



# Rugby Fives Association

ANNUAL REVIEW **2018-19**





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## The Rugby Fives Association 2018-19

  
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# A welcome from the President

**David Bawtree** reflects on successes achieved in 2018/19

It was a great privilege to become President after more than 70 years of playing Fives, only ended after knee surgery. Moreover, it is great to report that the popularity of the game continues to grow, as seen in the increasing participation from girls, boys and adults in the many tournaments held around the UK during the past year. Some have been new to the players, such as the inaugural National Rugby Fives Mixed Doubles and the event dear to the heart of my predecessor – the Grand Masters for the over 75s; the combined age of the four competing was 304! I congratulate and thank all those who took part and I am particularly grateful to the organisers who put so much time and effort into the success of the competitions and events. Our Development Officer, Gareth Price, introduced the benefits of IT into the management of the National Schools' competition this year, which we hope will be a benchmark for large tournaments in the future.

Away from the courts my predecessor organised an excellent RFA dinner at Queen's Club in October. Some 75 from all over the country attended what was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. This was the first dinner for 10 years and we are grateful to those members who provided generous sponsorship enabling us to



welcome a strong contingent of younger members to this memorable event.

Alex Smith has worked hard on producing safeguarding procedures, which have been distributed to all involved with competitions. We continue to enhance the RFA website, which gives us an extremely useful facility for fast and comprehensive communication with members old and new, ensuring they are part of a vibrant, enjoyable and busy organisation.

Currently we have significant initiatives targeting the development of the game in Stoke Newington, Durham and Edinburgh, stressing the need to extend the game into communities and increase local sporting opportunities. Thanks to a generous recent donation we have been able to assist significant projects in three Edinburgh schools, and this success highlights what the RFA can do for Fives with better funding to support our enthusiasm and enterprise.

Finally I congratulate the achievements of so many who have risen up both the Ladies' and National Rankings and to Chris Burrows and Dave Hebden who manage the science behind them. The competition at all levels is impressive, and it's wonderful to see the enjoyment and courteous sportsmanship of all participants.

BELOW (l-r)  
All smiles - the young contingent at the RFA dinner

Standards are high in the City of Durham youth section

The Grand Masters



# 2018-19 Season Review

**Andy Pringle** reviews the events of the season past

**Just 12 months ago, we said that the 2018-19 season gave us plenty to look forward to – and boy did it deliver!**

The big talking point before the season started was whether Ed Kay could continue the progress he had made the previous year – and it looked as if that question would be answered in the first event, the South West Open in Tiverton. Ed won through to face Will Ellison (who, along with Dan Tristao, has dominated the game in recent seasons) in the singles final, but sadly an injury to Ed prevented the mouth-watering clash being completed.

Ed had another chance to settle the matter at the South East Open the next month, but Will again emerged as the winner, albeit only after a marathon three-game semi-final. However, he then went on lose to his nemesis, Dan T, in the final.

So, did this mean we were back to the 'Will and Dan Show'? Well, no. As the season went on, it was Ed who came to the fore, taking singles titles at both the London and South West Opens – both times at the expense of Dan Tristao.

The question was: could he continue this run of form and take the big prize – the National Singles? On paper, it all seemed to be in his favour: he came to the event off the back of those two titles, and it was being played on his beloved Cambridge courts.

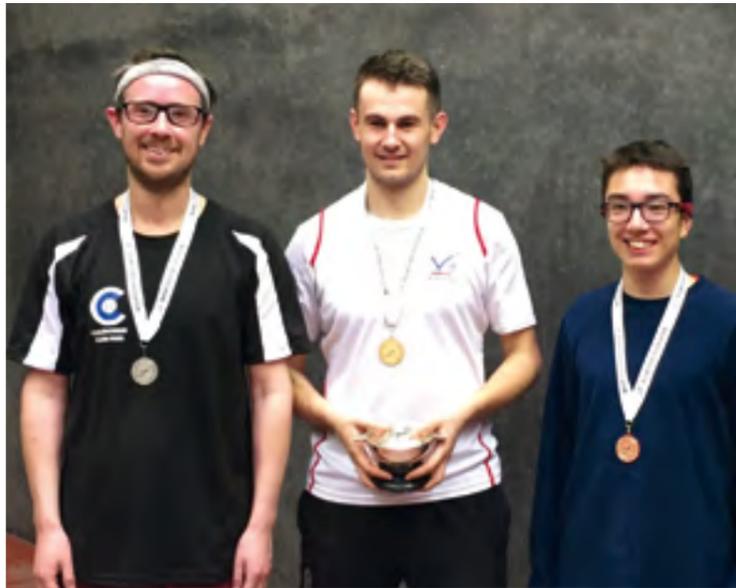
However, the bar-room pundits reckoned without Determined Dan – who eventually won his fourth National Singles title after typically epic wins in high-quality encounters with Will in the semi-final and Ed in the final.

Ed was to have his revenge, with a comfortable win over Dan in the North of England Open in Durham; but although he ended the season on top of the rankings, the big prize still eludes him.

The Big Three are also coming under increasing pressure from a series of challengers – with Dave Butler in particular snapping at their heels. He claimed the notable scalp of Will Ellison at the West of England Open in Clifton, as well as taking four titles (National Students and Under 25s, plus the Scottish and Yorkshire Opens) and finishing as runner-up in Manchester.

But also challenging are not just seasoned campaigners like Dan Grant and Charlie Brooks but younger players like Ollie Arnold, Theo Parker, Ben Beltrami, Matt Shaw, Tom Watkinson and Andrew Boyd. Can one of them join Dave Butler and turn the Big Three into a Famous Five?

We're also waiting to see if anyone can dominate the doubles. Trouble is, it's almost impossible to establish any real pattern – not because it's unclear



**ABOVE**  
Dave Butler  
with fellow  
medallists at  
the Scottish  
Open

**RIGHT**  
A Grant and  
Ellison selfie  
with the  
South West  
Open Doubles  
trophy



who the best players are, but because there are no consistent pairs. In fact, the leading players swap partners with the kind of regularity more normally associated with characters in a Jackie Collins novel.

Unsurprisingly, many of the singles champions also took doubles titles. Ellison and Grant triumphed at the South West, then it was Grant and Kay in London, Ellison and Kay in Clifton, and Ellison and Brooks in Manchester. We had to wait until the North of England in February for some even slightly unfamiliar names taking the gold medals in one of the premier events – although Ollie Arnold and Ben Beltrami are hardly



**ABOVE**  
Paulines in  
winning mood  
at the Owers  
Trophy

**LEFT**  
This is what it  
takes to win  
the National  
Singles



**'CAN ANY OF THEM JOIN DAVE BUTLER AND TURN THE BIG THREE INTO A FAMOUS FIVE?'**

unfamiliar! On the contrary, by the time the Fives circus rolled into Durham, Ollie had already won titles in Giggleswick and at BUSF and the U25s.

Ollie also reached the National Doubles semis with Matt Shaw, losing to eventual champions, Kay and Tristao, who beat holders Ellison and Brooks in a breathtaking three-game final.

In keeping with what became the established pattern this season, this was the only time Ed and Dan played together in a doubles event. However, this wasn't the first time they had been on court together in a doubles final – they had been on opposite sides in both the

London and West of England Opens.

In the Veterans' category, too, we saw continued domination of the singles event, with Matt Cavanagh taking his fourth title in a row in imperious fashion against John Minta. However, John came back to win the doubles, partnering David Fox to a hard-fought win over defending champions Hamish Buchanan and Andy Pringle.

The Masters tournament was also a case of familiar names on the trophy – Spencer Beal and Tony Hamilton retaining their title – but it was all change in the Vintage Championships. Both singles and doubles titles – won by Ian Jackson, and Chris Blakeley and Morgan Spillane respectively – went to players who had never won at this level.

To cap it all – and to prove age is no barrier to Fives-playing – a new tournament was inaugurated. The Grand Masters is open to players aged 75 and over. After a momentous encounter, the title went to Bernard Atkinson and Bev Boag.

The team championships also saw a new name on a trophy after the West of England Club, represented by Theo Parker, Ollie Arnold, Tom Watkinson and Tom Maconie, won the National Club Championship. However, the established order prevailed in the Owers Trophy, with a dominant win for the Old Paulines over the Old Bradfieldians. Given that the winning team was led by Ed Kay – and completed by Henry Jefferies and Julian Aquilina – that's no great surprise.

But, will normal service be resumed next season? We can't wait to find out!

'THE DOUBLES WAS MARKED BY A SERIES OF VERY CLOSE MATCHES'



The Ladies National Singles finalists

# Ladies' Season Review

**Bob Dolby** reviews a season where new players have emerged to challenge for titles

This has been an exciting season for those of us at the RFA who have been on a drive to support and promote Ladies' Fives. Experienced players have successfully defended titles against fresh challenges, while new names have been engraved on other trophies and fresh competitions have launched. The age range of 'serious players' has widened, numbers entering tournaments have grown, and the Women's Rankings prepared for us by Chris Burrows have incorporated more and more regular players.

The season began as usual with the Lady's Cup, designed to give beginners at Cambridge University a chance to enjoy a very informal, mixed tournament. From the start this event has attracted an entry from the girls at Rugby School, then also from Bedford Modern, and this year one from Alleyn's. Success – and with it the spoils – was spread widely, with Martha Nugent from Alleyn's and her partner Gwydion Wiseman narrowly beating Ibbly Lee, the former two-time National Schoolgirl champion, and her partner Dick Warner in the main final. Meanwhile the Harrison sisters from

Rugby fought out the Plate with their respective male partners, and in the Bowl the Griffith siblings from Bedford Modern beat two several-years-older students from Cambridge. They also fought off all comers to win the Ball-in-the-Box Challenge.

October brought another club event – the inaugural City of Durham Ladies' Invitation Tournament. An entry of 19 players included a significant contingent from Edinburgh Academy, plus students from the University and other members of the City Club, young and old(er). Julie McIntyre and Tom Wakelam somehow managed to run five very serious singles competitions, from which Phoebe Bracken (University) emerged as the Open champion, Zara Elliot (Edinburgh Academy) as U18 winner, Sian Tustin (City Club) as the U16 victor and Camille Beattie (City Club) as winner of the U14 category. 12 year-old Camille then eventually lost to Zara in the knock-out competition, giving away some years in the process.

November brought the National U23s, where defending champion Louise Mathias faced 10 competitors

comprising students from Oxford, Cambridge and Southampton and schoolgirls from Edinburgh Academy, Alleyn's and Bedford Modern. It was a tough day, as not only were there Singles and Doubles titles to be decided but four of the students were also playing in the BUSF tournament on the adjoining courts. The Scottish pair had been up since 3.30am making the journey to St. Paul's. Every Singles match was one of quality, especially the semi-final between Shinan Zhang and Martha Nugent, and the Doubles competition was marked by a series of very close matches, not least the final where Louise and Shinan beat Martha and her Cambridge University partner Lottie Simpson 15-13.

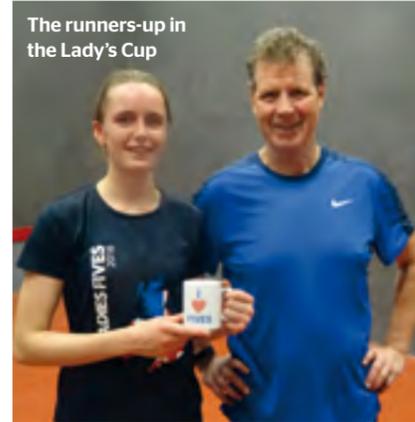
At this point we began to look forward to the National Ladies Championships in January, not realising that in the interim two major firsts would occur, namely a female President's Cup winner and a schoolgirl winning a so-called Colts competition. In the event it was the same person: Martha Nugent, who won the President's Cup at Marlborough with Ed Kay, then the Colts (U16) Doubles,

with Stuart Scott of Alleyn's, in the West of England Schools' at Sherborne. Not to be outdone Louise Mathias won the Mate's Plate at Marlborough with Theo Parker.

There was more success for Louise to come at Manchester, in the National Ladies' Championships: she did the double, winning the Singles against defending champion Kathleen Briedenhann and the Doubles with Shinan Zhang, against Kathleen and her partner Tessa Mills. The Singles final must rank as one of the best games of Ladies' singles ever played. The score, 15-8, 7-15, 15-10, gives an idea of the intensity of the battle, while the score in the Doubles final tells its own tale of endurance – 15-8, 6-15, 15-1. Several of the younger players watching both finals unfold were truly in awe of the quality of play.

Yet to come were three events which rank most highly in the 'fun' stakes: the Ladies' Winchester Fives championships, the inaugural Rugby Fives Mixed Doubles and the Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles. At the Ladies' Varsity Match, which is a good deal more serious than just 'fun', Cambridge recorded their fourth win in a row, but this time in a much tougher match than hitherto against an ever improving Oxford side who will be looking for a win next season.

The Ladies' Winchester Fives Championships ran true to form: a smallish entry and victory for defending Singles champion Maddy Raynor and in the Doubles for Maddy and Alexandra Steel, while Martha Nugent was unlucky enough to be



The runners-up in the Lady's Cup

runner-up in both, partnering Dominique Redmond in the Doubles.

The new Rugby Fives Mixed Doubles likewise attracted a small entry to the courts at Alleyn's but that did nothing to diminish the delight of Helena Tunks, who learnt her Fives at Cambridge, and Douglas Law from Durham University in winning their first ever title together.

The long-standing Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles featured the ideal number of pairs – eight – and a very impressive eight pairs they were, from whom Louise Mathias and Ollie Arnold emerged as victors in the final over Shinan Zhang and Dave Butler.

So, new young faces making an appearance in adult events, more and more ladies taking part in the Jesters Tour to Scotland, the welcome return to competition of Dominique Redmond, and the sad prospect of us losing Kathleen Briedenhann for a year or more as work takes her to South America. Quite a year in retrospect and a very exciting season ahead.



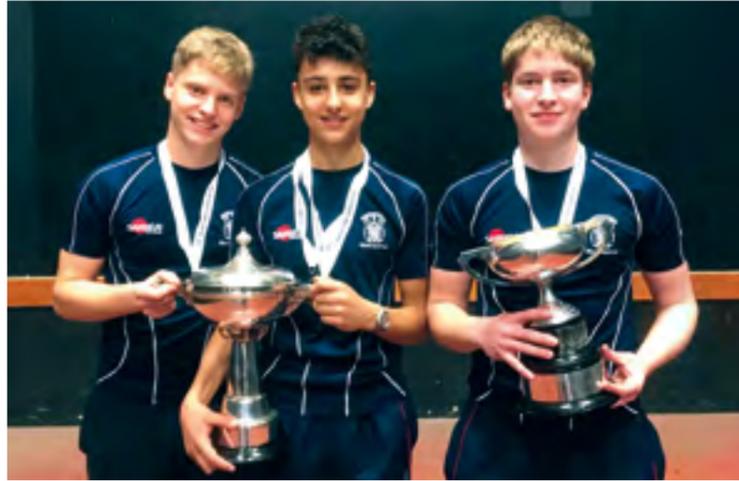
ABOVE: The proud Ladies Winchester Fives champions

## END-OF-SEASON WOMEN'S RANKINGS JUNE 2019

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	(1)	L.Mathias	92.996
2	(2)	K.Briedenhann	88.364
3	(4)	M.Raynor	86.615
4	(3)	T.Mills	85.391
5	(5)	A.Steel	84.443
6	(6)	S.Zhang	78.948
7	(8)	M.Nugent	75.663
8	(7)	I.Lee	73.979
9	(9)	K.Sumner	69.790
10	(14)	D.Redmond	65.929
11	(10)	P.Thornhill	62.163
12	(12)	A.Laakkonen	56.324
13	(13)	A.de Clermont	55.866
14	(22)	M.Kent	50.471
15	(16)	B.Crinnion	49.671
16	(17)	Z.Elliot	48.789
17	(18)	F.Harrison	47.271
18	(-)	L.Barton	38.358
19	(-)	K.Bell	38.173
20	(24)	L.Simpson	37.223
21	(-)	H.Tunks	34.785
22	(25)	H.Nugent	32.161
23	(26)	C.Beattie	28.996
24	(27)	K.Hird	28.549
25	(29)	J.McIntyre	27.450
26	(46)	E.O'Malley	27.424
27	(28)	M.Harte	26.984
28	(30)	A.Lumbard	24.037
29	(32)	M.Smith	23.266
30	(33)	S.Lundie	22.329
31	(31)	W.Carling	22.140
32	(-)	A.Day	21.892
33	(-)	M.Molloy	20.883
34	(35)	A.Calder	20.374
35	(36)	N.Stokes	18.982
36	(-)	E.van Es	15.227
37	(37)	V.King-Forbes	13.391
38	-	J.Nyirenda	12.440
39	(41)	F.Millar	7.783
40	(42)	J.Hutchinson	7.711
41	(43)	A.Hussain	6.699
42	(44)	R.Elliot	5.876
43	(45)	K.Hatchley	5.373
44	(48)	D.Stark	2.746
45	(49)	M.Cole	2.064



The Rugby Fives Mixed Doubles finalists



TOP LEFT  
Merchiston's  
all-conquering  
Colts

ABOVE  
Bedford  
Modern girls  
fight out the  
U18 Singles

LEFT  
Sedbergh's  
Schools Open  
Champion  
Taylor  
McGuire

# Schools Season Review 2018-19

**Bob Dolby** reviews a year in which school players made their mark in a variety of competitions

There are four main prestigious schools tournaments: the Schools Winchester Fives Doubles; the West of England Schools, the National Schools U13-U18 and the National Schoolgirls' Championships. But throughout the season players compete in smaller regional competitions and adult events, too. I'm sure that regional tournaments like the Colquhoun Trophy or the Scottish Schools championships give young players invaluable experience of competition which stands them in good stead. We are beginning now to see confident young school players excel in adult events; Martha Nugent of Alleyn's winning the President's Cup or Josh Ferguson from Loretto capturing the Scottish Open Doubles title with Simon Hodgson or Raheem from Derby Moor Juniors winning the Derby Moor Doubles with Joe Sumner. How satisfying it is to see open tournament entry paying dividends.

Each of the four big ones has seen some significant achievements, even surprises. In November a pair from Merchant Taylors', Jamie Graham and Ewan Townshend, who are currently without courts at the school, won the Schools Winchester Fives Doubles – a first for the school. Their victory over the fancied home pair of Fraser and Percival must have given them a huge boost, because six months later they went on to win the National Schools U18 Rugby Fives Doubles title, beating the fancied West of England Schools champions, Cochrane and Wiseman from Alleyn's.

**'WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE CONFIDENT YOUNG SCHOOL PLAYERS EXCEL IN ADULT EVENTS'**

It was at the West of England event that we saw another first: Martha Nugent partnered her fellow pupil, Stuart Scott, to victory in the Colts Doubles. This was the first time a schoolgirl had won a hitherto boys-only event. When Gwydion Wiseman won the U18 Singles title as an U15, it was another historic moment.

At the National Schools there was considerable expectation that we might see something unique. After his victory in the West of England, Gwydion was widely tipped to do something even three-time champion Peter Mellor in the 1960s had not done: win the National U18 Singles title as a 'Junior Colt'. But in the event he was pipped in a wonderful game by the Midlands Regional champion Taylor McGuire of Sedbergh.

At the same competition we saw another rare feat: all four U16 semi-finalists were from Merchiston Castle School. Max Layton was the eventual winner and Ben Afshar the runner-up. Ben also won the Doubles with a third Merchistonian, Tom Mackintosh.

On then to the Schoolgirls' National Championships at Marlborough where we saw Katie Sumner of Bedford Modern do what only Louise Mathias has so far done: Katie made it a clean sweep of titles at U13 (Doubles), U14 (Singles and Doubles), U16 (Singles) and U18 (Singles) by beating fellow BMS player Maddie Kent in the final. However, the two of them once again couldn't stop the home pair of Lena Barton and Kirsten Bell walking off with the U18 Doubles title.

## Around the schools 2018-19

Individual schools report on their Fives season over the last year

### ALLEYN'S SCHOOL

**Rob Ody writes:** At the West of England Championships at Sherborne, the Open Singles produced an all-Alleyn's final, with Gwydion Wiseman champion and Alex Cochrane runner-up. The pair then combined to win the Open Doubles. Stuart Scott and Martha Nugent were victorious in the Colts Doubles. It was the first time that a mixed pair had won and in doing so Martha became the first girl to win a medal at the championships.

A pair of tight finals at the U13 Championships at St Paul's saw Theo Vernacchio win the Singles and Theo and Laurie Milner take the Doubles.

In the SE Regional Girls', Claudia Davey won the U13 Singles, Bethan Morgan the U14 Singles, Lucie Arie the U15 Singles and Martha Nugent the U16 Singles. In the Doubles Bethan and Carys Stephens won the



Alleyn's champions with trophies from Sherborne

U13/14 age group and the U15/16 age group was won by Martha and Claudia.

In the Girls' Championship at Marlborough, Claudia Davey won the U13 Singles and Martha Nugent the

U16 Singles, beating Katie Innes in an all-Alleyn's final. Martha and Claudia then joined up to win the U16 Doubles, again in an all-Alleyn's final against Katie and Lucy Arie.

### BEDFORD SCHOOL

**Michael Croker writes:** This year the 1st IV had U6th players Jamie Sorensen and Kamran Awan as the regular first pair and a rotating set of other players stepping in to make up the team. 5th former Hugh Halsey has shown real enthusiasm, as has the younger pairing of Darcy McBride and Rob Menhart, which bodes well for next year. In our regular fixtures there were wins against BMS (home and away) and Oundle and losses to the Jesters, Derby Moor, the RFA and a touring Malvern College. The annual Midlands Schools tournament, hosted here and at BMS with an expanded number of entrants, was tough but enjoyable day for the Bedford 1st IV and junior players. Not surprisingly, the internal school Singles competitions were won by regular school team players Jamie Sorensen at Senior level (Dawes Cup) and Darcy McBride at Junior level (Mellor Cup). House competitions at senior and junior level continue to thrive and are much enjoyed by all those boys not regularly Fives players.

### BEDFORD MODERN SCHOOL

**Katie Sumner writes:** After the departure of last year's senior boys the school squad was left depleted, with just two senior girls and a number of Year 7 and 8 development players. So it has been a challenging year for fixtures, with just one win against Rugby and losses to Bedford, Merchant Taylors' and Malvern College.

We fared better in tournaments. Malachi Griffith won the Midlands Regional U13 tournament, beating Joe Cleary in the Singles final and then winning the Doubles with Marcus Garcha in another all-BMS final. Then we had a strong representation at St Paul's in the National U13 championship, with Malachi narrowly runner-up in the Singles. He also lost in the final of the Doubles playing with Marcus. However, Bedford Modern 3 (Cleary and Innes) won the Doubles Plate. This should lead to a strong squad in a few years' time.

In the National Schoolgirls' Championships our two Year 12 girls



Finalists in the Schoolgirls' U18 National Singles

played each other in the Open Singles final, with Katie Sumner beating her partner Maddie Kent. In the Doubles, it was a repeat of last year's U16 contest, with Katie and Maddie narrowly losing to a strong partnership from Marlborough College.

We are now finalising a school Fives tour of Scotland next season.



Bloxham Staff v. Boys

### BLOXHAM SCHOOL

**Simon Batten writes:** Fives at Bloxham has continued to develop this year, with some promising players in our Under 15s, while our Lower School has provided large numbers of boys and girls who have learnt the game with great enthusiasm. The most welcome feature of the season was the re-establishment of fixtures with Radley, with whom we enjoyed excellent and competitive matches, both home and away. It would be fair to say that the Radley boys adapted better to our cavernous courts than we

did to their cosy ones, especially the buttruss. We said farewell to a loyal group of Upper Sixth leavers with a match against the staff, which the boys won, with the result in doubt until the final game of Doubles.

### BRADFIELD COLLEGE

**Jeremy Ball writes:** This has been another year of social rather than truly competitive Fives at Bradfield with the exception of Stepan Matvienko. He was undefeated in fixtures against his peers and, on several occasions, played against masters-in-charge (my thanks to them).

Given the lack of competitive practice he was able to have, he did very well to reach the semi-final of the U18 Nationals, losing to the eventual and deserving winner. A couple of other UVI made up the squad for school matches and their departure means that there is something of a gap at the top of the College next year. Lower down there continues to be a very keen core in Year 10 who enjoy their Fives immensely both on court

and the for typical camaraderie that the game engenders. They have been joined by some equally enthusiastic Year 9s who I very much hope will continue next year. As ever, if we can build a core of enthusiastic players, of any standard, then the game will flourish. Here's hoping.

### CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

**Ed Hatton writes:** The definite highlight of the Christ's Hospital Fives season was the South East Regional Boys' Championships, held this year at Christ's Hospital. All our players competed well, but for Murray Dare and Oliver Heath to emerge as the U18 Doubles Champions speaks volumes as to their knowledge, ability and skill at the game. There have also been excellent wins at St Paul's and against Oxford University, as well as successes in the South East Regional Girls' Championships. Two of our girls won the U16 Doubles Plate at the National Girls' Championships. Bart Callaghan now takes over as master i/c Fives – I wish him well.

### BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL

**Richard Moore writes:** Blundell's Fives continues to develop on many fronts, at Prep School level and in the Senior School's sports and activity programme. Our season began with the annual Reichwald Tournament, a fun Doubles event, with adults partnering the school players. In the Seniors George Gibbs brought home the Plate, while in the Colts Boris Ames won the cup and Will Bucknell the Plate.

At the West of England Schools our squad made history, with Boris Ames and Will Bucknell playing each other in the Colts Singles final, Boris winning the cup. There were the usual fixtures against Malvern, Sherborne and Kelly, plus a match with Sedbergh, and much valued fixtures against local and national clubs. On occasions the West of England Club used the courts, which gave our players the opportunity to watch and play them.

We continued to support the National Schools Championships at all levels. We were extremely



Blundell's and friends at the Nationals

pleased with the performance of the U13 squad, whose play was transformed by their first experience of national competition. In the Colts Boris Ames and Will Bucknell reached the quarters, Boris losing to the eventual winner. In the Doubles they reached the semi-finals while Ed Swarbrick and Max Mayor reached the Plate semi-final. At the Schoolgirls'

Championships, a delighted squad made it an all-Blundell's U13 Doubles final, Flossie Ames and Tilly Lane beating Jemima Mitchell and Honor Tobin. Honor reached the Singles final, just losing.

Fives continued to be included in the Summer term and PE programme, with a parents and pupils fun Doubles tournament.



Raheem in action at the Nationals

### DERBY MOOR JUNIORS

**Bob Dolby writes:** Our weekend morning Junior Clubs have been busy all year round with a core of U16 players like Raheem, Callum, Kais, Denis, Max, Jamie and Karanveer making steady progress in their game. Dean and Vishal, now stalwarts of the Club, have played as much as possible.

We continue to enjoy our winter clash with Bedford School, which whets the appetite for the West of England Schools championship. This year our six competitors in Sherborne enjoyed plenty of matches without any great success, but it was useful experience and stood all of them in good stead as they progressed first to the Midlands Regional Schools Championships and then to the National Schools. In the Midlands event Raheem won 3rd Place in the U18 Singles and Silver in the U18 Doubles with Dean, while Callum and Kais came third in the U15 Doubles and Kais took silver in the U15 Singles. At St. Paul's Raheem and Dean reached the final of the U16 and U18 Singles Plate respectively, and together they reached the U18 Doubles Plate final. In the National U13s one pair, Kevin and Karanveer, took part while a year young for their first, beneficial experience of tournament play.

The season ended for Raheem on a triumphant note: deservedly, he won the Derby Moor Invitation Doubles with Joe Sumner. He is a fine example to his fellows.

### EDINBURGH ACADEMY

**Hector McFarlane writes:** Fives continued to grow at the Academy with ever increasing numbers necessitating multiple timetable changes for lunchtime and after-school sessions. The school fixtures brought lots of fun, high quality Fives and numerous victories for all age groups for both boys and girls.

Merchiston were imperious in the Scottish Schools' Boys events. However, U18 Plate victories for Liam Hoyne in the Singles and with partner Thomas Peel in the Doubles were well deserved. An unbeaten season for our U14 Boys bodes for a very positive future. The girls continued their impressive progress, with an all E.A. final at the Scottish Schools' U18 Doubles where Sophie Lundie and Zara Elliot beat last year's winners, Meryl Smith and Olivia Tofts. Further success was had at the

excellent new Ladies event in Durham: our girls took home three silver medals whilst Zara deservedly won the U18 and Open gold. Due to the early start of Scottish exams we were unable to compete at either UK National School Championships, but a first trip to the National Ladies Championships in Manchester proved a great success and an excellent experience for all involved. Also a first this year was a very successful Senior Mixed Doubles event with Fettes, where the sibling pair of Alex and Sophie Lundie won an epic final 16-15.

The Jesters event was, as always, a superb weekend with the Boys Select VI and the new Girls Select VIII tournaments proving real highlights.

Here's hoping next year's review will include information about the redevelopment of our charming, if a little ramshackle, courts!



Academy's trail-blazing senior girls

### FETTES COLLEGE

**Peter Worlledge writes:** The Spring term kicked off with the annual joust with the Jesters, 50 of them descending on Edinburgh. Fettes pupils between them notched up over 60 games during the weekend and gained a huge amount of experience and enjoyment from it all. Highlights include the inaugural Girls Select VIII tournament in which Colette K-L secured the win with partner Louise Mathias. It was great to see so many girls taking up Fives or improving their game throughout the season.

And so it came to the Scottish Schools Championships: sadly injury on the day forced Hugo E out of the Singles Plate competition. In the Boys'

Doubles, Fettes secured the Plate in the Colts but suffered an early exit in the Seniors. In the Girls' Doubles, our first pair of Lucie W and Cora S fought their way to the Plate final but came out second best in the end, despite Cora's ferocious serve.

It is marvellous to report that the Fives word continues to spread: this term saw our first fixture against Strathallan since 1965. Our Colts team took up the challenge, achieving an exciting win with a rematch already chalked up for next year.

There continues to be much to be proud of and I'm very grateful to the players for their commitment, effort and good humour, though perhaps not their taste in music!



Loretto's proud players and coach at the Scottish Open

## LORETTO SCHOOL

**Richie Murby writes:** This year, our young U16 boys represented Loretto not only as Colts but also as the school's 1st IV. Though more matches were lost than won, the exponential improvement of this group over the year has been fantastic to see, along with their enthusiasm and their team spirit.

A significant moment was the return of Loretto to the National Schools Championships after almost a decade. The three U16 players who took part improved visibly over the course of their games and relished the big-match atmosphere. They have already set their sights on returning for next year.

At U14 boys' level, we have had good numbers at the courts and several matches played, with one or two particularly keen players among the group. Getting the girls' game off the ground remains a challenge, though we were able to field a pair for the Scottish Schools Girls Championships. With more girls coming to try the game recently, we hope that we will have an U16/U18 squad for next season.

The participation of the entire 1st IV in this year's Scottish Open at Loretto caused something of a buzz at the school, with the viewing areas packed out with pupils, teachers and parents. In the Doubles final, silverware was guaranteed as two Loretto students,

Joe and Josh, were playing on opposite sides, and in the Singles Nathan's run to the quarter-final has seen him surge to 23 in the National Rankings. The Scottish Open was a great note on which to end the year and hopefully a sign of exciting Fives to come.

## MALVERN COLLEGE

**Chris Thomas writes:** This has been a time of re-building as several senior players have left, but we are enjoying the fixed roofs and dry courts.

The new Year 9s had Fives on their PE rotation so all of the year group were introduced to the sport. Consequently, a successful autumn House competition was run. There were good matches against the usual opponents. The College, Staff and Town teamed up for fixtures against the UCS Old Boys and touring Exeter and Derby sides.

The year's highlights were a tour to the East of England, playing Bedford, Oundle and Cambridge (which involved coaching, playing a domestic and being treated to an exhibition match by messrs Kay and Tristao.) The boys won both their fixtures and will hopefully play next year. The Girls Nationals was a success, with an entry consisting of five Year 9 girls, one Year 11 and one Year 8 from The Chase Malvern (Miss Hannah Thomas). Rhiannon Mallard won the U14 Singles Plate and both Georgina Wood (U16) and Hannah reached the semi-finals of their competitions.

## MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

**Tom Kiggell writes:** Another full and enjoyable season, with notable achievements at all levels. Harry Powell rounded off his five-year contribution to Fives at MC with a strong season. As captain, he worked hard on his own game but also brought on other players of all ages. Crowned Singles champion at the Colquhoun Trophy, he carried his form into the West of England Championships, giving the number two seed a fierce game before winning the Singles plate. His partnership with the tenacious and balletic Charlie Jobson grew stronger.

Co-captain Kirsten Bell grew in strength and experience. She and Lena Barton won the National U18 Doubles, a magnificent follow-up to last year's U16 win. At the younger end, Halcyon Barton and Grace Hornby followed their elders' lead to win the U14 Doubles, then Hally swept all aside win the Singles. Erin Butler and Millie Clayton played superbly to take the silver medal.

We had our customary fixtures against schools and clubs, with significant contributions made by U14 Joseph Purcell, a stalwart throughout, and especially the much improved Harry Lack, whose unlikely retrieving and tenacity cost any opponents who underestimated him.



Marlborough's U18 Doubles champions

## MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL

**Simon Hardman writes:** The second year without home courts has been challenging but it has done little to dampen the enthusiasm of those involved in Fives at MTS. Our boys have continued to play on squash courts in Watford and, under the expert guidance of Gareth Price, have worked hard to improve and refine their games, resulting in almost every fixture being very competitive this season. Particular highlights were close matches away at Winchester and Whitgift.

This was the first year in many that Taylors' have been involved in tournament play, at least outside of Nationals. Ewan Townshend and Jamie Graham combined emphatically to win the Schools' Winchester Fives Doubles in November, before finishing runners-up to Wiseman and Cochrane of

Alleyn's at the West of England. The boys avenged this defeat in a truly outstanding final at the Nationals in April, becoming the first MTS pair to win the Mappin Cup since 1984. The advent of the live-streaming of the tournament this year, and the opportunity to watch their success in real time, provided a fantastic advertisement for the sport at Taylors'. Though Ewan will be leaving this summer, I am hopeful that Jamie, and our talented current U15 quartet, will be able to build on this success.

I have been immensely impressed by the continued enthusiasm and dedication of the Fives players at MTS and hope that we can build on Ewan and Jamie's successes to encourage the younger year groups, in particular, to pick up a pair of gloves.



National champions at Rugby and Winchester Doubles

## MERCHISTON CASTLE

**Matt Hillier writes:** It has been a historic year for Merchiston Fives. In addition to regular fixtures in Edinburgh, the boys enjoyed trips to Sedbergh, Durham University and a tour to London in January.

All of these served as excellent preparation for the annual Scottish tournaments in the Lent Term. Doug Tidy and Chris Bell comfortably won the U18 Edinburgh Schools Doubles, Tom Mackintosh and Ben Afshar won the Edinburgh Schools U16 Doubles and Doug Tidy was the victor in the Scottish Schools U18 Singles. Winning all three was a fantastic achievement, but the dominance on display was even more impressive; all three tournaments finished with all-Merchiston finals. Six boys then travelled to London for the National Schools' Championships at St Paul's.

This was an unforgettable week for us. Doug Tidy lost narrowly in the semi-final of the U18 Singles and even more narrowly together with Chris Bell in the semi-final of the U18 Doubles; top four in the UK is a serious achievement! But the four U16 boys (Afshar, Mackintosh, Max Layton and Marcus Mulvey) took the U16



Merchiston's proud coach and squad

tournament by storm, all winning their groups and quarter-finals, resulting in the unprecedented achievement of all-Merchiston semi-finals on both sides of the Singles draw! Max Layton went on to become the U16 Singles Champion. In the U16 Doubles, Afshar and Mackintosh were dominant from the off, eventually beating Winchester convincingly in the final.

Merchiston had previously won two National trophies, in 1996 and 1969, which puts into context just how talented this group of boys is! Three Scottish trophies and two UK National trophies: the most successful Fives season in Merchiston's history.

## OUNDLE SCHOOL

**Tony Burrows writes:** The Fives season has spread across both Michaelmas and Lent Terms. With 12 new (and very competitive) 5th formers playing in the Michaelmas Term and some more in the Lent Term we have potential for a competitive squad over the next two seasons.

The phase of developing team players over the last 18 months has been very productive and though the match statistics for this season read only two wins out of eight, this doesn't reflect the number of close fixtures that we lost very narrowly. With a more experienced squad most of these matches may have resulted in wins. Most importantly the game has been played as Fives is meant to be played – strategically and honourably! The recent House Doubles competition is a very good example.

We welcomed teams on tour from Sedbergh and also Malvern and greatly enjoyed sharing our courts and hospitality with fellow Fives enthusiasts. Touring teams are very welcome and often we are able to provide accommodation for those touring the Midlands hub of courts at Bedford, Derby and Rugby.

## RUGBY SCHOOL

**Trevor White writes:** The season was a little disappointing especially in terms of tournament entry and success. However, the courts remained busy and several players developed their games.

The four highlights of the year were well spread, three of them involving adults or ORs. The annual match against the ORs was graced by a splendid mix of young and old ORs. George Terry and Marcus Kerr more than held their own. George partnered Freya Harrison at the Lady's Cup: they proved a strong pairing, winning the Plate. At the Midlands our teams were competitive at U15 and U18 level but found the players from Sedbergh a challenge too far. Best performance came from club captain, Jacob Drabble, runner-up in the U18 Singles. Xav Christopher and Tom Sloan won the U18 Doubles Plate, as did Max Molloy at U15.

Special mention goes to Freya and Jacob, who have been fine servants of the game for the last four years. Skilful players, they did not have quite enough internal competition to push them to the very highest standards. Tom Sloan and Sam Stoddard have been great supporters of the game and have developed very well in their final year. It is hoped that the courts will get even more use next year as Fives becomes part of the games options for the senior pupils.



Freya and George win the Lady's Plate

## SEDBERGH SCHOOL

**Jonathan Lidiard writes:**

Sedbergh Fives enjoyed its busiest season for some time, largely due to two very enjoyable weekend tours, as well as an exciting finale at the National Schools Championships.

In addition to regular fixtures against the likes of Merchiston and the White Rose Club, we were hosted by the Manchester Y Club in what will hopefully become an annual fixture. Our South West tour took us to Sherborne and Blundell's, where much excellent Fives was played and the welcome was extremely warm.

We were similarly well hosted by Oundle on our tour of the Midlands, where we managed to fit in Saturday matches against Derby Moor and Oundle before entering the Midlands Championships on the Sunday, where we took home the Singles and Doubles titles in both age categories. This was a brilliant achievement in its own right, but also served as an excellent warm

## ST PAUL'S SCHOOL

**Sam Roberts writes:** There were high hopes this year but for various reasons we never quite fulfilled our potential.

At the West of England, Monro-Davies and Odgers made it to the quarter-finals of the U18 Singles a year young and to the semis of the Doubles. In the U16s, we had three quarter-finalists in the Singles (Pymont, Ridley and Harrison) and the Plate was won by Ben Roberts. Ridley and Whitham made it to the final of the U16 Doubles. Roberts and Ben Harrison teamed up to claim the Plate.

In our U14s, the final of our internal competition was played out between two determined retrievers: Charles Calzia and Ben Yu. Ben also won our U14 Doubles with Yadu Appulingham.

At the National Schools there were some good performances. In the U14 Doubles Seb Ion and Stef Frigo came away with the Plate. In the U16s, Aiden Whitham and Alex Ridley, both a year young, reached the last eight. In the U18s, Louis Odgers lost valiantly in the quarter-finals to the champion, and Louis and Teddy played some superbly controlled and aggressive doubles to almost knock out the top seeds.



Midlands Doubles champions

up for the Nationals for our departing star, Taylor McGuire. It was a proud and emotional moment to see him secure the Open Singles title – reward for all of his hard work and commitment to Sedbergh Fives and a big moment for the school, after a quarter of a century wait for a National Singles champion. Hopefully our current juniors will be inspired to achieve similar things as they move up through the ranks. A great year and hopefully more to come.

## SHERBORNE SCHOOL

**Nicholas Scorer writes:** We have enjoyed a busy season at Sherborne, with nine matches across the age range, and it has been particularly pleasing to see some new faces on court, especially in the younger years.

In November Harry Harvey reached the U18 final of the Colquhoun Trophy. Benedict Mercer then reached the quarter-finals of the West of England U18 competition and Harry the Plate final; together they reached the quarter-finals of the Doubles. Shortly after this, in our first match against Sedbergh in a decade, the seniors narrowly lost, but the juniors won, getting their season off to a good start.

Throughout the term the seniors have done well to win a number of their fixtures, with Will Barker and Harry Le Maistre joining Benedict and Harry, playing against both school and adult sides. One of the losses was a very enjoyable match against a 10-strong old Shirburnian side, with some of the best players from the school in the last 30 years on court. It was an excellent three and a half hours of Fives for current boys, old boys and staff alike!

## STAMFORD SCHOOLS

**Alex Smith writes:** This year we began Fives on the Stamford squash courts. In fact, it is a re-birth – in the 19th century “a kind of Fives” was played in various places around the school. Now, in 2019, both boys and girls have taken to the game with great enthusiasm.

In March, 10 Year 7 boys entered the U13 Midlands Schools Championships. Playing on standard Fives courts for the first time, they did very well competing against more experienced boys. In the Singles, three players got to the knock-out rounds, with Cameron Drutmann winning his group, going on to take third place. In the Doubles, the Stamford first pair of Laith and Chase got to the semi-finals, whilst the second pair, Cameron and James Laud, reached the plate final.

A number of boys went on to compete in the National Schools U13



The coach in action!

championships. They played with great resilience and determination, often against competitors a year older.

A team of Year 9 girls entered the National Schoolgirls tournament. Zara Pollock reached the quarter-finals of the U14 Singles and in the Doubles our

1st pair, Zara and Maddie Pike, made the semi-final. In the plate competition our 2nd and 3rd pairs ended up playing each other in the final. We have since had a girls' fixture at Rugby, and I hope to arrange more matches next season.

## WHITGIFT SCHOOL

**Nick Morgan writes:** The era of strong Fives at Whitgift draws to (hopefully) a temporary close. Our 1st IV were the last of 'Generation Mew', the coach who did so much to develop Fives here and who left three years ago. However, the legacy lived on. The silverware from the SE regionals was not quite abundant as in previous years, but Nathan Jerome did win the Singles and the team played in two Senior finals. School matches were equally promising: good wins over Christ's Hospital and Eastbourne, plus a tie against Alleyn's were all indicative of a strong cohort of players. Sean Kendrick and Philip Lam went into the Nationals where they struggled in the main competition but thrived in the Plate.

The immediate outlook for Fives is less rosy. We have brilliant facilities now, with four watertight and freshly painted courts, but with my looming retirement we need a master in charge from 2020. The plan is to rebuild Fives bottom up, starting with the 2nd and 3rd years but this will mean few senior fixtures next year. I have an excellent coach and some help but the future is by no means secure. Anyone fancy a job at Whitgift?

## WINCHESTER COLLEGE

**Jamie McManus writes:** With the arrival of a large group of enthusiastic Year 9s there has been plenty to cheer. The competitive season started with the Winchester Doubles tournament and a very creditable runners-up medal for Percival and Fraser. A number of close school matches provided good preparation for the end-of-season National Schools. Whilst no silverware was gained at this event a sizeable squad of 17 certainly played its part. Highlights included Dom Percival giving Gywdion Wiseman a scare in the U18 quarter-finals, Dom and Seb Fraser winning the Doubles Plate, Marcus Cloke-Brown winning the U16 Singles Plate, and Justo Ruiz-Cano and Kaito Bremner making the semi-finals in the U16 Doubles.

However, the greatest success was at U14s: Henry Akerman, Chris Lee and Shiloh Wu all made the Singles quarter-finals. Chris and Shiloh made the eventual winner from St. Olave's work hard in the semis and final respectively. The Doubles final was also a Winchester/St. Olave's affair: a grown-up contest with the Wykehamists pushing their opponents in a thriller.



The Tonbridge U16s

## TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

**Ian Jackson writes:** 2019 was one of the most successful for Tonbridge Fives. The main strength lies in having nearly 70 boys playing, which enables us to field many teams, although few players get as many matches as I'd like. The biggest fixtures were against St. Paul's and Alleyn's, where in each case we played eight teams. Tonbridge won the U16 Singles and Doubles at the South East Regionals and should make a good challenge for the Senior titles next year. There were strong results at the Nationals too, with Campanale and Lewis reaching the final of the U16 Doubles while Neil Hudson and Rufus Nolan won the U16 Doubles Plate.



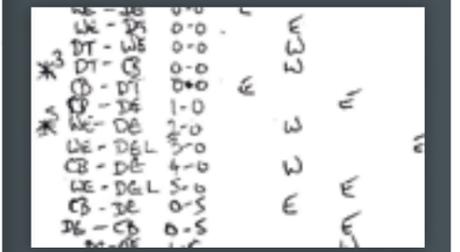
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## READING THE RESULTS

LEFT: Scoresheet from the 2017 National Doubles Final - Dan Tristao (DT) and Dan Grant (DG) versus Will Ellison (WE) and Charlie Brooks (CB) won by the latter 15-4, 15-13.

- Reading each line from left to right:
- Who is serving to whom
  - The rally ends and note the score followed by an 'E' (error) or 'W' (winner) in the column of whichever player makes a mistake or hits a winner
  - Lets are annotated with an L after the serving initials

In the future I may note aces as different from winners to see whose serve is the most effective.



ABOVE (inset): Dan Grant (DG) has a purple patch of four winners as he and Dan Tristao build a 5-0 lead at the beginning of the second game.

In the course of this match there were 22 lets [L], eight occurring at the crucial 10-7 point in the second game. In the course of the match Tristao scored eight winners and made 17 errors; Grant 15 winners and 21 errors; Ellison 11 winners and 18 errors and Brooks 10 winners and five errors.

# Scoring with stats

Hamish Buchanan reveals the secrets behind his stats-based scoring system

After many years of watching incredible, almost endless National Doubles finals contested in mutual respect by Wayne Enstone and Neil Roberts against Dave Hebden and Ian Fuller, it became apparent that you don't win many games of doubles when making more mistakes than your opponents.

In the next few years playing with my partner Robin Perry, I saw my role as the steady, controlling half of the pair, trying to orchestrate opportunities for my big-hitting partner to finish the rally and, crucially, to avoid making any mistakes. We lost our first three doubles finals, but with a little fortune managed to win the next eight, probably reaching our peak in our fourth final, which was our second against John Minta and Phil Bishop. John and Phil were both big hitters,

and along with Robin it surely resulted in one of the hardest-hitting finals of all time. I tried to join in with smacking the ball into the back nick when possible, but essentially my part was to retrieve and frustrate the opposition. We won that final in two games and, when presenting the trophy, the then President, John East, generously picked out my performance as the game-changing one, stating that he felt that I only made one mistake. I clearly remembered making two horrible ones and no doubt there were a few more unremembered errors, but it was

**'EVEN THE BEST STRUGGLE TO RECORD MORE WINNERS THAN ERRORS'**

probably my best game of doubles and this observation stuck with me.

Several years after Robin and I had lost our crown I began wondering how the ratio of winners to errors factored in a game of doubles. As Nationals organiser I had the opportunity to score the final every year and thought the players would enjoy some stats to mull over afterwards.

### RECORDING SYSTEM

So, what stats to record and how to evaluate them?

The players are not wearing GPS trackers to record distances run or heart monitors showing the stress-induced peak when serving at game ball down, so how about the classic winners versus errors? Tennis has a forced and unforced errors count, but that would be too difficult to evaluate in the flow of a game of Fives. I had to

decide whether the point ended with a winner from player A or a mistake from D, record the score, note who was serving to whom and whether it was first or second hand.

I decided to stick to the simple 'winner or error' choice, with every point ending in either one or the other. The question then arose of how to evaluate an error? I thought back to when I was winning trophies and the disappointment and anger I felt when, after getting my hand to the ball, I failed to complete the shot. It's harsh, but I believe that that is the honest feeling of the top players and winners of any generation. When given the smallest chance they will expect to get the ball back in play. So while winners are clear - there is no touch before the ball bounces twice - errors are deemed as such even if at point blank range or fielding the hardest of corner nicks at

extreme pace. As long as one gets a hand to the ball it should be possible to get it back in play.

### MIXTURE OF STYLES

Viewers of this year's final could attest to the gut-wrenching disappointment shown by Ed Kay or Will Ellison after missing a retrieval that would be inconceivable to the average player or the brief but incandescent rage from Dan Tristao or Charlie Brooks when hitting the ball down in trying for the outright winner. Small margins are what make champions.

Stats from the last five or six years' finals show that even the best players struggle to record more winners than errors under these circumstances. Dan Tristao and Will Ellison hover around the 50/50 winners-to-errors ratio and when one or the other is in the positive that usually results in a win for them.

Charlie Brooks is rather akin to my probable performance of few errors and few winners, whereas Dan Grant would appear to like the game to revolve around his performance, with a large number of winners and an equally large amount of errors.

One could try to take this analysis further with an errors-and-forced-errors count, or an ace-serve percentage, but that probably requires a playback analysis or more observers.

Try watching a game of doubles at your local club and counting the winners and errors. I expect the latter count to exceed the former. Quite rightly we all love hitting those unplayable nicks or the perfect length shot into the corner, but I believe it's the over exuberant cracks into the bar and desperate misses from the back corners that dictate the outcome of most games.

# The history of Fives at Sherborne School

David Barnes looks at the school's unusually long history of Fives



ABOVE LEFT:  
The Ball Court  
in 1802 by  
J.C.Buckler

ABOVE RIGHT:  
Sherborne  
School and  
Abbey c.1850.  
(Fives court  
just right of  
centre)

Fives has a long history at Sherborne, where a 'fives place' was recorded close to the north wall of the Abbey in the 1670s. W.B. Wildman, writing in 1896, provides some detail: "In the year 1840 a new Fives Court was made in the Ball Court west of the Box Buildings, probably on the site of an older one...mentioned in the School Accounts as early as 1674."

Play on the Ball Court is shown by a view of the School and Abbey in about 1850. It shows bat-fives in play on the paved area in front of 'The Slype', a "lean-to building against the north transept of the Abbey". The other wall of the Court was the west wall of the Box Building, a sick-house built in 1697 and demolished in 1855.

In his "History of Sherborne School", A.B. Gourlay writes: "In 1859, an individual fives cup was presented by the masters...which suggests that the old style game played against the Abbey wall still had both a science and a following." In 1861, two three-walled open courts were built, for £200, the cost partly met by George Wingfield Digby, a local landowner and benefactor of the school.

*The Shirburnian* of April 1865 records: A "series of Fives Matches were played on the School Courts. Single-handed, E.L. Tuson. Double-handed, A.N. Malan, E.C. Malan".

## MORE COURTS BUILT

Fives was so popular that two more courts alongside the others were opened in November 1869, and large crowds of boys and masters watched the finals of the competitions. Gourlay describes a curious rule applying to the doubles:

"Double-handed matches carried on for two terms; if one member of a pair left, his surviving partner continued alone and in some recorded cases even won single-handed."

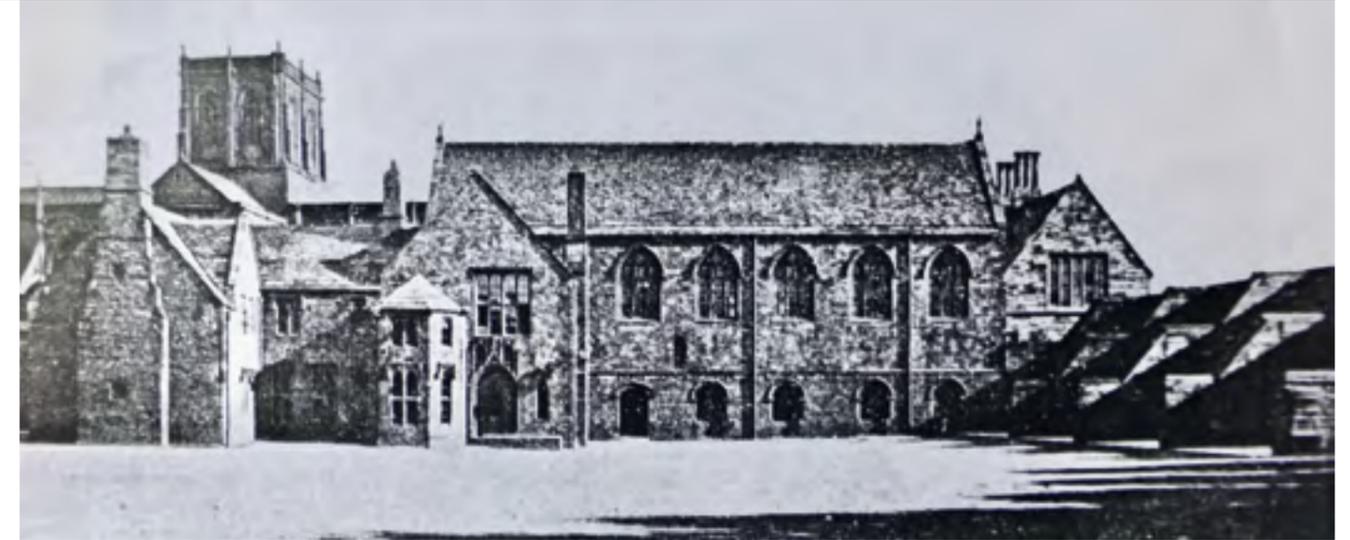
In 1874, the four courts were moved to where they now stand. Two more courts, one of them with a Winchester-style buttress (later filled-in), were added, but none had a roof or a back wall.

The later 1880s were not a good time for the school. A court case resulting from a violent incident between the Headmaster E.M. Young and the aforementioned E.C. Malan brought bad publicity and a dramatic fall in numbers. When Young resigned in 1892, there were just 124 pupils, and it took more than a decade to get numbers back up to 200.

The new regime took steps to improve the Fives facilities. One court was refurbished in 1893 and two more in 1896, the funding provided by a master, H.R.King, and the Headmaster F.B. Westcott, who had taught at Rugby.

*The Shirburnian* records the results of Senior and Junior Singles and Doubles, plus the House Challenge Cup, for the period up to 1905.

A 'Fives Courts' Improvement Fund' was launched in 1906. Only £216 of the £500 needed had been raised by June, but the work went ahead and the opening ceremony took place in October. Three of the courts had been covered and enclosed, with galleries, and three left open. The benefactor, then and 4 years later, was a parent, J.B. Carrington. In 1910, the other three courts were roofed and given a back wall. Competitions continued as usual, but the War years have few references



'IN 1874, THE FOUR COURTS WERE MOVED TO WHERE THEY NOW STAND'

ABOVE (R-L):  
Sherborne's  
first three-  
walled courts  
c.1870 (far right  
of photo)

to the game. In 1918 there came a request for a Captain of Fives to be appointed and for fixtures against other schools.

When Sherborne played its first school match in March 1919 against King's School, Bruton, three pairs including one master represented each school. The Sherborne master was M.B. Elderton, described later as "a horribly good Fives player, with an exasperating skill with his left hand".

Home matches against Weymouth College were held in 1920 and 1921. Weymouth had a top-class player both years in D.G. Mackenzie, a finalist in the first Amateur Singles of 1932 and in the Amateur Doubles of 1935.

March 1921 saw hockey replace rugby during the second half of the Lent Term, and *The Shirburnian* approved: "Competitors for the Fives cups and medals have had opportunity to practise, and as a consequence the various ties have been more evenly contested and scientifically fought out."

## INCREASED STATUS

The first match against the Masters was held in 1922. The Masters won 91-82, but the School IV won by 202-167 the next year. Colours were awarded to H.S. Storrs, Captain of Fives in 1923, giving Fives added status.

In 1927, a letter asked for Squash courts. Squash was permitted in three of the Fives courts, but the official position was that Fives was the school game and that Squash courts could only be built through the generosity of benefactors. As if to emphasise this, two more Fives courts were built in 1928, the gift of W.J. Bensly, a Housemaster.

The first *Shirburnian* to make a mark in University Fives, A.E.S. Charles, was Captain in 1929. He won a Scholarship to Worcester College and represented Oxford from 1930 to 1933.

In the 1930s, Sherborne's Fives moved ahead, probably in response to the encouragement of the Headmaster, A.R. Wallace, himself a player, who arrived from Blundell's in 1934.

## WARTIME DAMAGE

A player of note in 1935 was L.A.B. Pilkington, later to play three times for Cambridge and to share in a win of the Amateur Doubles in 1947. Leaving Sherborne in 1938, he won a place in the 1939 Cambridge team. After the War, he played in the 1946 and 1947 teams.

Lighting was installed in some courts in 1936, and they were levelled and resurfaced in 1938. An outer wall enclosing the galleries was also built during the 1930s. The first away match at Clifton (1940) was a disaster. The Clifton courts were 'very different', and their players hit the ball too hard! A member of the Sherborne 2nd pair was M.R. Ricketts, who was to play for Oxford from 1948-50 and reach the final of the Amateur Doubles in 1952 and 1953.

Bombs fell on Sherborne in 1940, shattering the glass roofs. The only matches possible in 1941 were against King's College, London (evacuated to Bristol) and the Masters. Those at Sherborne when peace returned were luckier. The 1946 team played Bristol University, Crewkerne School, the Clifton

BELOW: Three  
of the courts  
roofed and  
enclosed in  
1906



◀ Masters (away) and the Sherborne Masters, only losing at Clifton.

The first joint Captain of Fives and Squash was D.S. Sheppard, in 1947, destined for fame as an England cricketer. There was a shortage of Fives balls in the late 1940s, but the numbers playing held up, and the 1949/50 team was a strong one, winning all but one match.

In 1953, T.R. Thomas became the first Shirburnian to reach the final of the Schools Singles, losing to D.T. Sparrow from Denstone. The 1955 team "suffered from the demands of hockey", but they won five out of eight matches. Kelly and Blundell's had been added to the list by 1956.

The RFA Club started to visit in 1957, and one of the Sherborne team was R.M. Morgan, who was to play for Cambridge from 1959 to 1961, captaining the team in his last year. Bristol GS and Dauntsey's were added to the fixture list. J.W. Major reached the semi-finals of the inaugural West of England Schools event at Bristol in 1959.

Hockey was growing in strength in the early 1960s, but boys could now choose between it and Fives. In bad weather this suited Fives, but the standard was still variable. J.P. Riley had been an efficient master-in-charge since the mid 1950s, but when an experienced player, C.J. Harvey, took over in 1967, the standard improved. The Captain in 1969 and 1970 was J.S. Schroeter, later a leading player in the game. Jeremy was a finalist in the 1973 British Universities Singles and a triple finalist in the National Doubles (1987-89).

1972 was a good year, with a 1st VI all winning colours. The coaching team was joined by P.M. Whelan, his contribution acknowledged by Schroeter in his Captain's report as 'having a direct bearing on the team's results'. A new arrival in the Common Room that autumn was M.J. Cleaver, a 1968 Schools Doubles winner and Cyriax Cup finalist in 1970. His influence on Sherborne's Fives over the next three and a half decades was to be incalculable.

1973 and 1974 had a good crop of players, the best being R.D. Knight. In the Schools Championships of 1974, he became the second Shirburnian to reach the Singles final, losing to a Bedfordian.

Two fine players of that time who went on to play for Oxford were M.A. Hopkins (1978/79), and R.H. Green (1978-80). And no account of Sherborne

## '1980 SAW THE ARRIVAL OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS AT SHERBORNE'



ABOVE: Jeremy Schroeter (right) with his partner David Parlbay in 1990

BELOW: The 1st IV in 1994, including Mappin Cup winners Nick MacIver (seated centre) and Nick Hyde (seated left)

Fives would be complete without a mention for M. Alexander, a keen RFA Club player and a President's Cup winner in 1980.

### SUCCESSFUL TIMES

A great shock came in 1980, when Paddy Whelan died at the age of 43. Into the breach stepped another Fives enthusiast, Paul Carling.

1980 also saw the arrival of the West of England Schools competition at Sherborne, to be run for the next 8 years by Mike Cleaver. Another major Fives competition, the British Universities, visited Sherborne for the first time in 1979 and was to return a further 10 times between 1982 and 2014.

The 1980s brought improving standards and good team spirit. Blundell's were finally beaten away in 1984, and the team entered the West of England and National Schools competitions. In 1986, J.W. Fussell and I. Groom reached the semi-finals of the National Schools Doubles. The loss of Sherborne's two 1928 courts to classroom development in 1988 was sad, as they were excellent courts when dry – but they sweated at the least opportunity.

1994 was an unbeaten season for all four teams: 1st IV, 2nd IV, Colts and Junior Colts. And even better, it brought Sherborne's first win in the National Schools Championships in the 64 years of the competition. The appropriately named 'two Nicks', MacIver and Hyde, played brilliantly to win the Doubles. Overcome by this, assistant coach Paul Carling called it a day at Sherborne after 15 years and left to run a school in Assam.

The standard remained high in the second half of the 1990s, with T.J. Ambrose winning the Singles plate at the West of England in 1995. And there was the exciting prospect of four glass-backed courts.

Subsequent reports were positive about players



ABOVE: David Kirk and David Park with Mike Cleaver and the Marchant Cup in 2003

BELOW: Pilgrims at Sherborne in 2019: Simon Stokes, John Barber, Jeremy Stubbs, Toby Dean, Nick MacIver, Ed Horder, Tim Ambrose, Nick Scorer, David Kirk; (front) David Park and Richard Bridge

such as T.D.H. Morgan, T.C. Dean, A.D. Mosse and C.C. Warren, but they made no mention of new courts. A.R.W. Peck was the outstanding player in 1999, and one of the 1st IV in 2000 was N.C. Scorer, who was to return to teach at Sherborne. By 2000, however, two of the regular courts were out of action with dangerous roofs, and an appeal was started to provide funds for their repair.

### COURT MODERNISATION

A thorough refurbishment of five courts was completed by November 2001, making them among the best on the circuit. 2003 saw Sherborne's second National title, with Davids Kirk and Park winning the National Colts Doubles at St Paul's. The West of England Open was held on them from 2002-2005, and the West of England Schools competition returned in 2007. The School has hosted the British Universities event 4 times since the refurbishment.

Numbers surged after this success, and the 1st IV started to beat adult sides. In the 2004 National Colts, M.R.J. Oates-Wormer and E.F. Leahey reached the Doubles final. A highly successful season followed in 2005, the 1st IV winning all

## '145 YEARS' PLAY ON THE SAME COURTS MUST SURELY BE A RECORD'

but one of their 11 matches. Further trophies escaped them, however.

A rebuilding season followed in 2006. The 1st IV enjoyed positive results but St Paul's proved once again to be their nemesis in the Nationals.

The introduction of Soccer into the Third Form in 2005 was beginning to impact on the numbers playing Fives in 2007/08, and the young Senior squad struggled to compete.

In 2009, Mike Cleaver's long reign came to an end. His example, as player and coach, was to be seen in his players' tenacity, skill and conduct. The lack of a National Schools Singles title for Sherborne remains his one regret, but there is plenty to offset that, specifically the large numbers of Shirburnians who enjoyed their Fives during his time in charge. The refurbished courts stand as a lasting tribute to his devotion to Fives.

Fives has since kept a steady pace under Nick Scorer. H. Newman reached successive Colquhoun Singles finals, in 2013 and '14. In 2016 the 1st IV fielded two players who were to play in the Varsity Match: E.C.S.Pyman and W.J.R.Shardlow. Recently, the most successful players have been B.S.J.A. Mercer, twice a Colquhoun Colts winner, and H.R. Harvey, Colquhoun Senior Singles finalist.

145 years' play on the same courts must surely be a record and it calls for a huge party, if not now then in five years. All O.S. Fives players take note!

*Many of the photos are provided courtesy of Sherborne School. Special thanks to Rachel Hassall, School Archivist, for all her help, and to Mike Cleaver for his memories of 36 years in charge.*

■ A longer, fully illustrated version of this history, can be found on the RFA website at [rugbyfives.com](http://rugbyfives.com)



# RFA Club Report

Hamish Buchanan reports on the RFA Club matches throughout the 2018-19 season



There were 29 matches played this season, which is a good result considering the number of schools and clubs without access to courts and the busy Fives calendar.

As many will remember the hardest matches of a school season would be against the RFA Club. With this in mind, the wins for Christ's Hospital, Marlborough and Sherborne stand out as commendable achievements.

In February eight Club stalwarts headed to Edinburgh for a hugely enjoyable and successful tour, winning against the four schools and losing only to the Caledonian Club in, with hindsight, a tactically poorly timed Sunday morning fixture. The annual match against the Winchester Fives Association saw the home team win in a calm and steady victory that went down to the last round of games but was never really in doubt over a strong-on-paper, but inexperienced RFA. The phrase 'never in doubt' certainly didn't apply to the RFA v BUSF match that began on the sweaty Alleyn's courts and finished at St Paul's, where the sweat was on the players' brows as the Universities overturned a 16-point deficit going into the last round to win by a point.

This year the President's Cup moved to Marlborough and found a venue in keeping with the compact and sociable atmosphere created in the past at Merchant Taylors'.

Martha Nugent became the first lady player to win the Cup, with partner Ed Kay, and Louise Mathias took the Mates Plate with Theo Parker. The Love Mug went to Charles Compton, fresh from his walk around the British coast, and last year's winner, Gwydion Wiseman. The only trophy going to habitual winners was the T-Pot, where Gareth Price stepped in after an injury to partner Hamish and prevent Guy Matthews from completing a personal Grand Slam of the four trophies. Guy will be back in 2019 and so should anyone who hasn't played this great day's Fives.



2019 RFA Tour to Scotland

## RFA CLUB RESULTS 2018-19

Opposition	Manager	Other players	Result
Alleyn's School	A.Hanton*	H.Buchanan, E.Carr, T.Chapman, T.Hebblethwaite	Win
Alleyn Old Boys	T.Hebblethwaite	T.Chapman, W.Ellison, J.Sumner	Loss
Bedford School	C.Davey	P.Atkinson, M.Davey, P.Thornilly	Win
Blundell's School	K.Kennerley	N.Geere, D.Hill, T.Lewis, A.Rew, J.Savery, A.Steel, S.Watson	Win
British Universities	H.Buchanan*	B.Beltrami, J.Birch, E.Kay, T.Maconie, J.Toop, T.Watkinson	Loss
Caledonian Club	H.Buchanan	R.Christie, L.Keates, S.Kirby	Loss
Cambridge 1	M.Shaw*	T.Bennett, L.Cook, E.Malone, E.Thursfield	Loss
Cambridge 2	R.Dolby*	D.Ali, R.Christie, L.Keates, S.Kirby, V.Singh, R.Yusuf	Win
Christ's Hospital	E.Hatton	R.Allcorn, P.Bryant, B.Callaghan, C.Hawkins, S.Walsh	Loss
Durham University 1	S.Russell*	S.Beattie, E.Carbonell, J.Lee, O.McIntyre, R.Murby, T.Wakelam	Win
Durham University 2	T.Wakelam	R.Christie, L.Keates, S.Kirby	Loss
Eastbourne College	A.Hamilton	J.Holman-Dine, M.Hole, A.Newton	Win
Edinburgh Academy	H.Buchanan*	P.Atkinson, N.Geere, R.Sandie, S.Watson	Win
Fettes College	H.Buchanan	R.Christie, N.Geere, R.Sandie	Win
Jesters	W.Ellison*	Revolving cast of several	Tie
Jesters Strawson	R.Warner	J.Aquillina, E.Carr, R.Perry, T.Watkinson	Loss
Marlborough College	T.Kiggell*	H.Carpenter, I.Lee, L.Mathias, N.Witcombe	Loss
Merchiston Castle School	H.Buchanan*	P.Atkinson, L.Keates, S.Kirby, S.Watson	Win
OBMs	B.Kirk	D.Ali, R.Christie, L.Keates	Win
Old Bradfieldians	A.Pringle	L.Cook, A.Cranstoun, B.Hale	Loss
Old Tonbridgians	T.Chapman	H.Buchanan, E.Carr, R.Sulkin	Win
Old Whitgiftians	H.Buchanan	T.Hebblethwaite, R.Sulkin, J.Sumner	Win
Oundle School	A.Smith	A.Burrows, P.Atkinson, A.N.Other	Win
Oxford University 1	H.Jefferies	J.Aquillina, J.Baker, J.Bristow	Win
Radley College	N.Geere	B.Baral, C.Blakeley, W.Gunyon	Win
St. Paul's School	E.Malone	N.Geere, T.Hoolahan, A.Wilson	Win
Sherborne School & Staff	A.Passey	B.Atkinson, D.Shepherd, B.Boag, I.Mettam, R.Graham-Evans	Loss
Tonbridge School	A.Hamilton	B.Atkinson, S.Beal, P.Ross	Win
Winchester FA	D.Tristao*	H. Buchanan, P.Hanton, E.Kay, T.Parker, G.Price, S.Russell, T.Watkinson, N.Whitney	Loss

\*denotes non-playing manager

# Around the clubs in 2018-19

The past season, as reported by the many Fives clubs around the country

## ALLEYN OLD BOYS & GIRLS

**Hamish Buchanan writes:** Many new players have turned up on Tuesday nights this year at Alleyn's, some returning to the game after a break, some new to it, and a few youngsters from the school showing how the game can be played with exuberance and fearlessness.

As usual, a few matches played, with the odd win and occasional loss, but all much enjoyed, which is the main objective. There was success in the President's Cup with three of the four trophies on offer being claimed by an AOB/G regular. Martha Nugent became the first female winner of the Cup (with Ed Kay) and Gwydion Wiseman followed his overall victory last year with the Love Mug. One of the older hands also snared the T-Pot [Hamish, you're too modest! Ed]. And we congratulate the older Nugent – Holly – on her appointment as



"... some minor court maintenance jobs"

Captain of Ladies' Fives at Cambridge. This year has also seen the Club invest in a floor scrubbing machine to keep the courts in prime condition and a couple of the senior players have been helping out with some minor court maintenance jobs.



Mixed Winchester winners Ollie and Louise

## BRISTOL UNIVERSITY

**Ollie Arnold writes:** We have enjoyed great success with victories at national and open level. This is even more pleasing as there was no usable court in Bristol until February 2019.

The season started with the recruitment of Archie McCreath and Cameron Low, a pair who have quickly made their presence felt. At BUSF they just lost out in the semi-finals as Theo Parker and Ollie Arnold won the doubles, and Cameron won the singles plate. We also did well

in the U25s: Ollie and Theo made it to the doubles final, but on opposite teams, and it was Ollie (with Ben Beltrami) who won out. This time it was Archie's turn for singles plate.

The BUSF vs RFA match featured four Bristol students and two alumni, showing the depth of Fives we currently enjoy.

In the Ladies' game, Louise Mathias has had a peerless season. She defended her U23s singles and doubles titles, before winning the National Singles and Doubles titles for the first time. This, along with a victory at the Winchester Mixed Doubles, has cemented her place at the top of the Women's Rankings.

Theo and Ollie enjoyed more doubles success in open events. They retained their Yorkshire title before Ollie won the North of England with Ben Beltrami.

Finally, the season ended on a huge high as the West of England Club won the Club Championships for the first time. We hope next season can be as successful!

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

**Jeremy Manger writes:** It's fair to say it's been a year of ups and downs for CURFC. A strong start to the season with a win over the RFA was followed up with a close loss to a Jesters side. Captain Jeremy Manger made the plate final at BUSF, while Andrew Boyd reached the semi-final, but, after a mammoth quarter-final, was too sapped to progress any further. Ladies Captain Lottie Simpson reached the final of the Ladies U23 Doubles.

Lent term kicked off with Andrew Boyd reaching the semi-final of the North West Open, losing a tough match to Dan Tristao. At National U25s, Jeremy yet again reached the final of the Plate, only to suffer defeat at the hands of another Bristolian, while Boyd had huge success, reaching the final. Past v. Present was a wonderful occasion, with some great Fives played by both sides, with the Past eventually taking the win. Varsity, the highlight of the year, was hotly contested, and the Cambridge team always knew it would be a tall order, but the Men's score of 229-327 demonstrates the incredible fight put up by the VIII. The Ladies side continued their previous successes with another substantial win, while the Sparrows fought hard but ultimately were defeated by a strong Oxford side.



Past versus Present

### CITY OF DURHAM CLUB

**Tom Wakelam writes:** The City of Durham Fives Club has continued to thrive, with new members allowing us to start a new weekly adult-only session, whilst maintaining a strong standard and enthusiastic group within our youth section. We have hosted two new tournaments this year: the Women's Invitational in and The Racecourse Cup. Both were successful, with lots of games played.

We have entered a range of competitions, across the open, women's and mixed calendar, and there has been success for a number of our junior players.

We have successfully run our first



City of Durham Club at Ushaw College

Level 1 Coaching Course, with eight participants from Durham passing. This has allowed us to expand our coaching team, and we now have five trained coaches for the City Club, and a further four for the University side.

Our plans for the expansion to four courts are with Durham University, and we await the completion of current sports refurbishments across the University before taking this further. Our links with the university team are strong, and we plan to engage in more crossover events in the coming season, both training and competing as a whole Durham contingent.

Lastly, we have begun to create stronger links with our nearer clubs and welcomed players from Derby Moor Fives at our Sunday training session in July. We continue to welcome any players who would like to join us for Fives in the North East.

### DEEP WEST CLUB

**Nick Geere and Charles Hattersley write:** The Deep West Club has met on a regular weekly basis – invariably from about 8.30 p.m. on a Friday night, at Mount Kelly College, in Tavistock. The regular attendees have been Richard Bury, Nick Geere, Charles Hattersley, Gary Macaulay and Luke Newman-Taylor. The matches are usually close and hard fought.

The Club Chairman, John Ogle, occasionally makes a 140 mile round trip to join us (and take a late-night swim in the River Tavy) – provided he is not on the operating table. Members only arrive just before closing time at the Whitchurch Arms. A Deep West European tour is planned for the autumn of 2019, courtesy of Angus Hanton, who has built a court near Geneva. The Club is indebted to Mount Kelly College for the use of their courts.

### DERBY MOOR FIVES

**Stuart Kirby writes:** We are not yet quite the community club we hope one day to become – we still draw young players largely from Derby Moor Academy – but the Club goes from strength to strength. We continue to attract players who moves to the area – Yale Brewer and Nick Baron are welcome recent recruits. We are also delighted to welcome players like Jai Singh and Max Frost back from university or work elsewhere; and in the summer

we fit in cricketers like Aaron Wheatley and Kais Mahmood where possible.

Our numbers on Tuesday's club evening are good and we almost invariably raise enough players on a Thursday for some serious doubles and Singles Ladder matches. We have enjoyed our away fixtures at Malvern, Cambridge, Bedford and Durham as well as hosting the RFA and Sedbergh School. The turn out at our Christmas lunch at The Argosy outstripped anything we ever managed as Derby Mercia at Denstone.

We like to see ourselves as a competitive club; hence our participation in tournaments and almost invariably there will be a Derby Moor representation in the Plate final. We're lucky to have Lewis Keates helping run the weekend Junior Clubs and to have Brian Kirk to organise tournaments such as our ever popular Derby Moor Invitation Doubles.



Max and Nick, runners-up in the DMID

### DURHAM UNIVERSITY

**Douglas Law writes:** It is rare for a Fives club known for making up the numbers to have a season as strong as that which was enjoyed by DURVsC this year. On court, the squad went from strength to strength, with the first strong showing being Suddaby and Law's progression to the BUSF Plate final in a performance featuring several high quality shots that were not drop shots. Law had a greater success later in the year, winning the inaugural National Mixed Doubles with a performance that vindicated his repeated references to being a doubles specialist throughout the year.

Captain Blackaby also acquitted himself well playing with a partner, emerging with victory in the Plate at the U25s. After a nomination for worldwide university Captain of the Year, he could have made it two victories. Regrettably, a strong surge of support for his opponents left him just short of the necessary tally of votes, but consolation came in the form of a Half Palatinate awarded by Team Durham.

The Scottish Open was no great triumph in any conventional sense, but nonetheless managed to procure meteoric rises through the rankings for all Durham attendees.

Next season, under the guidance of newly appointed Captain George Marshall, there is no doubt DURVsC will continue to exceed any and all but the most outlandish of expectations.

### EASTBOURNE COLLEGE CLUB

**Spencer Beal writes:** Games of Rugby Fives on the Eastbourne College courts continue to be frequent (almost every Tuesday evening throughout the year) and hugely enjoyable. The courts themselves are in good shape and, weather permitting, provide the facility for a fast and lively game. Furthermore, the slightly reduced court dimensions mean that old men like me can engage in competitive doubles, and even an occasional singles, and still have the energy to make it to the pub afterwards. But we also need an injection of new blood to keep the numbers up: perhaps we should do more to encourage College boys and girls to join us after their prep, or spark more interest among the resident staff to lay aside their marking duties and work off some of their frustrations by hitting a ball against a wall for an hour or so.

Of course, Fives is also a means of maintaining fitness for all ages, and so much more fun than jogging the streets alone of an evening. I am sure this regime would be endorsed by our own resident GP player, Dr Tim Caroe, although he is, ironically, suffering with a knee injury at the moment and unable to play himself – not a Fives injury, I hasten to add, but a skiing one. Tony Hamilton organises the weekly gatherings and in April at Marlborough College he and partner Spencer Beal won the National Masters Doubles Championship for the third consecutive year.



The Masters champions

### EXECUTIONERS

**Andy Pringle writes:** I signed off last year with a wish that plenty of new members would join the club and existing ones would remain free of injury. The good news is that one of those wishes came true.

A successful recruitment drive saw us adding the likes of Ibbey Lee, Helena Tunks, Laurence Cook and – after a gap of around a quarter of a century – Steve Platts. It was one of these newbies who won our only trophy of the season as Helena won the inaugural Mixed Doubles title.

We weren't able to claim any more titles, but our occasional ventures beyond St. Paul's were not without success. Special mention goes to Charles Compton, who won the Love Mug at the President's Cup days after completing a 6,000-mile walk around the coast of Britain. Dick Warner, Ben Hale and Guy Matthews all reached finals.



Executioners with spoils from the President's Cup

Club stalwarts Pringle, Bridge, Webster, Horder, Even and Julius were often joined by the likes of Stokes, Cranstoun, Rogers, Peterson, Davies and the larger-than-life presence of Matthews and Warner. We were also regularly visited by exiles from the UCS club, while Nick Hemming-Brown and Alex Hopkins also swelled the numbers, and we had enjoyable matches against Oxford, the Jesters and the Old Bradfieldians.

### EXETER FIVES CLUB

**Tim Lewis writes:** Exeter Club is flourishing. Once again, we embarked on a tour to Malvern, hosted by Chris Thomas. It was a fantastic weekend of Fives topped off with a Rugby match and a fabulous Indian meal.

This year has brought many games against the Blundell's pupils, which has resulted in fantastic results from the students in winning all sorts of titles.

Maddy Raynor and Alexandra Steel won the Winchester Fives National Doubles once again, while Maddy retained her title of Winchester Fives Singles Champion. We are lucky to have top Ladies Fives players as part of our club.

The wise members of the West of England Club realised that the best preparation for the National Club Knockout was to be pummelled by ERFC. After many months they had been conditioned and we sent them off suitably prepared to win the Wood Cup!

We are always available on Wednesday evenings at 6pm at Blundell's courts. Please feel free to come and join us. New fixtures are always considered in our busy schedule.

### JESTERS CLUB

**Charlie Brooks writes:** Looking back through the scorecards for the year, there seem to be more than usual in our favour, suggesting that we had a winning season. The combination of experience and youth has been a great success over the past few years (the majority of our fixtures are against schools and universities), with the older players passing on their wealth of knowledge and embodiment of the Jesterly spirit.

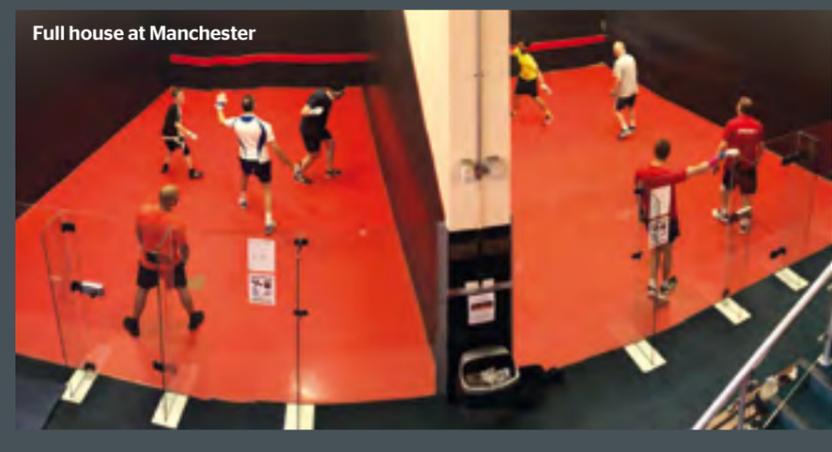
The Edinburgh Tour continues to go from strength to strength under Ben Hale and Dave Butler. There were more players than ever – the annual celebration at Fettes saw 90 Jesters, players and guests. This year saw the customary packed itinerary of games against schools and universities, but also the usual mini-tournaments and grudge matches. Highlights included playing on the refurbished courts at Merchiston and the increased participation of girls – both students and a record seven female tourists. For the Strawson match, we had spectators with RFA president, David Bawtree, setting a much appreciated tradition of watching then joining for dinner. He was able to witness a superb contest which ended in an honourable tie.

## MANCHESTER Y CLUB

**Dave Fox writes:** Just over a year ago the Y Club suggested that one of our courts may be closed due to the decline of Fives at the Club. At that time the courts were used at most three times a week by a decreasing group of players. I'm pleased to report that as a result of the hard work of the Manchester YMCA Rugby Fives Club, the Y Club have been happy with increased activity – they are now played on six times a week – and we're told the two courts are safe. In addition to three club nights we have a beginners' session on a Tuesday, a Singles ladder on a Thursday and Junior Y on a

Saturday. My heartfelt go to Wendy and Martin in helping make this happen. In addition there is an 'Occasionals' session on at least two Saturdays a month. We are also working with the Y Club Charity to teach Fives to teenagers struggling in mainstream education and doing summer taster sessions for kids.

The cost of this has been funded from a great dinner organised by Peter Woods in October 2018 and a kind donation from the RFA. We look forward to hosting the Ladies' Nationals and the North West Open and would like to welcome clubs/players of any standard that would like to play matches next season.



Full house at Manchester

## MARLBOROUGH TOWN CLUB

**Harvey Bishop writes:** This season has seen a number of healthy developments including the Club hosting its own inaugural doubles championship, with 10 pairs competing. Pairings were drawn by players out of two hats, one hat each for a pool of A and B players. The main competition was won by Tom Kiggell and Neil Witcombe, whilst the plate was won by Harvey Carpenter and Tim Bury. The standard of Fives was well matched throughout the competition and everyone had a good time.

The Club hosted the West of England, Veterans and Masters championships during the season, such is the quality of the courts and facilities. The only local talent to win silverware was Harvey Bishop, who defended the Veterans Doubles Plate with the help of new partner, Tim Widdop.

International outreach was made by the Club to the USA in the form of a visit to the Union Boat Club in Boston, where a match was played in a small wood-panelled court, near the original Cheers Bar. It was great to find a group of players in Boston who regularly play Fives, albeit only singles.

The less upbeat news was that long-time club chairman Richard Clark stepped down. After a short search Harvey Bishop was appointed captain. The first and easiest decision that followed was a dinner to celebrate Richard's tenure and to reflect on his many contributions over the years.

## OLD BEDFORD MODERNIANS

**Philip Atkinson writes:** The season got off to an unpromising start with the retirement of Howard French and Chris Ryan, the latter having served for several years as club secretary.

Numbers attending Monday club nights have often been into double figures, augmented by senior boys from Bedford School and fellow pupils Katie Sumner and Maddie Kent. It has been especially gratifying to note the successes achieved by the two girls in tournaments this season.

OBM's competed in a number of tournaments. Matt Cavanagh continued to dominate the National Veterans' Singles with a fourth straight win. Joe Sumner entered the National Doubles for the first time (with Old Bedfordian, Chris Davey), and he won the Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles Plate with his sister. Phil Atkinson and Mark Kiteley entered the Vintage whilst the latter played in the Masters for the first time.

Rob Kay, the MiC at Bedford Modern, is a regular attendee on club nights and has improved greatly. He also shows enthusiasm as a coach to the extent that after school sessions are very popular especially with the younger age groups, some of whom he is planning to take on a tour of Edinburgh in November.

## OLD BLUNDELLIANS

**Alexandra Steel writes:** OB Fives has been led by Maddy Raynor and Alexandra Steel this year. Once again they stormed through the Winchester Fives Nationals, coming away with more silverware and medals. Alex Rew and Jim Hughes reached the final of the Veterans Doubles, losing 14-16 in the third game to the eventual winners.

Alexandra has introduced Fives into Blundell's Prep School, so that 18 children aged 10 and 11 are taking to the courts once a week. We are pleased to say that more OBs, who are also fathers of current pupils, have been joining our weekly evening sessions at Blundell's. This is great to see and we encourage them to get on court more.

The OBs and Exeter RFC have managed a record number of friendly matches this year. This has helped to boost current pupils' standard and continue to promote Fives throughout the school to children who may otherwise wonder what Fives is. We are so thankful for the ERFC using our courts and keeping the sport very much alive!



Theo Parker: BUSF organiser and Doubles champion

## OLD PAULINES

**Julian Aquilina writes:** Old Paulines went from strength to strength in 2018/19, reclaiming the Owers Trophy at the start of the season and ending it with 11 of the top 20 ranked players in both singles and doubles.

There were a number of similarities to last season. Once again, most of the singles titles were shared between Ed Kay and Dan Tristao, this time with Ed securing the year-end number one spot, despite Dan claiming his fourth National Singles trophy. In doubles, six of the seven open tournaments again featured at least one OP winner, with Ed and Dan joined by Charlie Brooks, Ollie Arnold, Theo Parker and Ben Beltrami. Ed and Dan even paired up to win the National Doubles.

There was plenty more doubles success for Ollie: he partnered Theo to run away with the student championships; reunited his schooldays partnership with Ben to claim the U25s, and even emerged victorious at the Winchester mixed.

In the handicap tournaments, specialist James Tilston took the South East, whilst Ed picked up the President's Cup. Ed left no stone unturned, also winning the Barnes Bridge Winchester Fives trophy. In club competitions, Ed, Julian Aquilina and Henry Jefferies brought the Owers Trophy back home after a one-year absence, but the OPs had to settle with a plate victory at the Wood Cup, losing to a strong West of England IV.

We continue to hold our regular sessions on Thursday evenings during term time.

## OLD TONBRIDGIANS

**Neil Arnott writes:** OT Fives is alive and well: we are a merry band of 6-10 who continue to get enjoyment and comradeship from our Tuesday outings. It is rare to be unable to play due to adverse court conditions. It also helps to keep us fit!

Several years ago the Fives courts were designated a site of special interest, most fortunately for us as this has meant a very high quality repair of the roof and new lighting of the latest variety. For this reason we have been immune from some of the changes within the school, resisting a move to the new sports centre, which might have meant considerably fewer courts. The condition of the courts is very good and, with three Winchester and five Rugby, almost unique amongst Fives-playing locations.

We had fixtures this winter against the Jesters, a narrow loss, and the RFA, again a loss, but hoped to have a victory against the boys at the end of March. In the end the boys won the



Vintage champion and runner-up

Singles quite easily and the OTs the Doubles, leading to a victory to the OTs by just one point.

Several of our players took part in national competitions. Martin Wilkinson was runner-up in the Masters Doubles and Ian Jackson a first-time Vintage Singles champion.

Sadly we have to record the death of Alan Maltby. He was at the school slightly before me and captain of Fives, going on to be RFA secretary, and playing often with the OTs during his busy life as a surveyor, until a year or so before his death.

## OLD WHITGIFTIANS

**Nick Woolfenden writes:** The Old Whitgiftian Fives Club meets on Thursday evenings and warmly welcomes new or returning players (whether from Whitgift or elsewhere!) to play on the recently refurbished school courts in Croydon.

Following extensive work by the school to improve the court lighting, watertightness, and all-round condition, we were pleased to christen the gleaming courts with a match against the RFA in November. The Club also enjoyed a hard game against the school – we're really keen to build strong links between OW5s and the schoolboys/recent leavers and encourage them to keep playing this great game.

Of course an OW5s season wouldn't be complete without our annual tour to the South West. This year's March touring party enjoyed matches with Sherborne schoolboys/adults and a combined Tiverton/Exeter squad, along with plenty of socialising. It seemed somewhat

appropriate that the tour finished with a night on the coast at the village of Beer!

Whilst light on other fixtures this season, the Club has enjoyed good turnouts for our Club evenings, including a range of Old Whits, other Fives-playing friends and occasionally a few current Whits. We're very pleased to have the master in charge, Nick Morgan, as a regular player, which is good for links with the school.

If you'd like to play with us, or want any other information – including about our regular sessions on Thursday evenings – please contact me on [nickw5s@hotmail.com](mailto:nickw5s@hotmail.com).



The OWs v Sherborne

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY**

**Alex McGee writes:** It has been a landmark year for the Oxford University Rugby Fives Club. The Ladies Club was recognised as a Half Blue sport and the Club is at its largest in recent memory, with 30 regular members. The season was crowned with wins for the Men's VIII and the Beavers at the Varsity Match, while the ladies put up a far better showing than in previous years against a highly experienced Cambridge side.

Hanton, Hatchley, Longden, McGee, Thornhill, Whitham and Wild received Half Blues this year. There were strong showings at tournaments, with Bhushan and Whitham winning the BUSF plate and Brubert, Hanton and Kirwan playing well in the main competition. The ladies team took their stronger players to BUSF for the first time and also enjoyed a successful weekend at the Ladies' Nationals. We continue to enjoy the fixtures against clubs and schools.

I would like to thank Whitham, Thornhill and Kengeter in their roles of Secretary, Ladies' Captain and Treasurer and am confident they will have success leading the club next year. As always, we are very grateful to the Past and value their support highly, though I'm sure that they will be out for revenge after being defeated for the first time in many years at the Past vs Present. With few players moving on this year, I'm sure the club will continue its success next year: a clean sweep at Varsity is certainly within reach.



Proud Captain and Hon.Sec.

**UCS OLD BOYS**

**Chris Blakeley writes:** We continue to play in the one court left to us most Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the year, with about a dozen different players joining in at least occasionally, including some pupils. We are not aware of any immediate threat to this arrangement. If there are to be matches we will have to play away from home. Anyone who is interested in joining us on either of our club evenings is most welcome.

**WESSEX CLUB**

**Harry Akerman writes:** We have a good intake of talented sportsman including Aaron Pope (bowled out Sachin Tendulkar and Mark Waugh) and Rob Moore (three Olympics with GB Hockey)... although Dougal

**WEST OF ENGLAND CLUB**

**Lionel Lawson writes:** This season has been extremely difficult for the Club as Clifton College confirmed it was no longer offering Fives as a sport and that it would be using two courts as fitness rooms and the other two for storage. We therefore became a club with no courts. Our playing members were faced with the situation that they would have to travel to the nearest courts at Marlborough College or Blundell's in Tiverton.

Our inspiring club captain, Ollie Arnold, offered lifts and made many trips to these two venues, but it was very much second best, and the future of the club seemed bleak. At the end of March, however, the pressure exerted on the College paid off when it agreed we could have the use of one court through to 31 May and then again in mid-September. Although somewhat limited, the arrangement made it possible for us to play in Bristol: the court has been widely used since.

The next piece of news is quite amazing. After all the difficulties the club entered two teams for the Wood Cup and our 'A' team of Theo Parker, Tom Maconie, Tom Watkinson and Ollie Arnold were victorious, beating Wessex in a tight final. Our 'B' team of Kevin Brice, Louise Mathias, Cameron Low and Archie McCreath won the 2nd Plate, thus bringing a very successful day to a rewarding conclusion.

Trentham and Dan Thompson are clearly handy enough sportsmen in their own right, too! Hants Cricket physio Dan Young obviously spotted some potential business for his clinic and has taken well to the game.

It was great to see an impressively agile Andy Passey back on court as he put his new hip through its paces. The Winchester College boys joined us most weeks and showed there is enough talent that they can keep their place at the schools top table.

Our end of season tournament for the Letchworth Bowl was contested by 28 players and was retained by Giles Munn playing with our first lady winner, Wendy Carling. Giles joins a group of four others who have managed to retain the trophy since it was first played for in 1977.



Wood Cup champions

**WHITE ROSE CLUB**

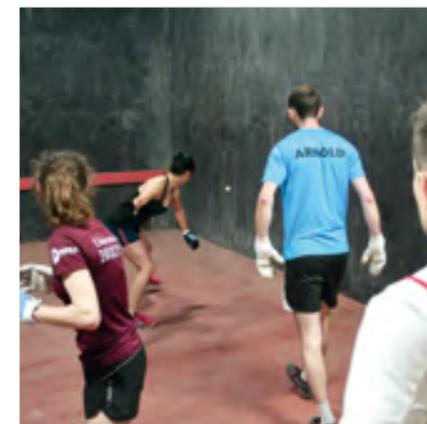
**John Hawke writes:** In the absence of local courts we have been forced to travel to Giggleswick for some social games. The logistics limit the frequency but we manage the odd trip.

The lack of practice has not restricted our participation in tournaments. For the first time for many years we weren't at the Vintage, although we did manage to fly the flag at Derby Moor, then the Yorkshire Open and finally the Masters and Veterans, where Tim Widdop won the Singles and Doubles Plates.

With no courts of our own, and no local schools playing, our numbers are dwindling as members get older. Our hope is that some arrangement can be made for schools who have shown interest to persuade the Heath Trustees to allow them to use Halifax's courts. So far approaches have met with a discouraging lack of response.

# End-of-Season Rankings

The official UK Rugby Fives rankings in 2019, as compiled by **Dave Hebden**



**ABOVE (top to bottom):** Dan Tristao attacks against Ed Kay at Cambridge;

Shinan Zhang serves to Louise Mathias at Bradfield;

Andrew Boyd in full flow at St. Paul's

SINGLES			
Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	2	E Kay	96.2
2	1	D Tristao	95.7
3	3	W Ellison	78.0
4	4	C Brooks	54.8
5	6	D Butler	53.1
6	5	D Grant	51.2
7=	7	B Beltrami	48.3
7=	10	R Murby	48.3
9	20	A Boyd	42.3
10	8	J Aquilina	40.7
11	11	M Shaw	29.9
12	9	T Parker	28.7
13	27	T Watkinson	28.5
14	12	O Arnold	27.4
15	13	S Russell	24.5
16	51	C Blackaby	20.3
17	25	P Hanton	20.1
18	14	J Tilston	18.7
19	17	H Jefferies	17.8
20	32	B Kirwan	17.5
21	29	A Rew	16.6
22	43	A McCreath	14.9
23	-	N G-Westacott	14.1
24	39	D Fox	13.5
25	28	R Whitehorn	13.0
26	21	T Kidner	11.7
27=	38	J Hanton	11.2
27=	15	B Jourdan	11.2
29	67	E Hatton	10.9
30	-	J Brubert	10.1
31	34	N Woolfenden	10.0
32	30	J Smith	9.7
33	46	M Kemp	9.1
34	24	J Minta	8.7

Current	Previous	Name	Points
35	22	A George	8.1
36	-	S Beattie	6.8
37	23	A Goodwin	5.9
38	-	D Law	5.8
39	-	A Chai	5.7
40	45	P Winzeler	5.6
41	31	G Munn	5.4
42	68	G Marshall	5.2
43	44	P Maddison	5.1
44=	42	A Hamilton	5.0
44=	47	L Keates	5.0
46	-	C Low	4.8
47=	16	H Buchanan	4.7
47=	-	O McIntyre	4.7
49	58	A Wordley	4.6
50=	-	J Manger	4.5
50=	-	D Whitham	4.5
52=	-	R Dyke	4.0
52=	-	M Suddaby	4.0
54	-	M Spillane	3.9
55	53	C Davey	3.5
56	49	S Bhushan	3.2
57	51	A Taylor	2.8
58=	19	E Hawke	2.4
58=	-	J Sissons	2.4
58=	55	B Stephens	2.4
61=	35	I Ackland	2.3
61=	57	J Savage	2.3
63	63	C Barnett	2.1
64	56	N Geere	2.0
65	63	A Jones	1.7
66	60	J Lee	1.6
67	59	J Sinton	1.4
68	-	J Sumner	1.3

DOUBLES			
Current	Previous	Name	Points
1=	1	W Ellison	91.7
1=	2	D Tristao	91.7
3	5	E Kay	90.0
4	3	D Grant	84.9
5	4	C Brooks	79.4
6	8	O Arnold	72.8
7	7	D Butler	67.8
8	6	M Shaw	62.4
9	10	B Beltrami	61.2
10	9	T Parker	56.1
11	11	J Aquilina	52.0
12	15	J Tilston	48.0
13	17	S Russell	40.0
14	16	A Boyd	38.7
15	23	T Watkinson	38.1
16=	13	H Buchanan	29.2
16=	14	P Hanton	29.2
18	25	A McCreath	27.4
19	18	H Jefferies	26.5
20	12	G Price	25.5
21	46	B Jourdan	25.0
22=	78	B Chua	24.5
22=	-	J Ferguson	24.5
22=	-	S Hodgson	24.5
22=	22	R Murby	24.5
26	35	J Hanton	22.9
27	57	C Blackaby	22.4
28	27	R Whitehorn	21.8
29=	46	E Hatton	21.2
29=	40	B Kirwan	21.2
29=	-	C Low	21.2
32	20	N Woolfenden	20.0
33	19	T Hebblethwaite	18.7
34	30	N Geere	18.0
35=	-	J Cunningham	17.3
35=	-	M Kemp	17.3
37	46	J Smith	16.6
38=	40	L Keates	15.0
38=	78	L Mathias	15.0
40=	-	R Dyke	14.1
40=	25	S Fraser	14.1
40=	35	E Hawke	14.1
40=	49	J Manger	14.1
40=	23	N Roberts	14.1
40=	-	A Steel	14.1
40=	-	J Sumner	14.1
47	78	D Whitham	13.2
48=	27	B Callaghan	12.2
48=	40	E Castillo Carbonell	12.2
48=	61	A Chai	12.2

Current	Previous	Name	Points
48=	30	T Dean	12.2
48=	20	A George	12.2
48=	-	P Kullavanijaya	12.2
48=	30	M Spillane	12.2
55	78	R Christie	11.2
56=	38	I Ackland	10.0
56=	61	S Bhushan	10.0
56=	-	N G-Westacott	10.0
56=	40	A Hill	10.0
56=	-	D Hill	10.0
56=	30	J Hughes	10.0
56=	57	S Kirby	10.0
56=	-	D Law	10.0
56=	-	R Lebon	10.0
56=	-	O McIntyre	10.0
56=	30	A Rew	10.0
56=	94	A Scott	10.0
56=	40	J Singh	10.0
56=	-	M Suddaby	10.0
70=	49	C Davey	8.7
70=	49	A Pringle	8.7
70=	49	P Winzeler	8.7
73=	61	A Bowden	7.1
73=	38	A Goodwin	7.1
73=	-	O Hay	7.1
73=	61	T Lewis	7.1
73=	61	J Lidiard	7.1
73=	-	J Malde	7.1
73=	61	G Marshall	7.1
73=	61	T McCahon	7.1
73=	61	T McGuire	7.1
73=	-	S Prakash	7.1
73=	49	E Ronan	7.1
73=	61	R Sandie	7.1
73=	61	J Sellar	7.1
73=	61	A Taylor	7.1
73=	61	S Watson	7.1
73=	61	H Wiseman	7.1
73=	57	A Wordley	7.1
90=	78	G Darlington	5.0
90=	61	A Hanton	5.0
90=	61	B Kirk	5.0
90=	35	J Lee	5.0
90=	78	Z Moxon	5.0
90=	78	T Owen	5.0
90=	78	T Peel	5.0
90=	78	E Pymon	5.0
90=	78	J Sissons	5.0
90=	78	S Small	5.0
90=	78	T Wakelam	5.0
90=	49	A Wheatley	5.0

Current shows position following: End of Season, May 2019. Previous shows position following: Start Season

# The Treasurer's Report

RFA Treasurer **David Parlbys** reports on an active year



2018/19 has seen the financial foundations laid last season start to come to fruition. Of particular note is the awarding of grants to Edinburgh Academy, Merchiston Castle School and Loretto School to make significant improvements to their courts, the results of which we expect to see by the end of 2020. As a result the finance sub group looking after these grants is turning its attention to other schemes and has issued a call to the Fives community to let us know of other potential projects. We can only deal with a limited amount at this stage so if you want a project to be considered please get in touch before 30 September 2019.

Our funds are not inexhaustible, so the group is also trying to think up new ways of fund-raising. Suggestions made so far include an attempt at the Guinness Book of Records for the longest ever Fives match, 24 hours non-stop sponsored Fives and a sponsored series of matches at all courts in the UK at the same time. We're open to any suggestions, so let's have your ideas!

During this year's claim for Gift Aid it emerged that some 170 of our members have not registered with the RFA for Gift Aid. This means that we are leaving about £1,400 a year on the table, indeed worse, in the hands of HMRC! This money could be used to help pay for students to attend tournaments, supply kit to struggling and new clubs and help to repair the dodgy lights in your courts. Please do fill in the form – there are more details in the box on the right.

Another way of helping the RFA to raise funds is to subscribe to the 100 Club, our very own private lottery. Half the net proceeds go towards support for clubs. With three draws a year and around 60 players the chances of winning are much higher than those of the National Lottery or Premium Bonds, so why not give it a go? Details on how to apply are available from that fount of all Fives knowledge, Phil Atkinson.

For the coming season I'm looking forward to a surge of new interest in Fives as a result of Gareth Price's excellent work. Hopefully this will convert into new members and additional publicity about the game with good financial benefits all round.



ABOVE:  
Merchiston  
Castle's newly  
refurbished  
courts

'THE FINANCE SUB GROUP IS TURNING ITS ATTENTION TO OTHER SCHEMES'

## HELP BOOST THE RFA'S FUNDS

Gift Aid is a simple way of increasing the amount of money that the RFA can use to build the game of Fives by making it accessible to more players in more locations. It takes just two minutes and won't cost you a penny. By registering for Gift Aid you are allowing the RFA to reclaim an extra 25% of the cost of your annual subscription so please don't delay and fill in the form today.

Get in touch with David Parlbys by emailing [david@theparlbys.uk](mailto:david@theparlbys.uk) or download the form at: <https://tinyurl.com/y4cs88zb>

# 2018-19 RESULTS ROUND-UP

Full details of all these events on [www.rugbyfives.com](http://www.rugbyfives.com)

## SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

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

## SOUTH EAST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Singles: D.Tristao  
Doubles: B.Chua & J.Tilston

## LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Singles: E.Kay  
Doubles: D.Grant & E.Kay

## OWERS TROPHY 2018

Old Paulines

## YORKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Singles: D.Butler  
Doubles: O.Arnold & T.Parker

## THE LADY'S CUP 2018

M.Nugent & G.Wiseman

## WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Singles: E.I.Kay  
Doubles: W.Ellison & E.Kay

## SCHOOLS WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES 2018

Merchant Taylors' (J.Graham & E.Townshend)

## NATIONAL STUDENTS (BUSF) CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Singles: D.Butler  
Doubles: O.Arnold & T.Parker

## LADIES U23 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Singles: L.Mathias  
Doubles: L.Mathias & S.Zhang

## NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2018

D.Tristao

## RFA PRESIDENT'S CUP 2018

E.Kay & M.Nugent

## WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

U18 Singles: G.Wiseman (Alley'n's)  
U18 Doubles: Alley'n's School (A.Cochrane & G.Wiseman)  
U16 Singles: B.Ames (Blundell's)  
U16 Doubles: Alley'n's School (M.Nugent & S.Scott)

## NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Singles: D.Tristao  
Doubles: C. Brooks & W.Ellison

## NATIONAL LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Singles: L.Mathias  
Doubles: L.Mathias & S.Zhang

## NATIONAL U25 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Singles: D.Butler  
Doubles: O.Arnold & B.Beltrami

## THE VARSITY MATCH 2019

Men's: Oxford beat Cambridge 327-229  
Women's: Cambridge beat Oxford 170-84

## NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Singles: E.Kay  
Doubles: O.Arnold & B.Beltrami

## LADIES WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Singles: M.Raynor  
Doubles: M.Raynor & A.Steel

## WINCHESTER FIVES OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

W.Ellison & E.Kay

## NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Singles: I.Jackson  
Doubles: C.Blakeley & M.Spillane

## NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

U18 Singles: T.McGuire (Sedbergh)  
U18 Doubles: Merchant Taylors' (J.Graham & E.Townshend)  
U16 Singles: M.Layton (Merchiston Castle)  
U16 Doubles: Merchiston Castle (B.Afshar & T.Mackintosh)  
U14 Singles: C.Boy (St. Olave's)  
U14 Doubles: St. Olave's (C.Boy & G.Nsenga)  
U13 Singles: T.Vernacchio (Alley'n's)  
U13 Doubles: Alley'n's School (J.Milner & T.Vernacchio)

## NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Singles: M.Cavanagh  
Doubles: D.Fox & J.Minta

## NATIONAL MASTERS' CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

Doubles: S.Beal & A.Hamilton

## NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS' CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

Doubles: B.Atkinson & B.Boag

## NATIONAL DOUBLES 2019 (CYRIAX CUP)

E.Kay & D.Tristao

## NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT 2019 (WOOD CUP)

West of England Club

## NATIONAL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

U18 Singles: K.Sumner (Bedford Modern)  
U18 Doubles: Marlborough College (L.Barton & K.Bell)  
U16 Singles: M.Nugent (Alley'n's)  
U16 Doubles: Alley'n's School (C.Davey & M.Nugent)  
U14 Singles: H.Barton (Marlborough)  
U14 Doubles: Marlborough College (H.Barton & G.Hornby)  
U13 Singles: C.Davey (Alley'n's)  
U13 Doubles: Blundell's School (F.Ames & T.Lane)

## SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Singles: D.Butler  
Doubles: J.Ferguson & S.Hodgson

## WINCHESTER FIVES MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

L.Mathias & O.Arnold

## DERBY MOOR INVITATION DOUBLES 2019

Raheem & Joe Sumner



American Doubles at Manchester



Rugby Fives Association  
2019

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