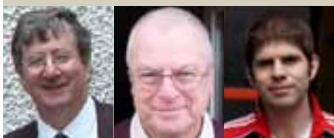


Fives Newsletter Autumn 2014

An official publication of the Fives Federation | November 2014



The Fives Federation



Welcome to the latest issue of the Fives Federation Newsletter. On these pages you can read all about the development of Fives around the world (opposite), new Eton Fives courts in Berkhamsted (page 2) and new tournaments and achievements in Ladies' Rugby Fives (page 3). With Wallball's growing UK profile, British players on the international scene and the success of the Westway Summer Superleague, we're on the way to seeing fives become a year-round game, too. However, it's vital we don't rest on our laurels. As the court census (page 5) shows, we're losing courts faster than we're adding new ones. We forget our existing facilities at our peril. We all know of courts that have been abandoned, converted or demolished, so it's important we continue to support and expand our clubs. We can all help with this. Imagine what would happen if we each encouraged just one more person to play... At London 2012, the buzzword was 'legacy', and we urge all of you to continue playing and supporting our game. That will be our legacy to the generations of players to come.

Richard Black
Chairman EFA

Bob Dolby
President RFA

Dan Grant
President UK Wallball

Breaking down the boundaries



MAIN Anthony Theodossi conducts a coaching session at Malay College
TOP RIGHT The GB team at the Wallball World Championships
BOTTOM RIGHT The courts at Otago Boys' High School, New Zealand



Fives is usually considered by those who play it in this country to be a peculiarly British sport. Recent developments across all three codes have shown this to be far from being the whole story, however.

Europe to Australia

Eton Fives in Switzerland – at the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz and on the Geneva and Zurich courts of the Old Zuozers – has been in rude health for many years and there have been encouraging signs at Geelong Grammar School in Australia under the guidance of Frank Calloway.

By contrast, the Eton Fives courts at Malay College in Kuala Kangsar, Malaysia have lain dormant for the best part of 50 years. A visit last year from

Jesters Secretary Michael Rowan set in motion a chain of events that saw Anthony Theodossi and Ryan Perrie head to Malaysia for two weeks of coaching in August, to be greeted by an explosion of interest. With the support of an enthusiastic group of Old Boys and principal Anand bin Baharuddin, Ant and Ryan set to work coaching hundreds of enthusiastic pupils and staff.

The visit culminated in a grand re-opening and inter-house tournament, and with the wheels already set in motion for further coaching visits from the UK, a possible visit by college players to the schools' championships in the UK next year and maybe even the building of other courts elsewhere in Malaysia, the future of Fives in the region suddenly looks very exciting.

'Anthony Theodossi and Ryan Perrie headed out to Malaysia to be greeted by an explosion of interest'

Wallball's wins

Not to be outdone, the UK Wallball team recently returned from the World Team Championships in Spain, having won a remarkable bronze medal and re-established themselves as the top team in Europe, with crucial wins from Dan Grant and Luke Thomson against Portugal, Italy and arch rivals Spain, with the British players' two week training camp in New York standing them in good stead in their narrow win over the host nation. A full report is available on the UK Wallball website.

The Rugby Fives Association has also been uncovering some international connections of its own as it conducts its court census (see page 5). So far it has found evidence of different types of court in locations as diverse as Australia, the US, New Zealand, India, China and Sri Lanka.

Fives truly is a worldwide game!

Rugby Fives Association President's Report



Well now, here's a topic for discussion at the pub après-fives. Was there ever a Golden Age of Fives?

Some might argue it was the 1920s and 1930s when there were no flood-lit all-weather hockey pitches, no 'gyms' and there was a weekly magazine devoted to court games, edited by one of our national champions, John Armitage. A young man could buy a ball for sixpence from a machine and play on courts in many a grammar school, several universities and colleges and, of course, private schools, not to mention military barracks.

It was the age of Kenneth 'The Kangaroo' Gandar Dower with his Cambridge Blues in seven sports, Jack Davies, who bowled Bradman for a duck at Fenner's, and Edward 'Bill' Bailey, who was still asking the receiver to throw the ball up for him to serve when I played with him in the 1960s. Of the good Doctor Edgar Cyriax, unbeaten by any schoolboy for several decades, 'Pussy' Malt of the feline left hand who died tragically young from TB, the Oundjian brothers from St. Paul's, and many more characters, including Jock Burnet who co-founded the Jesters Club that still sends teams around the country to play court games 'in the right spirit'.

Or was it the post-war period, particularly the 1970s and 80s when Tom Wood and his wife Joan toured the country seeking forgotten courts, taking RFA Club members to play in all corners of the realm and the USA, swelling the fixture list to three figures at one stage?

The same period in which regional and schoolboy tournaments sprang up, plate competitions began to thrive, and a young man called Wayne Enstone emerged and raised the bar to heights probably never seen before the war.

A time when the National Singles (or Amateur Singles, as it was known) was won by an undergraduate (who still didn't get a Full Blue for it) and people posted their application to play in the newly established President's Cup on a first come, first entered basis.

Or is it now, the 21st century, with the building of splendid new courts at Oundle, Rugby and Cambridge, the refurbishment of the Alleen's courts, the creation of a dynamic club in Derby, and the introduction of new tournaments in the South East and Yorkshire within a programme of championships – regional and national, for all ages and both sexes – that is flourishing as never before?

An age of much improved communications within the game (see rugbyfivesassociation.net) and constructive relations with our Eton Fives colleagues. There were 24 RFA matches last year, all friendlies (as is the norm), but every one competitive and all promoting a game we love.

I'd like to think a Golden Age is upon us, as evidenced by the stories in this Newsletter and beyond. Tournament fives is in great shape; the membership and number of coaches are both growing; more female players are taking to the court; there's a super crop of young players emerging and there are many experienced ones at Veteran, Vintage and Masters levels; there's invaluable technical expertise on the RFA Board and we're beginning to harness the power of social media. Like Richard, I see many positives.

Bob Dolby

New courts opened at Berkhamsted



MAIN May, Firth and Keeling next to their own courts
INSET The class of '74 reunited



Three new Berkhamsted School courts were officially opened on 4 October 2014.

The courts were opened by Old Berkhamstedian Denys Firth, after whom they are named. Each court features a plaque named after a Berkhamstedian Kinnaird Cup winner – Denys himself, Malcolm Keeling and Graham May, all of whom were present.

The new courts are situated in the Prep School, allowing greater access to the game for younger pupils and to the girls at the split-site school. Berkhamsted Principal Mark Steed – himself a keen player – welcomed the group of Old Berkhamstedians,

EFA representatives and school staff, coaches and pupils before inviting Denys, Malcolm and Graham to open the courts officially. On the wall of the courts is a photo of the victorious 1974 Old Berkhamstedian Alan Barber Cup team, and all six members of that side were there to recreate the photo 40 years on.

The courts were tested by players ranging in age from 10-80 before the current OB Barber Cup team took on the Old Salopians in a first round match in the 2014/15 competition. A celebratory dinner rounded off the day.

UCL volunteers qualify as coaches

In April, nine UCL volunteers took the Wallball 'Introduction to Coaching' course.

They took enthusiastically to the courts at Westway, learned the ropes and had a tremendous game or two. To finish, they refereed the Westway Club Championship final and third-place playoff.

The volunteers – many of whom are members of the UCL Fives Club – then ran intro sessions at UCL Academy and Kentish Town and are looking to expand the programme this year.

The course is designed for volunteers and teachers to get to a standard where they can run a session and give basic coaching tips. The course is open to anyone – get in touch with UK Wallball if you'd like to know more. Experienced and dedicated individuals can then go on to the Level 1 and Level 2 Fives coaching qualifications.



UCL volunteers in action

Peter Knowles remembered

It is particularly sad to record the untimely death of EFA Vice President, Peter Knowles, at 68.

Peter's contribution to the game was unceasing and widespread. He undertook, with Dale Vargas, the monumental task to produce 'A History of Eton Fives' – an encyclopaedic masterpiece, covering every aspect of the game. The delving for information from old school records, and those of universities, clubs and individuals, took patience and perseverance, unearthing facts previously unknown to even the keenest of enthusiasts.

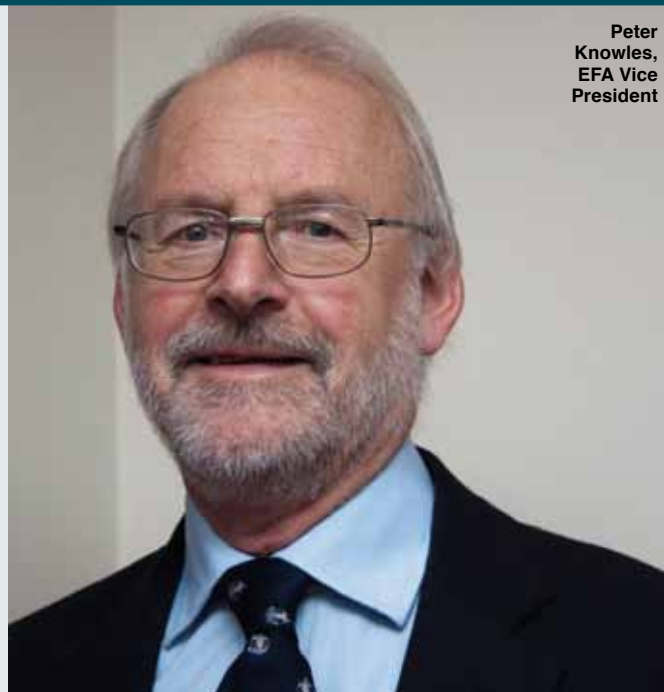
The Eton Fives Charitable Trust saw him as secretary, which, if time had allowed, would have been a role for him to relish and, indeed, to fulfil to great effect. As a long-term administrator at

the Schools' Championships, he was a stalwart and never once complained about the sometimes freezing conditions to be suffered.

Peter learnt his Fives at KES, Birmingham and though he regarded himself as a "third pair player", he appeared in a Barber Cup semi-final, a County final and a Veterans final.

After Oxford, Peter taught at Shrewsbury for two years, then moved to Highgate: during his thirty-one years there, when he became Master-in-Charge of Fives, he coached Schools' Championship winners at both senior and junior levels. In addition, he became a Housemaster, Head of Chemistry and Chairman of the Common Room.

When Peter and his devoted wife, Marian, arrived at Highgate in 1974, they immersed



Peter Knowles, EFA Vice President

themselves completely in the school community. Tributes from former students and colleagues talk of a man solidly supported by Marian, caring for each and every one of his pupils, providing a wonderful environment for teenage boys to develop and learn about life.

Peter was immensely

proud of his family and their achievements; Marian and the family can also look back with pride to have had a husband and father of such integrity and distinction, coupled with a modesty and warmth of personality and to them we send our sincere condolences.

Gordon Stringer

Ladies' Rugby Fives continues to grow

Ladies' Rugby Fives has made major strides this season, with the inauguration of a new tournament, and Alex Steel becoming the first female player in the national rankings.

The new tournament is the Lady's Cup, organised by RFA President Bob Dolby and played on the new Cambridge courts. It featured four ladies who had never played before, and one player of each sex who had set foot on court just once.

At the other end of the spectrum were national champion Kathleen Briedenhann, CURFC Hon Sec Jacob Ader, four-time National Girls' champion Tessa Mills, RFA board member Alex Smith, and ex-RFA President Dick Warner. Trevor White brought five players from Rugby School and played himself, as did three young players from Derby Moor and two younger sisters, who joined in.

After matches in three pools, contestants were assigned to three different competitions: the Lady's Cup, the Lady's Plate and the Lady's Mug. The Mug was won by Sienna Tompkins, from Pembroke College, and Jacob Ader, while Kathleen and Robyn Schnuir took the Plate.

The main final was an all-Rugbeian affair, with



Millie Richards and Dick Warner beating Kate Broad and George Romain.

RFA board member Alex Steel has also earned a place in the record books. Already with many ladies titles to her name, she recently became the first female player to earn a place in the national Rugby Fives rankings, thanks to her appearance in the Plate final at July's South West Open.

New Patron for the EFA

Ian Davis has been delighted to accept the EFA's invitation to be the Association's new Patron, succeeding Lord Kingsdown.

Ian attended Charterhouse in the 1960s and went on to read PPE at Balliol College, Oxford, where he played Eton Fives for the University. He was a founder of Teach First and is now Chairman of Rolls-Royce Holdings plc. He is also the current President of the Old Carthusian EFC.



New EFA Patron, Ian Davis

Eton Fives Association Chairman's Report



"Always look on the bright side of life"

Sometimes we're all so aware of the problems that we don't recognise what has gone well. Not everything in the EFA garden is rosy, but here are a few truly positive highlights from the last few months:

A record Marsh National Schools' Championships – 515 pairs from a record number of schools, with some (like Rydal Penrhos and St. Bartholomew's, Newbury) winning their first trophies.

A successful visit by Anthony Theodossi and Ryan Perrie to Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, Malaysia to revive Eton Fives after a gap of more than 50 years. Eton Fives has also been revived at Geelong Grammar School by Frank Calloway, and the courts at St. Paul's, Darjeeling are being well used. With the right impetus, a new era could be ushered in for Eton Fives outside the UK.

As part of our determination to provide professional training, we now have four more Eton Fives coaches who have completed their Level 2 qualification.

We had a brilliant Summer Superleague Competition at Westway. The final was attended by Mike Diaper, Executive Director of Community Sport, Sport England who is very positive about the role of Eton Fives in encouraging more adults to play sport after leaving school.

The girls and ladies game has continued to grow, with a record entry in the Open Ladies competition and a high entry in the Schools' Girls Festival competition.

Berkhamsted Prep School has three new courts that were opened officially on 4 October. It shows how much can be achieved if Eton Fives is supported by a school's Headmaster and staff.

'The EFA has many exciting projects in hand'

But there is so much more that we have to do to secure Eton Fives at all its existing centres, to get more players on court

and to find ways of expanding the game in every way possible, especially to those who are not lucky enough to have had the chance to play at a school with Eton Fives courts. My personal view is that standing still isn't an option – if Eton Fives does not expand, it will decline and this we cannot allow.

Finally, a plea: the EFA has many exciting projects in hand in addition to its existing activities and we need help to make it all happen. At the moment a great deal of the work is done by just a few volunteers. We need help running tournaments, liaising with schools and universities, developing Fives for disabled people, starting new clubs, merchandising, coaching, archive management, IT administration and finance, to name but a few things.

If you think you're able to help then please contact Gareth Hoskins, EFA Secretary (garethhoskins@yahoo.co.uk, 07833 600230) or me (richardblack555@btinternet.com, 07715 179280/01932 770325).

Richard Black



Old Dunstonians in 2014

Old Dunstonians brought together

In the mid 1950s, fives at St Dunstons College took off in a big way, and the players from that era became some of the most successful in Rugby Fives history.

But one of the successful 1954 team, Jack Wade, left the game behind when he left to work and settle in Australia.

On a recent rare visit to the UK, Jack attended an Old Dunstonian South Coast reunion in Eastbourne in early April. This prompted Stan Holt to set about contacting former fives-playing colleagues to get them to join Jack at the lunch.

The result was impressive, as the photo above shows. David Gardner was joined by Stan Holt and Eric Marsh, whose records are fairly well known.

Then there were David Clift, Eric's partner in two successive schools championship victories and a Cyriax Cup semi-final in 1960; John Mockford, the long-term captain and secretary of the ODs who partnered David Sharman in the same Cyriax semi; and Derek Childs, a stalwart club member.

Furthermore four of the six members of the 1954 team made it along, and only a last-minute withdrawal by Peter Grender, a Cyriax finalist, prevented it being five.

Sadly, like many other clubs, the Old Dunstonian Fives Club no longer exists.

Had it survived, having been founded in 1934, it would have been celebrating its 80th anniversary this year!

Westway Summer Superleague

The 2014 Westway Summer Superleague, run from June to August, was an enjoyable competition combining a fair, inclusive spirit with some high-standard and competitive Eton Fives.

The group stages were battled out by 10 teams, with Dossi's Desperados defending their title. The final was a great event, with Sport England executive Mike Diaper watching a strong Desperados side, headed by Ryan Perrie and Ant Theodossi, prove too strong for Westway 1, led by Ed Taylor and Guy Chapman. The Aston House Stallions clinched third.

The Leading Points Scorer for the competition was Ryan Perrie, while Laurie Brock won the Golden Glove Award for most shots in the hole.



2014 WSSL winners Dossi's Desperados

Census of Fives Courts online

Dave Hebden and David Barnes have embarked on a Census of Fives Courts, including past and present locations. The aim is to get an improved perspective on the development and disappearance of courts wherever the game has been played.

The census takes in all courts worldwide, with a surprising number found outside the UK – the current total of non-UK courts is 41 and growing. There are 16 fives institutions in New Zealand, all of the 3-wall variety.

With the benefit of the web and other research sources, more fives-playing locations are

being discovered daily. There are currently 367 places in the census in total.

As much information as possible is being collected – the location and type of court and its current use – while a photo archive is also being created.

So what have we learnt so far? It's certainly surprising how prevalent the game was in the 19th and early 20th century when fives was a major sport. Many schools and universities had courts, the game was also popular in the services, and quite a few private houses had a court.

Sadly a lot of the courts recorded have disappeared,



Three-walled courts at Shrewsbury House School, Surbiton

and there are others which lie dormant, but it is encouraging to add some recent court builds.

The reduction of courts, particularly in the mid 20th century, is perhaps the subject of another article. There are a number of factors that came into play: the demise of the Grammar School (more than 60 had fives courts); the growth of other

sports like squash; and a lack of money to enhance existing and build new facilities.

The work to populate the Census continues, and the feeling is that there were, and perhaps still are, a lot of courts out there yet to be discovered.

For more information head to rugbyfivesassociation.net/archive.



Action from the UK Open

Wallball UK Open

The largest European Wallball tournament outside of the World Championships took place in February at Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood.

A whopping 110 players – 55 of them juniors – battled it out over two hard fought days, clocking up more than 20 hours of court time and playing a staggering 234 matches. In the end a new champion emerged in both the men's and women's competitions while there were strong performances from the Brits and surely several stars of the future.

In the men's singles it was Luke Thomson who had his chance to shine. He won some tough matches under enormous pressure to make it to the final before losing to number one seed Vlad Klym from the USA.

The women's singles was an all-Dutch affair in the final. They steamrolled through the opposition, which included Brits Kathleen Briedenhann and Sarah Greasley, with Geke De Boer finally emerging victorious.

On the Sunday a huge junior tournament took place, featuring children from all over



UK Open finalists Klym and Thomson

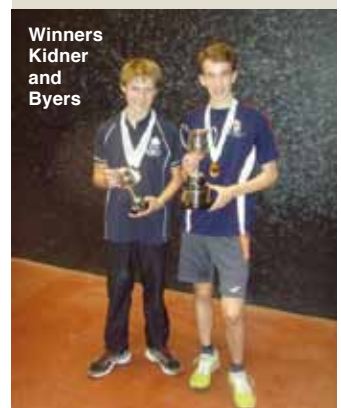
England, Belgium and Ireland. This was a glorious feature of the weekend and the kids both excelled on court and warmed to the fantastic masterclass clinic run by some of the top players.

Winchester U14s do the double

It was a double for the boys from Winchester College in the National U14 championships at St. Paul's.

Seb Byers from Winchester won the singles, beating fellow Wykehamist Tom Kidner. The two then went on to win the doubles, with a victory over the St. Olave's first pair. There were good performances from Alleyn's, St. Olave's and Whitgift in the Plates.

The tournament had been postponed from April, when the smog in London led St. Paul's to close its courts. The six months' extra physical and mental maturity the delay brought showed in many of the 40-odd competitors, who produced an impressive level of fives.



Winners Kidner and Byers

News in brief

■ The Fives Federation has four coaches on their way to becoming Level 2 qualified. Will Menage, Tom Kiggell, Peter Westwood and Julian Black have attended the course. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Gareth Hoskins or Ian Fuller.

■ Rodney Knight – EFA Vice-President, former Chairman of the EFCT, former EFA Secretary and President of Cambridge University EFC and Old Reptonians EFC – received the Lifetime Achievement award at this year's EFA Annual Dinner.

Lifetime Achievement Winner Rodney Knight



■ The 2014 Marsh National Schools' Eton Fives Championships attracted a record entry of 515 pairs over eight days play. There was a maiden win for Rydal Penrhos in the boys U13s, while Highgate's Eve Smith-Bingham retained the girls open title with Marjolaine Briscoe. The boys open competition was won by James Piggot and James Cobb from Eton.

■ Current RFA General Secretary Ian Fuller is relinquishing his role, although he will remain on the Board as Treasurer. Anybody interested in applying for the vacant position should contact Ian for further details: ianfuller51@gmail.com or 07808 207638.

■ The first Eton Fives Level 1 coaching course is taking place this term, with Mark Yates training students from Wolverhampton Grammar School and Rydal Penrhos. A Rugby Fives Level 1 is planned for Blundell's School, run by Wayne Enstone.

UK Wallball President's Report

We've had an impressive six months at UK Wallball, both on and off the courts, which can be summarised in terms of walls.

Building walls:

We've really upped the wall quota this year. After seven years, the Westway Centre has agreed to build some walls. Two beautiful regulation courts are now available indoors at the Westway Centre and we're hoping to run sessions hand-in-hand with Eton Fives outdoors. Meanwhile, in Kent, Luke Thomson has worked tirelessly to get two walls set up in Gravesham. He ran several taster sessions in the summer and a small club has now launched. In recent developments we're also in planning meetings to have some free-to-access outdoor courts built in the Olympic Park.

Playing on walls:

The last newsletter came out on the cusp of the UK Open and what a tournament that was. Unbelievably squashed into two days, a tireless band of volunteers ran an exceptional championship featuring more than 110 players and 234

games. What's more we managed to run a clinic at the event for younger players featuring some of the top players from around the world and we used the event to create a fantastic new promo video, which I encourage you all to watch! Later in the year Dan Tristao performed valiantly at the Italian Open, I was lucky enough to compete in the warmth of Australia and to top it off I was humbled to captain a remarkable young GB Team at the World Championships in Valencia back in September. GB got the bronze medal and we're officially the best team in Europe.

Coaching on walls:

The UCL Volunteering is up and running and last year we trained up nine students to coach wallball at Kentish Town and UCL Academy. We hope this year the project will go from strength to strength and at the same time bolster the UCL Fives Club and get them some much-needed funding from the union.

Walls being a tenuous link:

Okay, couldn't really think of clever segue there, but crucially



'We've had an impressive six months at UK Wallball'

there's a few other bits of news to know about that don't appear on these pages (but do on www.ukwallball.co.uk). We're introducing membership in January, when we'll also be launching an online shop for all your Wallball needs and we're launching the new European Pro Tour in 2015 at the UK Open on 14-15 February. Save the date and come along and play in the beginner grade – it's designed for people who've never played Wallball before – and that's most of you. See you on court!

EFA schools fixtures

The EFA arranges regular fixtures against a number of school sides, often schools that otherwise don't have an opportunity to play many fixtures, especially against adult opposition.

As well as providing the schools with additional experience, this acts as an opportunity for all fives players to play at schools and on courts they otherwise might not have visited. This could include the unusual courts of Oakham School and St John's Leatherhead (the latter's courts carry what I can only describe as a passing resemblance to Eton courts), or the picturesque surroundings of Bryanston and

Lancing. Most matches are followed (and occasionally preceded) by some form of refreshment, often tea and cakes provided by the school, sometimes other forms of refreshment at a local hostelry.

In 2013-2014, there were 14 matches, against 11 schools, with around 40 different players representing the EFA. The results? Well, they weren't the important thing. There were a couple of one-sided matches – both ways – but mostly good competitive matches. But in order to ensure that we get the right level of opposition for the schools, it is important that we



The EFA: a team for all standards!

retain as many players as possible on our list. There are fixtures for players of all standards.

If you're interested in playing, or want any more information about upcoming fixtures, please e-mail mitch.fives@btinternet.com.

North Oxford 12 take on 12 courts in a day

A dozen players from North Oxford Eton Fives Club undertook a marathon fundraising challenge for Sports Relief in June.

They raised more than £2000 by playing a game of fives on 12 different sets of courts in

the course of one day. The tour started at Iffley Road in Oxford, and followed a loop round Newbury, Ludgrove, Eton, Harrow, Highgate, QE Barnet, Mill Hill, Aldenham, Berkhamsted and High Wycombe before finishing back in Oxford on their home

courts at Summer Fields School.

Fuelled by Karen Hird's magnificent gingerbread fives court, the first ball was struck in anger at 8:15am and the final winner hit by Alex Yusaf just after 11:00pm. The day was not without drama. Mandie Barnes was struck in the eye in game four at Eton and had to spend several hours in A&E at Barnet and then the Western Eye Hospital in Marylebone, before getting the all clear and rejoining the group for the last couple of games and the subsequent celebratory curry.

The majority of the group, however, made it all the way round, playing on each set of courts. This must be some sort of record, although admittedly a somewhat specialist one.

A weekend circuit of the North and Midlands is already being discussed for next year, which should be just long enough to have forgotten how much this one hurt on the Monday morning!



North Oxford's intrepid dozen

News in brief

■ UK Wallball's newest courts have been built at Cygnets Leisure Centre in Gravesend. More than 50 people have been introduced to the sport at taster sessions. The courts were set up with the help of Wickes, who supplied materials, P&O Ferries, whose grant funded equipment, and Gravesham Borough Council. They are the brainchild of GB Wallball player Luke Thomson.



The new Gravesham Wallball courts

■ The inaugural Rugby Fives South East Open tournament took place at Christ's Hospital in August. Organised by Ed Hatton, the singles was won by Ed Kay and the doubles by Ben Beltrami and Ben Chua.

■ If you haven't done so already, please do watch the UK Wallball promo video and forward it on. Search on YouTube for "Wallball Promo" and follow the "UK Wallball" channel (where you can also see all of last season's Rugby Fives videos).

■ The latest RFA rankings have Will Ellison heading the Singles and Doubles lists, ahead of Dan Tristao and Dan Grant in both cases. Alexandra Steel has made history by becoming the first woman to make it onto the Doubles rankings list.

■ The second ever Eton Fives Welsh Tournament took place at Rydal Penrhos School in September, with pupils at the school joined by visiting players and school coaches past and present for a very enjoyable and successful weekend's fives.

Memories of Joan Wood

1947 was a special year. It was the year in which Joan Inge married Tom Wood, and by happy coincidence it was also the year of the foundation of the Rugby Fives Association Club, in whose fortunes Tom and Joan were later to play such an important role.

Tom took on the role of secretary of the RFA Club in the 1970s and over the next 20 years the two of them went on tour to almost every known Rugby Fives court – and to some previously unknown ones as well – and for many people they became the representatives of the game itself. Later Tom would say: "I couldn't have done it without Joan, you know" – and he meant it.

One of Joan's major contributions was in the culinary department. Her catering at various fives events from the

early 1970s onwards was legendary, welcoming AGMs of both the RFA and particularly the RFA Club with gargantuan spreads, and entertaining John Carey's USA touring teams in royal fashion. Joan also provided copious sustenance for players and spectators at the President's Cup for many years, as well as for early editions of the Winchester

Doubles tournament.

The Woods were generous donors of trophies: the Wood Cup for the Inter-Club Knockout, the "Barnes Bridge" scale model, and the subsidiary trophies for the President's Cup – the "T" Pot, the Love Mug and Joan's own special Mate's Plate – all bear their stamp. They will always be associated with these competitions, and of course with the RFA Club, which they animated for those two decades of joyous activity.

It was typical of Joan that, after Tom's death in 1994, she always made the effort to come to Merchant Taylors' for the President's Cup, even when the journey became a real challenge to her. Joan was made an Honorary Life Member of the RFA Club and of the Association for her unique contribution to Fives, and she will be remembered with huge affection by all who knew her.

Joan Wood
1926-2014



New floors for Alleyn's

RFA Charitable Trust funding has allowed the courts at Alleyn's to be relaid with the same resin used in the new Cambridge courts.

The floors were last relaid as part of the enclosure and refurbishment of the courts in 2010, using a poured polyurethane resin screed.

However, this substance was largely untried for fives and proved too smooth for adequate

grip, with players complaining of slipping.

Understandably Alleyn's School was not keen to put more funds into a project that was ostensibly finished. However, as a result of pressure from the Alleyn Old Boys, the new 'Pumadur' resin was laid in July 2014.

The new surface is, as hoped, quite similar to the old concrete floor – only it's now level. The grip is good, the bounce consistent and no longer does the ball skid through and cut down off the back wall.

Come down and try them!



EFA Tournament Results Round-up 2014

Alan Barber Cup Final: Old Olavians beat Old Salopians 2-1

Northern Tournament: T. Dunbar & S. Cooley beat J. Toop & M. Wiseman 3-2

Northern Festival: K. Nwuba & T. Gallagher beat G. Hoskins & K. Hird 2-0

Under 21s: Men: J. Abbott & R. Wilson beat G. Lewis & H. Blofield 2-0
Ladies: E. Smith-Bingham & A. Reimer beat P. Bracken & O. Hirschfield 2-0

Universities Mixed: London Law bt Oxford

EFA Trophy: Old Salopians bt Oxford University 3-0

Williams Cup: Eton College

Mixed Championships: S & C. Cooley bt A. Theodossi & E. Mann 2-1

Veterans Tournament: G. Hoskins & J. Fleming bt G. Williams & B. Emlyn-Jones

Over 50s: P. Scholey & P. Boughton bt J. Asquith & R. Dennis

Over 60s: A. Wagg & T. Best bt J. Fredenham & N. Margerison

Aberconway Cup: G & G. Williams bt J. & M. Skelton 2-0

Ladies Championships: C. Cooley & K. Hird bt E. Smith-Bingham & A. Reimer 3-0

Kinnaird Cup: T. Dunbar & S. Cooley bt J. Toop & M. Wiseman 3-0

Kinnaird Festival: A. Yusaf & C. Rennie bt A. & A. Bhattacharya 2-0

EFA League:
Division 1: Berkhamsted 1
Division 2: North Oxford
Division 3: St. Olave's School

Westway Summer Superleague: Dossi's Desperados bt Westway 1

Under 25s:
Men: L. Brock & J. Ho bt T. Weld & T. Kirkby 2-0
Ladies: P. Bracken & A. Reimer bt A. Walker & H. Asquith 2-0

RFA Tournament Results Round-up 2014

U25s Championships: Singles: D. Tristao; Doubles: D. Tristao & E. Kay

Varsity Match: Cambridge bt Oxford 269-153

North of England Championships: Singles: W. Ellison; Doubles: W. Ellison & T. Dean

Ladies Winchester Fives Championships: Singles: K. Briedenhann; Doubles: A. Steel & K. Briedenhann

National Winchester Fives Championship: Champions: W. Ellison & H. Mohammed

Colquhoun Trophy: Open champion: L. Fulford-Smith (Marlborough); Colts champion: L. Nelson (Malvern)

National Vintage Championships: Singles: I. Fuller; Doubles: W. Enstone & I. Fuller

National Doubles Championship: Winners: W. Ellison & C. Brooks

National Club Championship: Old Paulines

National Veterans Championships: Singles: J. Minta; Doubles: H. Buchanan & B. Hanton

Scottish Open Championships: Singles: D. Tristao; Doubles: E. Hatton & A. George

Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles Championship: Champions: A. Steel & A. Pringle

Derby Moor Invitation Doubles: Winners: A. Hill & T. Widdop

South West Open Championships: Singles: W. Ellison; Doubles: W. Ellison & D. Grant

South East Open Championships: Singles: E. Kay; Doubles: B. Beltrami & B. Chua

London Open Championships: Singles – W. Ellison; Doubles: W. Ellison & D. Tristao

Owers Trophy: Old Paulines

Yorkshire Open Championships: Singles: D. Tristao; Doubles: W. Ellison & H. Buchanan

Forthcoming events

Eton Fives

2014 November		
W/e 1/2	Midlands Tournament	Repton
Sun 9	Richard Black Cup	Eton
Sun 16	Alan Barber Cup – 2nd Round	Eton
Sun 16	Graham Turnbull Trophy	Eton
Sun 30	Alan Barber Cup – Semi-Finals	Eton
December		
W/e 6/7	London Tournament	Harrow
2015 January		
Sun 18	Alan Barber Cup – Final	Eton
Sun 25	EFA Trophy Qualifying Rounds	Eton
W/e 31/1	Northern Tournament	Shrewsbury
February		
Sun 8	Under 21s Tournament	Eton
Sun 15	Universities Mixed Tournament	Highgate
W/e 21/22	Kinnaird Cup	Eton
March		
Sun 1	EFA Trophy Final	Eton
Sun 1	Ladies Championships	Eton

Wallball

2014 November		
1-2	Belgian Open	Huissignies
8-9	Dutch Open	Franeker
2015 February		
14-15	UK Open	Merchant Taylors'
21-22	French Open	Valenciennes

Rugby Fives

2014 November		
W/e 1/2	National U14s	St. Paul's
Sun 9	Schools' Winchester Fives Doubles	Winchester
W/e 15/16	National Open Singles (qualifying)	Various
21-23	National BUSF Championships	Sherborne
December		
W/e 6/7	National Open Singles (final rounds)	Manchester
Sun 7	Ladies Singles/Doubles Championships	St. Paul's
Sun 14	RFA Club President's Cup	Merchant Taylors'
2015 January		
W/e 3/4	West of England Schools' Championships	Sherborne
W/e 17/18	North West Open Championships	Manchester
February		
W/e 7/8	Under 25s Championships	Oundle
Sat 21	Oxford vs Cambridge	St. Paul's
Sat 28	North of England Open	Durham

UK Wallball tournament results round-up 2014

UK Open: 1st – Klym, 2nd – Thomson, 3rd = Grant & Wassenaar

Italian Open: 1st – Lin (USA), 2nd – Tristao (GBR)

Australian Open: 1st – Grant (GBR), 2nd Bugeja (AUS)

World Team Championships: 1st Mexico, 2nd Argentina, 3rd Great Britain

Full details on fivesonline.net, ukwallball.co.uk and rugbyfivesassociation.net