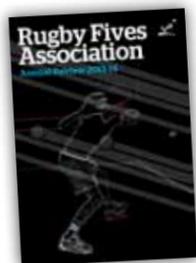


Rugby Fives Association



Annual Review 2013-14





Rugby Fives Association Annual Review 2013-14

- 3 President's welcome
- 4 Men's season review
- 6 Ladies' season review
- 7 Universities/Under 25s season review
- 8 The new Cambridge courts
- 9 Schools' season review
- 10 School reports
- 14 The earliest fives ball?
- 15 Bob Dolby on Plate competitions
- 19 RFA club report
- 20 Club reports
- 24 David Barnes on the history of Winchester Fives
- 27 Obituaries
- 28 End-of-season rankings
- 29 The 100 Club
- 30 RFA Charitable Trust
- 31 Results round-up



14

10

16

24



The Rugby Fives Association 2013-14

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A welcome from the President

Bob Dolby muses on the organisation behind the great range of RFA tournaments



Have you ever played in a tournament? Hopefully many times. Ever moaned about the organisation? Never, I bet. That's because of the superb work that our tournament

organisers do, and have done for years, in making our various championships around the country run like clockwork.

Okay, occasionally things run over a bit, but that's either because there's a massively long three-gamer in the first round or because one of our illustrious top seeds doesn't quite make his appearance on court on time – and putting on his gloves is then a ten-minute operation. Yes, some old-timers are taken to the limits of their physical reserves because one or two of our organisers like to fit in at least three plate competitions “to make sure everyone gets their money's worth,” and agreed, some of the draws are written out on paper best kept for what the French call “le petit coin”.

It has to be admitted that occasionally defending champions manage to leave the trophy in some far-flung corner of the country, or perhaps lesser mortals didn't quite get round to having the plate engraved. But who's going to complain? If the medals didn't manage to accompany the organiser to the event, who minds? Sweating floors? We'll switch to the next-door court for a few points – it's not the end of the world.

Long-standing organisers

Had you realised that one of our tournaments has been run since its inception by the same chap for 54 years? That two people calling it a day on the Winchester Fives scene this year have run their show for a half-century

between them. That the same faces have been master-minding our two major schoolboy tournaments for not far short of the same length of time. Umpire at the Varsity Match? Can't remember when it wasn't... That bloke at the Scottish and the other one in Manchester – did anyone do it before them? How about the School Girls' Championship, now in its fifth year? I wager it'll be the same chap running it – and brilliantly – in 2034. Jock Burnet ran the Cambridge Past versus Present for 40 years; that's beginning to look everyday now.

What happens when we need a new organiser for the North of England Tournament? The first person asked says “Yes, of course!” and a new reign starts. I don't need to name names: they are all great servants of Rugby Fives and of the RFA, and we all know them and treasure them dearly.

I don't need to name names: they are all great servants of Rugby Fives'

Tournaments in great shape

So, the NHS is a mess, the banking system has fallen to pieces, the Liberal Democrats are in disarray, my brother's wearing his Manchester United boxers at half mast, the price of beef in Saône-et-Loire is in free fall, Beeston's all tramworks – but the one thing I know is that our fives tournaments are in great shape and good hands. If you haven't played in one lately, enter yourself tout de suite and have fun. Give the organiser an incidental pat on the back or buy them a drink down the pub: he or she deserves it mightily.



TOP Fives on camera
CENTRE Mid-game relaxation
BOTTOM “Have they spelled my name correctly?”

Men's Season Review

Andy Pringle looks back on a season that brought a new balance of power in the game

This may be the season that goes down in history as the season when three became four. Again, Dan Tristao, Will Ellison and James Toop dominated the business end of tournaments, but this year a fourth name came into contention.

That name is Dan Grant, who figured in what was probably the most significant single result of the year, when he beat James Toop in the singles semi-finals at the West of England Open.

This, combined with Dan Tristao's eventual win in the tournament, meant that James lost his top spot in the official rankings and, as a result, his top seeding for the National Singles. This left Dan – who inherited the top seeding – to enjoy a relatively easy passage into the final, whereas James and Will fought out a tremendous semi-final. Will was the eventual winner, but the match went



ABOVE James Toop and John Minta at the West of England; Old Paulines with the Wood Cup

to three games, and he only won 16-15 in the third after saving several match points.

This left Dan much the fresher in the final and he duly won the title – his first national singles title and the first title won by an Old Pauline since 1969.

Look further down the results, and you'll see that Dan Grant was already starting to make his mark in this tournament. Fresh from taking his third BUCS singles title, he upset the seedings to beat former champion Matt Cavanagh in the quarter-finals.

At January's North West Open Dan reached the semi-finals, only for James to exact revenge for his Clifton defeat. However, in the North of England and Scottish Championships, he reached the final. He may have finished as runner-up both times, but the Loretto result was particularly impressive, as he beat Will Ellison in the semis.

All this suggests that next season



LEFT Will Ellison and Charlie Brooks celebrate the National Doubles
BELOW National Singles finalists Tristao and Ellison



'Next season could see a proper four-way challenge at the top of the men's game'

could see the proper four-way challenge at the top of the men's game we've been so keen on for so long.

What's also promising is the fine crop of young players moving up in the rankings. The charge is spearheaded by Ed Kay, now a top 10 ranked player, but the likes of Matt Shaw, David Butler and Sam Rolls aren't far behind.

If the story of the year's singles titles was of domination by just two players, it was a very different story in the doubles. Just as in the previous season, we saw a multitude of winners at the major regional events – Dan Grant in the South West, Dan Tristao in London, Hamish Buchanan in Yorkshire, Tom Dean in the North of England and John Minta in the North West. However, all these players had one thing in common: they were paired with Will Ellison.

It's a mark of Will's ability and his versatility that although he won six major titles – including the National Doubles title with Charlie Brooks – he never won more than one with any single partner.

What's more, in the two regional championships where Will didn't take the title – the West of England and Scottish Championships – he was runner-up. In Clifton, the winners were Dan Grant and Dan Tristao, while Ed Hatton and Adam George took the spoils in Loretto.

The other thing such results show is

that it's no longer true to say that doubles is a game for the more experienced player. The thick ends of most tournaments were dominated by relatively younger players.

We've seen good performances from Ed Kay (semi-finalist in the National Doubles championship), Julian Aquilina (semis in the North of England), Jay Gravatt (semis in Durham and Giggleswick) and David Butler (also a semi-finalist in Giggleswick).

The most successful of the 'old guard' have again been Hamish Buchanan and John Minta – each taking a title with Will this year, and notching up more than one other semi-final appearance – while Robin Perry can also look back on a good season, after reaching the semi-finals with Hamish in both the London and National Doubles Championships.

John also scored another notable first this year – his first Veterans' (over 45) singles title in his first year of qualification for the event. However, he couldn't go on to win the doubles with Brian Nithsdale; they finished as

runners-up to Hamish and Bruce Hanton, who took their fourth successive title in this event.

There was a new winner in the Vintage (over 55) tournament, too, as Ian Fuller took the singles title – ending a seven-year streak for Wayne Enstone in the process. The pair then teamed up to take the doubles title in emphatic fashion. Meanwhile, the Masters (over 65) Championship was retained in equally emphatic fashion by John East and Martin Wilkinson.

Finally, talking of emphatic wins, full credit must go to the Old Paulines, who again swept all before them in the club championships. They beat the Alleyn Old Boys to win the Owers Trophy, and the Wessex Club to win the National Club Championship, but it's notable that the club's second team reached the semi-finals of both tournaments. Surely, we can't be far from an all-Pauline final in an event?



West of England doubles finalists 2013, Will Ellison and Hamish Buchanan, Dan Grant and Dan Tristao

Ladies' Season Review

Alexandra Steel surveys a great season for ladies' fives

The ladies' game has grown substantially this year, with many more girls improving their skills as well as some newcomers displaying enjoyment and curiosity for the game.

The season started with the Ladies' Nationals at St Paul's where a good crowd of ladies and schoolgirls participated. Congratulations go to Kathleen Briedenhann on another great stretch of wins in singles and doubles with Tessa Mills. A special mention must also go to the Rossall girls, who sacrificed the first weekend of their Christmas holidays to take part in the competition. It was a fantastic day full of excellent play with further improvement from all who competed.

The Ladies' Winchester Nationals was a very good day; the end result was Kathleen winning the singles against Maddy Raynor in her first final. First-time partners Kathleen and Alexandra Steel took the doubles trophy. It also happened to be the last hurrah for Denise Hall-Wilton who has decided to step down from her position of organising the Ladies' Winchester Nationals. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her efforts in organising competitions over the years and all her efforts in promoting ladies' fives. She has been a stalwart for the RFA and we owe her great thanks.

Up-and-coming fives player Maddy Raynor has agreed to take on the organising role for the ladies' Winchester competition and I am sure we will still see Denise at future competitions supporting and taking photos. The final competition in our season was the mixed doubles, where all types of fives players showed their skills and love for the game in a thoroughly enjoyable, unpressured tournament. It was especially exciting for Alexandra Steel and Andy Pringle as they are the first pair in the



Denise Hall-Wilton has been a stalwart and we owe her great thanks'



history of the competition to win it two years in a row.

It has been a fantastic year and I am so happy to say that more ladies are joining the game, showing growing potential every year. Keep it up, ladies!

TOP Players at the Ladies' Nationals
CENTRE (L) Kathleen Briedenhann and Tessa Mills, ladies doubles champions; **(R)** players at the Ladies Winchester Fives Championships
BELOW Andy Pringle and Alexandra Steel, winners of the Winchester mixed doubles

Universities/Under 25s Review

Andy Pringle on the new talent emerging in the game of fives

Perhaps the greatest news for the future of our game is that we continue to go through a purple patch of fine young players – and there's no greater proof of that than the number of names on this page that also appear in the adult review on the previous pages.

For example, take this season's U25s and BUCS singles champions, Dan Tristao and Dan Grant respectively. Not only did both end the season in the top four of the national rankings, Dan T won the Open National Singles Championship, while the two combined to win the West of England Doubles Championship and were runners-up in the National Doubles.

These two may be the standard-bearers for young fives players, but they are far from alone, with the likes of Ed Kay (plate winner in the national singles, as well as runner-up in both the BUCS and U25s singles championships, and U25 doubles champion), Jacob Brubert (singles semi-finalist at the U25s and doubles champion at BUCS) and Matt Shaw (singles semi-finalist and doubles finalist at the U25s) also making their marks.

Also worth mentioning are Ben Beltrami and Oliver Arnold, who reached the doubles semi-finals at BUCS while still schoolboys at St Paul's. Former schools' champion David Butler and his fellow Durham student Julian Aquilina have also been consistently strong performers over the last 12 months.

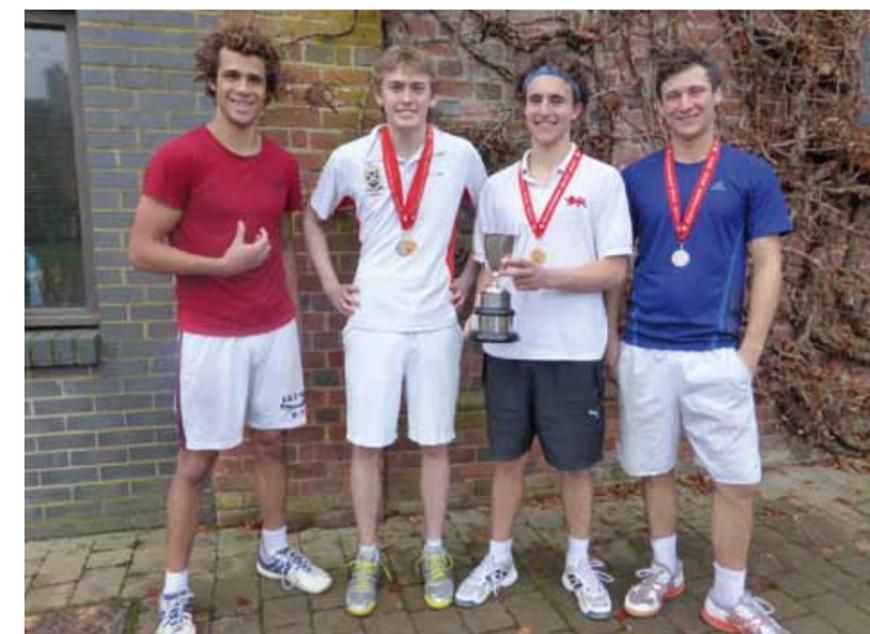
As in the last few years, Durham have had a very strong squad, but again it was Cambridge who could claim to be the strongest university. In the entirely unofficial 'team' championship at BUCS, calculated by Dave Hebden, the winners were Cambridge University, who supplied the doubles champions and the singles runner-up.

In second place were UCL, thanks chiefly to Dan Grant's singles title,

while Bristol beat Durham to take fourth place. Amazingly, in fifth place and tied with Oxford were St Paul's School, again a sure sign that excellent young players are continuing to emerge.

This was Cambridge's third successive 'title', and their fourth in five years, so it was perhaps no surprise that they went on to win the annual Varsity Match against Oxford in some style.

In the singles, Cambridge's Kay and Brubert had the better of Jefferies and Thomas respectively, while Malde at three and freshman Zach Brubert at four also recorded good wins to give the Light Blues a commanding lead at lunch. In the doubles, Jefferies and Thomas played excellent fives to best both Cambridge 1 and 2, but that was the summit of the Dark Blues' achievement, as all but one of the remaining 12 games went to Cambridge, meaning a fourth successive Varsity Match win for them.



TOP Henry Jefferies, Oxford captain, with David Barnes **CENTRE** Jacob Ader and Jack Malde, Doubles Plate winners, with Bernard Atkinson **BOTTOM** BUCS doubles finalists Inigo Ackland, Ed Kay, Jacob Brubert and Sam Rolls

The New Cambridge Courts

Bob Dolby celebrates the building of brand new courts in Cambridge



Rob Mathias serving to Jack Maide on the new Cambridge courts (inset)

In 1995, Cambridge's fives courts at Portugal Place were demolished and it was promised that replacement courts could one day be incorporated in the new University sports centre. In 2012, the University of Cambridge began to build the West Cambridge Sports Centre, and Director of Sport, Tony Lemons, informed the presidents of the Cambridge Rugby and Eton Fives Clubs that there was a space for new courts, if the clubs could raise the money to fit the space out.

Estimates put the figure for three Rugby Fives and three Eton Fives courts at between £825,000 and £850,000. The President of the RFA, Bob Dolby, and his counterpart at the Eton Fives Association, Rodney Knight, set about raising the money, which needed to be in place by August 2013.

The Club appealed initially to various bodies: the Cambridge University Fives and Rackets Association, the Jesters Club, the Rugby Fives Association Charitable Trust and the Newby Trust, all of whom gave generously. Subsequent appeals were made to past players of Rugby Fives at Cambridge (known as Sparrows) and Oxford



'In just six months, the money was raised'

University; to individual members of the Jesters Club and of the Rugby Fives Association. In just six months, the money was raised.

For a history of the new courts go to <http://www.cu-sparrows.net/history/constructing-the-new-courts>

In February 2014, honours boards were installed, recording all Cambridge players since 1925 and a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the role played in Cambridge fives by Jock Burnet from 1949-89. RFA President Bob Dolby – also President of Cambridge University Rugby Fives – dubbed the area of the courts 'New Portugal Place'.

Fives on air!

An interview on Cambridge Radio by Cambridge Captain Jacob Brubert

"Move over Hull-Arsenal FA Cup Final, there's Fives to be had!" On a delightfully sunny May weekend, Chris Berrrow of the Saturday Sport programme on BBC Cambridge Radio thought he'd introduce his listeners to the pleasures of Rugby Fives. As captain of Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club, I was invited down to the studio to liven up the final cup game of the professional football season and educate his radio listeners on a sport with more action and a little less diving!

Chris had spotted the signs to the new courts at the Cambridge Sports Centre and took to his radio slot to find out some more about the game. As Paloma Faith faded out, we got down to clearing up the differences between Rugby and Eton Fives. Chris was well prepared with questions about the scoring (like squash but 'backwards'), serving (certainly easier seen than explained), and the skills required to succeed.

After an informal advert for anyone to turn up and have a go, we finished with some playful banter about the results of the Cambridge team. The interview is stored for posterity with our resident archivists... who knows which attentive commuter might have been inspired!

Schools Season Review 2013-14

The President looks back on a year of flourishing schools fives

There are now three successful regional tournaments – the Midlands Schools Championships, the South East Regional and the Colquhoun Trophy for schools in the South West.

The Midlands Schools Championships featured players from five schools this year, and were played at Bedford School and Bedford Modern – the U15 category at Bedford, while the U18 took place at BMS. The U18 category was dominated by Derby Moor Juniors, while the U15 section proved to be a happy hunting ground for both Rugby and Bedford Modern.

The South East Regional, in its third year, was played at Whitgift and also featured five schools. Eastbourne and Tonbridge dominated the U18 draw and Whitgift the U16. 2014 was the fifth year of the Colquhoun Trophy, with King's Bruton entering the competition for the first time, joining Marlborough, Malvern, Blundell's and Sherborne. Every school featured in a main or plate final. A girls' competition featured players from three of the schools.

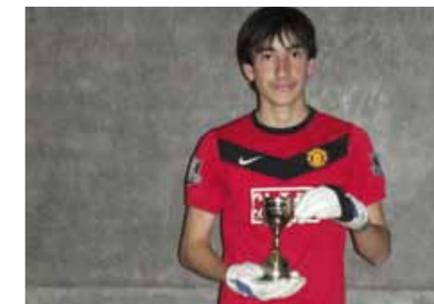
In January a healthy entry of 72 boys from 11 schools took part in the West of England Schools competition. As expected, players from St Paul's dominated, winning all the main trophies and two of the plates. Despite this there were encouraging performances from Derby Moor, Blundell's and Winchester players, including a superb match in the U16 doubles final – St Paul's eventually beating Derby Moor in three games.

March saw the National U13 Championships at St Paul's. Blundell's and Alleyn's emerged as the strongest groups while a lone representative of Sedbergh bravely won the singles silver medal.

High levels of smog in London in March affected the National Schools Championships at St Paul's. The school closed the courts for two days, and the

U14 competition was postponed to the autumn as a result. The other competitors were admirable in their response, playing the tournament over two days. In the end the home players dominated, winning all the major titles. There were, however, impressive performances in the plate competitions by players from Whitgift, Merchant Taylors' and Derby Moor.

We're losing some very fine players from schools fives this year and look forward to seeing the likes of Ben



'One of my wishes is to see more opportunities for girls to compete'

Beltrami, Ollie Arnold, Sam Wyatt-Haines, Ben Ashraf, Marcus Hunter and Robert Christie at senior level next year. Exciting players like Tom Watkinson, Robert Whitehorn, Sid Bhushan, Harveer Mahajan, Jai Singh, Charlie Mabbutt and Jussi Grut will take up the challenge in the U18s.

The season ended with the National Girls' Championships at Marlborough. This year saw the highest ever number entering and the highest standard of fives so far. One of my wishes is to see more chances for girls to compete, hence the first Lady's Cup at Cambridge in October. Schoolgirls, recent leavers and students will be able to pair up with players of either sex in a President's Cup-style competition.

Finally, our excellent band of coaches, masters- and mistresses-in-charge of fives ensure players get plenty of opportunity to test their skills against other schools and on courts different from their own. The RFA's warm thanks go to them.



FROM TOP Beltrami and Arnold of St Paul's; James Attwood of Bedford Modern School; Bedford & Zhang from Malvern, National Girls U18 Doubles champions; Byron Knowles of Blundell's, National U13 Singles champion

Schools' season 2013-14

Individual schools report on their fives seasons over the last year

Alleyn's School

Alleyn's enjoyed a successful season, winning eight out of 10 matches in the Lent term. Several players played in the West of England Schools' Championships. Julian Hanton and Ben Kirwan both made the quarter-finals of the singles and doubles. Julian also made the U16 plate final at the National Schools' Championships.

At the National U13s Championships, Alex Cochrane and William Hirth reached the singles semi-finals, and paired up to reach the doubles final.

A squad of sixteen Year 7s has emerged, and the "Fuller" Cup was introduced as a new U12s tournament.

There was a notable moment for Alleyn's this season with the retirement of Ian Fuller after 11 years. The school would like to express its thanks to Ian for his outstanding work and commitment to fives at Alleyn's.

Bedford Modern School

Fives at Bedford Modern has continued to flourish with coaching on Tuesdays and practice on Fridays after school. There are about 20 regulars, with many of those from Year 9. During the Easter term there were three fixtures against other schools and two competitions. In the school fixtures, the juniors were strong but the seniors

often found the standard tough. James Attwood played extremely well to win the U15 cup in the Midlands Regional Schools competition and Joe Sumner and Oliver Colbert won the plate. James Attwood and Jake Rees-Bidder represented the school in the U16 National finals held at St Paul's School.

Blundell's School

There has been enormous interest in fives at Blundell's, with more than 100 regular players.

The senior boys beat the RFA but lost against the Executioners and narrowly against Exeter and Tiverton. A superb match against the Old Blundellians resulted in a narrow victory for the first time in many years.

Sam Wyatt-Haines reaching the West of England open singles final and Tobias Francis and Ben Clarke winning the U16 doubles plate were highlights.

At the National U13 Championships, Byron Knowles won the singles, and paired with Will Hall-Tompkin to win the doubles. George Vickery and Jake Le Gassick won the doubles plate.

Our Level 1 coaches were involved with the junior players. We're evolving a system of peer coaching and intend to start preparing some U16s for Level 1 in the autumn.

Bedford School

It's been a tough year for both Bedford junior and senior school teams. Our enthusiastic players suffered heavy defeats in many regular fixtures against Derby Moor, Rugby, Whitgift, St Paul's, MTS and the RFA. However, wins against Bedford Modern and the Jesters stemmed the tide, and the highlight of the year was a victory against Cambridge University on their new courts. In the Midlands tournament the pairing of Gupta and Shah did well to win the U18 Plate doubles. Senior and junior school competitions proved popular again this year and will hopefully encourage new players for next year.



Midlands plate winners Shah and Gupta with their trophy

Christ's Hospital

Highlights of the pupils' season at Christ's Hospital were the excellent results and growing size of the U15 squad. It included eight boys and three girls, and they won the majority of their matches.

The seniors found results harder to come by, but there was a good win for the U16s against Tonbridge and the 2nd and 3rd teams against Dulwich College.



The CH girls shone at the National Girls' Championships in Marlborough

The Keeley-Denison Cup proved a competitive affair and provided the first ever female winner: girls' captain Coralie Strong, playing with Stephen Walsh.

The best result came at the end of April, when the girls again performed excellently at the National Girls' Fives Championships at Marlborough College.

They won two out of the six categories entered and performed very well in the other age groups.

Bradfield College

This has been a year of rebuild, with only a few Sixth Formers playing, but a keen and competent core have continued to play in their second year and an equally dedicated group have taken up the game in their first year. Matches have brought mixed results but valuable experience and the hope is that next season will see fives played across all three junior year groups for the first time in a while. David Barnes has once again provided invaluable support and guidance and is due our sincere thanks.

Eastbourne College

This was a more successful season than expected when term began with just three senior players and two U16s. Fortunately, when Joe Leale-Green could be persuaded away from 2nd XI football, the 1sts were a useful team. The season began with a win against St Dunstan's, but the team wasn't at full strength for the loss at Tonbridge. A form of revenge was gained when Joe won the South-East singles and paired with Philipp Teterin to win the doubles. This event was rounded off by George Williams and Ed Towey winning the U16 doubles plate.

The juniors enjoyed mixed fortunes. There's a number of keen U15 players, and a small but promising group at U14 level. The U14s won their very first match against St Dunstan's. Although they lost their other four matches, they were competitive, improved noticeably over the season and could do well in the future.



L-R; Oli Thompson, Philipp Teterin, Joe Leale-Green and Danil Lopukhov

Derby Moor Juniors

As well as friendlies, with one highlight a 111-111 tie with Rugby U16s, the main emphasis is on tournaments. In November, Rob Whitehorn and Robert Christie made the semi-finals of the Schools Winchester doubles and John Halligan and Jai Singh won the plate. Rob and Robert later successfully defended their Midlands Schools U18 doubles title, with Robert also defending his singles title in a final against Rob. At the same tournament Hasan Rehman and Adam Ali were runners-up in the U15 doubles.

In January 12 players went to the West of England Schools, where Rob won the U18 singles plate and John was runner-up in both the U16 singles and, with Bally Singh, the U16 doubles. The latter two had high hopes for the Nationals but came up against tough players from St Paul's in the quarter-finals. Robert Whitehorn lived up to his seeding to reach the semi-finals of the U18s, where he lost to the eventual winner. Jai excelled himself in winning the U18 singles plate, a first for Derby Moor Juniors. With numbers at our Saturday and Sunday morning Junior Club sessions growing we look forward to more success next year.

Malvern College

This has been a very successful year for Malvern with several recent firsts. The good crop of U16s went from strength to strength, starting with the West of England tournament in January. This experience galvanised them for the term ahead and highlights included

Oundle School

Boys and girls continue to play spirited fives on the Pickard Courts at Oundle and the Club continues to develop positively.

Particular thanks go to Oliver Glover and Daniel Bateson, who have invested much time supporting the development of younger players within the Club. Seniors and U15s greatly enjoyed taking part in the Midlands Fives tournament hosted by Bedford and Bedford Modern, and our U16s continued to develop their game at this year's National Schools tournament.

a tour to Bedford, Oundle, KCS Wimbledon and St Paul's with nine pupils. The fun of playing away from home was integral to the success of the trip and the U16s finished the weekend undefeated. Lucas Nelson, who only started the game in September, won the colts Colquhoun Trophy. There were victories at the Girls' Nationals for Shinan Zhang in the U18 singles, and the U18 doubles with Cassie Bedford. Amelia Law and Maggie Wong brought home both U16 plates. There have been successful internal house competitions and the fixture list during the year is growing.

Merchant Taylors' School

This year has been marked with some real successes for Merchant Taylors' fives. The senior side played a large number of games as well as facing five adult sides, including both Oxford and Cambridge University. In fact, a win on the new courts at Cambridge was one of the highlights of the year.

This was also the first year for some time that MTS took part in the West of England tournament and the boys enjoyed the chance to warm up for the season proper. Player numbers continued to increase, particularly at U15 level where many more boys were playing than could make the team. This made for a very strong, and unbeaten, side.

The Nationals was a nice way to finish the year. Captain Luke Brady played excellently to finally win a trophy in the form of the doubles plate with his partner Elliot Tebboth.



Oundle School Fives Club 2014

Merchiston Castle

Tom Sole and Douglas Crawford made up the first pair and dominated the Scottish schools circuit. They were desperate to win back the Edinburgh Schools' Fives Championships they lost last year and beat a strong Edinburgh Academy pair in a tight final – the eighth time Merchiston has won in nine years.

Tom also won the 'Edinburgh Schools' Select Six', which is made up of the best schoolboys in Scotland.

The U16s had good season, where Benn Morris, Lewis Baird, Angus Hinton and William Richardson made up the two pairs. Despite injuries and other commitments, Benn and Lewis reached the Edinburgh Schools' Colts final, narrowly losing to an excellent Edinburgh Academy. The Juniors made impressive strides and were unbeaten on the Scottish Schools circuit.

Pilgrims' School

It's been another excellent year of fives at Pilgrims'. The Autumn term was one of happy enthusiasm as the 16 club members, some new, some old hands, learned and relearned, listened and improved, slowly. Lent was the time for some Year 5s to try fives for the first time, and for matches. Blundell's, Alleyn's and Merchant Taylors' were welcomed and the camaraderie made the results a trifling distraction. At the U13 Nationals all Pilgrims played well, were involved in some cracking matches, and almost won some pots. Most importantly, the game is thriving and the boys are happy. We are, as ever, grateful to our hosts, Winchester College and coach Giles Munn.

Sedbergh School

The Sedbergh courts have had plenty of use this year – the boys' squad was joined by an enthusiastic group of girls. The boys tasted a blend of victory and defeat during the season, which culminated in an unexceptional, though transitional, showing at the National Schools tournament. The girls performed well at the National Championships, as well as entering the Ladies' Winchester tournament, and will be a force to be reckoned with next year.



Sedbergh girls fives is going from strength to strength

Rugby School

It's been another successful year for fives at Rugby, with George Romain making it to the U16 Nationals quarter finals, while Marcus Hunter reached the Open plate final. At the National School Girls' Championships, three girls made the quarter finals of the U16 and senior competitions. Kirsty Martin became the U16 National champion and, with partner Nush Mehta, U16 doubles champion. The two Millies, Browne and Richards, lost in the senior final.



U16 National School Girls' doubles champions, Nush Mehta and Kirsty Martin

Rossall School

Fives at Rossall has continued to go from strength to strength, with the students at Rossall participating in numerous competitions. The season started off with the Rossall Championships, with a large entry in the Open competitions, with two of the Rossall pairs reaching the semi-finals. The boys competed in fixtures against Sedbergh School, an American-style tournament after the Yorkshire Doubles Open, and this year the National Schools, with entries in the U13, U16 and Open competitions. The girls have also had a fixture against Sedbergh School and for most this was their first taste of having a back wall.

The girls represented Rossall at the Ladies' National Rugby Fives Championships, Ladies' Winchester Fives Championships and the Schoolgirls' Championships. Rossall again saw success here, with Grace Gordon winning bronze in the U13 singles competition and Grace and

Isabelle Woodman winning bronze in the U13 doubles competition.

This year the students at Rossall have taken on a new sport, Wallball. They embraced the game head on, entering the UK Wallball Championships – a steep learning curve for all. The students attended a workshop run by Vladislav Klym (USA, ranked in the Top 10), and this proved to pay off as Anna Hansen dominated her final, winning 15-0 to become U18 Girls Champion. The future of fives at Rossall looks exciting with some promising students playing, from age 10 to 18. Keep it up, Rossall! "Floreat Rossallia".

Sherborne School

It has been another enjoyable term of fives here at Sherborne. Hosting the West of England Schools' Championships and the Colquhoun Trophy allowed a number of boys to take part in larger competitions. A highlight of the term was Henry Newman reaching the final of the senior competition in the latter of these, but for the second year running he couldn't quite achieve the final victory. The seniors played more fixtures this season than in recent years and won three of their matches against a variety of opposition. This bodes well for the future, with all of them having another year left at school.

The juniors fared less well in their matches, but some enthusiastic players enjoyed the challenges they faced. They lost graciously and learnt much from the experience. Overall it has been a positive term of fives on the Sherborne courts.

St Dunstan's College

This was always going to be a tough year due to the loss of experienced players from last year, but there were some very good performances. A ladder competition got new blood involved but attempts continue to encourage pupils into the game.

The 1st IV have had a building year, but three victories and four losses against school opposition was not a bad return. The RFA game, despite losing, showed promise and there

St Paul's School

The U16s and seniors had a very successful year, winning all nine trophies in the three school tournaments, while the U14s showed great promise. First pair of Ben Beltrami and Ollie Arnold were outstanding. They were undefeated in school matches and beat the top pairs from Oxford, Cambridge and Durham universities.

Harveer Mahajan won the West of England U16 and National Schools singles titles, and paired with Lars Heidrich to take the West of England doubles. They also beat Nico Hughes and Dom Shaw in the National Schools doubles final.

Ben Beltrami won the Open singles easily, while in the doubles, he and Ollie won the tournament without conceding a point, beating Ben Ashraf and Tristen McFarlane in the final. Ben A showed great bravery by ignoring a broken thumb, and playing with his hand in a brace. It was a hugely entertaining match, and fitting end to the season.



St Paul's players with their trophy haul from the National Schools Championships

was hope of a result at Eastbourne. It was not to be. However, things turned around with a win against Christ's Hospital and a rare victory against Alleyn's. Good performances from Tom Owen and Andy Rogers saw a tie against St Paul's in the singles, but the doubles was a step too far.

The 2nd IV managed a win over Alleyn's but that was to be their only success. The one 3rd IV match against Tonbridge was a great game enjoyed by all, despite the loss by one point. The U15s started well with a win over Eastbourne followed by another against Christ's Hospital, with Leon Crowley and Harry Davison leading the way.

U14 squad is always a work in progress and so it showed on court. Whilst there were no overall victories there were good performances from David Evans, Louis Syed Anderson, Sean Grilli, Andrew Coulter and Lesley Gordinski. Both U15s and U14s will improve with more court time. Gratitude is due to all staff and pupils for their endeavours on and off court.

Tonbridge School

2014 was, in many ways, a vintage year for Tonbridge fives. A highlight of Tonbridge fives is the Tuesday afternoon league sessions when all 65 or so boys play in one of seven leagues with a system of promotion and relegation. The competition between up and coming younger players and less strong but determined older ones creates just the right atmosphere.

This has transferred into some good results, with U15B, U16B, 2nd and 1st IVs all unbeaten against other schools, although admittedly they didn't always play the top teams at opposing schools. There was some success in the South East Regionals, with Dan Hutt and Matt Scarsi narrowly losing the senior doubles final and Mide Segun and Ollie Martyn winning the plate. Another highlight was our Gentlemen's team who, after five years of playing fives enthusiastically but very averagely, played some specially arranged matches thanks to KCS, CH and St Dunstan's. The joy on those boys' faces at representing the school for just about the first time in any sport was fantastic to see and a fitting way to mark Ian Jackson's 25 years of fives at Tonbridge.

Whitgift School

With four courts back in action this season was a good one in most respects. The usual circuit was played, with a fair few wins, though we did struggle more at the U18 level. The U16 squad were almost undefeated and only St Paul's and Alleyn's managed to beat this extremely competent team.

The SE regionals were held at Whitgift in the first week of February, and we won both the U16 singles and doubles, as well as the singles plate. This was despite the numerous downpours, and those who know Whitgift's courts will understand the problem with a leaky roof! However, Tonbridge brought 20-odd towels and saved the day.

The season concluded with two cups at the Nationals, the U16 plate singles (Jussi Grut) and doubles (Jussi Grut and Charlie Mabbutt). In all, a most pleasing season, and it is encouraging to see a strong U14 team in the making, and hopefully a very strong U18 team for the next two years.

Winchester College

The seniors had a quiet season, with only five matches, but the juniors more than made up for it and ended the season winning 20 of 25 matches.

Prior to injury, the 1st pair of Chua and Watkinson produced the first highlight of the year, taking runner-up spot in the schools West of England Open Doubles. It was from this point that the U15 and U14 teams took on the mantle of fives at Winchester and did so with enthusiasm, playing 19 matches. The U15As and U14As enjoyed unbeaten seasons, winning all 11 matches including against strong teams from Alleyn's and St Paul's. Unfortunately the postponement of the U14 Nationals meant the U14s didn't get to see if they could carry on their success into a tournament. Luckily some of the U15s did, and Kullavanijaya was rewarded with a quarter-final against the eventual winner of the National U16 singles, and was the only player to take a game from him. Watkinson continued to build on his runner-up spot in last year's National Colts by reaching the National Open singles semi final.

Overall it's been a good season which points to a potentially bright future.

The earliest fives ball ever?

Douglas Rice delves into the history of a fascinating discovery from Devon

In 2009 a familiar yet unusual object was handed in to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. It had been found in old thatch in a cottage at Morchard Bishop, Devon, and appeared to be a ball suitable for games-playing.

Analysis showed the ball was made of leather, stitched and stuffed with sheep's fleece, and a date of the 16th century was suggested. Comparison with other Scottish finds of balls used in caich and with modern fives balls led to the conclusion that the artefact was indeed probably used for some form of fives or handball.

Fives was originally a game played bare-handed against the walls of churches, and the Synod of Exeter banned such sports in 1287 because of the damage they caused. Despite this, fives continued to be widely popular, particularly in the West Country. Queen Elizabeth I, on a visit to Elvetham in Hampshire in 1591, enjoyed watching the game played by 10 of the Earl of Hertford's servants, 'all Somersetshiremen'. In the mid-18th century, fives was especially popular in Somerset and Dorset. Churchwardens had to regularly take action to counteract fives playing, or to limit the damage it caused to windows. In 1754, the Bishop of Bath and Wells ordered that fives should cease to be played against church towers.

Specially built walls were constructed away from the churches, often in inn yards; in Somerset several fives walls – tall free-standing stone or brick structures – still exist. One easily-accessed example stands in the car park of the Lethbridge Arms at Bishops Lydeard in Somerset (where there is also a Fives Bar); others are at Shepton Beauchamp, South Petherton, Stoke sub Hamdon, Hinton St George, North Cheriton and Otterhampton.

In view of the ball's discovery, early references to fives in Devon might be



The oldest ball?

Photo by Lauren Palmer, courtesy of RAMM



Fives wall at North Cheriton, Somerset

'Churchwardens had to take action to limit the damage fives caused'

expected. The game was adopted at Blundell's School long before the Somerset walls were built: one of the earliest references to fives being played at a school is the intriguing one of 1649, when, for political reasons, the Assizes that year were held in Tiverton rather than Exeter, where 'Lord Chief Baron Wild...sat in the fives-place, in the school-house green'.

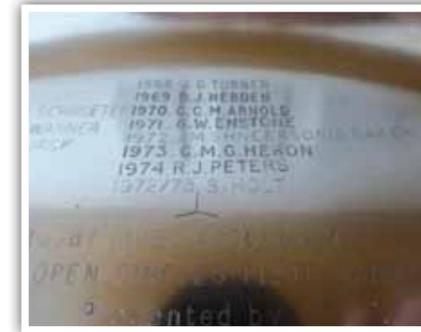
The village game declined in the 19th century, but it was taken up and formalised by public schools, which led to many varieties being played around the country, but eventually the games became largely standardised, forming the main three variants we enjoy today, based on the rules and courts at Rugby, Winchester and Eton.

One man's Plate...

Bob Dolby reflects on one of the game's beloved institutions

In May, Serena and Venus Williams were knocked out in the second round of the French Open at Roland Garros, and this set me wondering: what do tennis players do when they 'crash out' of a tournament, especially the ones who regularly get knocked out in the early rounds?

I suppose they collect their prize money and rely on their agent to get them a wild card for some far-flung tournament the following week to earn a bob or two. What do snooker players do when Ronnie O'Sullivan dumps them out in the first round at The Crucible? I guess they stow their cue carefully in the boot and head off up – or down – the M1 to whatever club they practise in eight hours a day. At least if you're a golfer and you miss the cut you've had a couple of rounds to make it worth the while.



'In the 1960s you'd get thumped and climb back on the bus home'

Then I remembered playing in the Public Schools Rugby Fives tournament, as it was then called, at Whitgift in the 1960s. There was no U16 competition; so, aged 15, you got thumped by some star like John Howe or Peter Mellor, who was so good he didn't bother to take his scarf off, let alone his tracksuit top, and you climbed back on the bus from Croydon to Dulwich for a miserable trip home. Good for the character perhaps, but not much fun and put your fives back six months.

A second chance
So when did it all change? When did some bright spark invent the plate competition? He or she ought to have a blue plaque affixed to an appropriate wall. I set David Barnes, our archivist extraordinaire, on the case.



TOP Ed Kay, Singles Plate at the Nationals; BOTTOM Tony Hamilton, Veterans Singles Plate, with John Hawke; RIGHT Old Derby Moor IV at the Owers Trophy



As a bit of a background, a plate competition is an extra, a bonus offered to you by the tournament organiser as compensation for being made to look silly by some young player in the first round of the singles or for being given a lesson in the doubles by a well drilled left-right partnership.

So – an hour or so later – you get to play a similarly unfortunate player or pair in the plate. If you're really unlucky it's a straight knockout, you

'In recent years the plate final has become the thing to be in'

lose once more, and all that is left is to go home. That's pretty rare these days, as you'll now either go into a second plate, or the plate is a round robin where you take on other players in several increasingly wearisome matches, for the points necessary to make the plate final.

In recent years the plate final has become the thing to be in, because of the sheer quality of the cast – a bit like the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival. You have your picture taken by the Fivesarazzi, you get a huge audience acclaiming your performance, and if you win the match you are awarded a palme d'or – well, actually a bronze medal – hung round your neck by some illustrious member of the RFA Board and receive a plate.



MAIN PHOTO Joshua Sumner and Oliver Colbert from Bedford Modern, U15 Midlands Doubles Plate winners
SMALL PHOTOS FROM TOP Luke Brady and Elliot Tebboth, from Merchant Taylors', U18 Doubles Plate winners at the Nationals; Michael Suddaby, U15 Midlands Singles Plate winner from Rugby; Jussi Grut, Colts Singles Plate winner at the Nationals from Whitgift

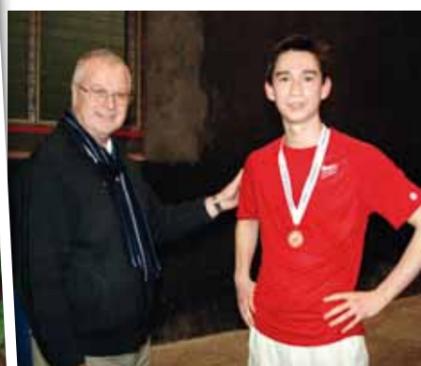
That's if you're lucky: because (a) there may not be one to award, no one having yet donated one for this particular tournament; or (b) it may have been left at home by last year's winner(s); or (c) last year's winner(s) may not be competing this year and no one thought to secure the return of the trophy. Even if you do get a plate, the engraving of winners' names may be two or three years out of date, so the price of catch-up engraving is your reward for success. That's fives.

Late origins

So, David discovered the first plate competitions took place, rightly, in the National Singles and National Doubles tournaments. The first ones were in 1968, some 40 years after those competitions started. Geoffrey Rimmer, a founder member of the RFA and donor of the President's Cup, presented the handsome silver salver for the doubles. David Gardner, whose contribution to the world of fives is of equal longevity and significance, donated a handsome stainless steel longboat for the singles, which has since acquired a stand with plaques recording recent winners.

If you think plates are for losers, remember that Wayne Enstone won the National Singles Plate in 1971 before going on to dominate the main tournament for many years.

In those days regional tournaments were in their infancy. It was some time before we find a regional plate competition occurring. According to David: "The RFA handbooks make no mention of plate competitions in regional championships until 1973, when the West of England Singles Plate was contested. The writer notes unkindly: 'In the Plate Final Guy Whiting beat Lionel Lawson 15-8, the latter seemingly affected by an overdose of refreshments.'"



MAIN PHOTO Amelia Law and Maggie Wong from Malvern, U16 Girls' Doubles Plate;
SMALL PHOTOS FROM TOP Dan Tristao and Keith Kennerley, Mate's Plate winners at President's Cup; Mark Kiteley and Stuart Kirby at the Derby Moor Doubles; Jules Pearce-Smith and John Minta at the Winchester Doubles; Chris Waller, West of England Singles Plate winner



'The first plate competitions took place in the National Singles and Doubles'

The next year, the doubles was endowed with a spoon rather than a plate. However, given that later reports on the West of England talk of spoons for both singles and doubles, one might conclude the object being competed for was a concept rather than anything solid. The 1974 doubles plate in question was won by David Hebblethwaite and Tony Owers. Ironically, though these two have since donated significant trophies to the game, there's still no actual plate for either the singles or the doubles in the West of England Championship, 40 years on.

Plate alternatives

Another major championship without a full set of silverware is the National Schools Championship. There is still no actual plate for either the U16 or U18 Doubles, nor for any of the U14 and U13 plate competitions. To quote David once more: "The National Schools' Championships, started in 1930, had to do without plates for a





TOP ROW: LEFT Charlie Mabbutt and Jussi Grut (Whitgift), U18 Plate at the Nationals; **CENTRE** Jai Singh and John Halligan (Derby Moor), U18 Winchester Doubles Plate; **RIGHT** Mark Kiteley and Tom Dean, the Love Mug; **BOTTOM ROW: LEFT** Robert Whitehorn and Anthony Goodwin, NW Open Plate; **CENTRE** Dick Warner and Dan Grant, Scottish Doubles Plate; **RIGHT** Stuart Kirby and Anthony Goodwin, SW Open Doubles Plate

long time. In 1992, a fine plate was presented for the Senior Singles in memory of Brian Griffiths, RFA President 1965–70, who devoted so much time and energy to running matches and championships before and after the War.”

There is also a goblet of unknown origin for the Colts Singles, with names dating back to 1988. The recently instituted National Girls Championship likewise has plate trophies (one of them of glass) for only three of the eight competitions.

It was during the late 1970s that the phenomenon of plate competitions took hold, although ‘plate’ was interpreted loosely.

“Spoons were popular in the Heath Old Boys Doubles competitions from 1976, and that same year we read that ‘Plate competitions were held for the first time on an organised basis’ in the BUSF Championships,” says David.

There was no actual plate to be seen at either of these. Up in Manchester, however, a singles plate for what is now the North West Open was inaugurated as early as 1974 and the trophy was won by Mick Ayres. However, it took the Y Club another 37 years to produce a doubles plate – in memory of Fred Beswick.

‘Wooden spoons were handed out at the initial Derby Moor Invitation Doubles’

President’s peculiarities

As recently as the 2000s the trend towards the non-plate was being maintained: wooden spoons were handed out at the initial Derby Moor Invitation Doubles (with luck Grem McIntyre and Tim Widdop still have theirs), though in due course they were replaced by engraved boules, procured from a brocante in Mâcon. If you’re skilled enough to win the Scottish Doubles Plate there’s a magnificent wooden plate to be had: made from Scottish Elm and commissioned in 2008 by Alex Smith from a wood-turner in Sussex. This went down so well that Alex turned to him for the replacement of the Owers Trophy, one of the gems of our collection of silverware. The original Owers Trophy was a vase made of glass, but unfortunately it got... dropped!

But if you want the zany, then there’s

the President’s Cup. Yes, there is a cup for the winning pair, but for the 32 players who contest it each year there are three plate competitions: for the Mate’s Plate and the ‘T’ Pot, which comes complete with embroidered tea cosy, while the Love Mug is a pewter tankard with a lid and a base.

As David puts it: “These objects, the gifts of Tom and Joan Wood in 1978 and 1983, have been variously left on trains, abandoned in student digs, parked in parental attics and generally mistreated for 30 years or more. But they are still here and are competed for each year by fives players who wish they were fitter than they turn out to be on the day.”

John Hawke is trying hard in his running of the National Vintage Championship to match the physical demands made upon players by the President’s Cup, with several plate competitions. The ‘plate’ in question may well turn out to be a bottle of beer, appropriate if scant reward for the demands made upon the players’ physical powers.

So, there you are then. Plates, spoons, goblets, pots, bottles, vases and boules. Bless you, Geoffrey Rimmer. All we need now is for someone to donate that blue plaque.

RFA Club Report

Hamish Buchanan reports on the RFA Club matches in the 2013-14 season



A solid 24 matches were completed by the RFA Club this season, with 16 wins and seven losses. With five of these defeats against schoolboy teams, the future looks bright.

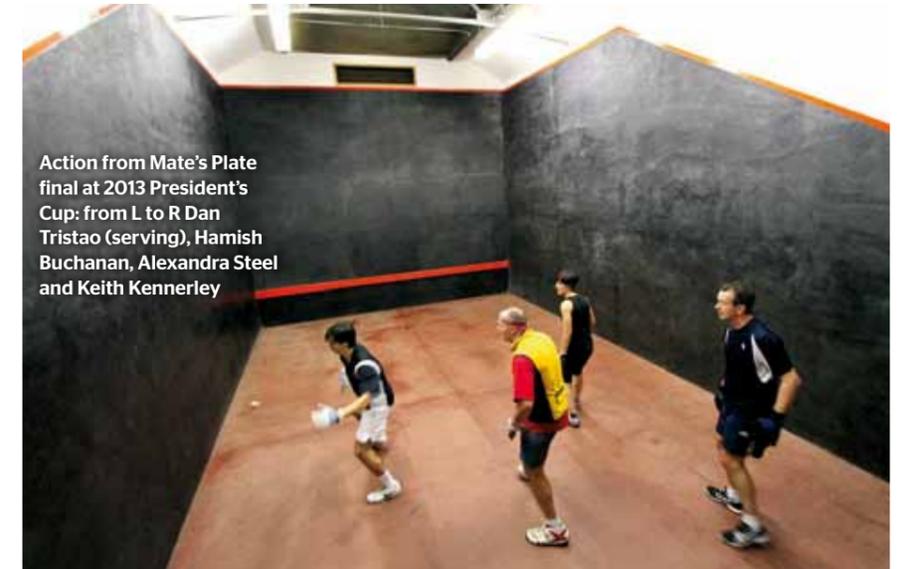
Age was a common theme in many match reports, with Tony Hamilton’s team against Tonbridge laying claim to be the oldest ever for a Club match with a mean age of 65 and a half and, with a winning score of 116-81, a fairly mean disposition to boot.

In Bedford, the OBM’s, led by the indomitable Phil Atkinson, had failed to book changing facilities for their RFA visitors. With true fives ingenuity and determination an alternative was found – the ‘old peoples’ home’ owned by Chris Ryan. It isn’t clear whether any of the players involved felt the need to move in after the match!

The popular Winchester VIII fixture sees Rugby Fives players taking on Winchester specialists on their home courts. The last two years saw the RFA apparently ‘trashed’ by 29 points and ‘pasted’ by 31. This year, by winning 237-217, the Club surely ‘roasted’ the opposition, while all enjoyed the hospitality laid on by the Wessex Club at local hostelry ‘The Queen’.

Many thanks go to Club stalwarts Peter de Winton and Peter Ross who, after many years service, are stepping down from match managing to let some youngsters have a go.

The President’s Cup was another great occasion, won by first timers Oliver Quarry and James Tilston, while another Cup fledgling, Tim Widdop took the ‘T’ Pot with Jay Gravatt and the evergreen Mark Kiteley completed a Love Mug double. Our gratitude to Gareth Price for his organisation and to Merchant Taylors’ School.



Action from Mate’s Plate final at 2013 President’s Cup: from L to R Dan Tristao (serving), Hamish Buchanan, Alexandra Steel and Keith Kennerley

RFA CLUB RESULTS

Opposition	Manager	Other players	Result
Alleyen’s	A Hanton*	E Carr, B Hanton, R Sulkin, B Wordsworth.	Win
Alleyen Old Boys	R Perry	C Burrows, W Ellison, B Brookes.	Win
Blundell’s VI	M & M Whitehead	D Hill, T Lewis, B Matthew, A Rew, R Wyatt-Haines	Loss
Cambridge VI	A Pringle	M Bate, H Buchanan, W Ellison, E Hatton, D Warner	Win
Cambridge VI	B Dolby*	R Christie, S Kirby, B Kirk, A Meek, B Singh, L Taylor	Loss
Christ’s H. VIII	E Hatton	J. Sinton, G Matthews, R Dyke, W Lyons, T Webster	Win
Durham	B Sandie	J Minta, S Russell, T Widdop	Loss
Eastbourne	T Hamilton	A deBelder, M Hole, P Ross.	Win
Jesters:Strawson	D Warner	Various	Draw
Jesters	J Marshall	T Dean, A George, R Perry	Win
MTS	R Mathieu	A Galletley, G Matthews, R Bridge	Win
Old Bedford M’s	P Atkinson	Richard and Rob Christie, S Kirby, B Kirk	Win
Old Bradfieldians	A Pringle*	R Bridge, R Kemp, R Mathieu, G Matthews	Loss
Old Whitgiftians	H Buchanan	E Carr, R Sulkin, B Wordsworth	Win
Oundle	A Smith	B Boag, E Farrow, N Smith	Loss
Oxford University	D Tristao	D Tristao, C Burrows, C Waller, J Baker	Win
Rugby School	J Ensor	T Burrows, R Darby, D Urquhart	Loss
Sedbergh School	R Guthrie	P Guthrie, J Sargent, A Williamson	Loss
Sedbergh Staff	R Guthrie	P Guthrie, G Page, J Sargent, A Williamson	Win
St.Dunstons	T Hamilton	E Andrews, J Higgins, R Oscroft	Win
St.Pauls VIII	A Wilson	H Buchanan, D Grant, S Roberts, D Tristao, +3	Win
Tonbridge	T Hamilton	B Atkinson, P Ross, N Wheeler	Win
Winchester VIII	D Tristao	M Bate, B Beltrami, H Buchanan, D Grant, G Price, J Minta, M Shaw, D Tristao	Win
Winchester	W Ellison	Various	Win

* denotes non-playing match manager

Club Reports 2013-14

Many clubs had to battle inclement winter weather, but otherwise it's been a good year

Cambridge University

Jack Malde reports: The first year with new courts saw a large increase in the number of people of both sexes playing at Cambridge. There was a larger competitive squad than in previous years and a development group of beginners. An increased fixture list and more practice time has brought great success.

We took a record 12 players to BUCS, winning the best university prize; Ed Kay and Jacob Brubert won the doubles

title for the second year running, and Ed was runner-up in the singles. Soon after Ed added the National Singles plate to his prizes.

At the National U25s, Ed reached the singles final but was beaten by Dan Tristao, a repeat of last year, but partnered Dan to win the doubles for the third year running. Jack Malde and Jacob Ader won the doubles plate, consolation for Ader particularly, who had also contested the doubles plate final at BUCS with Jerry Ganendra.

A comfortable win for the Present against the Past at Cambridge was then followed by a similarly clear win in the Varsity Match by 269-153. The Cambridge VIII contained three freshmen: Zach Brubert, James Pinder and Richard Law, plus Tom Bury who had returned to the game after some years out. All in all we had a very successful season, and we hope that it is only the start of great things in a new era for Cambridge Rugby Fives.

Durham University

Durham has enjoyed yet another successful season, securing victories against Cambridge, the RFA, and St Paul's. Turnout has been higher than ever before, with Durham in attendance at every possible tournament throughout this season. Back in November, National Singles qualifiers were held on our home courts, with David Butler triumphing to advance to the last 16. Just a week later at BUCS, Julian Aquilina and David made the semi- and quarter-finals of the singles respectively. Oli Quarry, the player of the season, triumphed in the singles plate against Alan Bowden, before they teamed up to take the doubles plate.

Early in the new year, six players travelled to Edinburgh for one of the highlights of our fives calendar, the annual Jesters' tour. For the first time in years, Durham came away level with the Jesters at one win apiece – a fantastic result. At the U25s, both David and Oli continued their impressive form to reach the quarterfinals, whilst Sam Russell took home the singles plate. The North of England saw a strong entry of Durham players. Julian and Jay Gravatt reached the semi-finals of the doubles, whilst Sam and Oli were unlucky to be edged in the plate final this time.

Overall another fantastic year for

Cambridge University, the Jesters, the RFA and the Old Bedford Modernians. As always we have taken our juniors to all the schools competitions, where they have done us proud. As a Club we try to support regional and national senior tournaments, entering the North West Open, the National Winchester Fives Doubles, the National U25s, the Veterans and the Vintage, where Stuart Kirby was runner-up in the doubles with Brian Nithsdale. We also entered a IV for each of the Wood Cup and the Owers Trophy. In the latter our young IV consisting of Anthony Goodwin, Jimmy Goodwin, Max Frost and Robert Christie won the plate, while at the North West Open Anthony Goodwin and Robert Whitehorn did the same.

The season ended with the 11th Derby Moor Invitation Doubles, won by Ashley Hill and Tim Widdop, with Stuart Kirby and Mark Kiteley winning the plate boules. Thanks to Brian Kirk for his work in running this tournament.

We aim to enclose the courts next year. Stuart is the driving force here: we owe him a huge vote of thanks for this and for all he does in coaching the juniors and running our superb website.



Stuart Kirby runner-up in National Vintage Doubles with Brian Nithsdale

Executioners

Andy Pringle reports: It's been another successful year for the Executioners, with several new faces joining the club's stalwarts. It's been great to see the likes of Alex Wall, Murray Lidgitt, Chris Waller and Karen Hird joining our regular Wednesday evening sessions alongside more seasoned campaigners such as Richard Bridge, Malcolm Borthwick, Tom Webster and Richard Kemp.

Several of our players have been regulars on the tournament circuit, too, with the Executioners' elite squad reaching the Wood Cup semis again. However, the highlight was undoubtedly Andy Pringle and Alex Steel joining forces to retain their Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles title. Dick Warner, as ever, was a force to be reckoned with, picking up plates in the Scottish, Veterans' and Vintage Championships, while Richard Dyke and Jez Sinton also got in on the act, winning the doubles plate at the 2013 South West Open.

For Richard, however, the best was yet to come. He deservedly found



Richard Dyke, Executioners singles ladder winner

himself on top of the singles ladder in the last week of competition and facing a final challenge from Rupert Mathieu. In a fitting climax to the competition, and watched by a huge crowd (well, four players who were waiting to get on court!), it was Richard who triumphed 16-15 in a match where grit played as much part as guile.



Dick Warner, Executioner and multiple plate winner

Sadly, the club's usual summer doubles tournament wasn't played this year – due to an unfortunate combination of St Paul's closing earlier than expected and the organiser being otherwise engaged at some other sporting event in Brazil. Instead, we'll try to run it as a season-opening event for the 2014-15 season, so if any fives player finds themselves in London, they're invited to come and join us. We play every term-time Wednesday evening and would be delighted to demonstrate why we consider ourselves London's friendliest fives club.

fives at Durham, and we only hope that our team can continue to bond and improve as we have done all year. The atmosphere and dedication have been incredible and those of us leaving it behind will truly miss it.

Eastbourne

Spencer Beal reports: Organised, supported, led and driven by the indefatigable Tony Hamilton, the Eastbourne College Fives Club continues to function every Tuesday evening at 8pm all year round, weather and numbers permitting. Tony manages to get together at least two pairs for doubles just about every week, and you'd better be on your mettle because if ever numbers should drop below four, Tony will be keen to take on anyone at singles, all evening if necessary! However, age and numbers make it increasingly difficult to arrange club matches and we're constantly on the lookout for younger players to join us from the College staff and beyond – any standard welcome, and beginners too.

Euan Clarke (partnering Dick Warner) and Tony and I entered the Vintage Doubles held at Cambridge, and a thoroughly positive and enjoyable experience it was. Tony and I particularly enjoyed taking nine points off the eventual winners (Enstone and Fuller – surprise, surprise), although we were less impressed with ourselves in losing our semi-final from a position of 14-11 up.

Jesters

Charlie Brooks writes: The Jesters Club has had another cracking season with plenty of enjoyable matches stretching from the South West to North of the border. As ever, the Strawson Memorial kicked off the season – a superb match followed by an evening at Queen's. It ended, rather surprisingly, in a narrow victory for the Jesters. For the second year running, the Rugby Fives lot were the first to the bar at Queen's and were able to enjoy the evening to its full.

The Edinburgh Tour enjoyed its usual success under the expert command of Frank and Harry

Akerman. The 29-strong touring team played a phenomenal amount of fives against as many local opponents as possible. Elsewhere, there was a new fixture against Sherborne School – always pleasing to see.

Please let me know if you would like to start a fixture against the Jesters. Once again, thanks to all those who played this year, and in particular to the managers who make it all happen.

Malvern Town

I imagine a group of eight to 10 people playing every Monday at 6pm can now be officially called a club, although fixtures are yet to be organised. The club consists of several talented OMs, a few less talented OMs, a few ageing members of Malvern College staff, some enthusiastic schoolboys and a few work colleagues of the talented OMs. It is a very mixed bag, but there is good fives to be had, all are welcome and a cold beer awaits at The Morgan afterwards. Please contact Chris Thomas or Stephen Coffey for more details.

Marlborough & District

This was the club's 10th anniversary season. Our club is unusual in that apart from our two "proper" players, Tom Kiggell and Jim Hughes, we are almost exclusively made up of people who have taken up the game in adulthood. None of us played at school, and whilst we have a number of skilled ballplayers (who have excelled in other sports), our standard of play is generally below that of other fives clubs around the country.

Not that this matters, and it does not dampen our enthusiasm. Good numbers of players attend club nights on Wednesdays and Sundays, we have a singles ladder, and this season our club member Tim Brown set up a new doubles competition. We played the annual match against the college in December, and in March held the Hughes Cup. Thanks as usual to Jim Hughes for a great evening, and congratulations to Tim Brown for his win.

Club events aside, Tom and Jim have played at various competitions this season, as has one of our female players, Vicky Westwood, with great success. The season officially finished in April with the annual dinner. As ever, it was very enjoyable, thanks in no small part to Leslie Jenkinson. Thanks also go to other members, notably our treasurer Bob Davidson, and to Mark Somerville for his photography and work on the club Facebook page. Of course thanks, as ever, go to Tom Kiggell and the College. Finally, thanks to Tom and Jim for their never-ending patience with us on court.



Marlborough and District members enjoy their annual dinner

Old Paulines

This season, the Old Pauline Club retained both the Wood Cup and Owers Trophy, winning both for the fourth time in a row. Once again, it was a youthful squad that carried the club through, with all 12 representatives in the two tournaments under 30.

The Owers Trophy contained a high quality entry, so having two OP teams in the semi-finals was a great achievement. The 2nd team battled valiantly, but were beaten by an experienced Alleyn Old Boys outfit. Come the final, old timers Brooks and Tristao couldn't take the heat, leaving Tilston, Shaw and Beltrami to be led nobly by Tom Dean to Owers glory.

In winning the Wood Cup, the club came one win closer to Manchester's record of five titles in a row. This time, Charlie and Dan could take the heat and joined Tom and Ben in a close, but ultimately successful, final against Wessex. A notable mention once again goes to the 2nd team, who reached the semi-finals, with Shaw and Arnold playing particularly well.

There were mixed results in our internal competitions. Unfortunately, Tristao managed to wriggle free of the chains of the handicapping system to once again reign supreme – the rest of the club felt slightly better when he went on to win the National Singles (unhandicapped). In our President's Cup-style doubles, Dean and Quarry overcame Aquilina and Shaw (the latter aiming to make it a trio of President's Cup victories) in a titanic day's struggle. Congratulations all.

Old Tonbridgians

Dr Neil Arnott reports: During our winter season we have had slightly fewer fixtures for a number of reasons and missed playing against Eastbourne, although we are hoping to have a summer fixture shortly. However, the friendly Tuesday evenings continued despite my own absence for the second time, enjoying a summer locum position in New Zealand.

Sadly there was no fives immediately available although I am reliably informed by Nigel Wheeler – one of our regular players – that there are courts in Wellington and Christchurch. I hope perhaps to discover these if we

go south again this winter.

Highlights included our star player Ian Fuller winning the Vintage singles for the first time and the doubles for the third time, partnered with Wayne Enstone. There was also a third victory in the Masters doubles for Martin Wilkinson (paired with John East), another of our regular players showing no sign of passing years.

Our tightest contest was with the Tonbridge boys. Sadly for them, we ended their excellent season of no losses. We won by one point after a closely fought but enjoyable match, followed by some much appreciated hospitality in a local restaurant.

Our summer season is underway and I would like to welcome the return of Rupert Mathieu, an OT and parent of Henry who is playing fives at the school. Everybody is welcome, both established players and those considering a return to the game.

Oxford University

This season has seen good results and great camaraderie. Having lost Chris "Black Widow" Waller and George "Honeybadger" Barnes, Sasha Esin and James Roberts stepped up to the 1st IV. Jefferies and Thomas vanquished Durham's Aquilina and partner at all major tournaments: with Gravatt at the West of England, Butler at BUCS and Tilston at U25s.

In the 2nd and 3rd IVs, Dru Horsewood, Tom Hoskins and Matt Hale brought considerable flair to the Oxford courts, contrasting the steady but relentless play of the "Wilmen", finally in their last year at Oxford.

As the dominance of Paulines wanes at Oxford, efforts were made to integrate the various schools. 7am sprints up Headington Hill saw attendance ranging from one to six. Ophir didn't hesitate to voice his disdain for such exercise. Tapas Tuesdays saw healthy use of the club budget with attendance ranging from six to 14.

While Cambridge may have won Varsity on "points", it was clear to Oxford that the day was ours. Jefferies and Thomas annihilated Cambridge I and II. The Wilmen, after much bickering, chose to prioritise Varsity over lambing, playing at 4th pair. Despite his best efforts to avoid

Old Whitgiftians

Whitgift was pleased to welcome the RFA's London Open to the courts in the run-up to the 2013-14 season. Whilst no trophies were forthcoming for the home entrants, a thoroughly entertaining weekend of top-quality fives was enjoyed by all.

The season kicked off with a tough game against the RFA in mid-



Spectators enjoying the London Open at Whitgift's courts

October. Thanks were particularly due to two late-notice stand-ins as our squad was beset by injuries, including the Hon. Sec. breaking his leg/ankle the night before! After a short-term lull in fixtures due to mounting injuries, things picked up in 2014 with our annual tour to the South West, playing at Sherborne and Tiverton. As always the socialising proved as welcome as the fives – and generally less physically demanding!

By the close of the season we had also enjoyed fixtures against the Old Tonbridgians and Whitgift school and staff, rounding off the season with a match on Tonbridge's Winchester courts (and even a taster of 'bat fives' after a couple of beers). With injuries now (mostly) on the mend, we look forward with renewed enthusiasm to a full fixture list in 2014-15.

We play social fives at Whitgift's

competitive fives by burning his hand while "testing" the stove, Tom Hoskins put in a fine performance.

In the Beavers, the repeat of Ed Birkett's victory over Wilson Lau saw a fives masterclass. He followed this up with superb arm wrestling technique at the Varsity dinner. Nick Whitney will take over as next year's captain.

Wessex

We had another enjoyable season of Tuesday night fives in Winchester this year, with 20 players turning out most weeks. Highlights included the fantastic match against the RFA (RFA vs 'WFA') with the RFA shading it 237-217.

A strong representation from Wessex was seen on the annual Jesters tour to Edinburgh, but the highlight for us was reaching the final of the National Club knockout (Wood Cup) with wins against Alleyn Old Boys and the Executioners. Our team in the final consisted of Will Ellison, David Butler, Harry Akerman and Giles Munn, but St Paul's Old Boys did to us what they do to most teams and deservedly ran out comfortable winners.

Our annual end of season tournament (the Letchworth Bowl) was won by Fred Kelly and Jonathan Russell. Fathers following in their sons' footsteps may not be a usual

route into in a physically demanding sport but I think there was genuine amazement from James Pinder (who played for Cambridge this year) and Benedict Grassi at the progress of their respective fathers, Charles and Jon, in this tournament!

We were also delighted to welcome back to fives Mike Crompton, who last played in 1991, and Ben Lovett who won the national U25 singles and doubles in 2000 as well as winning the university singles title in 1999 and 2003.

West of England

Lionel Lawson reports: The West of England Club had a season of mixed fortunes, related mainly to a reduction in the number of active members. In the last few years Bristol Grammar School and Colstons have given up the game and unfortunately there has been a decline in the game at Clifton College. As a result, the club has lost its local supply line of players. At the same time, a group of players who have been with the club for many years have hung up their gloves.

From a more positive perspective, we have benefited from some fine players from Bristol University playing for the club. Sam Rolls has been heavily involved for the past three years



From L-R: OWs Messrs Andrews, Dalman, Ross, Norman, Higgins and - beyond two of our opposition Lewis and Hill - Hamilton

courts in Croydon most Thursday evenings and occasionally on Sunday mornings. We've welcomed several new or returning players onto the courts over the last couple of years and more are always welcome. Contact Nick Woolfenden (nickw5s@hotmail.com) if you'd like to play.

and Inigo Ackland for the last two. Together Sam and Inigo have excelled in BUCS, ending as runners-up in the doubles for the last two years.

We welcomed a new member this year – Ben Smithson who learnt his fives at Christ's Hospital. He has proved to be a regular and enthusiastic member at our weekly sessions.

We had two good matches against UCS and Exeter Club and as always had a very successful Christmas doubles competition – the winners this year being Ben Smithson and Sholto Moger. After the competition we had an excellent lunch at Aqua restaurant, which is owned by Ben's family; an excellent connection for the future. The club singles competition had a small but high quality entry, with the final being won convincingly by Inigo Ackland with Sam Rolls as runner-up.

I would like to thank club captain Simon Werkshagen for all his hard work and commitment throughout the season – there were worrying signs at the end of the season that his playing days might be over but we are hoping that a miracle cure might be found.

We start up again in the middle of September and look forward to a robust new season both on court and afterwards in the Alma Tavern.

Winchester Fives

David Barnes on the history of Winchester Fives and the Barnes Bridge tournament

Despite being so associated with the school that bears its name, the origins of Winchester Fives actually lie in 19th century Oxford. It was at Worcester College in 1856 that the first court was built with a narrow angled buttress one third of the way back on the left-hand wall. It is recorded that the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, was an early user of the court, as he had permission to play on it in 1860. The first set of indoor courts was built at Winchester College in 1862, and there was actually some initial uncertainty about their shape. As at Rugby School in 1860, advice was sought from Oxford on the construction of the new court. Some Old Rugbeians at Oxford advised their former school to copy the Worcester College court, but the buttress didn't last long and was filled in a year later as the pupils preferred the plain-wall court next door.

Spread of the game

Winchester initially went for the compromise as well, building an enclosed block of two courts with buttresses and two with plain walls. Unlike Rugby, though, this time it was the courts with a buttress that won over the pupils; subsequent courts at Winchester, including the present ones built in 1909, have always had this feature.

More schools followed Winchester's choice than you might think. Players today might easily name Bradfield, Malvern, Radley, Sedbergh and Tonbridge as Winchester Fives schools. However, we know that there were also Winchester-style courts at Glenalmond, Canford, King's Canterbury, King's Worcester, Hereford Cathedral School, Bromsgrove, Liverpool College, Weymouth College, Maidstone Grammar School and the original Perse School site, as well as two halls at Manchester University and

some prep schools such as Aysgarth and Horris Hill. All these courts have disappeared, but King's Bruton and Rossall still have their buttress courts – Rossall's eight courts being unusual in having no back wall.

Winchester adopted the Rules of Fives 'as played at Oxford', and they were published in 'The Wykehamist' in 1885 and again in 1893. They are clearly designed for doubles, although rule 16 states: 'The above rules apply to Single as well as Double Fives'. They deal mainly with serving, scoring and lets, and are archaic rather than eccentric. Nevertheless, some could have been omitted. Rule nine says: 'If a ball strike the roof or gallery it is a hand out'. Rule 10 says that 'Under no circumstances may kicking the ball be allowed'.

Regardless of the adoption of these rules, local customs certainly developed at Winchester and elsewhere, but were never standardised. At some schools either the receiver or his partner could return the service, whether it had hit the buttress or not, while most schools insisted that if the server lost the rally, he should continue until he had served out both opponents. Many pairs played with one player 'under the line'

'The rules, buttress and positioning of opponents baffled visiting sides'



to guard the buttress. And there were no doubt other local practices which disappeared when away matches became more widespread. Not only did the rules baffle visiting sides, so did the buttress itself, the positioning of their opponents, and often the size and speed of the courts.

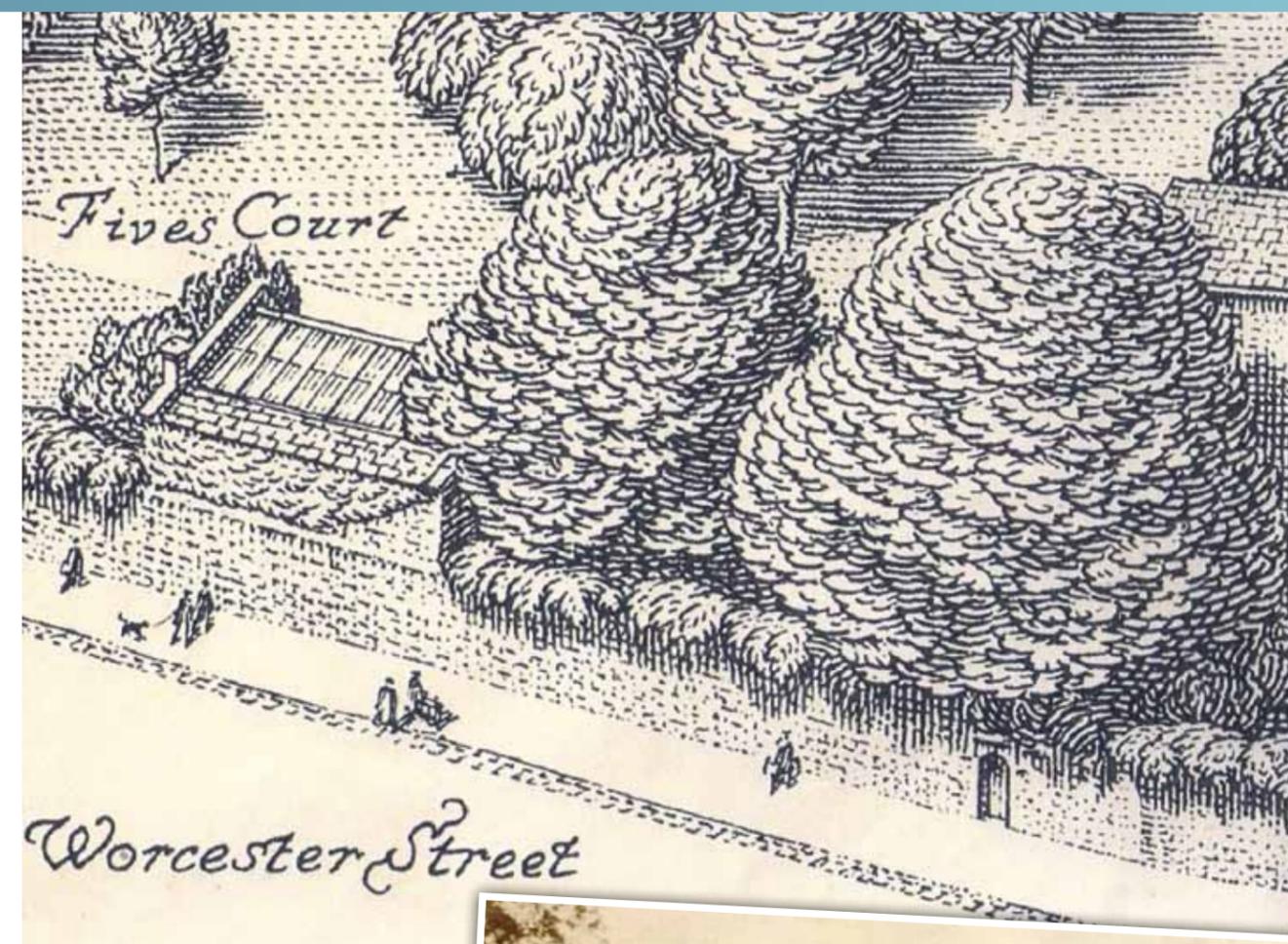
The competition starts

Even though Rugby Fives had managed to get itself organised in the 1930s, a Winchester Fives Championship took longer to emerge. It is an irony, though, that the first winner of the Rugby Fives Singles Championship in 1930 was Roger Winlaw from Winchester College. He won it again the following year and paired up with his brother to win the doubles. They both went on to play Rugby Fives for Cambridge, and Roger became the first honorary member of the Jesters Club, but it took until 1955 for a player from a Winchester Fives school – D Smith of Sedbergh – to win the Jesters Cup.

It was to be more than 50 years until the first Winchester Fives Championship, for several reasons. Firstly, no London schools played the Winchester game: geographical dispersion and the relatively small number of schools where this version of fives was played was a handicap. Next, Winchester Fives players could more easily cope with the demands of the Rugby court than vice-versa. Some of the best London players in the 1930s found the Tonbridge courts, where the buttress (originally in all seven courts) was steep and a long way up the court, too much for them.

Before the 1950s there were very few Rugby Fives competitions on the calendar: the Amateur Singles and

LEFT (from L) Simon Constantine, Dave Hebden, David Barnes, Mike Tremellen and Roger Layton at Bradfield in 1886.



Doubles; the Public Schools' Singles and Doubles; the Heath Old Boys' Open Doubles in Halifax; and the Marchant Cup for London Grammar Schools. Players got their competitive fives in matches against other schools or clubs, and if adults had no home club to play for, they joined the peripatetic Jesters or the newly-founded RFA Club, specifically intended for players whose courts were destroyed during the war. Fives flourished from the 1950s to 1970s, as seen in the sheer number of matches played by schools and clubs. The tournament and championship schedule also grew inexorably. More than a dozen competitions, mostly involving both singles and doubles, were added to the list by 1979. However, without exception, all these competitions were for Rugby Fives.

Finally, in 1980, an Old Sedberghian fives enthusiast named Mike Haslam took the initiative and formed a 'Winchester Fives Group' within the RFA. With the RFA's blessing, he published a newsletter describing and illustrating the basic Winchester Fives



court and listing a dozen institutions possessing such courts. The newsletter expressed the hope that in due course a tournament might be held 'at some appropriate centre'.

The first Winchester Fives Open Doubles tournament took place at

ABOVE The 1856 court at Worcester College Oxford, illustrated by EH New in 1931. The 1862 courts at Winchester College (on left), photographed in the early 1880s.



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT
 Ian Fuller and Dave Hebden at Malvern in 2001; Paula Smith & Denise Hall-Wilton with the Bradfield Bowl at Malvern; Mike Haslam and Paula Smith with the Crayke Cup at Sedbergh; Will Ellison and Hal Mohammed at Malvern in 2013



'The first tournament proved popular, with late entries turned away'

Bradfield on 7 March 1982. The tournament proved popular, attracting 21 pairs, and some late entries had to be turned away. Appropriately an Old Sedberghian, Robbie Barr, and his partner Simon Constantine, an Old Malvernian, won the first final, beating Dave Parlby and Jeremy Schroeter.

Another feature of this day stands out – Joan Wood and RFA Club supremo Tom Wood brought along a scale model of the Barnes Bridge that continues to be presented as the winners' trophy to this day. Some diehard Rugby Fives players hesitated before venturing onto the bridge between the two codes, but many managed the crossing and enjoyed it.

Mike favoured taking the tournament to different schools, so the second year's event was held at Winchester, with a similarly large entry, and it became a regular feature of the March programme. The third event was held at Sedbergh and the fourth at Malvern, before it returned to Bradfield in 1986.

In 1988 the ladies' competition made its first appearance at Sedbergh, competing for the Crayke Cup. Paula Smith from Bradfield was the first winner, and she didn't relinquish her grip on the trophy until 2003. Denise Hall-Wilton started a doubles competition in 1990, donating the

Bradfield Bowl and embarking on a mammoth stint as organiser of the Winchester Fives singles and doubles, which lasts to this day. She and Paula won the trophy as a pair 13 times in all.

Chairmen past and present

Mike Haslam continued to run the men's tournament until he had completed three circuits of the host schools. In those 12 years, the Bridge was won by six different pairs. Simon Constantine was the most successful player, partnering Dave Hebden four times and Robbie Barr twice.

After Mike's twelfth tournament, the Winchester Fives Group recognised his contribution as its founder, first Hon. Sec. and tournament organiser by presenting him with an engraved cut-glass bowl. He was also promoted to Chairman of the Group, with the previous Chairman, David Barnes, taking up the role of Hon. Sec. and tournament organiser. He hands over as organiser to Harry Akerman in 2015.

Notable winners

Roger Layton and Mike Tremellen, brought up on the Bradfield courts, won the Barnes Bridge five times between 1989 and 1995 but failed to



complete the 'Grand Slam' of winning four years running. Their achievement was soon surpassed by Ian Fuller and Dave Hebden, the remarkable duo who had won ten Cyriax Cups at the Rugby Fives National Doubles Championships between 1980 and 1990. They proceeded to win the Bridge eight years running between 1996 and 2003, completing a double Grand Slam.

Dave Hebden won twice more with Dave Fox to bring his total to 14 wins – an achievement which will be hard to surpass. But in 2009 Will Ellison and Hal Mohammed became the youngest pair to win the trophy, and in 2014 they won the Bridge for the sixth consecutive time, so you never know.

There are three other Winchester Fives competitions on the calendar: the Northern Doubles at Sedbergh, initiated by Laurence Catlow in 1993; the mixed doubles at Bradfield, started in 1997 by Paula Smith, who donated the cup and won it twice with her son Sean; and the schools' doubles, held at Winchester each November, started by David Barnes in 2002. This has been won six times St Paul's, four by the hosts and once by Radley and Alleyn's.

Whoever invented, or perhaps bumped into, the small buttress which begun this variant of fives would surely have been pleased that, despite the loss of courts, the game has survived and is still enjoyed well into the 21st century. If it was all just an accident of architecture, it was certainly a happy one.

John Ingram (1932-2014)

John Ingram died from cancer at the age of 82, only a few weeks after attending the opening of the new courts at Cambridge. As an excellent player of Rugby Fives and a long-standing coach of the Eton variety, John was particularly delighted to see the realisation of his friend Jock Burnet's dream of courts once more at the University. He had been an assiduous supporter of the Past versus Present throughout all the years when Cambridge was court-less.

John learned his fives at Merchant Taylors' in Northwood, and after National Service he went up to St. Catharine's College to read Natural Sciences. A big man and a talented games player, John captained the college rugby team, bowled fast for the college cricket team and won half blues for Rugby Fives in 1955 and 1956, partnering Alan Taylor, who



John Ingram (right) at Alleyn's in 1951

remembers him "for his incredible tenacity – and lengthy reach!"

John taught first at Fettes, then moved to Harrow, where he taught sciences, coached rugby at all levels, refereed for the London Society of Referees, commanded the CCF and became a housemaster. Like all Rugby

Fives players he found it took some time to get the hang of the version of fives played at Harrow, his best shots constantly soaring out of the back of the court, but in due course he became master-in-charge and an enthusiastic member of the beaks' team for the annual match against Westminster Masters, where his physical presence dominated the court.

In retirement this "gentle giant", as fellow OMT David Cameron recalls him, was an elder at the Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Northwood. He is survived by his wife Ann, his children Kim, Mark and Sarah and three stepchildren, to whom we send our condolences.

Bob Dolby, with thanks to Dale Vargas

Peter Carlile (1941-2014)

I first met Peter at the inaugural British Universities Championships in Bedford in 1960 and subsequently got to know him better when Leeds toured Edinburgh. As a consequence of the camaraderie so typical of après-



Peter Carlile - truly a man for all seasons

fives, he and his then regular partner Jack Slater persuaded me to go to Leeds for my PGSE year. I shared a house with Peter and it was a wonderful time. Although Jack wasn't around to defend the Universities title he won with Peter in 1962, Leeds had three pairs in the semi-finals that year. Off-court our friendship blossomed and remained strong for more than 50 years.

Peter was a pupil at Alleyn's and a loyal Alleyn Old Boy, despite the fact that, after graduating in dentistry, he set up practice in Rawdon, near Leeds. Peter continued to play a lot of fives and was a keen Jester. He became a regular golfer at Bradford Golf Club, enjoyed club cricket and was a regular participant in a tour I ran to Shropshire. Later he became a member of Yorkshire CCC and was usually to be found at Headingley Tests. In the winter he was a keen supporter of Otley Rugby Club. Peter continued with court games, playing squash and, latterly, real tennis. But, in truth, there

was no game in which he wasn't interested. He particularly liked a day at the races, and at one time had a share in a couple of horses. Above all, although Peter was competitive, it was the bonhomie of sporting occasions that really fired him. Peter was always the most clubbable of men.

Peter is survived by his lovely and devoted wife Gill, their son Nick and a host of friends. No-one who met Peter will forget his warmth, his charm and his infectious sense of fun.

Peter's list of fives titles is impressive: the British Universities Championships Doubles in 1962 with Jack Slater and in 1965 with Mike Roberts, the Heath Old Boys Open Doubles with Jack in 1962, 1964, 1965 and 1968, and the Scottish Doubles in 1963, again with Jack. But wherever Peter moved, in fives circles or elsewhere, his presence enriched the occasion. Peter Carlile was truly a man for all seasons.

Rick Wilson

End-of-Season Rankings

Dave Hebden reviews some interesting changes in the rankings this season

The rankings for the 2013-14 season see Dan Tristao at the head of the singles listing for the first time, ending a six-year period of domination by James Toop. Dan himself secured the National Singles trophy for the first time this season, defeating Will Ellison in the final. There was disappointment for Will as he picked up his fourth consecutive runner-up spot, but some consolation in that he retains second position in the rankings, with James dropping to number three.

All the season's open singles events were shared between Dan Tristao and Will Ellison, with Dan winning four titles (London, West of England, National, and Scotland) and Will three (South West, North West and North of England). Dan also won the U25 title for the sixth time, a record which will be difficult to match.

Dan Grant retained his University Singles title and had an impressive season, moving up into the top four.

Tom Maconie continues to make steady progress, entering the top 10 for the first time, whilst David Butler, Richie Murby, Jacob Brubert, Matt Shaw and Tom Kiggell all enter the top 20 following excellent results this year.

In the doubles, Will Ellison secures the number one spot for the third consecutive year, winning six of the seven open events on offer. This included a defence of the National Doubles with Charlie Brooks, but other events with a variety of partners - Dan Grant (South West), Dan Tristao (London), Hamish Buchanan (Yorkshire), John Minta (North West), and Tom Dean (North of England). Gareth Price has the distinction of being the highest ranked player (at number eight) who did not win an event with Will!

Ed Kay picked up both the University Doubles (with Jacob Brubert) and the U25 Doubles (with Dan Tristao). The



‘There are eight new entrants in the singles rankings, and 15 in the doubles’

Scottish Open Doubles was won by Adam George and Ed Hatton.

In addition to the above players, mention should be made of Theo Parker and Matt Shaw who both had strong seasons, including winning the National Doubles plate and reaching the final of the U25s. They both enter the top 20.

There are eight new entrants into the singles rankings and 15 in the doubles this year, reflecting a continuing influx of new younger players joining the tournament circuit.

It is encouraging to report that entries in tournaments were again significantly up, boosted in particular by record entries in the University and U25 competitions.



TOP West of England Open Doubles champions Dan Tristao and Dan Grant; **CENTRE** Theo Parker and Matt Shaw, Plate winners at the National Doubles; **BOTTOM** Tom Maconie, Plate winner at the London Open Singles

RFA National Rankings 2013-14

Singles

Pos.		Pts	Pos.		Pts		
1	3	D Tristao	93.0	28	23	P Hanton	13.4
2	2	W Ellison	86.3		44	T Parker	13.4
3	1	J Toop	78.3	30	16	C Burrows	12.9
4	6	D Grant	70.1	31	41	J Hughes	12.3
5	5	M Cavanagh	54.8	32	19	N Roberts	11.9
6	4	J Minta	51.4		27	S Wyatt-Haines	11.9
7	7	C Brooks	44.7	34	11	L Thomson	11.1
8	8	H Buchanan	37.7	35	31	A George	10.5
9	9	E Kay	33.1	36	40	J Tilston	10.1
10	12	T Maconie	30.7	37	34	A Pringle	10.0
11	30	D Butler	27.1	38	-	O Quarry	9.8
12	22	R Murby	26.8	39	42	J Gravatt	8.9
13	13	T Dean	24.5		34	F Thomas	8.9
14	10	I Ackland	21.2	41	28	A Rew	8.4
15	32	J Brubert	19.5	42	49	J Malde	6.6
16	14	E Hatton	19.3	43	-	S Russell	5.8
	55	M Shaw	19.3	44	45	N Patel	5.3
18	16	G Price	18.2	45	48	M Roberts	2.9
19	-	T Kiggell	18.0	46	-	B Beltrami	1.9
20	15	M Bate	17.2	47	-	O Arnold	1.8
21	25	S Rolls	16.9		-	R Houlden	1.8
22	26	T Widdop	16.4		-	C Legget	1.8
23	20	D Fox	15.4	50	51	G Barnes	1.4
24	58	C Waller	14.7		-	O Evan	1.4
25	38	J Aquilina	14.5	52	51	A Bowden	1.1
26	36	H Jefferies	13.7	53	59	J Wren	0.5
	24	G Rees	13.7				

Doubles

1	1	W Ellison	99.5	42	-	O Arnold	14.1
2	2	C Brooks	88.3		-	B Beltrami	14.1
	3	D Tristao	88.3		-	R Dyke	14.1
4	6	D Grant	86.6		40	A Goodwin	14.1
5	4	H Buchanan	75.5		67	T Kiggell	14.1
6	5	T Dean	74.2		-	J Sinton	14.1
7	7	J Minta	64.8	48	41	A Rew	13.2
8	8	G Price	60.0	49	48	T Maconie	12.2
9	9	E Kay	57.4		-	O Quarry	12.2
10	15	R Perry	45.8		-	S Russell	12.2
11	10	M Bate	43.0	52	47	R Christie	11.2
12	23	E Hatton	37.4		50	S Kirby	11.2
13	38	A George	33.5		65	J Malde	11.2
14	34	T Parker	33.2	55	55	A Bowden	10.0
	12	N Roberts	33.2		48	T Chase	10.0
16	19	J Aquilina	32.8		34	M Frost	10.0
17	17	J Toop	32.4		-	N Geere	10.0
18	18	M Kemp	31.6		55	E Hawke	10.0
19	29	J Brubert	30.0		-	T Lewis	10.0
	-	M Shaw	30.0		51	E Ronan	10.0
21	23	I Ackland	29.2		-	A Smith	10.0
	14	A Pringle	29.2		67	S Watson	10.0
23	42	J Hughes	28.7		-	R Whitehorn	10.0
24	51	D Butler	27.4	65	53	C Waller	8.7
	13	P Hanton	27.4	66	-	J Ader	7.1
	23	S Rolls	27.4		53	H Akerman	7.1
27	23	J Gravatt	26.5		-	Z Brubert	7.1
28	28	J Tilston	26.0		23	J Hawke	7.1
29	33	J Marshall	25.5		55	S Hodgson	7.1
30	67	W Enstone	24.5		55	K Kennerley	7.1
	11	H Mohammed	24.5		55	M Mohammed	7.1
32	21	D Warner	23.5		-	B Smithson	7.1
33	34	F Thomas	22.4		55	J Spencer	7.1
34	34	J Beswick	21.2		29	L Thomson	7.1
	20	C Burrows	21.2		-	J Wren	7.1
36	55	H Jefferies	18.7		55	R Wyatt-Haines	7.1
37	42	M Cavanagh	17.3		55	S Wyatt-Haines	7.1
	29	R Pearson	17.3	79	67	B Lawry	5.0
	29	R Sandie	17.3		67	R Sutcliffe	5.0
	15	M Skogh	17.3		67	O Thompson	5.0
41	39	T Widdop	15.8		67	J Walter	5.0

Current shows position following the Scottish Championships, May 2014. Previous shows position at the start of the season

Join the 100 club



The 100 Club started in the early 1980s with the purpose of providing funds for the renovation of courts, and other expenses associated

with the promotion of the game of Rugby Fives, at the discretion of the RFA Committee (now the RFA Board).

Over the years, funds have been made available to many schools to assist with projects and £2,500 was donated to Rugby School for the new courts. We are also presently contributing towards the cost of coaching at the Edinburgh Academy and Loretto School. Currently we have just over 75 members but are looking to increase this number. If we can exceed 100 then the prize money can be increased.

Membership costs just £12 pa and there are three prize draws each year:

Spring Draw
1st prize **£50**
2nd Prize **£35**

Summer Draw
Prize **£150**

Winter Draw
1st Prize **£50**
2nd Prize **£35**

The winner of the 2014 summer draw was Frank Strang

The 100 Club is not in any way in competition with the RFA Charitable Trust and the scale of the Fund is of course significantly smaller. Nevertheless the Board believes that through this different vehicle it can provide meaningful support to schools across the country - as well as a possible return on your contributions!

Ian Fuller

The Rugby Fives Association Charitable Trust

(Registered Charity No. 1087264) (Trustees: J. East, F. Akerman, B. Hanton, D. Hebden, I Fuller, C. Niven, A. Pringle and R. Warner)

John East reports on the Charitable Trust's achievements



During its last financial year to 30th September 2013 the Trust received income of a little over £18,000, whilst it made grants in total of just over £11,750. £10,750 of

this went to the Cambridge Foundation to go towards the new courts at Cambridge, while a little over £1,000 was paid to reimburse the Derby Moor Club for the costs of running the Club. The majority of the new donations were also allocated to fund future developments at Derby Moor. There is still an outstanding commitment to support the national coaching scheme being established by the Fives Federation while well over half of the Trust's remaining funds are specifically allocated towards the needs of the Derby Moor fraternity.

There have been no applications for grants by the Trust since the end of the last financial year but the Trust is certainly still willing to consider applications for grants for both large and small projects.

As ever, any and all additional support for the RFACT is most welcome. Its ability to provide help has been an important factor in many projects coming to fruition over the last decade. With that ability now somewhat reduced, if you feel able and willing to contribute to the Trust's funds please do get in touch – gift aid forms can be provided if needed. Equally if you are willing to consider leaving a legacy to the Trust in your will, then please consider using the template below as a codicil to your will, suitably adjusted if you are writing a new will.



The new courts at Cambridge, paid for in part by the Charitable Trust

As ever, I would like to thank all my fellow Trustees for their support over the past year and I should also thank Peter de Winton for his continuing assistance with the accounts.

Additionally, of course, I would like to thank all the contributors over the years, without whose generosity the Trust's ability to support the game would have been very constrained.

I _____ (Name)
 Of _____ (Address)
 Declare this to be a _____ (first/second as appropriate) Codicil to my last Will dated the ____ day of _____ 19 ____ /20 ____ ("my will").
 My Will shall be construed and take effect as if it contained the following clause:
 I give free of inheritance tax to The Rugby Fives Charitable Trust, registered charity number 1087264
 a)* _____ per cent (____ %) (percentage in words and figures) of my residuary estate for the general purposes of said charity.
 b)* The sum of _____ pounds (£ _____) (sum in words and figures) for the general purposes of the charity.
 The receipt of any Trustee or other officer for the time being of the said charity shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors.
 In All other respects I confirm my Will _____ (and Codicil dated) (date of Codicil)
 In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand on this ____ day of _____ 20 ____
 Signed by the said _____ (Name)
 _____ (Signature of testator)

As and for a _____ (first/second etc) Codicil to his/her Will in our presence. And by us jointly attested and subscribed in his/her presence

FIRST WITNESS	SECOND WITNESS
_____ (Signature of witness)	_____ (Signature of witness)
NAME _____	NAME _____
Address _____	Address _____
Occupation _____	Occupation _____

* Delete as appropriate

2013-14 Results round-up

Full details of all these events on www.rugbyfivesassociation.net

DERBY MOOR INVITATION TOURNAMENT

Champions: A Hill and T Widdop

WINCHESTER FIVES MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: A Pringle and A Steel

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: D Tristao
 Doubles: E Hatton and A George

NATIONAL SCHOOL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

U18 Singles: S Zhang (Malvern College)
 U18 Doubles: Malvern College I (S Zhang and C Bedford)
 U16 Singles: K Martin (Rugby School)
 U16 Doubles: Rugby School I (K Martin and N Mehta)
 U14 Singles: C Bugel (Marlborough College)
 U14 Doubles: Marlborough College I (C Bugel and S Smith)
 U13 Singles: A Green (Christ's Hospital)
 U13 Doubles: Christ's Hospital I (A Green and L Walsh)

NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: J Minta
 Doubles: H Buchanan and B Hanton

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: Old Paulines I

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

St Paul's School, Barnes, 5/6 April 2014

Open Singles: B Beltrami (St. Paul's)
 Open Doubles: St Paul's I (B Beltrami and O Arnold)
 Colts (U16) Singles: H Mahajan (St. Paul's)
 Colts (U16) Doubles: St Paul's I (H.Mahajan and L.Heidrich)

NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: W Ellison and C Brooks

NATIONAL UNDER 13 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: B Knowles (Blundell's School)
 Doubles: Blundell's School (B Knowles and W Hall-Tompson)

NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: I Fuller
 Doubles: W Enstone and I Fuller

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

U18 Singles: J Leale-Green (Eastbourne College)
 U18 Doubles: Eastbourne College (J Leale-Green and P Teterin)
 U16 Singles: C Mabbutt (Whitgift School)
 U16 Doubles: Whitgift School (C Mabbutt and J Grut)

COLQUHOUN TROPHY

Open: L Fulford-Smith (Marlborough College)
 Colts (U16): L Nelson (Malvern College)

NATIONAL WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: W Ellison and H Mohammed

LADIES WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: K Briedenhann
 Doubles: A Steel and K Briedenhann

RFA V BUCS REPRESENTATIVE MATCH

RFA beat BUCS by 230 points to 172

NORTH OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: W Ellison
 Doubles: W Ellison and T Dean

VARSITY MATCH

Cambridge beat Oxford by 269 points to 153

MIDLANDS SCHOOLS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

U18 Singles: RJ Whitehorn (Derby Moor)
 U18 Doubles: Derby Moor (R Whitehorn and R Christie)
 U15 Singles: J Attwood (Bedford Modern)
 U15 Doubles: Rugby (V Skirokiy and M Suddaby)

NATIONAL UNDER 25 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: D Tristao
 Doubles: D Tristao and E Kay

NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: W Ellison
 Doubles: W Ellison and J Minta

WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Singles: B Beltrami (St. Paul's)
 Senior Doubles: St Paul's (B Beltrami and O Arnold)
 Colts Singles: H Mahajan (St. Paul's)
 Colts Doubles: St. Paul's (H Mahajan and L Heidrich)

RFA CLUB PRESIDENT'S CUP

President's Cup: J Tilston and O Quarry
 T Pot: J Gravatt and T Widdop
 Mates' Plate:
 D Tristao and K Kennerley
 Love Mug: T Dean and M Kiteley

LADIES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: K Briedenhann
 Doubles: K Briedenhann and T Mills

NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champion: D Tristao

NATIONAL STUDENT/BUCS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: D Grant (UCL)
 Doubles: E Kay and J Brubert (Cambridge)

SCHOOLS WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: St. Paul's I (B Beltrami and O Arnold)

WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: D Tristao
 Doubles: D Tristao and D Grant

YORKSHIRE OPEN DOUBLES

Champions: H Buchanan and W Ellison

OWERS TROPHY

Champions: Old Paulines I

LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: D Tristao
 Doubles: W Ellison and D Tristao

SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: W. Ellison
 Doubles: W Ellison and D Grant



**Rugby Fives
Association
2014**

www.rugbyfivesassociation.net