

Fives Newsletter 2013

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The Fives Federation



Regular readers of these Newsletters will be aware that the Fives Federation has been tackling an ambitious five-point plan to bring the various codes closer together and develop key areas.

As you can read in these pages, we are delighted with the progress that has been made: the Cambridge Sports Centre development is now moving on apace (see opposite), while the www.fivesonline.net website is continually evolving, with the online tournament entry and payment system now well-established and hopefully soon to be adopted by all codes.

With Level 2 now up and running and Level 1 about to be rolled out, the success of the coaching scheme is beginning to convert even the most hardened sceptic. As well as being a huge asset in itself in terms of raising coaching standards, it is already starting to pay off in terms of opening up potential funding avenues that were previously closed.

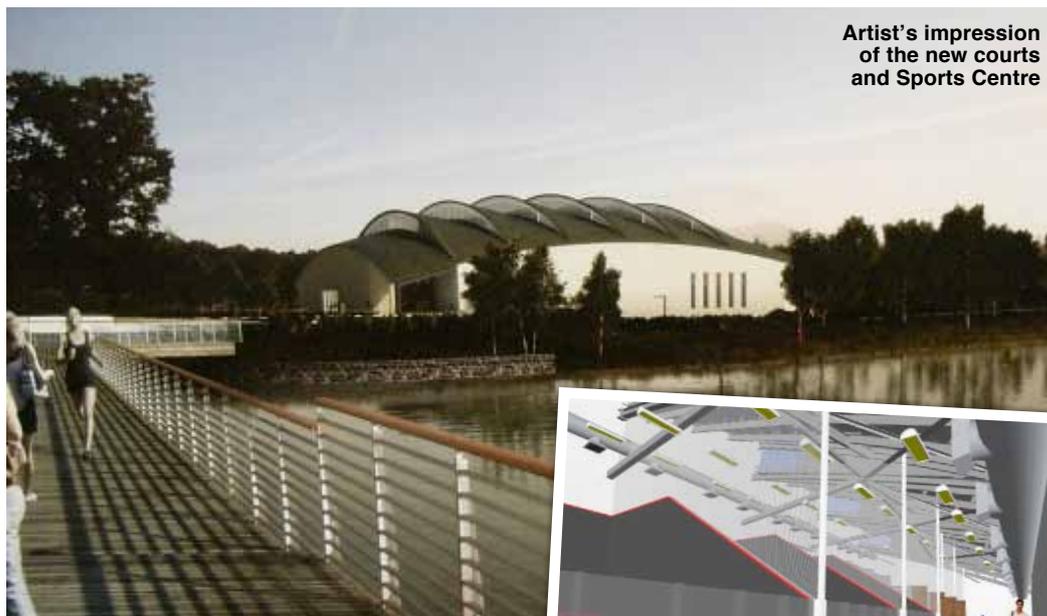
We believe that the sport of Fives is moving in the right direction and that the future is bright. We hope you enjoy this Newsletter and that we'll have more exciting news to bring you in the next edition.

Peter Worth
Chairman EFA

Dick Warner
President RFA

Dan Grant
President UK Wallball

Play on new courts in Cambridge this year



Artist's impression of the new courts and Sports Centre

After a successful fund-raising campaign, work is under way on new courts

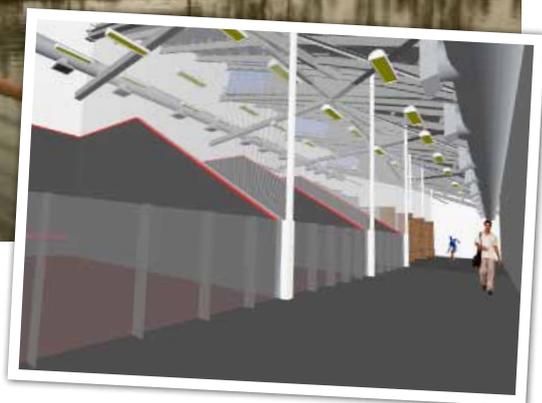
The Fives Federation received the best possible Christmas present when it was confirmed on December 21 that Fives courts will be built in the new Cambridge University Sports Centre. Work is well advanced and, if it goes to plan, the first games there will take place in the autumn.

The news is a triumph for the game in general and a testament to the hundreds of people who have donated to the cause. On the RFA side, the fund-raising was led by Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club President (and RFA Deputy President) Bob Dolby, with invaluable help from Gareth Quarry, while Bob's counterpart, Rodney Knight (aided by Dale Vargas, Richard Black and Peter Worth), spearheaded the EFA's efforts.

Consulting with architect

Thanks to their hard work and dedication, they raised the funds demanded by the University.

'The new courts will do more than enable to the University clubs to play'



Bob and fellow RFA board member Stuart Kirby, along with the EFA's John Reynolds, are working with the contractor's architect to advise him on the finer points of court design and construction. After two site meetings, the architectural brief is finalised and we await definitive costings from the contractors.

First-floor setting

The courts will be in a first-floor wing of the Sports Centre, sitting line abreast beneath the elegantly sloping curved roof. Spectators will be able to enjoy both codes in comfort hitherto unknown!

The new courts will do more than enable the two University Clubs to play their game. The University Sports Department plans coaching sessions, generating new interest in Fives among students of both sexes and bringing both codes to a new level of prominence and participation. With the Centre open to members of the public, a Cambridge City Fives Club is a distinct possibility.

The Federation will continue to report on the progress of the building of the courts, so keep an eye on the website over the next few months.

Rugby Fives Association President's Report



A very full year, so far, with the major news that there will be three new Rugby Fives courts in Cambridge by 2014, as well as three Eton Courts. Well done every player – without your kind, generous, and full-hearted support, this project would have just not happened, and it is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Special congratulations must go to the Deputy President, Bob Dolby, who coordinated this complex fundraising effort for Rugby Fives, ably assisted by David Barnes. Bob takes over from me in September 2013, and will be a brilliant President.

Spring is finally here, and all memories of flooding banished. March and April is the sharp end of the Fives season, with many big tournaments coming up – an exciting prospect. There is a ridiculous number of competitions in the Fives calendar, all keenly contested – depending on your counting, 26 or 27 of them, running from the Under 13s Championships through to the Masters (over 65), including a gratifying number of Girls' and Women's events.

Some few are important (to me as a player), but peripheral events for most of you, such as the Vintage Tournament in March, where the crumbling 55-year olds creak together for a weekend of reliving past dreams, and the Veterans' Championships, for the merely over 45 years of age, in April. Soon, I will be able to compete in the Masters, a pinnacle that I am approaching all too rapidly.

Apart from these playing pleasures for me, there are also a number of key events I will be thrilled to watch in March. There's the Ladies Winchester Fives Tournament, run by Denise Hall-Wilton, for example, and two in April: the National Schools' Tournaments at St Paul's School in Barnes - the Open, Under 16 and Under 14, so ably run by Peter King and the Under 13s overseen by Peter de Winton; finally, we have the finals of the Club Championship.

The best part of these tournaments is that you do not have to be a lion to take part. Lions may win them, but many of us mice thoroughly enjoy taking part in these all-embracing festivals of Fives. Nice to win, but beyond me – and most of us – but a thrill to take part in. Of course, the perfect tourney is the President's Cup in December (perfect apart from the fact that you can't walk for days afterwards) as it pairs up the strong with the weak, and gives every pair a chance to win something!

Nicest of all is that these tournaments display the distinctive ethos of the Rugby Fives community. Independent-minded people, often with a thoroughly-independent dress sense, playing together without the need for referees and umpires, playing with respect and chivalry that other sports cannot take for granted.

I think our 1993-1995 President, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, whose excellent obituary is on page 7, would thoroughly approve of our determinedly amateur and independent-minded perspective.

Dick Warner

'Above all, these events display the distinctive ethos of the Rugby Fives community'

Courts re-opened at Rydal Penrhos



Richard Black (right) declares the Rydal Penrhos courts open

The official re-opening of two courts at Rydal Penrhos School in Colwyn Bay that had been used for storage has brought the total there back up to four.

At the ceremony, Headmaster Patrick Lee-Browne began with a reminder of the glory days of the early seventies and spoke of what he hoped would be the second great era of Fives at the school, with all four courts back in use and a real enthusiasm among staff and pupils thanks to Master-in-Charge Mike Leach and gap year coaches John McLean, Abs Bhattacharya, George Thomason and now Aroop Bhattacharya.

The refurbishment was made possible partly by a donation from

the Eton Fives Charitable Trust and the invaluable work of the EFA's Paul Bowden. Richard Black, Chairman of the EFCT, unveiled the plaque and expanded on the Headmaster's vision of a sports facility that is unique in Wales and that will hopefully prove to be of benefit not just for the school but also for the wider community.

The big group of staff, parents, former pupils and current players were then treated to an exhibition match from John Reynolds, Howard Wiseman, Seb Cooley and George Thomason followed by coaching and matches for all.

The first Welsh Open Eton Fives tournament can't be too far away!

Eastbourne girls win Ladies Championships

The 2012 RFA Ladies Championships saw something of a shock, with new names engraved on the winners' trophies for the first time this century.

The names in question were both from Eastbourne College. Teacher Kathleen Briedenhann won the singles and teamed up with pupil Tessa Mills to win the doubles as well.

Sadly, the defending champions were unable to compete, but even in the absence of some of the 'usual suspects', the championships were well attended. Rugby School again provided some fine players, and for the first time the championships welcomed players from Rossall.



Players from Rossall won plate

A large group of Fives players enjoyed the event



Below: Luke Thomson receives his silver medal



Taking on the world

Last October, the biggest ever wallball event took place in Dublin, and there were many British players among the more than 2000 competitors.

The focus was on the 1-Wall competition, and there were many good performances. In the Men's C singles, Andy Pringle won four rounds and only went out in the last 16 to the American who won the grade with ease. Andy and Luke Stradwick also reached the semi-finals of the doubles, while

in the B grade, Gareth Price and Luke Thomson only went out in a quarter-final tie-break.

In the women's C grade, the two UK ladies played well, with Kathleen Briedenhann and Marianne Catmull losing to the eventual winner in the quarter- and semi-finals respectively.

Captains Dan Grant and Kerry White were in the Open grade. Kerry made the quarter-finals after a fine win over Bernice Torres, while Dan only lost to the top seed in the last 16.

The highlight, though, was Luke Thomson's run in the Under 23 singles. He beat the second seed in the first round and faced the Irish no.1, Seamus O'Carroll, in the semis.

The superb match ended with a tie-break (to 11) that went to 10-10. Several match points were earned and saved, but eventually Luke forced an error that won him a place in the final.

Alas, here his opponent proved too much, but Luke can be proud of his silver medal.

Sadly, such success was not followed in the team events. In the Federation Cup, both teams lost in the first round, and England lost The Ashes (decided on one game of 4-Wall, in which the Aussies' greater experience told). However, the UK team firmly believes that at the next event – in Calgary, Canada, in 2015 – the natural balance will be restored with a UK win.

Fives buzzing at St. Bees

Eton Fives is undergoing a revival in its northernmost outpost, St Bees School in Cumbria, writes Paul Bowden. With some help from the EFA/EFCT, a gap-year student, Katharina Kuenburg from Zuoz, is in residence for the Fives season. With the support of the new Head, James Davies, and the Director of Sport, Huw Lewis, who has incorporated Fives lessons into the PE curriculum, a large number of boys and girls are being given the opportunity to learn the game.

Any intrepid schools or clubs wishing to play on the three splendid courts, which are set in the heart of the school, would certainly not be disappointed; there can be few more beautiful settings for Fives anywhere in the world, with the beach and St. Bees



Katharina Kuenburg is in residence at St. Bees

Head – the start of the Coast to Coast walk – just a couple of minutes away and the fells of the Lake District National Park right on the doorstep.

Enthusiasm is growing quickly and, although the school's remote location makes normal school fixtures a challenge, we are looking forward to seeing St Bees featuring in some festivals and tournaments in the very near future.

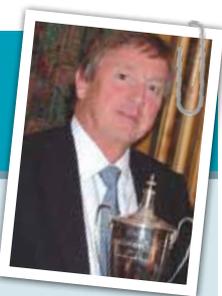
Date changed for RFA AGM

The Rugby Fives Association has changed the date of its 2013 AGM. The meeting will now be held on Tuesday 10th September, rather than the earlier date published in the Association's Pocket Book

As yet, the venue has not been confirmed, but it is expected to be in London and the Agenda will include the election of a new President and Deputy President.

All members are invited to attend and they will receive the relevant documents in the post a month ahead of the meeting.

Eton Fives Association Chairman's Report



The last few months have seen the world of Eton Fives make great progress with building new courts. Richard Black, Rodney Knight and others have achieved the seemingly impossible in raising the necessary funding for the three new courts to be built in the new state of the art Sports Centre at Cambridge University.

Both the EFA and EFCT have contributed significant sums and many others have acted as guarantors to cover the shortfall. Further details of the project can be read elsewhere in this newsletter, but I do urge all members to contribute in some way to financing these courts, which will do a tremendous amount for Fives at Cambridge University. Let us hope Oxford University take up the challenge and build their own new courts. As we go to print, the finishing touches are also being made to the three new courts at St.Bartholomew's School in Newbury (below).

The Fives Federation's coaching scheme is also now beginning to gather pace and I am delighted to report that many school coaches have already attended courses. Most schools now require coaches of all sports to have a least a Level 2 qualification along with CRB checks, and I anticipate most, if not all, Fives coaches having at least this qualification in the next few years.

Gerald Barber and Annabel Griffiths have left the EFA Board recently and both have done tremendous service over the last few years. Gerald has devoted a lot of time to being Chairman of the Schools' sub-committee, maintaining active contact with Fives-playing schools and actively encouraging more play. Annabel has led the Ladies section with great enthusiasm and has helped develop the ladies game in many different areas. There is concern at the downturn in the number of girls playing at school and we are actively trying to address this. I am delighted to welcome Mandie Barnes and Simon de Zoete to the Board and I look forward to

working with them over the coming months.

Finally, I am delighted to report a significant increase in the number of EFA matches against schools. We have had a good turnout and much appreciation from the schools who have welcomed this initiative. I look forward to seeing a lot of entrants at both The Northern Tournament and The Kinnaid Cup

'I urge all members to contribute in some way to financing the new courts in Cambridge'

this year as well as seeing the new crop of younger players attending the Marsh National Eton Fives Schools' Championships, which are being played at Shrewsbury this year.

Peter Worth



Jesters take the high road



The Jesters Tour to Edinburgh has become an institution, and the 2013 event was another great success.

Led by Frank and Harry Akerman, it does a huge amount to encourage Fives in Scotland.

Some 20 or so players gather in the Scottish capital, and over

the course of three days, play what seems like countless matches. The action takes place at four schools – Fettes, Loretto, Edinburgh

Academy and Merchiston Castle – and the Jesters face teams not just from each school (at several age levels) but from adult clubs.

The Caledonian Club traditionally provide the sternest opposition, but the Jesters also tackle Edinburgh University and Old Boys from Merchiston. Such is the tour's success, Durham University also come for a match.

Setting up all the matches is a feat itself – for which the Akermans deserve great credit – but it is nothing compared to the feat of getting all the Jesters from their B&Bs to and from the matches on time.

The real winner is Fives, but Frank is always keen to see Jesters' wins, and he told us, "[the 2013 tour] was a good weekend. The

Jesters beat Durham University, won one of the Caledonian Club matches (when Simon Fraser was not playing!) and beat a combined university VI.

"However, they lost against the Merchistonians and an impressive junior colts side from Merchiston, when two 70+ year olds were unable to halt the progress of exuberant youth!"



Matches span all age groups

New RFA Schools' tournament

Inspired by the success of the inaugural South East Schools tournament last year, a group is looking to set up an annual tournament among Rugby Fives-playing schools in the Midlands.

The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday March 17th, and is expected to include players from Derby Moor, Oundle, Rugby, Bedford and Bedford Modern, as well as possibly Denstone and Radley. RFA Deputy President Bob Dolby (who coaches at the Derby Moor club) and Oundle's Mike Case are organising the event.

Just as with the South East tournament, rather than the RFA supplying the winners' trophies, they are being donated by players with a connection to Fives in the area, whether they play there now or started their Fives-playing life there. As ever, full results will be recorded online as soon as possible after the event.



Coaching courses up and running

Level 1 launch follows success with Level 2

The Fives Federation's coaching courses continue to go from strength to strength, with a third cohort of Level 2 coaches being put through their cross-code paces at The Westway Sports Centre and St. Paul's School in December by course tutors Mark Yates and Wayne Enstone.

The next course is in London over the weekend of April 6/7, and anyone who is interested in taking part should contact Gareth Hoskins or Ian Fuller.

The course costs £340 and includes both theoretical and practical sections. Day 1 will take place at the Westway Sports Centre with an EFA tutor, and Day 2 will take place at St Paul's School with an RFA tutor. These

sessions will then be followed by a 2 x 20 minute practical assessment at a later date, to be agreed with each individual candidate.

More and more schools are now seeing the value of having a Level 2 coach on their staff, and the Federation expects that attaining the qualification will let an individual add to their existing coaching activities and increase their income-generating potential as a tutor/ assessor of the Level 1 (and potentially Level 2) Fives Coaching qualification.

After these successful Level 2 courses, the scheme now moves on to its next phase. The Federation's coaching team look to launch Pilot Level 1 courses, with Blundell's and Berkhamsted as possible venues.



These new courses are particularly aimed at Fives players aged between 16 and 18, and can be used both on UCAS applications and as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Beyond that, they can also provide a route into Fives coaching (by progressing to Level 2).

Look out for a course coming to a Fives centre near you soon. Full details can be found on www.fivesonline.net.

RFA act as consultants

The RFA is working with schools and universities to advise on court construction and refurbishment.

In the last few months, senior members, including Dick Warner, Frank Akerman and the RFA's top technical man, Stuart Kirby, have visited schools including Felsted, where they hope to resurrect the currently unused courts.

Visits will also have been made to King's Bruton and Kings Taunton, with a view to advising both schools on the work that needs doing to their courts and how much it might cost.

Last, but not least, the RFA is also advising Cambridge as the university's new courts (see page 1) are built. The Association has received a specification for all six courts, and this will be reviewed with the EFA, while a site visit is also planned to discuss technical issues, maximise the quality of the building and minimise the possibility of mistakes.



Cambridge advised on courts



The EFA's expanded programme of school matches included a fixture against Ipswich School

EFA spreads the word

The EFA has expanded its programme of matches against schools this season.

The emphasis has been on making each fixture a real event, with the EFA players looking to make valuable connections with the school players and hopefully play a part in bringing them into the adult game in the future.

With the groundwork initially laid by EFA fixtures mastermind Julian Black, a group of match

managers including Ralph Morgan, Gareth Hoskins and Ian Mitchell, have worked hard to send EFA sides to schools such as Berkhamsted, Harrow, Ipswich, Bryanston, Oakham, Uppingham, Aldenham and St. John's, Leatherhead.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the EFA have all played at least once and more fixtures are planned for the second half of the season. The

programme will be taken over by Ian Mitchell for the 2013/14 season, and all EFA members are urged to play at least once.

Running in parallel to the EFA team has been the EFA Ladies side, run by Karen Hird, who are looking to play against all the schools with Fives-playing girls and seeking to inspire the next generation. Fixtures have been played against the likes of Highgate, with more to follow.

News in brief

■ A group of Fives players travelled to Holland to play in the CIJB World Championships in August/September last year. They were hoping to retain the 1-Wall title they had won two years earlier in Valencia, but eventually lost to Spain in a bad-tempered quarter-final.

■ Leeds University student and former Radley captain George Fox-Edwards hopes to reopen the Rugby Fives courts at Devonshire Halls in the city. The RFA is giving him its full support and hopes to have good news soon.

■ The new Eton Fives courts that are being built at St. Bartholomew's School, Newbury, are nearly finished and should be ready to be opened early this year.



Black Cup winners Highgate

■ The girls team from Highgate School won the 2012 Black Cup – the ladies Eton Fives team competition – for the first time ever with a convincing win over the EFA team in the final.

■ The 2012 RFA Club President's Cup was won by Will Ellison and Jeremy Stubbs. This makes Jeremy the third Derby Moor player to claim the trophy in four years, after wins for Clive Butler (2010) and Rob Grey (2009), both with John Minta.

■ The 2012 Eton Fives Jesters Universities Tournaments were won by Jamie Abbott and Robert Wilson of Cambridge and Constance Mantle and Izzy Watts of Oxford. Nearly 30 pairs from 17 different Universities took part in the competition at Eton.

UK WallBall President's Report

Since the last newsletter we've had some great news, but let's start with the big one: the World Championships.

Over 2000 people competed and, for Fives players, it was stunning to see so many like-minded ball-hitters together. 1-Wall was the showcase event, and as the IOC looked on approvingly, people from 8 to 80 competed in the giant purpose-built arena. Ireland's 4-Wall game has surged in popularity since the event and I hope to emulate this in the UK, swelling the ranks of Fives players.

Team GB did itself proud. Both Kerry White & Daniel Grant made Open Quarter-Finals, and several players reached the

'We'll run an outreach programme to the local community'

semis of their grades. Best of all were our youngsters. Tessa Mills won an epic clash in her opening round, but it was Luke Thomson who undoubtedly put the icing on the cake. After coming through a titanic draw he finished 2012 as the world's second best U23 player!

After Ireland, Luke and Dan headed to Belgium to support their premier 'KillShot' club, and several Europeans will be at Merchant Taylors' for the UK Singles Open in February.

Off-court, things are beginning to take shape. We have a new centre opening at the brand new UCL Academy in Swiss Cottage, where not only will we have a club night and team training, we will also run outreach programmes to the local communities. We'll follow this by working with Camden Council, StreetGames and University College London to expand the sport further and give the North London populace a sporting opportunity which is free to access and open to all.



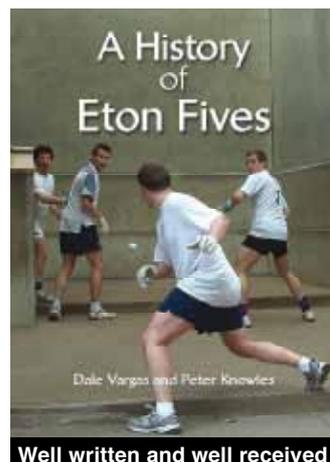
Finally, we've been rebranding, and as well as creating Twitter, Vimeo and Facebook accounts, we've revamped our website (www.ukwallball.co.uk) and are just putting finishing touches on a professional promo video which will be on the Mayor of London's desk before Easter. There'll be much to update you on in the next newsletter, but as we gain momentum we're looking forward to working as part of the Fives Federation to stabilise, bolster and continually improve all codes of Fives, no matter where you play or how many walls you have.

Dan Grant

Praise for first Eton Fives history book

The first history of the game that an Eton master once described as "the most valuable contribution ever made by the school to the well-being of mankind" has been well received.

The Head Master of Eton called the book – written by Dale Vargas and Peter Knowles – "an authoritative narrative, full of insight into our strange and compelling game." Malcolm Tozer, writing for the International Journal of the History of Sport, commended it as "thoroughly researched, lavishly illustrated and lightly written"



Well written and well received

'Physical Education Matters' said, "[the authors] have produced a comprehensive survey of the game. The reader's eye slips easily from script to accompanying illustration, table or insert without disturbing concentration or flow".

According to 'The Harrovian', "it sets a benchmark of quality for all involved in the game and should play a significant role in opening the doors of Fives to a new generation of players".

Copies of the book may be bought from Gareth Hoskins or via www.fivesonline.net.



RFA v WFA: a friendly battle

Old rivalries renewed

For the second year, the fixture between the RFA and The 'Winchester Fives Association' produced a win for the WFA.

David Barnes said: "The match is a worthy successor to all those RFA Club versus Wessex IVs encounters over the years." If there was any doubt about the teams' effort, it vanished in 'The Queen', where almost 15 rounds of sandwiches were consumed, apparently with Messrs Burrows and Butler almost making the Guinness Book of Records.

North Oxford at the Treble

Following in the footsteps of the Marlborough Town Fives Club, 17 North Oxford players took on the Fives equivalent of the Three Peaks Challenge on 16th December, playing Rugby Fives at Rugby, Eton Fives at Eton and Winchester Fives at Winchester all in one day.

The day started with the journey to Rugby and ended 14 hours later after a well-earned drink in the Wykeham Arms and

a curry at Gandhi's in Winchester in the evening.

In between, there were 250+ miles of motorways, three Fives tournaments and attempts to eat all of Karen Hird's cakes.

New pairs were drawn at each venue, and each tournament was a series of timed knockout games. Nick Shaw and Mandie Barnes won at Rugby, Spencer Chapman and Jonny Nelmes at Eton and Nick Shaw (again)

and Harriet Allan at Winchester. Everyone's total points were then added up to produce an overall winner, but only eight points separated first place from tenth. Much to his surprise, club president Andy Bishop scooped the overall prize, one point ahead of Ian Mitchell and Nick Shaw.

This was a fantastic day and what was originally conceived as a one-off is now being considered for a repeat, possibly in 2014.



No less than 17 North Oxford players completed the Fives equivalent of the Three Peaks Challenge

News in brief

■ The 2012 Westway Summer Superleague finished in spectacular fashion with a win for Dossi's Desperados over WHOREFC.



Champions: the Desperados

■ The prize winners in the RFA's 100 Club winter draw were Rick Wilson and Mary Love, who claimed the first and second prizes, respectively. Anyone who is interested in joining the Club, which has three prize draws each year, should contact Ian Fuller.

■ November saw an exciting first for Eton Fives in the Midlands, with the first ever fixture between the girls' teams from Wrekin College in Shropshire and Wolverhampton Grammar School.

■ Among the highlights of the fund-raising for the new Cambridge courts (see page 1) was a 24-hour Rugby Fives match at St Paul's School last December. Organised by the current university captain, Ed Kay, it saw 'The Rest of the World' beat Cambridge over the course of 61 games and raised the best part of £5000.

■ The EFA has two new directors for 2013. Simon de Zoete is joining the Board, as is Mandie Barnes, who is taking over the reins of the Ladies sub-committee from Annabel Griffiths.

■ Cambridge University won the entirely unofficial Team event at 2012's RFA Student Championships. Using figures calculated by Dave Hebden, Cambridge (who won the Doubles and both plates, as well as having a semi-finalist in the singles) finished ahead of Bristol and UCL, who were in joint second place.

Obituaries

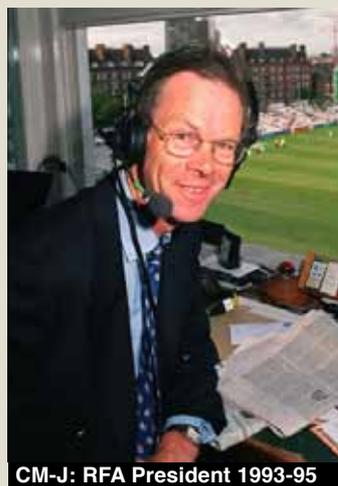
The RFA is sad to note the deaths of two great lovers and supporters of Fives within the last few months: Christopher Martin-Jenkins and Barry Trapnell.

'CM-J' was educated at Marlborough and read history at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, playing for CURFC against Oxford in 1966 and 1967. He was elected Captain for the following year, but decided instead to take up the post of Deputy Editor of 'The Cricketer'. He will be remembered as cricket correspondent for 'The Daily Telegraph' and 'The Times' and as a broadcaster and commentator on the BBC's Test Match Special.

Although Chris played little Fives after Cambridge, he took a keen interest in the game and

refers to it with great affection in his autobiography. He was RFA President from 1993 to 1995, and a generous donor to the appeal to build courts in Cambridge.

His death in January this year came just some six months after



CM-J: RFA President 1993-95

the passing, at 88 years of age, of Barry Trapnell, the oldest surviving National champion.

Barry went up to Cambridge from University College School in the war, when Varsity Matches were suspended. An outstanding sportsman, he was National Singles Champion in 1949 and National Doubles Champion twice - in 1949 (with Cambridge's Ted Isaacs) and in 1953 (with Oxford's John Rogers).

He was President of CURFC from 1989 to 2004, succeeding the legendary Jock Burnet, co-founder of the Jesters. Each year, Cambridge Past now play Cambridge Present for the Trapnell Tankard.

It is particularly poignant that both men should die just as the Cambridge courts they so much wanted are to become a reality.

UK Wallball Open Singles Championship in February

The 2013 UK Wallball Open Singles championship will be held at Merchant Taylors School on Saturday February 23rd. There will be three grades played: Open (with several of the top European players taking part), Challenger (for men and women) and Under 18, a doubles-only event.

Spectators are welcome at the finals, and after the tournament on the Saturday evening, there will be a dinner at the OMT Clubhouse (next to the courts), which is open to all players and spectators and costs £20. Then, on the following day, there will be a fun Rugby Fives tournament for everyone, including coaching and exhibition games.

It is hoped that the UK Open



2011 champs Dan & Marianne

will inspire many players to have a go at Wallball for the first time and perhaps go on to compete at an international level. It follows the successful 2011 UK Open championship, which was held at the same venue and welcomed a record number of players, with Dan Grant and Marianne Catmull winning the Men's and Women's titles, respectively.

EFA Tournament Results Round-up

Under 25s:

A.Joyce & L.Brock bt Ab. Bhattacharya & Ar.Bhattacharya 2-0
K.Hird & E.Scoones bt E.Smith-Bingham & A.Paul 3-2

Ranking Tournament: P.Cohen

Midland Tournament: A.Theodossi & J.O'Neill bt L.Brock & E.Rose 2-1

Midland Festival: G.Hoskins & R.Scott bt J.Saunders & S.Warren-Thomas 2-0

Richard Black Cup: Highgate bt EFA Ladies 3-0

Jesters Universities Tournament:

Men: Cambridge (J.Abbott & R.Wilson) bt Oxford (A.Poole & F.Irmie) 2-0

Women: Oxford (C.Mantle & I.Watts) bt Cambridge (E.Osen & O.Pranker-Smith) 2-0

London Tournament: G.Campbell & P.Dunbar bt P.White & P.Cohen 3-0

London Festival: N.Bunyan & R. Wilson bt R.Houlden & F.Tomlinson 2-0

Barber Cup semis: Old Harrovians bt Old Salopians 2-1;
Old Olavians bt Old Wulfrunians 2-1

Current League Leaders:

Division 1 – Berkhamsted 1
Division 2 – Old Millhillians 2
Division 3 – Team Westway

Northern Tournament:

T.Dunbar & S.Cooley beat P.Dunbar & G.Campbell w/o

Northern Tournament Festival:
N.Pearce & S.Yick beat J.O'Neill & K.Kuenburg 2-0

RFA Tournament Results Round-up

London Open Championships:

Singles – J.Toop; Doubles – T.Dean & C.Brooks

Owers Trophy:

Final: Old Paulines bt Old Eastbournians

Yorkshire Open Doubles Championship:

Winners – H.Buchanan & W.Ellison

West of England Open Championships

Singles – W.Ellison; Doubles – H.Buchanan & W.Ellison

Schools' Winchester Fives Championship

Final: Winchester I bt St. Paul's I

National Student/BUCS Championships

Singles – D.Grant; Doubles – Cambridge (E.Kay & J.Brubert)

National Singles Championship

Final: J.Toop bt W.Ellison

National Ladies' Championships

Singles – K.Briedenhann; Doubles – K.Briedenhann & T.Mills

RFA Club President's Cup

Winners: W.Ellison & J.Stubbs
T Pot: B.Hanton & R.Warner
Mates' Plate: J.Gravatt & A.Passey
Love Mug: H.Buchanan & M.Kiteley

West of England Schools' Championships

Senior Singles – M.Shaw (St. Paul's);
Senior Doubles – St Paul's I (Shaw & Edmonds);
Colts Singles T.Watkinson (Winchester);
Colts Doubles – Derby Moor I (Blunden & Whitehorn)

North West Open Championships

Singles – D.Tristao; Doubles – W.Ellison & J.Minta

Forthcoming events

Eton Fives

February		
W/e 2/3	Northern Tournament	Shrewsbury
Sun 10	Universities Mixed Tournament	Highgate
Sun 17	EFA Trophy Qualifying Rounds	Eton
Sun 24	Ladies Championships	Eton
March		
W/e 2/3	Kinnaird Prelim Rounds	Eton
Sun 3	Kinnaird Festival	Eton
Sat 9	Varsity Match	Eton
Sun 10	Kinnaird Cup – Semi-Finals	Eton
	EFA Trophy – Semi-Finals & Final	Eton
Sun 17	Williams Cup	Eton
Sun 24 – Fri 28	National Schools' Championships	Shrewsbury
April		
Sun 7	Kinnaird Cup – Final	Eton
	Ladies Championship Final	Eton
Sun 14	Aberconway Cup (Fathers & Sons)	Eton
Sun 21	Mixed Championships	Eton
Sun 28	MJS-J Cup (Veterans)	Eton
May		
Sat 11	EFA Dinner	Davy's

Rugby & Winchester Fives

February		
Sat/Sun 9/10	Under 25s Championships	Oundle
Sat 23	Oxford v Cambridge Varsity Match	St. Paul's School
March		
Sat/Sun 2/3	North of England Open	Durham
Sun 3	Ladies Winchester Fives Championships	Malvern
	Colquhoun Trophy	Sherborne
Sun 17	Winchester Fives Doubles Championship	Malvern
Sun 24	National Vintage Championships	Oundle
April		
Tues-Fri 2/5	National Schools' Championships	St Paul's School
Sat/Sun 6/7	National Doubles Championship	Alley's School
Sat/Sun 13/14	National Club Championship (final rounds)	St Paul's School
Sun 21	National School Girls' Championships	Marlborough
Sat/Sun 27/28	National Veterans & Masters Championships	Marlborough
May		
Sat/Sun 4/5	Scottish Open Championships	Loretto
Sun 12	Winchester Fives Mixed Championship	Bradfield
July		
Sat/Sun 6/7	South West Open Championships	Blundell's School
September		
Tues 10	RFA AGM	London

1-Wall WallBall

February		
Sat 23	UK Open Singles Championship	Merchant Taylors School
June		
Fri/Sun 28/30	Irish Open Championships	Castlebar, Ireland
September		
Weds/Sun 18/22	World 3-Wall Championships	Las Vegas

Full details on www.rfa.org.uk and www.fivesonline.net