriously large entry and for this reason alone every entrant's name is recorded here; perhaps also lest some may not pass this way again!

The hopefuls, ranked in order of success from fifth to first as in all great TV 'Celeb' events, were McIntyre & Maltby, Akerman & Gardner, Atkinson & Bawtree, Rice & Boag and the winners were... East & Wilkinson. Credit goes, of course, to the winners but what tales of derring-do were repeated and yet re-repeated that evening in nursing homes from Canterbury to Halifax and from Tiverton to Portsmouth.

If, by now, Dear Reader, you have convinced yourself that the Masters is a freak show put on to massage the egos of men too old for other fame, think again; such a misconception does not chime with the quality of the Fives on display nor with the effort and intensity with which the ten men endowed their efforts. There is a very serious message here, too; competitive sport at high level is not something to be abandoned at the first opportunity – in the case of Fives, the game and all that surrounds it is too precious for that and the elderly 'hopefuls' must continue to demonstrate that there is life after 65. In any case, when we are too old for real sport, there is always golf!

Result:

1st: East & Wilkinson; 2nd: Rice & Boag; 3rd: Atkinson & Bawtree; 4th: Akerman & Gardner;
5th: McIntyre & Maltby

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Loretto School, Musselburgh, 4/5th May 2013

STOP PRESS

It was a good weekend for the England-based players who made the journey north for the Scottish Open Championships. Thanks to Will Ellison, Dan Tristao, Ed Hatton and Gareth Price, they filled all four slots in the singles semi-finals, and made up three of the four finalists in the doubles. Eventually, the singles title went to Tristao after another cracking three-gamer against Ellison, but Will gained some satisfaction by retaining the doubles title he won with John Hawke last year. However, this year he teamed up with Michael Kemp, to ensure that at least one title remained in Scottish hands.

(Full report to come – see below)

This year the Scottish Open Championships were held at Loretto School over the weekend of May 4-5th. The singles tournament saw two local players reaching the quarter-finals, with Richie Murby losing in two close games to Dan Tristao and Adam George defeated 11-9 in the deciding third game by Ed Hatton.

In the semi-finals, Will Ellison had a comfortable win, while Gareth Price, conqueror of the tournament organizer in the previous round, eventually ran out of steam, losing in the third game to Dan.

The final was a contest of breathtaking skill, athleticism and commitment worthy of a national competition, with both Dan and Will playing superbly and so evenly matched that the outcome was in doubt until the very end. If there had been seats available, the spectators would surely have been perched on the edge of them! After three hugely entertaining games, Dan eventually overcame defending champion Will in the final. Meanwhile, Richie Murby defeated Tim Widdop in the plate final.

In the doubles competition, Will made up for the disappointment of the previous day partnering local Caledonian club stalwart Mike Kemp to victory against President Warner and Gareth Price 14-16, 15-0, 15-9 in the final, completing the match just in time to catch the 4.30 train back to London.

Singles

1st round: T.Widdop bt E.Cumberlege 12-10, 11-6; A.George bt R.Warner 11-6, 11-3; G.Price bt M.Kemp 11-4, 11-0; R.Murby bt J.Hawke 11-2, 11-0

Quarter-finals: W.Ellison bt Widdop 11-1, 11-2; E.Hatton bt George 7-11, 11-6, 11-9; Price bt N.Roberts 11-8, 12-10; D.Tristao bt Murby 11-6, 11-9

Semi-finals: Ellison bt Hatton 11-1, 11-4; Tristao bt Price 8-11, 11-3, 11-1

Final: Tristao bt Ellison 11-8, 6-11, 11-6

Plate: Murby

Doubles

Pool A: Warner/Price bt Tristao/Hawke 15-12, 16-15, bt Roberts/Hodgson 13-15, 15-10, 15-8; Roberts/Hodgson bt Tristao/Hawke 15-13, 15-10

Pool B: Ellison/Kemp bt George/Hatton 15-10, 15-3, bt Murby/Widdop 15-3, 16-14; George/Hatton bt Murby/Widdop 15-4, 16-15

Final: Ellison/Kemp bt Warner/Price 14-16, 15-0, 15-9

Plate: George/Hatton

RFA RANKINGS

London, 8th May 2013

The RFA is delighted announce that the latest official – end-of-season – singles and doubles rankings have now been published; and, in line with our new practice, they have been published on the Fives Federation website. They take into account the recent Scottish Open, and see James Toop and Will Ellison finish on top of the singles and doubles rankings, respectively. A full report on the season’s changes in the lists will appear in the Annual Review, which should be published in August.

Going forward, the rankings will be updated only on the Federation website, and all RFA members are urged to register for that site, as it is the RFA’s intention to use Fivesonline as its sole presence online from the beginning of next season. For full details of the new rankings, please click on the links below.

Latest Singles positions

Current position shows position following: Scottish Championships, End of Season 2012-13

Previous rank shows position at Start of Season 2012-13

Singles

Current Position	Previous rank	Name	Points
1	1	J Toop	91.2
2	3	W Ellison	87.0
3	2	D Tristao	86.5
4	5	J Minta	61.8
5	4	M Cavanagh	60.6
6	8	D Grant	48.5
7	10	C Brooks	44.7
8	6	H Buchanan	34.5
9	13	E Kay	34.1
10	38	I Ackland	30.2

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Font color: Auto

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Font color: Auto

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 11 pt, Font color: Auto

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 11 pt, Font color: Auto

Current Position	Previous rank	Name	Points
11	7	L Thomson	25.7
12	15	T Maconie	24.6
13	16	T Dean	22.2
14	20	E Hatton	21.3
15	9	M Bate	21.2
16	14	C Burrows	19.8
	32	G Price	19.8
18	12	M Bowness	19.7
19	17	N Roberts	19.6
20	31	D Fox	19.3
21	11	M Skogh	17.8
22	26	R Murby	17.3
23	19	P Hanton	17.1
24	~	G Rees	16.9
25	~	S Rolls	15.8
26	28	T Widdop	14.8
27	53	S Wyatt-Haines	14.7
28	30	A Rew	14.2
29	18	J Major	13.7
30	22	D Butler	12.9
31	23	A George	12.1
32	~	J Brubert	12.0
33	23	N Hillier	10.4
34	37	A Pringle	10.0
	42	F Thomas	10.0
36	~	H Jefferies	9.8
37	29	S Fraser	9.2
38	36	J Aquilina	8.7
	25	A Lee	8.7
40	45	J Tilston	8.3
41	~	J Hughes	8.1
42	38	J Gravatt	7.1
	32	R Patel	7.1
44	50	T Parker	6.5
45	40	R Lamb	5.7
	~	N Patel	5.7
47	41	S Coffey	5.3
48	~	M Roberts	4.9

Current Position	Previous rank	Name	Points
49	~	J Malde	4.1
50	45	S King	4.0
51	47	N Austin	2.4
	~	G Barnes	2.4
	~	A Bowden	2.4
54	~	M Kemp	2.0
55	~	M Shaw	1.8
56	54	M Frost	1.4
57	49	A Goodwin	1.3
58	52	C Waller	1.0
59	~	J Wren	0.8

Doubles

Current position	Previous rank	Names	Points
1	1	W Ellison	96.4
2	7	C Brooks	88.9
3	3	D Tristao	84.3
4	2	H Buchanan	81.9
5	6	T Dean	80.0
6	5	D Grant	78.7
7	9	J Minta	71.8
8	14	G Price	54.8
9	18	E Kay	52.0
10	4	M Bate	50.0
11	8	H Mohammed	47.4
12	17	N Roberts	45.3
13	23	P Hanton	41.8
14	10	A Pringle	39.4

Current position	Previous rank	Names	Points
15	11	R Perry	38.7
	16	M Skogh	38.7
17	15	J Toop	36.1
18	~	M Kemp	34.6
19	~	J Aquilina	33.9
20	13	C Burrows	30.8
21	~	D Warner	30.0
22	12	A Lee	27.4
23	54	I Ackland	26.5
	25	J Gravatt	26.5
	19	E Hatton	26.5
	20	J Hawke	26.5
	~	S Rolls	26.5
28	~	J Tilston	25.5
29	~	J Brubert	24.5
	~	R Pearson	24.5
	~	R Sandie	24.5
	21	L Thomson	24.5
33	48	J Marshall	22.4
34	21	J Beswick	21.2
	31	M Frost	21.2
	54	T Parker	21.2
	54	F Thomas	21.2
38	47	A George	20.6
39	23	T Widdop	20.0
40	33	A Goodwin	19.4

Current position	Previous rank	Names	Points
41	54	A Rew	18.7
42	29	C Brechin	17.3
	34	M Cavanagh	17.3
	27	A Griffiths	17.3
	43	J Hughes	17.3
	27	P Manning	17.3
47	34	R Christie	16.6
48	29	T Chase	15.8
	32	T Maconie	15.8
50	38	S Kirby	15.0
51	~	D Butler	14.1
	54	E Ronan	14.1
53	38	H Akerman	12.2
	~	C Waller	12.2
55	~	A Bowden	10.0
	~	E Hawke	10.0
	34	S Hodgson	10.0
	~	H Jefferies	10.0
	~	K Kennerley	10.0
	~	M Mohammed	10.0
	43	V Patel	10.0
	~	J Spencer	10.0
	~	R Wyatt-Haines	10.0
	~	S Wyatt-Haines	10.0
65	48	M Baxter	8.7
	71	J Malde	8.7

Current position	Previous rank	Names	Points
67	54	N Austin	7.1
	48	H Aveston	7.1
	34	A Beverly	7.1
	54	C Butler	7.1
	54	S Coffey	7.1
	26	W Enstone	7.1
	54	N Finney	7.1
	54	A Hanton	7.1
	54	N Hillier	7.1
	54	T Kiggell	7.1
	48	S King	7.1
	54	B Kirk	7.1
	54	R Lebon	7.1
	~	B Lowry	7.1
	54	E Malone	7.1
	38	J Pearce-Smith	7.1
	48	J Savery	7.1
	~	R Sutcliffe	7.1
	~	O Thompson	7.1
	~	J Walter	7.1
	53	S Watson	7.1
88	71	N Edmonds	5.0
	71	J Goodwin	5.0
	70	K Ward	5.0

WINCHESTER FIVES MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Bradfield College, 12th May 2013

The Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles Championship was contested for the first time since 2010 and it was the organiser, Alex Steel, who emerged as the champion, partnering fellow Executioner Andy Pringle to the title with a win over Eastbourne's Tony Hamilton and Kathleen Briedenhann. It was a fine result, as Andy and Alex had actually lost heavily to the other pair in the round-robin section of the tournament, but a change in tactics helped them to a win over their tiring opponents. However, the Eastbourne College minibus didn't go home without some 'silverware' as Tessa Mills and Spencer Beal combined to win the Plate, beating Dick Warner and Sarah Greasley (playing in her first non-Eton Fives event) in an epic three-game match.

Scores

Round-Robin: 1st Hamilton/Briedenhann; 2nd Pringle/Steel; 3rd Beal/Mills; 4th Warner/Greasley; 5th Hoskins/Scott

Final: Pringle/Steel bt Hamilton/Briedenhann 15-13, 15-5

Plate: Beal/Mills

DERBY MOOR INVITATION TOURNAMENT

Denstone College, 30th June 2013

With the courts at Derby Moor unavailable because of lack of power, the 10th Derby Moor Invitation Doubles was played on three courts at Denstone College, writes Bob Dolby. Anthony Goodwin and Bob Sandie, both previous winners of this event, teamed up to take the pewterware in a final of huge competitiveness. In the end Anthony's power and Bob's steadiness were just too much for Jay, who was struggling with his back, and 17 year-old Rob Christie, playing in his first senior final.

Players had come from London, Manchester and Halifax to compete. For ex-Eton Fives player Gareth Tosh it was his first experience of tournament play; for Dick Warner it was an opportunity to play with the National U16 Singles and Doubles champion, Robert Whitehorn; for 14 year-old John Halligan it was a chance to learn from playing with the evergreen Tim Widdop. Stuart Kirby and Brian Kirk performed heroics playing in two different pairs, while former winner Hamish Buchanan and his partner Craig Baxter found themselves involved in the toughest match of the competition and went out in the second round, despite their seeding as top pair.

We were blessed all day with sunshine and enjoyed the traditional top-notch Derby Moor catering, which this year included melting Magnums. The only downside was the dire state of Dick's disk brakes, which necessitated the summoning of the AA man. When did a Fives tournament last end with the President of the RFA and his passenger, an 11-times National champion, riding home on a transporter?!

Scores

Preliminary round: Jai Singh & Richard Christie bt Laurence Taylor & Brian Kirk 15-7, 15-6

1st round: Tim Widdop & John Halligan bt Christie & Singh 15-7, 15-7; Gareth Tosh & Wayne Harrison bt Neil Reddy & Stuart Kirby 16-15, 15-5; Stuart Kirby & David Johnson bt Ashley

Timney & Bally Singh 15-3, 15-4; Charles Robinson & Brian Nithsdale bt Brian Kirk & John Hawke 15-16, 15-4, 15-12

2nd round: Widdop & Halligan bt Hamish Buchanan & Craig Baxter 15-13, 9-15, 16-14; Anthony Goodwin & Bob Sandie bt Tosh & Harrison 15-2, 15-0; Jay Gravatt & Rob Christie bt Kirby & Johnson 15-13, 15-7; Dick Warner & Robert Whitehorn bt Robinson & Nithsdale 15-0, 15-1

Semi-finals: Goodwin & Sandie bt Widdop & Halligan 15-7, 15-5; Gravatt & Christie bt Warner & Whitehorn 15-6, 15-8

Final: Goodwin & Sandie bt Gravatt & Christie 15-9, 13-15, 15-10

Plate: Richard Christie & Jai Singh

Festival Plate: Buchanan & Baxter

3rd Place play-off: Warner & Whitehorn
