



Rugby Fives Association

Annual Review 2016-17





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The Rugby Fives Association 2016-17

President
Bernard Atkinson

Deputy President
David Bawtree

General Secretary
Phil Atkinson

RFA Club manager
Hamish Buchanan

Directors
Kathleen Briedenhann
Charlie Brooks
Chris Burrows
Paddy d'Ancona
Bob Dolby
David Gardner
Peter King
Stuart Kirby
David Parlby
Alex Smith
Alexandra Steel
Dan Tristao

Editor: Tom Webster

Designer: Michele Hall
Tel: 07976 964067

Email: michelehalldesign@gmail.com

Commissioning Editor: Philip Atkinson

Contributing writers: David Barnes, Hamish Buchanan, Bob Dolby, John East, David Hebden, David Parlby, Andy Pringle, Alexandra Steel as well as many club secretaries, coaches and friends of Fives.

Contributing photographers: David Barnes, Hamish Buchanan, Bob Dolby, Dan Grant, Will Ellison, Denise Hall-Wilton, Ed Hatton, Andy Pringle and several others.

For the RFA's Policies, Memorandum and Articles of Association, please see the website www.rugbyfivesassociation.net

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A welcome from the President

Bernard Atkinson reflects on the many facets of our game

I entertained a friend to lunch recently and the conversation turned to Fives. "I don't know what that is", he said, so I keyed up a video of a match between Dan Tristao and Will Ellison and he watched spellbound before saying, "Is that what you play?" "Yes it is", I said, "but I would be less than honest if I told you that is how I play it; I am the President, those guys are experts; I perspire in the same way but with much less justification!" It made me think how many talents go into making our world of Fives the success it is; I hope you agree after reading the following pages.

Our coaches and teachers are a key element of that success. They promote the sport and ensure playing quality is developed, as well as the fine sportsmanship that is a jewel in our crown. Each year some retire and I pay tribute to Phil Smith at Bedford Modern (2007-17), Charles Oulton at King's Bruton (2008-17), Chris Hedley-Dent at Blundell's (2008-17), Peter Gray at Malvern (1991-2011) and Roger Whait at Loretto (1980-2017). So many players nurtured, with great dedication.

One of the true greats of our game receives a full tribute in this Review: Ian Fuller, now retired, has been a role model to us all, seemingly forever – a phenomenal Fives player, coach, administrator and ambassador.



Another great servant of the game, David Gardner, is to step down from the RFA Board after 60 years of unbroken commitment. Although he retired from playing after winning the first Veterans' Singles Tournament in 1977, he has managed the British Universities Fives Championship since 1960. After his 58th BUSF Tournament, at Marlborough in November, he will hand this over to his successor – a job well done.

The courts on which we play are themselves characters with their own temperaments, many over 100 years old and showing their age. The Heath Courts at Halifax are no longer available to us despite intensive efforts by the White Rose Club. Shortly we shall be losing the 1930s courts at Merchant Taylors' School as they redevelop their site, but new courts are planned. We are hugely indebted to Stuart Kirby for his work on an optimal design and construction plan, significantly reducing building and maintenance costs and increasing coaching efficiency without sacrificing playing quality or lifespan.

One thing is certain: the men's game is in good fettle at all age levels – although I'm missing support for a Grand Masters (over 75s) tournament! School Fives, both boys and girls, continues to impress, and the Ladies' game gets better and better. Read on and be uplifted...

'THE MEN'S GAME IS IN GOOD FETTLE'

BELOW (l-r) Finalists in the Ladies U23s

The President with the U14 champions from St. Olave's

Will Ellison beats Ed Kay 16-15 at Cambridge



Men's Season Review

Andy Pringle reviews the events of the 2016-17 season

If you'd listened to the grandees of the game over the course of the last season they'd have whispered at several points that this or that result signified a 'changing of the guard'. We can see their point, but it looks as if the new guard still have a bit to wait before their tour of duty starts.

If you scan back through last season's results, it was the names of Will Ellison and Dan Tristao that were engraved on the major trophies most often.

Right from the first events of the season – the South West and South East Opens – it was clear normal service had resumed. In Tiverton, there was a 'slam' for Will, as he won both the singles and (with Charlie Brooks) the doubles; and, at Christ's Hospital a month later, the two shared the spoils – singles title for Dan and doubles for Will.

Throughout the season – and not for the first time – fellow Fives players could only admire the sheer consistency of the top two. Their domination of the singles events was total, with every one of the nine major open titles won by either Will or Dan.

So, who was the better of the Big Two? Well, Will won six singles titles to Dan's three, but Dan had a better head-to-head record, winning three of five clashes and, most importantly, the National Singles. As a result he ended the season on top of the National Singles Rankings, just ahead of Will.

It was a similar story in the doubles, although Will was unquestionably the dominant force, winning five of the season's seven open titles. Dan did win one, but there are no prizes for guessing who his partner was. It's a sign of Will's versatility that those five titles came with four different partners. As well as Dan T, Dan Grant, Ed Kay and Charlie Brooks (twice) also earned the right to have their names engraved alongside Will's on trophies.

For all this dominance, though, there was some evidence that the new guard is hot on the heels of the top two. In fact, this season brought debut titles for some very promising – and young – players. Ollie Arnold and Theo Parker won the Yorkshire Open Doubles, while Matt Shaw (with Ed Kay) picked up the North West doubles.

As you scan the rankings, you'll also see Theo and Sam Russell making upward progress in the singles after several solid performances; while rankings guru Dave Hebden also picked out Gareth Price (NW finalist) and Peter Hanton (who picked up points in five events) as notable movers in the doubles Top 20.

So, if the much vaunted changing of the guard didn't quite happen in the open events, was it



ABOVE
The spirit of the game

RIGHT
Andy and John defend their Veterans' title



to be found anywhere else? Certainly not in the Veterans, where Matt Cavanagh and John Minta and Andy Pringle returned to Marlborough and retained their singles and doubles titles.

It was left to Vintage and Masters players to produce definite changes. Each of the three championships was won by players who had never won major tournaments.

On the still fresh new courts in Cambridge, Derby Moor's Stuart Kirby did the double at Vintage level, winning both singles and doubles titles. The latter came with serial title-winner Neil Roberts, but, to further emphasise the major changes in this age group, the doubles runners-up were Richard Christie and Brian Kirk, both playing their first national final.



ABOVE
Will and Charlie's 4th Cyriax Trophy

LEFT
The surprise package - the Old Bradfieldians

RIGHT
Dan T wins the National Singles



'THIS SEASON BROUGHT DEBUT TITLES FOR SOME PROMISING PLAYERS'

Not wanting to be outdone, the Eastbourne-based pair of Spencer Beal and Tony Hamilton won the Masters title at Marlborough in an event that featured 10 players with several hundred years' experience between them. In an impressive result, the first-time winners upset defending champions Martin Wilkinson and Dave Hebden to take the title, ending Martin's run of five consecutive titles.

Lastly, and in contrast, there was only a slight change in the destination of the club titles. Old Paulines dominate the current rankings and,

with such a strong pool of players, it was no great surprise that both the Owers Trophy and the Wood Cup ended up back in Barnes.

There's no denying that the Old Bradfieldians surprised observers by reaching the Owers Trophy final, but they were unable to stop the Paulines taking their seventh consecutive title.

In the Club Championship, the Paulines did have the indignity of having to win back the trophy, but this year's result meant the OPs' two-year 'loan' of the Wood Cup to the Wessex team was emphatically ended.

Mind you, when you look at the players in the Wood Cup final between the Old Paulines and Wessex, who was it who led their teams? Will Ellison and Dan Tristao, of course. Again!



'THE INAUGURAL LADIES' U23 TOURNAMENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS'

Joe and Katie win the Lady's Cup



Tessa and Freya U23 champions



The Cambridge Ladies

Ladies' Season Review

Alexandra Steel reports on a year in which participation continued to increase

Another year has passed and I'm happy to say that Ladies' Fives is growing in all areas once again. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the ladies who take part in the various tournaments throughout the year, specifically to thank them for inspiring other ladies to join this wonderful sport.

The Lady's Cup was once again extremely successful, with a super entry of all abilities. Competitors came to Cambridge from Rugby, Nottingham University and Bedford Modern School, as well as from Cambridge University, and comprised pupils, students and adults of both sexes. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day with many games played by all and victory in the Cup itself for the Summer siblings from Bedford. We hope for an even bigger entry next year – Derby

Moor are threatening to attend.

The inaugural Ladies' U23 tournament was a great success with a heart-warming entry of 16 including players from four universities; Nottingham, Southampton, Bristol and Cambridge. Even though long-distance travel proved tricky for some, the ladies who made it managed to make the day a great success. It proved to be a memorable day for Tessa Mills, who won both the doubles title – with Rugby schoolgirl Freya Harrison – and the singles title. Huge congratulations to her.

There was a slightly smaller contingent for the Ladies' National Championships compared to 2016, but this didn't deter the ladies from enjoying a full day of Fives. We had 19 players to showcase their skills and, even though I have mentioned this

before, I cannot praise the players enough for their ever-improving courtcraft. I am looking for an even bigger field next year and hope that the ladies will spread the word: this is a very enjoyable tournament, which allows competitors, whatever their age or level, to learn from the experience of playing against a variety of players. This year we saw Tessa win her first National Singles title, while Tessa and ex-champion Kathleen Briedenhann demonstrated once more that they are the pair to beat in doubles.

Let's not forget the Ladies' Varsity Match, played in conjunction with the traditional men's event. It's not yet as evenly matched a contest as we would all like – Cambridge won very heavily this year – but these things take time to develop. The RFA is working hard to encourage the schoolgirls to carry on

playing at university. I hope to report positively on that next year.

The Ladies' Winchester Fives Nationals were held in Malvern. Partly because of horrendous weather, organiser Maddy Raynor tailored the competition to involve all players to help everyone keep warm. Players from the South Coast, the Deep West, Marlborough and Sedbergh joined representatives from Malvern College to make a thoroughly enjoyable day of Fives. Once again it was a clean sweep by Briedenhann and Mills in the doubles and singles, though this time Kathleen pipped Tessa in the singles.

In May, six pairs attended the Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles tournament. As always, it was a day full of laughter and camaraderie and a competition played in good spirit all round. The standard of play was the highest I have seen it. Congratulations must go to Tessa Mills and Ollie Arnold for winning the mixed title after a very

close fought final against Alexandra Steel and Andy Pringle who were playing in their fifth consecutive final.

Thanks go to Chris Burrows for updating the Women's Rankings, which this year sees several new entries on the list and is now expanded to 56 players. The top four spots are taken up by Mills, Briedenhann, Raynor and Steel, while new players have joined from the schoolgirl scene, including U18 champions Anna Laakkonen and Ibbly Lee. With its own ranking system Ladies' Fives has moved closer to equality with the men's game. It shows how important it is for the ladies to be recognised for their efforts, and rewarded for their love of the game.

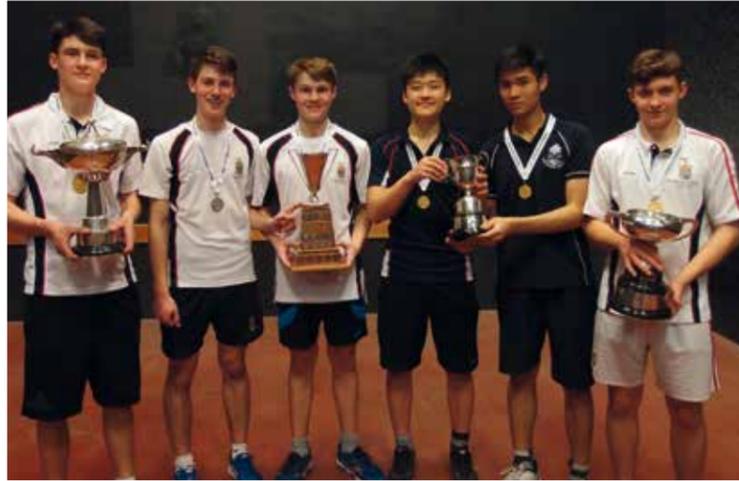
I can safely say this is one of the best games available and I can't recommend it highly enough for all round body-fitness and enjoyment. So if you aren't currently playing, look for your closest courts and get back on there and play.



Kathleen receiving from Amelia at Malvern

END-OF-SEASON WOMEN'S RANKINGS JUNE 2017

1	(2)	T. Mills	88.33
2	(1)	K.Briedenhann	88.20
3	(3)	M. Raynor	78.20
4	(4)	A.Steel	77.77
5	(5)	S.Zhang	63.47
6	(6)	L.Mathias	59.54
7	(7)	A.Law	56.92
8	(28)	I.Lee	54.61
9	(11)	P.Thornhill	53.95
10	(8)	L.Harbottle	53.28
11	(9)	L.Robinson	43.28
12	(10)	M.Wong	42.90
13	(13)	B.Crinnion	40.66
14	(16)	A.Laakkonen	40.08
15	(12)	I.Boddy	39.18
16	(14)	G.Shepherd	35.73
17	(15)	P.Bell	35.19
18	(21)	A.de Clermont	33.85
19	(27)	H.Nugent	29.70
20	(17)	D.Skene	29.59
21	(18)	C.Henderson	26.56
22	(25)	K.Hird	26.40
23	(19)	C.Bedford	26.33
24	(20)	A.Lumbard	25.77
25	(22)	E.Shilina	25.23
26	(23)	L.Theaker	21.96
27	(24)	K.Martin	21.17
28	(25)	M.Richards	19.60
29	(54)	M.Harte	18.6
30	(29)	M.Whitehead	16.49
31	(30)	L.Simpson	15.87
32	(31)	K.Broad	14.65
33	(33)	C.Bugel	13.87
34	(32)	L.Browne	13.26
35	(34)	S.Haco	10.41
36	(36)	L.Dan	9.52
37	(42)	L.Calman-Grimsdale	8.69
38	(35)	D.Treloar	8.18
39	(37)	M.Ivanova	7.32
40	(38)	J.Jones	7.30
41	(39)	T.Gordon	6.90
42	(40)	A.Flood	6.71
43	(41)	F.Porter	6.58
44	(49)	V.King	5.86
45	(43)	J.Morton	4.56
46	(44)	N.Ross	4.36
47	(45)	R.Patel	3.95
48	(46)	D.Black	3.91
49	(47)	M.Ward	3.84
50	(48)	A.Lewin	3.43
51	(50)	K.Rolls	3.37
52	(51)	W.Carling	2.46
53	(52)	M.Cole	2.06
54	(53)	S.Smith	1.96
55	-	O.O'Dwyer	1.12
56	-	I.Wood	0.40



TOP LEFT
Winchester
Squad at the
Nationals

ABOVE
Schoolgirl
champions
from
Marlborough
College;

LEFT
Midlands
singles
champion
from Bedford
Modern

Schools Season Review 2016-17

Bob Dolby looks at a season in which boys and girls enjoyed great successes

This season we have seen regional and national events for schoolboys and schoolgirls, with participants from some 25 schools involved. I think this must be some kind of record. Perhaps, to tweak the Twitter hashtag, #EvenDaveHebdenDoesNotKnow. Whatever the case, it has been so encouraging to go around the country and see players of both sexes playing to such a high standard and with such obvious commitment and enjoyment.

The quality of play we have seen from the various champions has been really impressive. In the U18 and U16 age groups Winchester College's Tom Kidner, Albert Song, Pete Kullavanijaya, Stepan Matvienko and Alex Poyntz, the girls from Marlborough College – Ibby Lee and Anna Laakkonen – and Rugby School's Harriet Fagan and Freya Harrison have stood out, their game marked by a maturity of performance that demonstrates the quality of coaching they are receiving. At U14 we have had the boys of St. Olave's and the girls of Christ's Hospital confirm the promise they showed at U13 level; we hope we might see more of Isaac Jochim and Yoann Bleunven; we surely will of Aiysha Alli and Sophie Lambert. And at U13 we have witnessed Alleyn's School doing the double, winning the boys' singles and doubles championships and the girls doing exactly the same; Gwydion Wiseman and Jamie Kirwan as well as Martha Nugent and Katie Innes are surely bound to be returning for more next season.

One of the great pleasures, also, is to see how

keenly fought the various plate competitions are and how greatly inexperienced players improve in the course of them. This season competitors from 15 schools have gone off from tournaments bearing mostly round trophies, many of which already bear the names of young players who have later gone on to win main competitions at school and adult level, and perhaps represent their university. I am sure that for the masters- and mistresses-in-charge winning some of these 'plates' represent as big an achievement as picking up the trophies with handles on. Certainly some of their smiles are pretty broad.

The various regional tournaments are playing a vital role here – giving players the chance to shine in a smaller field than at the Nationals. These events are expanding: the Scottish Schools

tournament, hitherto for Doubles only, this year figured an U18 Singles trophy, won by Archie McCreath from Fettes College, while the girls in the South East had their own inaugural tournament this year. The Colquhoun trophy for

South West schools produced a first, with Addie Chai from Blundell's winning back-to-back titles; the Midlands Schools Championship gave Joe Sumner a well-deserved first U18 Singles title; and Whitgift's Cameron Low secured a double at the South East Schools event.

There are plenty of young players of Rugby Fives who can look back on the past season with a feeling of pride at their progress, and with them their coaches, to whom we owe so much.

'THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS ARE PLAYING A VITAL ROLE GIVING PLAYERS THE CHANCE TO SHINE'

Around the schools 2016-17

Individual schools report on their Fives season over the last year

ALLEYN'S SCHOOL

Rob Ody writes: It has been another very enjoyable and encouraging year for Fives at Alleyn's. We have had a most committed group of Year 13 players, led by co-captains Julian Hanton and Ben Kirwan, who again enjoyed a successful season. I am most grateful to them for their huge contribution to Fives at Alleyn's: they have been truly inspirational role models for our younger players. Sky Yang and Billy Rentoul, enjoyed early season success by winning the plate at Sherborne.

We enjoyed many school fixtures and entered the West of England Schools Championships, the inaugural South East Girls' Championships and the Nationals for both boys and girls.

Later season successes were mainly achieved by some of our younger players. Gwydion Wiseman was U13 National Champion in singles and doubles, partnered by Jamie Kirwan, with Jamie finishing as singles runner-



Medals galore at Alleyn's

up and Harrison Shaw and Lucas Meggyesi finishing as runners-up in the doubles. Jake Johnston and Patrick Harrison were runners-up in the plate. Gwydion was also runner-up in both singles and doubles, partnered by Sonny Mahendran, at National U14 level.

In the U13 National Girls' Championships Martha Nugent was champion in both singles and doubles, partnered by Katie Innes, with Katie also runner-up in the singles. The girls achieved the same positions in the SE Regionals, where Holly Nugent was runner-up in the U18 plate.

BEDFORD SCHOOL

Michael Croker reports: First team regulars Dylan Cox, Jack Hutchings, Logan Jones and Harry Beard have endured a challenging season with good cheer and fortitude. Of the 10 matches played, victories were secured in only two games: against Oundle and Rugby, with losses to Bedford Modern (twice), the Jesters, Derby Moor, RFA, St Paul's, Merchant Taylors' and the OBs. The Midlands Schools tournament in February proved equally challenging. The internal singles tournaments for seniors and juniors continue to thrive. The experience of Jack Hutchings won out in the senior Dawes Cup, a fitting reward for his on-going and enthusiastic commitment to Fives in his time at Bedford. It is hoped Harry Beard's passion and enthusiasm will inspire next year as the only survivor of this year's IV!

BRADFIELD COLLEGE

Jeremy Ball writes: Last year I had hoped we'd have a team playing in every year group for the first time in a while. Unfortunately, this did not quite come to fruition, with the year 10s not returning to the courts in their second year. However, there were committed players in every other year group and, in particular, I would like to thank Will Stevens for his dedication to the sport over his five years here and for his help in nurturing a promising crop of U14s. Amongst this group there was some genuine enthusiasm and I am very hopeful we will have a strong core of players for years to come. My fellow masters were helpful in choosing sides of similar standard, which meant we had some wonderfully tight fixtures, although our match against Tonbridge was unfortunately cancelled due to sweating courts.

BEDFORD MODERN SCHOOL

Joe Sumner reports: It has been a mixed season for BMS Fives, with some big defeats, but successes in tournaments and even the odd piece of silverware. Our club is increasing in size, with around 20 regulars and our contingent of girls doubling to four.

The year started off well: Katie and I paired up to win the Lady's Cup, while two pairs from Year 12 played in the Winchester doubles and three pairs entered the West of England, with good Fives from all but falling foul of the strong Winchester players.

The Midlands Schools Championships saw some intense matches, particularly against Rugby School. In the end there were wins for BMS in the U18 Doubles (Colbert and Sumner) and Singles (Sumner). Larrington and Pradhan won the U18 plate and Carr the U15 plate: good results, as all were playing a year up.

I reached the last 16 at the Nationals, but again lost to a Winchester player. In the National Girls' Championships, however, Maddie Kent and Katie Sumner – last year's National U14 champions – had a tough but successful run in the U16 event, losing 16-14 in the doubles final.



Midlands Regional U18 plate winners from BMS

BLOXHAM SCHOOL

Simon Batten writes: The revival of Bloxham Fives continues apace, with the school's younger players leading the way. The U13s enjoyed competitive fixtures with Pilgrims' and Blundell's and we took six boys to the National Schools Championships, with all of them picking up at least one win and the first pair of Hughes and Sealy reaching the quarter-finals of the doubles.

A group of inexperienced but keen U16 show some promise; though they were well beaten on the unfamiliar courts at Malvern they will have learnt a great deal from the



Bloxham's U13 squad

experience. We have had more than 60 pupils playing Fives on four different days of the week over the last year, both as an activity and a games option, so are hopeful of developing and extending our fixture list for the future.

with Malvern, with whom we continue to maintain an excellent rivalry.

A further initiative, which we hope to develop with the support of the Exeter and Tiverton Fives Clubs, is a Junior Fives Club. Requested by the players themselves, this should help to recruit more of the players' peers.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

Ed Hatton writes: As usual there were ups and downs this season. Highlights included a memorable U16/U15 win at St Paul's, the continuing integration of outstanding female players into gender-blind fixtures and the dominance and development of the U15 squad, who won a majority of their games and made the successful transition to playing staff members.

The season pinnacle was the National Girls' Schools Championships. Aiysha Alli and Sophie Lambert won the U14 Doubles and Aiysha the Singles. Aiysha has now won every title available, every year she has played. Phoebe Thornhill reaching the U18 Singles final was also notable. The boys did well at the South East with George Boyle winning the U18 Singles plate and Freddie Norris reaching the U18 semi-final.

The school and club were delighted to host the first South East Girls' Championships. The highlights were Aiysha Alli and Sophie Lambert winning the U14s Singles and Doubles and Beatrix Crinnion and Phoebe Thornhill doing the same at U18 level.

DERBY MOOR JUNIORS

Bob Dolby reports: The Junior Club has suffered rather from two years of demolition work and school rebuilding, followed by the six months it took to enclose our courts. We became quite proficient at Eton Fives meanwhile, playing regularly at Repton. By the time this season began all but two of our past stars had left school and gone on to further education, employment or training. So, Stuart Kirby and Lewis Keates have thrown all their energy into bringing on new players at our Saturday and Sunday morning clubs. From these a promising U15 pair has emerged – Dean Ali and Vishal Singh – who gained useful experience at the West of England Schools in January. Dean then went on to win the singles plate at the Midlands Schools tournament and reached the final of the doubles with a scratch partner in the absence of Vishal due to illness.

Having taken four players to the Midlands U15 tournament we took four to the National U13s, where Kais Mahmood did himself credit in the six pool matches he played. With small numbers and limited experience competitive matches had little point, but tournament-play at Bedford, Sherborne and St. Paul's has been of great benefit to the young players and in some cases positively inspirational. In addition Stuart has been attracting girls to the Club through his coaching in PE lessons. Hopefully Derby Moor will start again soon to field worthy successors to Anthony Goodwin, Ashley Hill, Max Frost, Michael Baxter, Matt Blunden, John Halligan and Rob Whitehorn.



Derby Moor at the U13s

EDINBURGH ACADEMY

Hector McFarlane writes: This year saw record numbers of pupils from the Academy playing Fives with over 50 girls and boys on court every week. For the boys we managed to fulfil many fixtures for the Seniors, Colts and Junior Colts against the other Scottish schools, with notable victories for the Junior Colts against both Loretto and Fettes. Our young Colts team had some very competitive fixtures and have made great progress, which will be invaluable next year when most will remain in this age-group. The Seniors were a credit to the school having only taken up the sport this year as a way to avoid revision! Their enthusiasm certainly made up for their lack of experience. A team of 10 boys travelled to St. Paul's for the Nationals and were

very impressed by the standard. Daniel Troup and Thomas Peel provided the highlight, narrowly losing in the Colts doubles plate semi-final.

The girls struggled for fixtures north of the border but had a number of great matches against Fettes at the U16 level. For the first time ever we entered the Girls' Nationals at Marlborough and the six players involved all performed superbly. It was very much unknown territory for them but they competed very well with more established Fives-playing schools. Meryl Smith played the Fives of her life to storm into the U16 Singles final where she lost to a worthy champion from Rugby School. All involved loved the experience and are already looking forward to next year.

Many thanks to Richie Murby who

gives up much of his time to help coach our pupils and to instil in them the same bottomless love of the game he has! Thanks also to the Jesters, whose January visit is always a highlight.



Edinburgh Academy Girls squad at Marlborough

FETTES COLLEGE

Peter Worledge reports: Fives has had a busy season, with 1st IV and the U16 girls unbeaten in local fixtures. Beyond Fettes, seven girls made the trip to the National Ladies U23 tournament. In the end Catriona S and Jess C topped the Fettes charts with a hard fought win in the doubles plate.

We welcomed an RFA touring team to Edinburgh for the first time, with all four Fives-playing schools involved. Archie M and Grant S saw off both visiting pairs by 44-35, but there was an overall win for the tourists nevertheless. Then our first ever mixed Colts/U16 tournament, where Magnus B and Catriona bravely took on five other pairs, each containing an adult tourist. Special mention must go to Cora S and Hugo E but in the end Oliver H's pairing secured the win overall.

Next up, the Scottish Schools Doubles Championships: Evan L and Jamie C had a tough draw at the outset and succumbed to Merchiston's 1st pair, but fought their way through to secure the plate; Archie and Grant dropped a mere handful of points, meanwhile, on their way to victory in the final. In the Scottish Schools Colts Doubles, Jamie C and Silas G were



Fettes at the Girls' Championships

unlucky to lose in an exciting semi-final against the eventual winners from Merchiston. Meanwhile, Oliver and Magnus battled their way through to win the plate.

Next, the inaugural Scottish Schools Singles Championships for the Boyd Cup. Archie and Grant won through early rounds but tiredness took its toll on Grant as he succumbed to Merchiston's top player in the semi-final despite an 8-3 lead. Archie progressed to the final, however, and ultimately won in straight games to see his name the first on the cup. Finally, the National Girls' Schools Championships and an exciting doubles plate win for Scarlett G and India M.

It's difficult to overstate the success of the Club this year, with a solid haul of trophies. There is much to be proud of and I am very grateful to the players for their commitment, effort and good humour.

LORETTO SCHOOL

Roger Whait writes: Loretto Fives continues to build, greatly thanks to coach Richie Murby. The senior group of players in particular were very committed throughout the season, so it was very pleasing that Gary Lemmon was runner-up in the Jesters Tour Select Doubles Competition in January. Gary has worked tirelessly to encourage the younger players and the standard of his own game has risen significantly. Similarly, Matthew Sinclair has been a stalwart of the sport at the school, always reliably making time to both coach and play. We shall miss Gary and Matt greatly. At the end of the season Patrin Maddison crowned his achievements so far in the sport by being half of the Scottish Open Doubles Champion pair. Well deserved.

On a personal note I am retiring from teaching at the end of this academic year. I took over Fives in 1980 and have been privileged to watch Lorettonians take titles in various national age-groups. Simon Fraser, Ian Purvis, Jamie Pendergrass, Offie Santrakul and Simon Whait have all clutched cups at St Paul's – I have enjoyed their success. More importantly, the comradeship of the greater Fives world remains with me as I look forward to my retirement of gardening, classical and medieval sites and buildings and long-distance train journeys.



Blundell's at the Nationals

BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL

Wayne Enstone reports: A record season on many counts: firstly for pupils playing Fives, both girls and boys, this being mainly due to the encouragement of Captain, Christian Cabburn, and our three newly qualified Level 1 Coaches: Addie Chai, Barney Ames and James Maclaurin. We entered a record number of players in the National Schools Championships, with eight in the U13s, three in U14s, two in the Colts and four in the Open. Addie Chai won his second Colquhoun trophy for SW schools.

Blundell's is also pleased to have hosted Mount Kelly in a triangular fixture with Sherborne. In addition, we were instrumental in encouraging Bloxham to join a triangular match with Pilgrims' School at Winchester, a new and successful departure. Next year it will be hosted at Blundell's. Perhaps Clifton may join a triangular

MALVERN COLLEGE

Chris Thomas reports: Malvern College has enjoyed a good season, spearheaded by the excellent Andrew Tudor, who had the misfortune to come up against Tom Kidner in the final stages at Sherborne and at St. Paul's. In the West of England Schools Doubles, however, Andrew and Advait Manur produced the game of the round against Winchester II, losing 11-8, 11-6. Advait won the senior B plate at the Nationals and Matt Bruce the Colts plate at the West of England. School matches were closely fought, and we enjoyed games against touring UCS Old Boys and RFA sides.

The girls didn't quite reach last year's peaks, with defending National Champion Amelia Law reaching the singles and doubles semi-finals, but Anne Doroshenko looks promising.

At the end of the year we said goodbye to Peter Gray, who's been involved with Malvern Fives for over 25 years. A Fives afternoon and BBQ drew some OM's from recent and distant past to say farewell. Hopefully, by the time this report is read the development of the Theatre will have commenced and, with that, the refurbishment of the increasingly leaky roofs!

MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL

Simon Hardman reports: The 2017 season has been the last in our current courts and the Taylors' boys commitment, enthusiasm and performances gave them a fitting send off.

We were competitive in every fixture played and each side showed considerable progression from last season, thanks in no small part to the coaching of Gareth Price. All sides were involved in a number of tense finishes, mostly ending in victories. The Colts and Junior Colts played particularly well, and members of both sides began to play at senior level by season's end. A particular highlight was the successful defence of the Centenary Cup against Bedford School. Equally, the 1st IV's narrow victory over St Paul's in our final home fixture was

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

Tom Kiggell writes: At the Girls' National Championships, Ibbey Lee stormed to the U18 singles title in magnificent style, then she and Anna Laakkonen swept all before them to win the doubles. This was an unexpected but richly deserved reward for regular, purposeful practice over a long season, and a readiness to absorb the lessons of defeat in tough matches against older girls, adults and boys. The U15 and U14 girls, too, did themselves credit in the Nationals, with both U14 plate trophies also bagged.

Harry Powell and Oscar Waters starred on the national stage, battling their way to the U16 doubles final at St. Paul's – the first time for many years that a Marlborough pair has made it to the sharp end of a boys' event. They came off second best to a fine Winchester pair, but a silver medal represented a big step forward in their play. We had a good keen squad of U14s, who won six of their seven school fixtures. It was a shame that not all of them were available for the Nationals, but Hugo Mayne flew the flag superbly, winning two consecutive matches 12-11 to reach the last eight, a splendid demonstration of clutch



Winners of the Love Mug

supremely pleasing. On an individual note, Charlie Barnett won the Love Mug at the President's Cup with Dave Butler.

The Nationals once again saw some conspicuous success for our boys. Three U13s reached the singles quarter-finals, two the semi-finals, and one,



Marlborough at the Ladies' Winchester Fives

serving and never-say-die match play.

These achievements gave the game a higher profile at school, and we aim to build on this in the next year. During the season, the U18s were ably captained by James Barrows; he and Luca Conte had a good win at the Schools Winchester Championships against St. Paul's before falling to the hosts in the semi-final. We enjoyed school fixtures with Malvern, Winchester, Bradfield and Sherborne, as well as games against the Town Club, the wily gents of Wessex, the RFA, Oxford University and the Old Marlburians from Bristol Uni, who pipped us by the narrowest of margins.

Anikait Garella, the final itself before meeting the indomitable Gwydion Wiseman. Ayaan Sheikh and Alexander Tillotson were also able to capture the doubles plate. Amongst the older boys the Colts very much led the way, with Ewan Townshend making both the singles and doubles quarter-finals. His partner, Zach Murphy, was runner-up in the first singles plate and Jamie Graham won the second. The U14s enjoyed their first tournament hugely, with Daniel Keren and Avi Shah winning the doubles plate competition.

With the imminent demolition of our courts it will prove a challenge to maintain the standards that have been so pleasing over recent seasons. However, I am hopeful that the level of enthusiasm amongst the boys will enable the Fives team to make it through the coming seasons until new courts arrive.

MERCHISTON CASTLE SCHOOL

Matt Hillier reports: A youthful senior side this year was made up of Angus Hinton, Sean Yuille, Douglas Tidy, Matthew Currie and Chris Bell. They trained with real enthusiasm and there was much competition between them to make the two pairs for the Edinburgh Schools Championships. Although they defeated both Loretto and EA, they fell short in the final against a strong Fettes side. The inaugural Edinburgh Schools Singles tournament saw Angus Hinton finish runner-up in a fiercely fought final.

The Colts side had a very successful season, winning all of their games. This culminated in the Edinburgh



Merchiston Colts with Scottish Schools Trophy

Schools Championships, where Douglas Tidy won the U16 doubles for the second successive year, this time partnered by Matthew Currie. An outstanding achievement.

The highlight of the season,

however, was the performance of four juniors, who, after winning all of their fixtures in Scotland, travelled down to the U14 Nationals at St Paul's. Max Layton, Tom Macintosh and Ben Afshar all won their groups and qualified for the main draw. Ben lost in the last 16, while Max and Tom both did so well to reach the semi-finals. Marcus Mulvey did very well to win the plate, where the standard was also very high indeed.

In the doubles, Max and Tom lost in the quarter-final to the eventual runners-up, while Ben and Marcus went one further, losing to the eventual winners in the semi-final. It was a great experience for all four boys, who improved dramatically over the course of the two days.

OUNDLE SCHOOL

Tony Burrows writes: With all of last year's successful 1st IV leaving for university and our master i/c leaving at the end of the academic year this season was always going to be about rebuilding both the 1st IV and the coaching staff. Many of the boys and girls playing this season have returned to the courts after a couple of years on the main sports options and away from Fives. It was a pleasure to see them developing their skill at quite a pace and they never gave up in the face of some very good opposition.

We completed fixtures against Rugby, Bedford, Bedford Modern and the Old Oundelians and entered the Midlands tournament, where we were reasonably competitive but at present lacking in match experience. Will Richardson is a very promising player, but with rugby and football having first call on his time he has managed little court time other than playing in the U25s and winning a plate competition. Many of this year's players will be returning to play again next year, so we look forward to being more competitive.

PILGRIMS' SCHOOL

Geoffrey Hammond writes: This was another happy pair of terms with full courts, keen players and some progress. The autumn term was one where older hands guided newer boys

and where internal competitions created excellent rivalries. We played matches and enjoyed meeting players from other schools. More significantly, Fives at Pilgrims' remains a sport where the good game is more important than the won match, where enjoyment comes before victory, where behaviour is impeccable.

RADLEY COLLEGE

Dave Cox reports: The renovation programme on the Radley courts has now been completed, with paint applied to restore the floor surface and a new roof fitted. After some settling the restored floors have proved to be a great success, although the rather luminous colour may be a little distracting to those of a sensitive temperament! Unfortunately the courts have been plagued with a condensation issue since the new roof has been attached, and as a result relatively little Fives has been played over the last year – this issue has now been addressed, and we are hopeful for next season. The departure of our strongest group for several years has also left a void at the top end, although our younger players have been showing some strong improvements when play has been possible. We also say goodbye this year to Mr Neil Martin, who has been invaluable in his help running the Fives at the College since he arrived.

ROSSALL SCHOOL

Lee Hodgetts writes: It has been a quiet year in terms of fixtures, but we have still been active in school, with success in recruiting players in the U12 and U13 age brackets as well as more girls. The ORs have been active as ever and we have added some more old boys to the ranks. Hopefully this will continue next term. An OR has generously donated a school Fives prize, keen to help support the sport he enjoyed in his time at Rossall. After much lobbying of the sports department it has been agreed that Fives become a compulsory part of the sports rota during the Lent term, which should help to expose more students to the sport and swell our ranks. We should hopefully be able to field two pairs of Colts from September and will be aiming to travel to more competitions this coming season.



Fives at Rossall



Rugby School Fives Club

RUGBY SCHOOL

Trevor White writes: The game remains healthy at the school with plenty of good players emerging. The girls make the biggest impact at the National level, and their season started well at Cambridge in the Lady's Cup where for the second year running Lottie Harbottle won the plate. Success continued when Freya Harrison won the U23 National Doubles title – she was lucky enough to draw multiple champion Tessa Mills, as a partner, an experience Freya gained from considerably. The major achievement of the season was Harriet Fagan retaining her U16 National title, and then she and Freya held on to their doubles crown. The final was a nervy affair, with the pair coming back from 10-14 to win 16-14.

Arte Denton has also emerged as a very capable U16 player along with Daisy Woodley – there is great depth at this age. The senior girls, too, are strong but at the Girls' Nationals it became clear that they are not as dominant as the U16 group. Nevertheless, Lottie Harbottle completed four very good years of Fives by securing the U18 plate with partner Liv Theaker.

The boys, especially the younger ones, do well in the Midlands competitions and in all matches. The IV won most of their matches: Vlad Shirokiy and captain, Michael Suddaby, are as good as any since the courts were rebuilt. Vlad got to the last 16 of the National Schools as did U16 Jacob Drabble, who has great potential for the future. Ronan McKay won the Midlands U15 cup and, with his partner Josh Beal, also picked up the doubles title.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

Sam Roberts writes: There have been fine individual performances by some dedicated players and we brought home silverware at the three main tournaments – but it was plate-shaped, rather than winners' trophies this year.

In the Seniors, Monty Evans, Dan Whitham, Matt Cheveley and Harry Jackson all played some intense matches, with Julius Davies and Isaac Hudis showing great potential as a doubles pair. Highlights included Monty coming back from a game down to reach the semis of the West of England Schools and later defeating the Winchester number one in our school fixture; Dan and Monty almost making the semis of the Winchester Schools Doubles and playing their best ever doubles in their final school match in the semis of the Nationals.

There were many strong contenders for Most Improved Senior. The award went to Lennie Wells, who ironed out some of the eccentricities of his game and started to anticipate and move earlier, to dramatic effect.

In the Juniors, tournament highlights included Kian Parsapour and Louis Odgers winning their groups in the National Colts' Singles, and Louis making it to the quarter-finals, a year

young. Kian and his partner Max Skoczylas won the Colts Doubles plate at the West of England.

There were several contenders for the King Cup for Most Improved Junior, but the award went to Louis Odgers who made great strides with his footwork, while becoming more controlled in his hitting.

In the U14 age group, there was fierce competition for top spot, with Ben Pymont narrowly beating Anosh Malik to claim the Beltrami Cup in our internal singles tournament. Ben and Anosh also made it to the last eight of the National U14 Singles. Together with Freddie Harrison and Luke Jopling they made up a strong first 1st IV, giving us cause for optimism by beating Winchester by 40 points.



St. Paul's plate winners at Winchester

SEDBERGH SCHOOL

Jonathan Lidiard reports: We enjoyed a varied and busy season, with boys and girls getting plenty of miles under their belt in a variety of matches and tournaments. The highlight of the year, however, was a home-grown affair, as we hosted the prestigious Barnes Bridge tournament. It was fantastic to see so many of the country's top players and the quality on show was a wonder to behold.



Sedbergh in action at the Y Club

The best Fives of the season for our boys came against familiar opponents: the White Rose Club and the Dalesmen. We also appreciated the invitation to a training match on the courts at the Manchester Y Club, where we benefited from the wisdom and guile of Wayne Enstone as opponent and coach.

The girls played steadily throughout the year and particularly enjoyed their trip to the Ladies' Winchester Doubles at Malvern, where there was plenty of committed and skilful Fives on show.

Taylor McGuire once again performed well at the boys' Nationals, on this occasion reaching the semi-finals of the Colts competition. He will be a force to be reckoned with as we look forward to a new season where we hope to expand our fixture list to include all of the Scottish schools.

SHERBORNE SCHOOL

Nicholas Scorer reports: It has been an enjoyable season, with 10 matches against school and adult teams. Some 35 boys have been on court regularly and many have made excellent progress. The junior squad was led by Benedict Mercer and Harry Harvey, who have regularly played well against those older than themselves. In the Colquhoun Trophy Benedict became our first player to win a title at this event, winning the Colts Singles with a 100% record. Harry Harvey also



Sherborne's U16 Colquhoun Trophy champion

took the Colts plate competition.

The senior team had a very healthy fixture list, which included four matches against adult sides. Will Shardlow and Toby Smith in particular, rose to the challenge. Will's singles

games against Addie Chai from Blundell's were a highlight of the season: he lost the away encounter but, after a momentous battle, won on home courts in the return match.

TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

Ian Jackson writes: Fives continues to thrive at Tonbridge, with 69 boys choosing the game as their sport in the Spring Term. Over two-thirds were able to represent Tonbridge in a school fixture and I am always keen for matches for those who do not make their age group's top team. The highlights were wins over Winchester at U14A and U14B and St. Paul's U16A but above all the loss by only three points to Whitgift at Seniors shortly after they had swept the board at the SE Regionals. The good results at



Tonbridge Senior finalists 2017

lower levels are positive signs for the future and with encouragement to enter tournaments, good staffing and coaching there should continue to be decent numbers playing.



Whitgift's U18 plate winners

WHITGIFT SCHOOL

Nick Morgan reports: Whitgift managed an excellent season for both the Colts and Seniors. In a slightly trimmed down fixture list the Colts were unbeaten (thanks to Giles Munn putting out a weakened team for our Winchester match!) and the 1st IV performed creditably against most of the SE schools. It was, however, in the Regional and National competitions that we truly excelled: an almost

clean sweep of silverware in the SE Regionals, with Cameron Low and Hajane Anbukumar winning the U18 doubles and Cameron then winning the singles too. At Colts level Nathan Jerome won the singles, and together with his partner Sean Kendrick he also secured the doubles trophy.

The Nationals in March saw Low and Anbukumar winning the U18 Doubles plate, while Danial Ahmed took the U16 Singles plate. Danial and his partner Philip Lam also won the 2nd Doubles plate, so we came home very pleased with the results.

I hope this is not the pinnacle of our success, but with desperately needed renovation work on our courts still on hold and the absence of a coach we are merely surviving on the momentum of previous years. I hope next year won't start to see a decline, but I doubt such success will be replicated in the short term at least. Fingers crossed for better news in 2018.

WINCHESTER COLLEGE

Giles Munn writes: Winchester has had another season to dream of, winning nine of the 11 trophies on offer and producing eight all-Winchester finals.

The U18s led the way, with 1st pair, Song and Kullavanijaya, winning the Schools Winchester Doubles against 2nd pair, Kidner and Younger. These pairs met in finals twice more, each time producing displays of outstanding Fives and sportsmanship, but both times the 1st pair edged the win. In the singles, Song's attempts to increase his trophy haul were thwarted by his teammate Tom Kidner, who won both Open singles competitions.

In the U16s Stepan Matvienko and partner Alex Poyntz took home the spoils from the West of England and the Nationals. They met twice in the singles finals, splitting the titles between them.

The club has been blessed recently with a group of talented and successful boys. Now, three of the boys that helped spearhead this success move on: the captain, Albert Song, who leaves as our most successful schoolboy with nine trophies; Pete Kullavanijaya, undoubtedly one of the more laidback players to have won six titles; and the irrepressible Alec Younger, who may not have won a major trophy but can boast five runners-up medals and some stand-out performances. The club will miss their talent and the spirit in which they played.

Outside tournaments the club continued to do well with 18 wins from 29 matches, thanks to some strong performances from the U16s and U15s.



The Annual Winchester Fives Dinner 2016



A true champion of Fives

David Barnes and Dave Hebden pay tribute to Ian Fuller, Fives player

Last year's Review paid tribute to Ian Fuller and his years of service to the RFA, but the fact that he has now decided to retire from tournament Fives provides the opportunity to celebrate his remarkable on court achievements.

Ian learnt the game at Tonbridge School on Winchester Fives courts from 1966, one year before Tony Wynn, another future champion, joined the school. Says Ian: "I was put down for (House) Fives one week – never having played it – given some ropey old gloves and told to get on with it. I won, enjoyed it and was kept playing Fives each week!"

Ian was in the 1st IV for three years and captain for two. "We had the same core squad for three years and gradually improved our fixture list as we got stronger. Beating the mighty Alleyn's on their own courts was the highlight of our last year."

Ian's record in the National Schools' singles was good, with two consecutive semi-finals. A heavy loss to Wayne Enstone in 1970 didn't dismay him. "I thought I was playing pretty well, making several winning shots, but the ball kept coming back... and back! I gradually improved and got a few points over the years until 44 years later I beat him in the Vintage singles. Perseverance pays!"

The revival in Tonbridge Fives led master-in-charge Mike Bushby to take the bold decision in 1971 to fill in the buttress in two of the Winchester courts, to allow the school to host Rugby Fives

playing schools on equal terms. Two more courts were converted later. An abiding memory from Ian's schooldays was the masterclass given by John Pretlove: "I had never seen the nick hit so regularly or with such devastating effect – a real inspiration for the future."

Immediately after school, Ian enjoyed playing in many RFA Club games and was impressed by how friendly and sociable everybody was. He entered the National Singles and Doubles regularly in the 1970s, and describes the decade as a learning process. His Singles challenge was ended, often in the third round, by Dave Hebden (three times), Wayne Enstone (twice) and John East (twice). The partnerships with Bob Peters (five times) and Keith Puckle (five times) in the Cyriax resulted in two semi-finals.

The 1972 Lancashire Open at Manchester was Ian's first regional tournament. "The small courts were a bit of a shock but started my affection for the tournament and the YM club. I remember watching Eric Marsh go into the court 5/10 mins early and just practise hitting to a perfect length on both hands. An object lesson.

"Climbing the 132 steps to play Wayne on his home courts was one of the most daunting experiences especially in front of the locals! 'Come on, Ian', they would say - 'dig in' - when I had absolutely no energy and was bereft of ideas!"

Ian was the initiator of the Club Knockout

Championship in 1974, and when Tom and Joan Wood heard about it they presented a magnificent trophy. The Wood Cup has been contested every year since, and Ian played in five winning RFA Club sides between 1976 and 1982. Later in the 1980s, he also participated in strong teams from the Old Tonbridgians and the West of England Club.

The 1980s saw Ian emerge as a complete player. He was four times National Singles runner-up to Wayne Enstone between 1980 and 1989 and won his first Singles title at the West of England in 1988. But it was in doubles that success first came. His epic partnership with Dave Hebden started in 1980, when the pair won the first of their titles in the North-West (then the Greater Manchester County Open). They immediately proceeded to win the Cyriax Cup, beating Wayne Enstone and John East, champions for the previous five years, in a two-game final lasting almost two hours. David Gardner's match



LEFT
21 consecutive years in the National Doubles final

ABOVE
Ian and Dave win the 'Barnes Bridge' eight years in a row!

CENTRE
Ian with two other great Singles champions

and he and Dave Hebden were soon winning the West of England doubles to add to their other titles. They were victorious six years in succession (1986-91) and five more after that (1993-94 and 1996-98). To round off the extraordinary array, Ian and Dave won five further regional doubles titles, and Ian collected five more with other partners.

It would be quite wrong to think of Ian as only a doubles player. Although success in the National Singles eluded him in the 1980s, he won the West of England title six times (1988-90 and 1996-98). Other regionals in which he won singles titles were the North of England (1996-99), the North-West (1998) and the London (1997-98). But undoubtedly his greatest triumphs were to win the National Singles in 1997 and 1998, defeating Neil Roberts each time. The second of these wins, at the age of 45, opened the way to a unique record: when Ian won the Veterans' Singles later that season, he became the only player to have held both

National and Veterans' titles at the same time.

Ian left his mark on the Veterans' Championships, winning the Singles five times and the Doubles, in partnership with Jeremy Schroeter, every year from 1999 to 2004. And when he was ripe for the Vintage (over 55), he won the Singles three times –

including that first win over Wayne, 44 years after their first encounter – and the Doubles five, one of them in partnership with his old nemesis.

This account would be incomplete without reference to Winchester Fives, the version of the game to which Ian was first introduced at Tonbridge. He and Dave Hebden (who else?) established another record in the National Winchester Doubles, winning the Barnes Bridge eight times in a row from 1996 to 2003.

His perennial partner, Dave Hebden, has the last word: "By any measure Ian Fuller should be rated as one of the very top players in the game of Rugby Fives. He developed a left hand that was second to none in terms of retrieval and defence, whilst his crisp low hitting with both hands made him a formidable doubles and singles opponent. Ian's economical style, steady temperament and tactical astuteness enabled him to play some of his best Fives in later years. But those that look back on Ian as a player will remember best his amazing ability to play the cross-court shot, taking the ball early and hitting crisply and low, and with disguise. No greater compliment to a cross-court shot can be made than to call it 'Fuller-esque!'"

A history of Fives at Eastbourne College

David Barnes chronicles the history of Eastbourne College's forays into Fives



ABOVE
Eastbourne
College's 1874
fives court

RIGHT
HL Haynes
and PH East,
winners of the
1896 House
Challenge Cup

BELOW
The three
1890 courts

When The Times announced in March 1867 that Eastbourne College would open later that year, Fives courts were listed as one of the attractions of the new school. The first court, actually built in 1874, immediately attracted a letter to The Eastbournian from 'An Old Hand' about its size – "quite an apology for a court" – and the need to cement the walls. It took further letters before the walls were attended to. A back wall was added in 1879, although it remained unroofed.

In 1880 two open courts were built south of the Gymnasium, and four in the grounds of Blackwater House. There are no photos of these courts, but one assumes that they were similar to the first one. A notable name won the Fives singles competition that year: E.H. Miles, later amateur world champion in Real Tennis and Rackets. He went on to Marlborough after Eastbourne, so both schools can claim him.

Early competitions are reported intermittently in The Eastbournian, and Blackwater House had a tournament of its own. Support for Fives was variable, and an 1886 letter about the state of the courts read: "They are a disgrace to the College... It is all very well to say that it is no good having them done up because nobody uses them. On the contrary, nobody uses them because they are not fit to play on."

BOOST IN PLAYER NUMBERS

The College experienced a period of financial difficulty in the 1880s, the roll falling to just 60 boys. Numbers increased in 1888 with the arrival from Cranbrook School of a new Headmaster, Dr Charles Crowden, who brought 90 boys with him from that school. Cranbrook had built Fives courts under Crowden's leadership, so it was no surprise when three new open courts "without hazards of any kind" were built in 1890. At first they had no back walls, but these were added a few years later. The old 1874 court also came down in 1890.

To celebrate the new courts, a captain of Fives was elected, an open scratch competition for doubles pairs organised and a set of rules and regulations published. The competition was divided into two classes, over and under 15. Each match to be the best of three games, except for the final, which was best of five, and "The Rugby rules should be followed as far as possible". Masters were allowed to enter the senior competition, held in the Michaelmas term, but the Lent term would bring House and Challenge Cup competitions for boys only.

LGC Laughton was the winner of the first open singles in 1891. "Towards the end of the first game Laughton's hands went bad, and compelled him to wear gloves in the second and third games. Though thus handicapped, he won easily."

The bare-handed technique, still practised by a recent master-in-charge, has deep roots at Eastbourne!

THE IMPACT OF WAR

A new headmaster arrived in March 1906, and the Fives courts had some much needed repairs. The first match against another school was a junior fixture in 1907 against St Andrew's, a local prep school where a court survives to this day.

No reports appear in The Eastbournian between 1915 and 1922. Obviously the War had a lot to do with this, but the 1890 courts were still there in 1919, when a proposal was made to erect a Memorial Building in honour of Old Eastbournians killed in the hostilities. This involved demolishing various buildings including the Fives courts, but in 1922 three new covered courts were built in the grounds of Blackwater House and are still in use today.

They are described as being "20ft long, 18ft wide and 15ft high, with a roof of quarter-inch plate glass on stout rafters and purlins protected on the



underside with wire netting. The inside is well rendered with cement and sand trowelled smooth, and the floor is left rough to give grip to the feet. The centre court has been finished as an Eton Court."

The length of these courts was too short for either Rugby (28ft) or Eton (24ft) Fives. From 1927, matches were being played against the Old Boys and the Staff with three pairs per side, possibly indicating that the centre court had already been converted to Rugby specifications. The 1961 survey carried out by David Gardner describes three Rugby courts, each with a length of 24ft, but it is not clear when the lengthening (or conversion) took place.

The first awarding of Fives colours came in 1928, as did the first mention of coaching by a master, a Mr Morres. It was said of him: "[He] has done much to make the game popular as it is today in the School; he has always been ready to offer advice and, better still, example by playing in fours."

A match at Christ's Hospital in 1930 brought defeat, with the report recording: "Their courts being at least twice as long as ours, we were totally unable to settle down." Despite this reverse, an Eastbourne pair, JM Drower and NW Cundy, played in the inaugural Public Schools' Doubles Competition at Roehampton. They had a tough draw: after defeating Bishop's Stortford in the first round, they were beaten by the eventual winners from St. Paul's.

A STAR IS BORN

1932 saw matches against St Paul's, Christ's Hospital, the RFA and the Jesters, all lost by 30 points or fewer. The Jesters fielded four top-class Cambridge players, so Eastbourne were already competing against some of the best players in the country; and the next season brought victories over both RFA and Jesters. Eight boys represented the College that year, among them a youngster named JDG Craib, destined for stardom.

The first win against St Paul's (176-175!) came in 1935, although the Alleyn Old Boys, the strongest club in the country, brought the College team (without Craib) down to earth, winning 270-75. 1936 was Craib's year: he won the Public Schools' Singles title, the first, and so far only, Eastbournian to do so. He went on to play for Cambridge from 1937-39, captaining the University in his final year.

Eastbourne won a new fixture against King's Canterbury in 1937, but lost heavily to St Paul's, the Alleyn Old Boys and the Jesters, this lost by 55-180 – bravely described in The Eastbournian as "an instructive and enjoyable match".



ABOVE
1933 (Back
row) JGD
Craib, HEB
Pilbrow, SH
Foot, Esq.,
HMF Langley.
(Front row)
DC Horton, GF
Hepburn, CP
Bomford.

BELOW
The 1949
squad (Back)
MJ Partridge,
ACJ Burton,
Esq., GR
Langton.
(On bench)
GC Lucas, PB
S-Johnson, AG
Fisher (Capt.),
IJ Lizaso, JC
Robbins.
(On ground)
HD Lucas,
RV Stone

'MEASLES SPOILT THE 1938 SEASON AND INFLUENZA AFFECTED THE 1939 TEAM'

Measles spoilt the 1938 season and influenza affected the 1939 team; matches against St Paul's, Sutton Valence, Whitgift and the Alleyn Old Boys were lost, and only King's Canterbury beaten. DM Man and DJ Stinson entered the Public Schools' Competition, beating Felsted but losing to Oundle, the holders.

REGULAR FIXTURES

The Second World War brought disruption, although an OE side came in March 1940. The College was evacuated to Radley in June 1940, where Eastbourne were permitted to use the Fives courts three days a week. The buttress meant they were "rather lost" initially, but there were matches against Radley and Malvern in 1942.

Back at Eastbourne in 1947, matches against the Masters started again. Master-in-charge, ACJ Burton, worked hard on coaching the pupils and getting the courts into a playable condition, even painting a court in the 1948 Easter holidays. KE Norman-Smith took over in 1950, by which time all three courts were in playing order, and an exceptional singles player emerged, IJ Lizaso.

A regular fixture list was established during the 1950s: four schools (St Paul's, Sutton Valence, Christ's Hospital and Whitgift) and visitors such as the Jesters, the RFAC and the OEs.

"Ruthless coaching" helped the 1953 team, although the Sutton Valence match was the only victory. Christ's Hospital were beaten in 1955 for the first time since the war, and likewise St Paul's in 1956. An "intolerably exciting" three-hour match against Whitgift in 1957 was lost by one point.





ABOVE
The 1950 squad (Back) R Worsley, JH Wilson, WJ Armstrong, JD Nicholson, KE Norman-Smith, Esq. (On bench) RV Stone, MJ Partridge, IJ Lizaso (capt.), HD Lucas, GR Langton

LEFT
1966's DG Smith, WJ Hastie, KE Norman-Smith, Esq, DR Bryant, RAD Perkins

BELOW
The Cambridge team of 1995 with Chris and Tim Caroe



The picture that emerges is one of undimmed enthusiasm in the face of a majority of defeats. "We lost matches we should have won," was the cry in 1960. "Our courts are small and the ceilings low," lamented the 1962 report, pointing out that it was difficult to learn to lob and vary pace, making away games a test.

CHANGE IN MASTERSHIP

A Novices' Cup was given in 1964, leading to a general improvement in play. Tonbridge were added to the fixture list in 1965, and more Colts and Junior Colts matches introduced. Four intrepid souls entered



the 1965 Schools' Championships at Whitgift. They got no further than the third round but appreciated playing on larger courts against better players. 1966 was a good season, with seven out of eight matches won, but the IV had disappointing results in the Schools' Championships. However, the old pattern of losses outweighing victories returned, and by 1970 the 1st IV were glad to win a match and there were no junior teams or competitions.

This temporary decline may have stemmed from a lack of interest among younger members of staff. The 1970 report even reads: "It seems that Fives, one of the College's oldest-established sports, must become a thing of the past."

There was no immediate obvious successor to Norman-Smith, but in 1974, one was found in DJ Bowles. His report speaks of a revival, with matches for 1st IV, 2nd pair, Colts and Under 15s. All but one were lost, but the game was on the up again. Fixtures doubled in 1975, and a Colts pair entered the first U16 Nationals at Whitgift. "Although we are still not getting the results, the

game is in a healthy state", Bowles wrote in 1976.

VARSITY REPRESENTATION ONCE AGAIN

Fives was given a boost by the arrival of NL Wheeler, a Lancing Old Boy who revelled in the opportunities to volley the ball in the small Eastbourne courts. Before long the 1st IV were beating Tonbridge, Sutton Valence, Rutlish, Whitgift, touring to Bedford and Felsted and entering tournaments with a will. The spirit was good, with impromptu games between boys of all houses and ages reported.

The reports throughout the 1980s show a rich pattern of matches at all levels. Team-building tours and plenty of away fixtures, including entries to the West of England Schools and the Nationals, enabled experience to be gained on bigger courts, and the recruitment to the Common Room of SJ Beal, who had learnt his Fives at Allyn's, added to the quality of the coaching in singles and doubles. "Mr Wheeler and Mr Beal make a good team!" concluded the 1985 report.

AB Pringle, a member of a good 1986 Eastbourne team, played for Cambridge in the 1989 Varsity Match, the first Old Eastbournian to do so since Craib in 1936. Since Pringle's selection, 12 OEs have made a total of 41 Varsity appearances.

Duncan Bowles, master-in-charge for two decades, who had fought so hard for the status of Fives at Eastbourne, retired from the fray in 1991.

STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

The 1990s put Eastbourne Fives firmly on the map. The 1st IV won all eight school matches in 1992, and there was strength at every level. TD and CW Caroe won all their doubles matches and went on to represent Cambridge nine times between them – Tim from 1993-97 and Chris from 1995-98. While at school, they each won the West of England singles plate in 1992 and 1993.

Things were going so well by 1994 that the report read: "We are hoping to expand the sport once the courts at Memorial become operational. Cosmetic improvements to the main courts have also helped." Sadly, the two Memorial Ground courts proved impossible to resurrect, but the three 1922 courts have soldiered on to this day and look like making their centenary despite their less than ideal size and condition, and their tendency to sweat in damp weather.

'THE PICTURE THAT EMERGES IS ONE OF UNDIMMED ENTHUSIASM'



Spencer Beal 2016 outside the courts

'THE THREE 1922 COURTS HAVE SOLDIERED ON TO THIS DAY'

Considering these deficiencies, Eastbourne's Fives in recent years has been admirable. Spencer Beal's annual reports reveal enthusiasm and achievement at a time when St Paul's were dominating. Eastbourne travelled far and wide (even to America in 1998) and won a great number of inter-school matches, but just failed to win any schools' titles despite reaching a number of finals. There was something outstanding to report most seasons. "Some marvellous individual performances" (1995); "Under 16s unbeaten in school matches over three years" (1996); "Standard at the senior end is very high" (1997); and in 1998: "This has been the best season the Fives Club has enjoyed as far back as memory goes. The 1st IV and U15s won all their matches."

A number of Eastbournians went on to play in the Varsity Match in the 1990s and 2000s, with EW Brooke, MS Bate, AC Down and SJ Adcock all representing Oxford, while PM Shipley, ES Jones, JAT Richardson, PJ Caroe, SE Beal and CK Compton all appeared for Cambridge.

Four of these won British Universities' titles, while six U25 titles also came their way between 2001 and 2005. Back at Eastbourne, Spencer Beal's 2001 report ended on a wry note: "As Mr Wheeler observed, it is interesting to see how well the OEs have done now that they are no longer being coached by us."

A FEMALE FUTURE

Eastbourne continued to produce good sides, and the numbers playing were high. In 2004, the 1st IV won all six school matches and contained a future Cambridge captain in Charles Compton. Michael Sands won the Open plate at the Nationals the next year. 2006 saw the departure of Nigel Wheeler, coach, motivator, tour organiser and morale booster after three decades of service.

In 2007, Sam Adcock won the West of England Singles plate. Simon Beal came to teach at his old school in 2008, and the Common Room was strengthened in 2009 by the arrival of Alex Smith.

It was pride of place to the girls in 2010, as Tessa Mills won the first National Girls' Singles title, while Charlie Dodds won the Under 16 Singles and partnered Tessa to victory in the Senior Doubles. Tessa dominated the Girls' Singles for three more years, also partnering Izzy Why to victory in the 2013 Girls' Doubles. Tessa has now risen to the top of the Women's National Rankings, just pipping her former teacher Kathleen Briedenhann.

The courts were replastered in 2013, and it was the most successful season for 15 years



ABOVE
1998 (back) P Caroe, J Richardson, M Bate, S Beal (all 1st IV). (middle) D Bain (U15), NL Wheeler, SJ Beal, D Hussain (U15). (front) E Pigott, L Kwon (U15)



RIGHT
2003/04 (standing) S Beal, E Selvadurai, J Partridge, N Wheeler; (kneeling) M Sands, C Compton



RIGHT
Girls 2010 Championship squad including a young Tessa Mills

BELOW
Tessa Mills in 2013 after her 4th win in the National Girls' Singles



for the boys, with the 1st IV winning all 10 matches. Chay Kent and Dom Barnes took the prizes at the South-East event and the Senior Doubles Plate at the Nationals.

Spencer Beal retired in 2015 after 23 years in charge. His son Simon has taken over Fives at Eastbourne and his 2017 report tells of continuing inter-house contests, regular school fixtures and entries into the South-East regionals, the West of England and the Nationals. Girls' Fives at Eastbourne is also in good hands with Kathleen Briedenhann, and the courts are in regular use by Tony Hamilton's Tuesday Club.

RFA Club Report

Hamish Buchanan reports on the RFA Club matches in the 2016-17 season



A good year for the Club, with 33 matches and a healthy 18 wins, 13 losses and two ties.

There were close matches – Sedbergh

School winning by three points and Sherborne by five – but the RFA could also grind out the odd victory with six point wins against Cambridge and the West of England, the latter after a striking reversal by Carr and Sulkin: from losing the penultimate game 11-6 to Arnold and Landon they stormed back to win the last 11-3 and the match.

In the annual RFA v WFA at Winchester a very strong Club team levelled the series at three apiece with the largest victory to date: 249-214. With 20 games played this was less than a two point margin per game, so still a very close contest. However, a strong RFA side lost to the students' VI at Cambridge – an indication of how strong the game is at university level.

In February we had the inaugural Edinburgh Club tour, playing against Fettes, Edinburgh Academy, the Caledonian Club at Loretto and a scratch team of mainly ex-EA players at Merchiston. The camaraderie of the five tourists was excellent, the results an even 2-2 split, and the hospitality first class. We'll return next year.

It was an end of an era for the President's Cup, with this being the last time the tournament will be played on the old Merchant Taylors' courts. The tournament was over-subscribed and organiser Gareth Price had the unenviable task of informing a number of players they hadn't made the cut, including last year's champion and Cup veteran Mark Kiteley. The winners were Morgan Spillane and Dan Tristao at somewhat of a canter, but the plates were hotly contested and there were many tired players at the end of the day. We will carry on elsewhere and hope to return to Taylors' when the courts are rebuilt.



The RFA v. the Old Bradfieldians 2016

RFA CLUB RESULTS 2016-17

Opposition	Manager	Other players	Result
Alleyn Old Boys	R.Perry*	J.Aquilina, B.Brookes, J.Heath, T.Hebblethwaite	Loss
Bedford School	J.Denham*	P.Atkinson, C.Davey, S.Endersby, H.French	Win
Blundell's School	M & M.Whitehead*	W.Enstone, N.Geere, C.Hedley-Dent, B.Hitchens, K.Kennerley	Win
British Universities	H.Buchanan	J.Aquilina, J.Bristow, C.Brooks, W.Ellison, D.Grant	Loss
Cambridge 1	A.Pringle*	A.George, G.Price, J.Smith, D.Tristao	Win
Cambridge 2	R.Dolby*	C.Davey, L.Keates, S.Kirby, A.Wheatley	Loss
Christ's Hospital	E.Hatton	E.Hatton, B.Callaghan, J.Callas, K.McArtney, J.Salisbury, S.Thomson, J. Gonzalez, S.Gorman	Loss
Durham	R.Sandie	T.Wakelam, T.Widdop, Alex Wordley	Loss
Eastbourne College	A.Hamilton	A.de Belder, M.Hole, B.Holmes	Win
Edinburgh Academy	H.Buchanan*	R.Christie, N.Geere, K.Kennerley, B.Sandie	Win
Ex-Edinburgh Academy	H.Buchanan	R.Christie, N.Geere, K.Kennerley	Loss
Edinburgh Fettes	H.Buchanan	R.Christie, N.Geere, K.Kennerley, R.Sandie	Win
Edinburgh Caledonian Club	H.Buchanan	R.Christie, N.Geere, K.Kennerley, R.Sandie	Loss
Jesters Strawson	R.Warner	revolving cast of several	Tie
Jesters	W.Ellison*	E.Carr, A.George, R.Lowe, R.Sulkin	Win
Malvern College	H.Buchanan	E.Carr, R.Sulkin, C.Thomas	Loss
Marlborough School	T.Kiggell*	R.Clark, Al.Wall, Ar.Wall, A.Wheeler	Win
OBMs	P.Atkinson*	L.Keates, S.Kirby, B.Kirk, A.Wheatley	Win
Old Blundellians	Richard Dyke*	N.Geere, T.Lewis, A.Rew, J.Wren	Tie
Old Bradfieldians	A.Pringle	A.Steel, S.Stokes, A. Wall	Loss
Old Paulines	M.Bate*	D.Butler, M.Cheveley, J.Davies, H.Jackson, T.Maconie, S.Roberts	Loss
Old Tonbridgians	A.George	B.Brookes, T.Hebblethwaite, A.Hopkins	Win
Old Whitgiftians	H.Buchanan	A.Hanton, B.Hanton, R.Sulkin	Loss
Oundle School	A.Smith	J.Sumner et al.	Win
Oxford University 1	D.Tristao	S.Esin, H.Jefferies, C. McKelvie, F.Thomas	Win
Oxford University 2	E.Hatton	H.Buchanan, R.Sulkin, D.Warner	Win
Sedbergh School	R.Guthrie	C.Breese, G.Page, A.Williamson	Loss
Sherborne School	A.Passey	B.Gunyon, J.Orchard, D.Shepherd	Loss
Tonbridge School	A.Hamilton	B.Atkinson, E.Clark, M.Wilkinson	Win
West of England	E.Carr	A.George, S.Lewis, R.Sulkin	Win
White Rose Club	R.Christie	A.Goodwin, J.Singh, R.Whitehorn	Win
Winchester College	W.Ellison	N.Geere, G.Munn, G.Price	Win
Winchester FA	D.Tristao	O.Arnold, J.Baker, B.Beltrami, H.Buchanan, J.Minta, T.Parker, T. Watkinson	Win

*denotes non-playing manager

Around the clubs in 2016-17

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

ALLEYN OLD BOYS

Hamish Buchanan reports: Another good year for Fives in Dulwich. Tuesday night sessions have been well attended with a strong core of eight to 10 players backed by a further group of some 20 peripatetic players. All four courts were in use on many occasions, which certainly does not imply eight of us playing singles.

We entered the Owers Trophy with the inexperienced pair of Julian Hanton and Rocco Sulkin, backed by the somewhat more experienced Hamish Buchanan. After a surprise victory in the groups over the Old Paulines we progressed to the semi-finals and lost to the Cambridge version of the OPs, the eventual winners. In the Wood Cup, again with an inexperienced team, we had some very enjoyable doubles against Wessex but struggled to claw back a 40-point mauling in the singles and bowed out at the quarter-finals. Singles training is on the summer schedule!

We look forward to more matches in the calendar next season and a few of the popular East Dulwich curry nights!

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY

Ollie Arnold writes: University of Bristol Fives has had a strong year, with success at open level and at BUSF and U25 events. A number of students have come to play for the first time this year – all are welcome!

The BUSF/Ladies' U23s event saw notable successes for Bristol: Inigo Ackland, paired with Cambridge's Jeremy Manger, pushed Cambridge's 2nd pair to the wire in the doubles; Theo Parker and Ollie Arnold narrowly lost out to defending champions Ben Beltrami and Matt Shaw in the final; while Louise Mathias and Southampton's Shinan Zhang finished as runners-up in the Ladies U23s doubles.



A great start to the year at the Yorkshire Open

At open level, Theo and Ollie enjoyed an impressive win in the Yorkshire Doubles, cementing their ranking positions in the top 10. Semi-final and runner-up finishes throughout the season indicate more success to come, hopefully starting with a title defence in Giggleswick!

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL CLUB

Ed Hatton reports: The Christ's Hospital Fives Club has flourished this year with the addition of several new staff members – Stuart Thomson, Siobhan Gorman, Juan Manuel

Gonzalez, Jon Salisbury and Donna Petford. We continue to have other players visiting from the local area.

The addition of a Wednesday afternoon ladder has made singles competitive and hopefully more ferocious! The staff/pupil match was as good-humoured as ever. We only managed one match against another club – the Old Whitgiftians in June. It was a titanic struggle, but ex-pupils Callaghan and Hatton kept their cool to win their matches and scratch pair Spillane and McCartney tied to ensure a pleasing 99-67 victory, which was followed by a lot of food and drink.

Sessions take place on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday and Sunday afternoons – new recruits are should contact ewgh@christs-hospital.org.uk.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Ben Beltrami writes: CURFC enjoyed a successful season, with victories against the Past and in the Varsity Match, where Andrew Boyd and Jeremy Manger put in strong performances. Other players showed their potential in club matches: Elliott Tebboth, Charlie Mabbutt and Charlie Constable played well. Our female players continued to improve, as seen by their positions in the Women's rankings: Georgina Shepherd is 16th and Cassi Henderson 21st. Lottie Simpson has developed her game and performed strongly in the Varsity Match, helping the team to an emphatic win. Matt Shaw enjoyed his best season to date, winning the North West Open Doubles – his first win at open level – and the U25 Doubles for the third year in a row with Ed Kay, as



Triple BUSF winners Beltrami and Shaw

well as successfully defending the BUSF Doubles with Ben Beltrami. Matt, now sixth in the doubles rankings, was deservedly awarded a Full Blue. Ed and Ben also had highly successful seasons, with Ed retaining his BUSF and U25 Singles crowns – defeating Ben in both finals – and Ben gaining his first open title in winning the Winchester Fives Doubles.



Christ's Hospital Club - they've got kit!

DERBY MOOR

Bob Dolby reports: Fourteen seasons in, the Club is flourishing. Several who began playing as schoolboys are now adults, so young players like Aaron Wheatley, Anthony Goodwin, Rob Whitehorn, Craig Baxter and Ashley Hill are regulars at club nights, with occasional visits from Bally Singh, Jai Singh, Lawrence Taylor and Max Frost. We also continue to have schoolboys Dean, Vishal and AR improving their skills by playing regularly against the seniors.

Our location means we play comparatively few matches, mostly around the Midlands and the North. Tournaments form our staple diet: this season we have had players entering competitions from Blundell's to Durham – often doing well. Stand-out performances include the NW Doubles plate won by Aaron and Craig at Manchester, a variety of plates won by Rob Whitehorn at BUSF and U25s, Brian Kirk winning



Derby Moor trio in the Vintage Doubles final

the Singles plate at the Vintage, and Old DMF winning the Owers team plate. But pride of place goes to Stuart Kirby for becoming the National Vintage Singles and Doubles champion – no one could have deserved it more!

We say goodbye to Emily O'Malley as she goes off to Wrekin College to coach Fives and congratulate Rob Whitehorn on winning the Derby Moor Invitation Doubles with George Terry, the climax of our year. And oh yes, Dave Hebden tells us we are 6th in his National Club Singles rankings!

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

Adam Wordley writes: The Club's first task was to host the North of England National Singles Qualifying tournament in November. The Club entered seven players – an indication of the enthusiasm that was to ultimately characterise our season. The tournament proved to be a useful warm-up for BUSF the next weekend where we continued our proud tradition by sending 11 players – the largest team there. On-court success was limited, with two pairs making the doubles quarter-finals.

In January the club enjoyed a victory, defeating a visiting RFA team 141–121. Buoyed by this, the club travelled to Oundle for the U25s. Our involvement was marred by bad luck and transport hitches but the RFA helped with some last-minute alternative travel arrangements. On-court, Christian Blackaby bought home the plate-plate in Durham's biggest singles victory of the season.

The last tournament of the year for us was the North of England Open, where we were given the chance to play hosts on a larger scale. Blackaby again won a plate, this time paired

with ex-captain Sam Russell.

I now pass the captaincy to Alex Wordley. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year at the helm of the Club, who have had a great season, showing that enthusiasm and spirit more than make up for a certain lack of talent. I must also thank Christian Blackaby and Dan Hutt for providing a degree of on-court competence to match their enthusiasm, and I wish the club success for the future – I know its continued spirit is never in doubt.

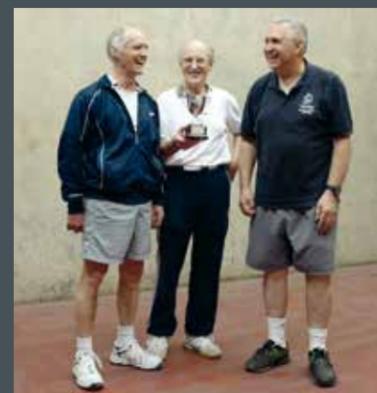
EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY

Ben Jourdan reports: This is a Club very much in the making. We have girls from Rugby and Christ's Hospital at uni here as well as sisters, friends and acquaintances who we are hoping to recruit. It may be necessary to switch to playing on the courts at Edinburgh Academy as Fettes is so far from our students' normal haunts. I hope to attract some interest at the Freshers' Fair next term. But with Fives in Edinburgh flourishing at school level, at the Caley Club likewise, and with Richie Murby coaching it would be great to get a uni club off the ground properly. Watch this space!

EASTBOURNE CLUB

Spencer Beal writes: Sadly this season has been overshadowed by the death on court of one of our most valued and loved players, David Arnold. David had just hit a thunderous right-hand winner to conclude the first game of doubles, commenting "I haven't hit one like that for a while" or similar, when he collapsed from a heart attack. Not the worst way to go perhaps, but nevertheless especially sad as David had only recently retired and was looking forward to more Fives and enjoying the fruits of many years of labour extending and refurbishing his home in Eastbourne. Although arthritic knees restricted his movement on court, when he found himself in the right position one could still see the quality of shot that made him such a successful player in his youth. David was a warm character, always keen to socialise over an after game pint, and we miss his presence every Tuesday evening.

Nevertheless, the club has continued to play every week, numbers and weather permitting, under the enthusiastic leadership of Tony Hamilton. The club's kudos was increased significantly as a result of Tony, paired with Spencer Beal, winning the Masters Doubles. The season concluded with enterprising home and away matches with Lancing College, playing Rugby and Eton Fives, the latter a steep learning curve!



The Masters champions with RFA President Atkinson



Tom and Charles in celebration mode

EXECUTIONERS

Andy Pringle reports: We breed 'em tough in our corner of London. The finals of our two internal competitions coincided with the hottest days of the year. There was no let-up in the heat of the competition, though, with the finals of both going the distance in best-of-three matches.

Tom Webster and Charles Compton won the doubles, while Andy Pringle beat Ben Chua in the singles. This event was successfully run in a new format this year, conceived by Richard Dyke and designed to encourage more singles over the season. First, group stages, where losing players gained points for playing, then a knock-out.

Not for the first time, the club played fewer matches than we'd like. We won't talk about the match against the Old Bradfieldians but we did beat Oxford, the Jesters and the Old Shirburnians.

Tournament success came from the usual suspects. Andy Pringle and Alex Steel reached their fifth consecutive

Mixed Doubles final; Guy Matthews (with a little help from Ben Beltrami) won silverware at the President's Cup; and Andy Pringle retained the Veterans' Doubles.

Our ranks were boosted by Robert Mathias and Charles Rogers but sadly, we say farewell to stalwarts Alex Steel and Malcolm Borthwick.

EXETER FIVES CLUB

Alexandra Steel writes: A very full year for the Exeter Club, with new members and old ones making a comeback. It began with a new adventure: a tri-club tournament with Derby Moor and Malvern Town at Malvern. Many games were played on the slightly damp Winchester courts, some requiring towelling, with players having to adapt their style of play to skip or jump over the towel – thoroughly entertaining for both players and spectators.

In spring there was our tour to Sherborne, co-organised by Nick Scorer. There we enjoyed a super match, split into two groups before immersing ourselves in Sherborne life by visiting the Digby Tap! The evening finished with the traditional Indian meal, where Keith Kennerley was awarded his Club Colours.

Maddy Raynor and Alexandra Steel have enjoyed success this year in the major ladies' tournaments, showing great improvement. Congratulations to Tim Lewis and Keith Kennerley, who acquired their Level 1 Coaching Award.

JESTERS CLUB

James Tilston reports: This season marked the end of an epic Jesters era as Team Akerman organised their final Edinburgh Tour in January. Over the three decades that Frank has masterminded the tour (with Harry only a couple of years less), he has cajoled hundreds of Jesters and overseen countless matches against a variety of Scottish schools, clubs and universities. Never has a Jester returned with fresh legs and never have the players failed to champion our sport and club. This year's tour also saw the election of the first female Rugby Fives Jester, Shinan Zhang – hopefully the first of many!

No doubt Ben Hale and Dave Butler will rise to the gargantuan challenge of filling the Akermans' shoes. They have both been on several tours already and have promised to beat Frank's record of organising 27 themselves.

The Strawson Memorial was an entertaining contest with a blend of new and seasoned Jesters. It resulted, miraculously, in a draw. With one point separating the sides going into the final game, the Jesters managed a thrilling 16-15 win to tie the match 86-86.

In the Cambridge weekend, an experienced team of Jesters faced a strong university side, with youth triumphing over experience. The weekend proved an excellent addition to the calendar and next season's rematch is eagerly anticipated.

MARLBOROUGH TOWN

Richard Clark writes: It has been another thoroughly enjoyable season, with a number of new players joining during the year. This is thanks largely to our chief recruiter John Sanders. John's recruits have lowered the average age and increased the playing standard of the club, which means the old codger members are being given more of a run around. This is a good thing.

We all very much enjoyed the Hughes Cup this year. This was won by newbie Giles Gordon-Smith, with the plate won by club stalwart Adam Brooks and the bowl by



The Marlborough Town annual dinner

newbie James Moore. Congratulations to all, and thanks to Jim Hughes for organising it (as well as to John Sanders for his amusing form guide).

This year saw Tim Brown taking a Marlborough Town team to Watamu in Kenya, and Tom Hillman taking one to

Sherborne in England. Jim Hughes also arranged a visit to Marlborough by the Exeter club, while Tom Kiggell co-ordinated a visit by North Oxford. These visits and trips were great successes.

As ever, we are immensely grateful to Tom Kiggell and to Marlborough College. Thanks also to Bob Davison and Leslie Jenkinson for collecting the subs and organising the superb annual dinner, respectively. Congratulations go to Harvey Carpenter for winning the Hillman Cup, and to this year's winner of the coveted Golden Glove, though none of us in the club can quite remember who it was – including the winner!

OLD BEDFORDIANS

Michael Croker reports: This year's Old Bedfordians v Bedford School fixture was combined with an OBs' Fives lunch where the Head outlined some of the possibilities and potential costs of upgrading our 19th century courts. They have become particularly prone to sweating in these days of global warming! We are in regular contact with the RFA and especially with their Technical Officer, Stuart Kirby, who has been providing advice on options ranging from a limited reflooring to a total replacement.

On OBs Day we had a mini-tournament in the morning at which Mark Lloyd-Williams made a long overdue appearance, contesting an amicable semi-final with the ageless Martin Wilkinson, who duly had to give way to the 50 years younger Chris Davey in the final. Peter Mellor was also in attendance, having made a very welcome return to the school earlier in the year to coach the 1st IV,



Finalists in the OBs annual singles

and Tony Dawes was very sad not to be able to make this event but sent his best wishes. The afternoon match, won by the OBs, saw a final appearance in school colours for Dylan Cox, Jack Hutchings and Logan Jones. We now look forward to seeing them back as OBs, swelling the ranks of the Club and reducing its average age!

OLD BEDFORD MODERNIANS

Phil Atkinson writes: This season has seen a gratifying injection of youth to Monday club nights with the return of two 20-something OBMs augmenting the continued attendance of Joe and Katie Sumner, both of whom once again enjoyed success in various schools' tournaments. Perhaps Joe and Katie's most notable achievement was their joint victory in the Lady's Cup.

Meanwhile, amongst those of more advanced years, Matt Cavanagh won the National Veterans' Singles trophy for the second successive year. Sadly, though, Jim Denham, one of our longest serving members, decided to retire. Formerly a quarter of the legendary OBM team comprising David Hebblethwaite, Geoff Prigmore and Jerry Cooper, Jim's presence (and wit) will be sorely missed.

A very positive development was the installation of new lights, where Stuart Kirby played a key role by providing high quality technical advice. Our thanks go to both Stuart and Bedford Modern School for rescuing us from the Stygian gloom of yesteryear.

OLD BLUNDELLIANS

Alex Rew reports: OB Fives has continued to grow and flourish this year, building on the success of the ever growing Reichwald Trophy organised by messrs Akerman, Enstone and Hedley-Dent. This event draws together a large contingent of OBs who come every year to not only play but to support the pupils of Blundell's school. The handicap system works beautifully and is a great way to give the pupils court experience with a variety of Fives players.

OB's are very proud to have four players ranked in their respective top 20 players, Alex Rew and Jim Hughes equal 17th, Maddy Raynor 3rd and Alexandra Steel 4th. Rew and Hughes are flying the flag for their year group and are playing regularly, most recently in the Veterans – their first time – where they reached the final. Several OBs played in the Winchester Mixed at Bradfield and thoroughly enjoyed it, with Alexandra making the final yet again.

If you would like to join in OB Fives please contact Nick Cumberlege on nicholas.cumberlege@gmail.com.

OLD BRADFIELDIANS

Jez Sinton writes: Despite being dispersed across the country, the Old Bradfieldians have played some matches this year and competed in the Owers Trophy.

Whilst maintaining our traditional fixture against the Executioners we have added a new fixture against the Old Blues, which will be played during the Jesters tour of Edinburgh. This year saw the first match contested, and it brought a resounding victory for the Old Bradfieldians, featuring messrs Butler, Marshall T, Mettam and Sinton against an Old Blues team headed by Guy Matthews.

We fulfilled our commitment to play in the Owers Trophy this year and entered a strong team of Butler, Marshall J and Ronan, which reached the final and pushed the Cambridge OPs to the limit in a nail-biting match. Pleasingly, Dave Butler then added to his silverware by winning the Barnes Bridge with Ben Beltrami – we now hope to see Dave retain the trophy next year on home turf!

OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS'

Prashant Chopra writes: The season was well attended by many of our regular players and spirits have been high, especially with the return of Gareth Price. Prashant Chopra and John Walter in particular 'enjoyed' some considerable suffering at the hands of Gareth and were grateful to see the pace changed up. Bhaswar Baral continues to astound us with his deft touch and it was great to see Justin Cawthorne return after a long absence. Alex Smith had the pleasure of seeing his old school team-mate Rob Carpmael join us.

Off court we celebrated Richard Sutcliffe's 60th birthday on the river and it was wonderful to see old Fives colleagues from around the country.

All in all the club was in good health... until we received news of the closure of the courts: very disappointing after producing many of the country's top players and hosting the President's Cup for decades on four superbly consistent courts. However, the UCS Old Boys have kindly offered to host us and we are now making a very grateful appearance at Fagnal.



Triumphant OPs

OLD PAULINES

Julian Aquilina reports: Recently we've become accustomed to a small group of our players dominating at tournaments, which was true to some extent this year, with Dan T regaining the National Singles and Charlie Brooks defending the National Doubles. Perhaps more notable were the debut titles for Arnold and Parker in Yorkshire, and Shaw (with Kay) at the North West.

The Club's season kicked off with the Cunis Cup – our singles handicap tournament. Brooks emerged as champion in a field of nine, gaining his first victory at this event. For the Owers Trophy we fielded two teams. Though one failed to progress beyond the groups, the trio of Kay, Beltrami and Shaw marched on to secure us a seventh successive Owers title. In the Wood Cup semis, we overcame a tough-looking West of England, setting up a repeat of the 2016 final versus Wessex. This time, however, the OP IV emerged triumphant, reclaiming the title emphatically.

Finally, our own President's Cup. Four pairs took part, including three schoolboys who have become club regulars. Tom Dean and Matthew Cheveley prevailed in all six games to lift the trophy.

OLD TONBRIDGIANS

Neil Arnott reports: OT Fives has gone well this year and, although not stars on the performance tables, we are very regular players with a few wins to celebrate. Our club night functions all year round by kind permission of the School. One or two new possible members have come for a few sessions

OLD WHITGIFTIANS

Nick Woolfenden writes: In February the OWRFC enjoyed its annual tour to the West Country, with a fine combination of Fives, socialising, plentiful eating and drinking, and Six-Nations rugby viewing. Matches were played in Sherborne and Tiverton.

The OWs also enjoyed (tough) matches against the RFA and Christ's Hospital Club. We hope to play games with Tonbridge and the current Whitgift School team over the summer.

This year, we sadly had news of the untimely death of our president, Richard Hunt. He will be missed – a glass or two were raised in his name at the AGM in April.

On a happier note, congratulations



Old Whits and opposition at Tiverton

to OW Tony Hamilton who became National Masters Doubles champion with partner Spencer Beal.

We've been pleased to be joined by several enthusiastic and very capable current Whitgift school players. Please contact nickw5s@hotmail.com for more information about playing with the Club.



The OTs taking on the RFA in November 2016

then no more, but we reckon on between six-eight or more players every week.

Martin Wilkinson remains a loyal regular, but sadly this year did not manage a sixth victory in the Masters Doubles. He continues to set us all a fine example, however, and also helps Ian Jackson with coaching the boys during the Lent term.

This season there were slightly fewer fixtures, but Rupert Mathieu led a team – to a narrow loss – against the Executioners in a fixture we hope to replicate next season. We lost the RFA match, but we did achieve a victory against the school at the end of the Lent term, enjoying a very pleasant evening and meal out afterwards.

As always, additional players who may be in the Tonbridge area are most welcome. We play every Tuesday starting at 8pm, or contact me at neil.d.arnott@gmail.com.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Matt Hale writes: This season we were joined by messrs Miller, McGee, Jessel and Goldsworthy who, with the rest of the club, got stuck in to our hectic cycle of fixtures and tournaments. Highlights were the feisty U25s plate-plate final, where Mckelvie retained the coveted crème egg, and Tom Owen's performance against Matthews' on-court persona in the Executioners match. These excellent contests were good Varsity practice.

Varsity was less successful, but every Dark Blue can be proud of the heart shown. It wasn't looking good after the singles as Beltrami edged past Hale in a well-fought 15-0 but the doubles provided points, including a big win from Muscat and Cranstoun. Unfortunately the Ladies match was just as one-sided, but the Beavers regained the Iron Fist by 180-70.



The Oxford Varsity Squad

UCS OLD BOYS

Chris Blakeley reports: This has been a successful year for the Club, with a notable growth in the numbers playing regularly. Following a pilot scheme, we decided to start playing two days a week, and the Old Gowers now play regularly at UCS on both Monday and Wednesday evenings at around 6:45, and we are glad to welcome players from the Old Merchant Taylors' Club while their courts are being rebuilt. The courts at UCS are still in good condition, though the roof leaks after heavy rain, and unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the Club and RFA, the School shows little enthusiasm for Fives.

There have been two matches – a win against the West of England Club 118-78, and a loss to Malvern 80-103. Old Gowers were represented by Messrs P. Atkinson, Aveson and Marshall in both matches, while Messrs King and Austin played in one match each.

WESSEX CLUB

Harry Akerman writes: We enjoyed another good season on the Winchester courts this year, with our numbers and standard boosted by the fantastically strong Winchester College boys. We have regulars on club evenings ranging from 12 years old through to 77 year-olds (and maybe older... I'm too polite to ask!) and the Wykeham Arms continues to do good business from us afterwards.

This year we also welcomed Rory James Duff after a nearly 20 year break from Fives: he was soon back in the swing of things but sadly needed a mid-season break with a bruise so deep that the colour could be seen on both the front and back of his hand!

A loss against a very strong RFA team by 249-214 was respectable and leaves



The winners of the Letchworth Bowl

WEST OF ENGLAND CLUB

Lionel Lawson writes: The West of England Club has enjoyed a reasonably active season, with 20 members, and turnout for our Wednesday night sessions generally near double figures. Our top two players are Ollie Arnold (12th in the national singles rankings) and Theo Parker (13th), both active on the tournament circuit and winners of the Yorkshire Doubles. Ollie also won the Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles with Tessa Mills. The club has definitely benefited from having such skilful players in its midst and it is good news both will be in Bristol for a few more years.

Matches were played against the RFA, UCS Old Boys and Exeter, none of them won but all enjoyable contests. As was our traditional Christmas doubles tournament, followed by an excellent lunch at Aqua Restaurant, courtesy of Ben Smithson. Ben had a good day, as he emerged victorious with new



Tessa and Ollie victorious

member Sam Dansie.

The club entered the Wood Cup and put together a strong IV of past and present members. Our team of Ollie and Theo, Richie Murby and Tom Maconie made it to the semis with a good victory over the RFA Club but then came up against the eventual winners, the Old Paulines.

We live in hope that the activities of the club will be underpinned by a resurrection of Fives at Clifton College, where at the moment the game has lost the momentum of a proud past.

the series of these highly enjoyable matches tied at 3-3. Wessex also had a good representation on both the Jesters Tour to Edinburgh and for our road trip up to the Barnes Bridge in Sedbergh, where we were very generously looked after by the school. After two years of losing the Wood Cup final to us, the Old Paulines had had enough and so a stronger team including the previously missing Charlie Brooks ensured it would not be three in a row for Wessex.

The final of our end of season Letchworth Bowl competition was, as usual, a tough battle: Andy Passey and his partner, the ever sprightly RFA President Bernard Atkinson, did not make it easy for the eventual worthy winners, Bev Boag and Dave Butler.

WHITE ROSE CLUB

John Hawke reports: As feared last year, the club has, in the short term at least, lost the use of the Halifax courts. The landlords, The Heath Trust, appear to have decided their only option is to increase our rent to a level unsustainable for our small membership. Luckily the courts are

covered in detail in the architectural listing of the Heath site, so it is unlikely they can be demolished. They can, though, easily turn into storage.

On the positive side, we can occasionally play at Giggleswick, as the school is very supportive, although the time taken to get to the courts means a late afternoon start at a time not all players can make. Derby Moor has also offered to let us play on a Sunday.

We have managed to keep up our support of tournaments and matches. In addition to running the ever growing Yorkshire Open, we've sent representatives to the Veterans and Vintage events, kept up our ties with Sedbergh School and the Derby Moor Club, and even sent a pair to play Durham University.

The club will survive for now if only for the reason that certain members are unable to think of other things to do with their time. In the meantime we must hope the landlords see the error of their ways and realise having an income that should easily cover the maintenance and upkeep of the courts is better than have a potentially higher amount that can't be realised.

End-of-Season Rankings

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



ABOVE (top to bottom) Sam Russell in action at St. Paul's; Gareth Price on court at Durham; Theo Parker lines up a shot at Cambridge

SINGLES

Current	Previous	Name	Pts	Current	Previous	Name	Pts
1	2	D Tristao	100.4	32	32	C Burrows	12.5
2	1	W Ellison	94.9	33	-	I Ackland	10.8
3	4	E Kay	66.5	34	21	M Bate	10.6
4	23	C Brooks	56.6	35	-	E Castillo Carbonell	10.0
5	3	D Grant	55.9	-	-	P Maddison	10.0
6	5	B Beltrami	54.8	-	13	J Minta	10.0
7	7	D Butler	47.1	38	-	A Ainsworth	9.7
8	9	J Aquilina	39.5	-	35	C Blackaby	9.7
9	6	M Cavanagh	36.9	40	22	E Hatton	9.2
10	11	M Shaw	31.2	41	25	J Brubert	8.3
11	10	R Murby	29.4	42	34	A Bowden	8.0
12	12	O Arnold	26.6	43	28	C Waller	7.9
13	17	T Parker	24.0	44	47	M Kemp	7.8
14	14	T Maconie	22.4	45	-	I Jackson	7.1
15	8	J Toop	22.3	-	41	F Thomas	7.1
16	19	H Buchanan	21.5	47	50	J Smith	5.7
17	16	P Hanton	20.4	48	44	A Hamilton	5.5
18	26	S Russell	19.1	49	49	J Sinton	5.3
19	18	H Jefferies	19.0	50	54	B Chua	5.1
20	38	B Jourdan	17.1	51	35	S Kirby	5.0
21	32	A Goodwin	16.8	52	43	T Widdop	4.5
22	31	J Tilston	16.8	53	-	J Bristow	4.4
23	27	G Price	16.5	54	29	T Dean	3.3
24	20	A George	15.7	55	-	M Evans	3.0
25	-	A Rew	15.4	-	-	O Quarry	3.0
26	42	R Whitehorn	14.3	57	-	N Geere	2.9
27	29	G Munn	14.2	58	48	S Bhushan	2.8
28	39	T Watkinson	13.6	59	-	H Mahajan	2.0
29	40	N Roberts	13.1	60	52	J Sellar	1.4
30	15	A Boyd	13.0	61	51	M Spillane	1.3
31	35	E Hawke	12.6	62	53	D Fox	0.9

DOUBLES

1	1	W Ellison	99.5	51	T Hebblethwaite	12.2	
2	5	C Brooks	92.2	26	M Kemp	12.2	
3	2	D Tristao	83.1	49	44	I Ackland	11.2
4	3	D Grant	81.2	50	30	M Bate	10.0
5	4	E Kay	75.5	-	-	B Callaghan	10.0
6	9	M Shaw	67.1	-	35	B Chua	10.0
7	13	O Arnold	64.0	-	63	W Enstone	10.0
8	6	B Beltrami	62.4	-	-	A Hanton	10.0
9	10	D Butler	56.6	-	-	D Hutt	10.0
10	11	T Parker	55.2	-	-	I Jackson	10.0
11	7	H Buchanan	54.8	-	-	L Keates	10.0
12	32	G Price	42.4	-	-	K Kennerley	10.0
13	14	J Aquilina	41.2	-	-	B Kirk	10.0
14	34	P Hanton	36.1	-	-	J Manger	10.0
15	14	J Tilston	33.2	-	50	O Quarry	10.0
16	17	A George	32.4	-	-	E Ronan	10.0
17	24	J Hughes	30.0	63	61	B Ashraf	8.7
18	24	A Rew	30.0	51	51	S Kirby	8.7
19	8	T Dean	28.3	63	63	A Wordley	8.7
20	-	A Ainsworth	26.5	66	51	S Bhushan	7.1
21	12	J Minta	24.5	51	51	E Carr	7.1
22	16	R Perry	24.5	-	51	C Davey	7.1
23	17	E Hatton	23.5	-	-	H Mahajan	7.1
24	44	H Jefferies	21.8	51	51	T McCahon	7.1
25	-	J Lee	20.0	-	-	A Scott	7.1
-	-	P Maddison	20.0	51	51	J Singh	7.1
-	29	S Russell	20.0	-	-	J Smith	7.1
-	43	F Thomas	20.0	-	-	D Sorensen	7.1
-	41	T Watkinson	20.0	51	51	T Wakelam	7.1
30	28	R Murby	19.7	51	51	T Widdop	7.1
31	22	A Boyd	18.7	77	61	E Li	6.1
-	22	B Jourdan	18.7	78	35	J Brubert	5.0
-	21	A McCreath	18.7	-	63	E Castillo	5.0
34	44	C Baxter	18.0	63	63	L Cook	5.0
-	38	A Goodwin	18.0	63	63	H Fry	5.0
36	51	C Blackaby	17.3	63	63	A Hamilton	5.0
-	26	A Pringle	17.3	63	63	Z Jopling	5.0
-	20	J Sinton	17.3	63	63	B Mills	5.0
39	41	R Whitehorn	16.6	63	63	G Munn	5.0
40	35	N Geere	15.8	63	63	M Nunes	5.0
41	33	N Roberts	15.0	63	63	T Raikes	5.0
42	-	J Bristow	14.1	63	63	B Smithson	5.0
-	-	N Razumovskiy	14.1	63	63	L Taylor	5.0
-	-	A Wheatley	14.1	39	39	C Waller	5.0
45	30	J Beswick	12.2	63	63	N Whitney	5.0
-	39	E Hawke	12.2	92	87	L Mathias	3.5

Current shows position following: End of Season, May 2017. Previous shows position following: Start Season



Play at St. Andrew's Prep School

The Rugby Fives Association Charitable Trust

John East reports on the Charitable Trust's activities

During its last financial year to 30/9/2016 the Trust received much reduced funds of not quite £2,500, whilst it made grants of nearly £49,000 towards the cost of enclosing the courts at Derby Moor, and a further small grant of nearly £1,300 to reimburse the Derby Moor Club for running costs. It is terrific to see this work completed, the culmination of huge efforts by the leading figures of the Club. The £49,000 was in essence a repayment to the Club of their clear and far-sighted gift policy spread over many years to cover this precise eventuality. They are a model example of a club financing its own needs.



Since the close of the last financial year we have also paid £4,000 towards the cost of reinstating a court at St. Andrew's Prep School in Eastbourne. It is hoped this will also encourage Fives at Eastbourne College since children often move from one to the other.

The reason for the reduced income is, I'm sure, that without a substantial project that needed financing, the normal regular payments are all that the trust receives. When a major project comes along, the generosity of our community comes to the fore. The trust now is left with some £16,000 of

assets, which is not derisory, but nor is it adequate to meet any urgent large need. You will all probably be aware of the efforts and plans of the Eton Fives Association, which are to build up a substantial fighting fund to protect, and to develop, new facilities for their game. The RFA is considering its own response to these issues, and one minor part of this is whether having two separate charities (the RFA and the RFACT) creates confusion and whether they should be merged.

For now, however, the Trust is ever willing to consider applications for grants for large and small projects, although its funds are clearly more limited. A new appeal will presumably be necessary before long to build up funds. Unquestionably, the ability of the RFACT to provide support has been an important factor in helping various projects come to fruition over the last decade; with that ability now reduced, if you feel able and willing to contribute please do get in touch. Equally if you are willing to consider leaving a legacy to the Trust in your will, then please contact me directly or the General Secretary via the RFA website and we will send a template which you can adapt.

Registered Charity No. 1087264 Trustees: J. East, F. Akerman, B. Hanton, C. Niven, A. Pringle and R. Warner



THE NEW LOOK 100 CLUB

The 100 Club was set up in the 1980s to raise additional monies to help support the game of Rugby Fives. A private lottery, its original 'charter' was based on the Betting and Gaming Act 1963 and specifically restricted the number of tickets to a maximum of 100. A review of the rules took place in the 1990s, judging by the typescript and the yellowing pages of the report, but the recommendations were not, for some reason lost in the mists of time, implemented.

Since then the Gambling Act 2005 has come into play which enables us - some 12 years later! - to take advantage of the easing of some restrictions on private lotteries. The Board has reviewed the 100 Club rules and recommends that a new set should be adopted at this year's AGM. The principal changes are that there is no restriction on the number of tickets held in the draw, ticket-holders must be paid-up members of the RFA and prizes will no longer be fixed amounts but based on a percentage of the funds available. This means that with increased membership, prizes could become much larger than previously - £150 was the maximum.

The 100 Club is presently contributing towards the cost of coaching at the Edinburgh Academy and the Board has recommended that 100 Club funds should be devoted principally to promote coaching of Rugby Fives.

Entry to the 100 Club continues to be £12 a year or multiples thereof, payable by standing order monthly or annually. All the necessary forms can be found on the website and take just moments to complete.

This is a fun and highly effective way of supporting the sport. I urge all members of the RFA to sign up for at least one ticket, which costs less than standing one round of drinks after a game!

DAVID PARLBAY

2016-17 RESULTS ROUND-UP

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

SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

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

SOUTH EAST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Singles: D.Tristao
Doubles: A.Ainsworth & W.Ellison

LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

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

OWERS TROPHY 2016

Cambridge Old Paulines

THE LADY'S CUP 2016

K.Sumner & J.Sumner

YORKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Singles: W.Ellison
Doubles: O.Arnold & T.Parker

WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

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

SCHOOLS WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES 2016

Winchester College
(P.Kullavanijaya & A.Song)

NATIONAL STUDENTS (BUSF) CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Singles: E.Kay
Doubles: B.Beltrami & M.Shaw

LADIES U23 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Singles: T.Mills
Doubles: F.Harrison & T.Mills

NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

D.Tristao

RFA PRESIDENT'S CUP 2016

M.Spillane & D.Tristao

WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

U18 Singles: T.Kidner (Winchester)
U18 Doubles: Winchester
(P.Kullavanijaya & A.Song)
U16 Singles: A.Poyntz (Winchester)
U16 Doubles: Winchester
(S.Matvienko & A.Poyntz)

NATIONAL LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Singles: T.Mills
Doubles: K.Briedenhann & T.Mills

NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Singles: W.Ellison
Doubles: E.Kay & M.Shaw

NATIONAL U25S CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Singles: E.Kay
Doubles: E.Kay & M.Shaw

THE VARSITY MATCH

Men's: Cambridge beat Oxford 293-94
Women's: Cambridge beat Oxford 180-6

NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

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

NATIONAL WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Doubles: B.Beltrami & D.Butler

LADIES WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Singles: K.Briedenhann
Doubles: K.Briedenhann & T.Mills

NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Singles: S.Kirby
Doubles: S.Kirby & N.Roberts

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

U18 Singles: T.Kidner (Winchester)
U18 Doubles: Winchester
(P.Kullavanijaya & A.Song)
U16 Singles: S.Matvienko
(Winchester)
U16 Doubles: Winchester
(S.Matvienko & A.Poyntz)
U14 Singles: I.Jochim
(St. Olave's)
U14 Doubles: St. Olave's
(Y.Bleunven & I.Jochim)
U13 Singles: G.Wiseman
(Alleyn's)
U13 Doubles: Alleyn's
(J.Kirwan & G.Wiseman)

NATIONAL DOUBLES 2017 (CYRIAX CUP)

C.Brooks & W.Ellison

NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Singles: M.Cavanagh
Doubles: J.Minta & A.Pringle

NATIONAL MASTERS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Doubles: S.Beal & A.Hamilton

NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT 2017 (WOOD CUP)

Old Paulines

NATIONAL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

U18 Singles: I.Lee (Marlborough)
U18 Doubles: Marlborough
(A.Laakkonen & I.Lee)
U16 Singles: H.Fagan (Rugby)
U16 Doubles: Rugby (H.Fagan & F.Harrison)
U14 Singles: A.Alli (Christ's Hospital)
U14 Doubles: Christ's Hospital
(A.Alli & S.Lambert)
U13 Singles: M.Nugent (Alleyn's)
U13 Doubles: Alleyn's
(K.Innes & M.Nugent)

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Singles: W.Ellison
Doubles: J.Lee & P.Maddison

MIXED WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

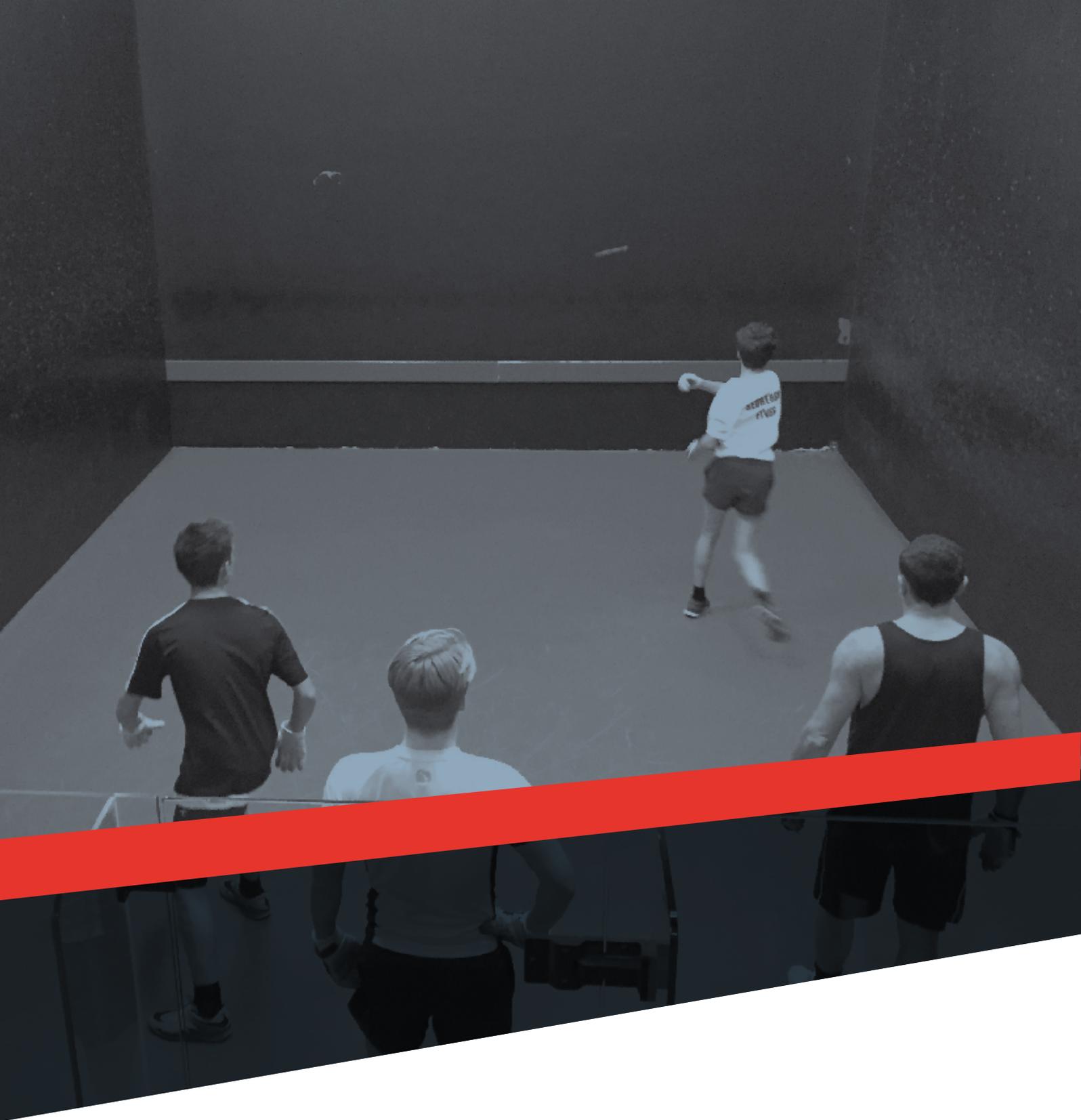
Doubles: T.Mills & O.Arnold

DERBY MOOR INVITATION DOUBLES 2017

G.Terry & R.Whitehorn



John Minta and Matt Cavanagh in conversation at the Vets



Rugby Fives
Association
2017

www.rugbyfivesassociation.net