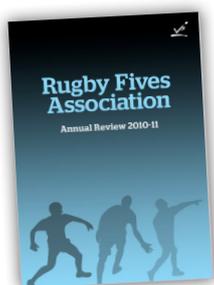




Rugby Fives Association

Annual Review 2010-11





Rugby Fives Association Annual Review 2010-11



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Designed by Michèle Hall 07976 964067 michele.hall@sky.com



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A welcome from the President

As Frank Akerman ends his two-year tenure of office, he salutes some of Fives' greatest supporters

While watching some of the excellent games at Blundell's in the South West Championships, the last of the season's 32 competitions, I couldn't help reflecting how pleased Chris Reichwald (CTR) would have been to see the six courts filled throughout the day by a large and enthusiastic cross-section of all ages. CTR, an Old Oundelian, was a giant of a man in all senses of the word, a much respected schoolmaster and housemaster, an outstanding sportsman, a decorated serviceman and a modest man, whose company was always a pleasure, even if it was on-court trying to find a chink in his near-impenetrable armoury.

In 1939 he won the Schools doubles (Mappin Cup) and was runner-up in the first post-war Amateur doubles (Cyriax Cup) with W.A. Gluck in 1947; in 1948, they won the trophy and CTR was



runner up in the Singles. But for the intervention of the war years, when he was seriously injured, he would surely have achieved even more success.

Inspired by an enthusiast

When I first arrived at Blundell's in 1953 the courts were used only for the nefarious activities often associated with bike sheds and Fives courts. Occasionally, a bare-handed masochist played a home-made version of the game but more likely the court was used to punt around a football.

There had been no great tradition of Fives at the School, although the first mention of a problem with balls and broken windows is in the 17th century and it is perhaps surprising that the current courts were built in the 1920s. A few matches were played in the 1930s, but until CTR arrived in 1954 the game was essentially moribund.

Simply by dint of his enthusiasm, Fives started to flourish and by 1959 the school had won the Mappin Cup. Now, nearly 60 years after his arrival, Fives continues to prosper, and there must be an optimistic message here for other underused courts. Individual enthusiasm will always remain vital, but perhaps the RFA is now also better organised to support local initiatives,

'Dickie Warner's Presidency comes at an exciting and exacting time'

and plans are well advanced to develop a nationally recognised coaching qualification, understood by the head of sports in all schools. (We are looking for volunteers, and anyone interested should contact Andy Pringle.)

Pursuing ideals

Over the years, there have been a number of 'CTRs'. Foremost among them was Tom Wood and we are still well short of many of his ideals, including taking an RFA Club team to every court in the land each year.

Ian Roberts, whose obituary appears in this Review, has been a huge loss, and now David Barnes – whose contribution to Fives is incalculable – has decided to step down from the Board, although he will continue as the Association's archivist. His knowledge of the game is encyclopaedic, and his support at all levels (and in all weathers!) has been constant over at least 50 years. We can only thank him for all he has done and hope that the high standards he has always set will be maintained by the Board.

Dickie Warner's Presidency comes at an exciting and exacting time: the RFA is very lucky to have such a committed and active advocate for the game. In the next two years, not only will there be a drive to reinvigorate the game in schools where it has declined, but there are also far-sighted plans for the Fives Federation, which in turn could lead to a transformation in the prospects for all three codes of Fives.

The Rugby Fives Association 2010/11

President **Frank Akerman**
 Deputy President **Dick Warner**
 General Secretary **Andy Pringle**
 Treasurer **Ian Fuller**
 Club Manager **Hamish Buchanan**
 Directors
David Barnes
Paddy d'Ancona
David Gardner
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Chris Horrocks CBE
Stuart Kirby
Adrian Lee
Ian Roberts (part-year)
Alex Smith
Alex Steel (part-year)
Melanie Whitehead (part-year)

www.rfa.org.uk

October 2010
Rugby School's
courts opened

A packed gallery (below)
sees four Old Rugbeians
play the inaugural match



November 2010
Oswestry School's
court refurbished

TOP Single court repaired
thanks to old boy's generosity
RIGHT RFA members warm up
for their demonstration match



December 2010
James Toop wins
National Singles
Championship

He also becomes the first
player since Wayne Enstone
to win three titles in a row





2010-11: The year in pictures

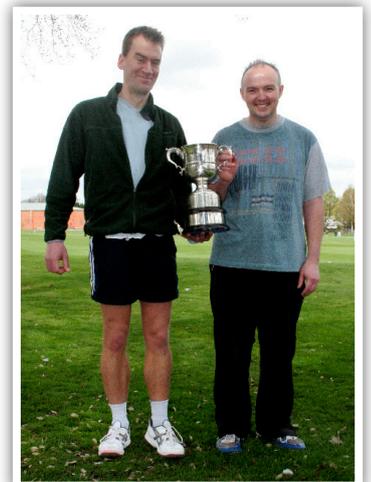


April 2011
RFA Dinner at
The Queen's Club
Almost 100 guests from
all over the UK attended

January 2011
Alley's courts enclosed
and refurbished
Now a far more pleasant venue
for players and spectators alike



January 2011
Claire Knowles wins her 10th
Ladies Singles Championship
Now just one short of Paula Smith's record



April 2011
Buchanan & Perry win
National Doubles title
Their eighth championship in a row

Men's Season Review

2010/11 was a season when the champions came under increasing pressure

It has been another vintage season, but a slightly strange one. Observers would be forgiven for thinking that it's been very open, yet the results show that only four players reached Open singles championship finals.

Unsurprisingly these four – James Toop, Will Ellison, Dan Tristao and John Minta – top the singles rankings at the end of the season (see p28). And, perhaps the reason for thinking it was such an open season was that no one player dominated, with James, Will and Dan all winning titles.

That said, at the start of the season, it looked as if it would be 'The Will and James Show'. Will beat John to take the South West title in July, but then James and Will played out the next three finals: the London, West of England and National Singles Championships.

In the first two, it was Will who came up with the goods, and it's fair to say his win at Merchant Taylors was viewed as something of a shock – but nothing like the shock at Clifton. At

MTS, he'd come out of the blocks flying and simply blitzed James off the court, but in Clifton it was very different. James looked like a different player, hitting Will hard in the first game and going on to match point in the second.

However, Will staged a remarkable comeback, nicking the second game and going on to take the deciding third against a shell-shocked opponent.

Sadly for Will, though, there was to be no repeat in the Nationals. From the off, it was clear that this was James's day; Will played magnificently and was gracious in defeat, but he had no answer to James on the day.

This win saw James cement his position as one of the most successful Rugby Fives players ever. By winning his third title in a row, he became the first player since Wayne Enstone to do so; and, with his fourth title, he moved to second equal in the list of all-time winners, level with Eric Marsh and John Pretlove. Only Wayne has won the title more often.

After Christmas, with James moving on to Eton Fives, Dan Tristao stepped up to fill the 'vacancy', and he took the North West and North of England Open Singles Championships – beating Will in Manchester (and again at the Under 25 championship) and John in Durham.

A case of history repeating

The final event of the season was the Scottish Championships, and as if to complete the circle, it was again John and Will who played out the final – with Will claiming the silverware.

Don't, however, think that this season was totally dominated by these four. On the contrary, several players have shown themselves as real stars of the future – and perhaps none more so than Luke Thomson. Winning the Plate at the National Singles Championship while still at school was remarkable.

Elsewhere, the Caledonian Club's Johnny Major deserves credit for reaching two semi-finals, while BUCS champion Dan Grant can also look back on a successful season, adding three Open semi-final appearances to his student title.

Plus, of course, one could always rely on the 'old guard' of Hamish Buchanan and Matt Cavanagh. The two former National Champions were always a force to be reckoned with, and regularly figured at the sharp end of championships, although neither reached an Open final all season.

For Hamish, there was some consolation in the National Veterans' (over 45) championships, where he retained his singles title, and went on to take the doubles title with Bruce



LEFT For the third year in a row, the National Doubles finalists were (L-R) Robin Perry & Hamish Buchanan, and Will Ellison & Marcus Bate



Hanton – a remarkable win against Wayne Enstone and Neil Roberts.

Coming of age

In the older age groups, more seasoned campaigners again proved their mettle. Wayne won the Vintage (over 55) Singles against Ian Fuller, before Ian gained his revenge, teaming up with Jeremy Schroeter to claim the doubles title against Wayne and Tim Lewis. Last, but very definitely not least, in a Masters (over 65) Championship where the competitiveness of the players belied their age, David Bawtree and Bernard Atkinson pipped Douglas Rice and Bev Boag to clinch their fifth title.

Also sealing a national title again were Hamish and Robin Perry, winners of the National Doubles Championship for the eighth successive time. This puts them within sight of a couple of records: Wayne and Neil Roberts' nine consecutive wins, and Ian Fuller and Dave Hebden's ten wins in total.

That – with wins in the Yorkshire and North of England championships – ensured that Hamish again finished the season on top of the doubles rankings. However, what is remarkable is that, for the first time since the end of the 2003/04 season, at one point, he wasn't on top. Instead, following wins in the South West and London Open Championships, Will Ellison took over the number one spot in the doubles rankings, ending a six-year run for Hamish in the top spot.



'At the start of the season, it looked like being the Will and James Show'

Indeed, it was a tremendous year for Will in doubles, starting with a win in the South West Championships and including more titles at the Merchant Taylors, Giggleswick and Manchester tournaments, as well as defending the Winchester Fives Doubles title. What's also remarkable is that these titles came with several partners – Marcus Bate, Hamish and Hal Mohammed.

Just as in the singles championships, though, plenty of others performed very well. Andy Pringle and Tom Dean were reached the final of the London Open, while John Beswick and Neil Roberts rolled back the years to finish as runners-up in the Yorkshire Open, and Dan Grant and Ady Lee scored a

TOP Old Paulines (L-R Tom Dean, Dan Tristao, Ady Lee, Charlie Brooks) with the Wood Cup
LEFT Old Wykehamists Will Ellison and Hal Mohammed won three doubles titles in 2010/11

fine win over Phil Bishop and John Minta to reach the final of the North West Open – and then went just as far in the North of England championship.

Also showing great promise in doubles this year was Dan Tristao. Having scored a shock win over James Toop and Marcus Bate to reach the semi-finals at the London Open with Gareth Price, he went on to win the Under 25 title with Dan Grant and then the North of England Championship with Hamish Buchanan.

Another Old Pauline also making headway was Charlie Brooks, a semi-finalist in Clifton and Manchester, as well as in the National Doubles Championship, where he and Hal pushed the eventual champions hard.

With so many young Old Paulines in such strong form, it's no surprise that their team dominated the club events. They scored a comprehensive win over the Alleyn Old Boys to win the Owers Trophy, and then ended the Manchester Y Club's five-year run of National Club Championships to win the Wood Cup for the first time.

It was described by Phil Bishop as 'a coming of age', but can the OPs dominate the game as the Y Club has recently? Watch this space...

Ladies' Season Review

The increasing number of girls playing the game bodes well for the future



It has been another fine season for Ladies' Fives, with both the quality and quantity of players increasing, some new champions, and the continued success of the School Girls' tournament ensuring that we will have a strong body of players to take the game forward in the future.

This year, we also welcomed a new member to the RFA board, with specific responsibility for the Ladies' game. Alex Steel is looking forward to the challenge and replaces Melanie Whitehead, who has stood down after several years' sterling service.

Alex is already well known to everyone within the game and has



'Claire will have no lack of challengers in the future'

a fine record in competitions; plus, if you want any further indication of her resolve, consider that this year she was voted 'Most Competitive Player' by the her club, the Executioners.

What's more, she comes into the role hot on the heels of claiming her first national title. At Winchester College in March, she teamed up with Anita Ganguly to win the Winchester Fives doubles title, overcoming a strong challenge from seasoned campaigners Emma Howie and Melanie Whitehead in the final.

The singles championship at the same competition also saw another first-time winner: Kathleen Briedenhann. She was introduced to Fives at Eastbourne College, and has gone from strength to strength this season, claiming her first title after a titanic battle with Alex in the final.

Mind you, this wasn't the pair's first tussle this year, as they had already met in the semi-finals of the Rugby Fives championships at St Paul's in January. Here, too, it was the same

result as in Winchester – a win by the narrowest of margins for Kathleen.

However, the final proved a step too far and she was dispatched – as so many others have been before – by Manchester's Claire Knowles, who continues to dominate the Ladies game. Her unbeaten run in the competition extends back to 1999, and given the manner of her win this season, that run looks set to continue well into the future.

As is now almost traditional, Claire also added the doubles title to her singles championship. Again, she has won this title since 1999, and this year teamed up with Melanie (as she has done since 2000) to take the championship with a comprehensive victory over Alex and Anita.

What Claire can be sure of is that there will be no shortage of challengers to her titles in the future. The second running of the National School Girls' Championships – and the strong showing by girls from Eastbourne and Sutton Valence in adult competitions – proved that beyond all doubt.

Played at Marlborough College in May, the School Girls' Championships saw girls from six schools (including three new entrants this year – Rugby, Blundell's and Marlborough) take part. There were lots of competitive games, and tremendous strength in depth, with the winners' trophies shared.

On an individual level, Marlborough crowned a great day with the Senior Doubles Title, while Rugby's U16 girls also did very well to take both Singles & Doubles titles; Eastbourne's Tessa Mills fought hard to retain her Senior Singles Title, while Louise Matthias (last year's U13 winner) had an inexorable march to the U14 singles title without losing a point. She beat Alice Smith of Blundell's in the Final, but as she is actually U13, that represented a very impressive performance from her too.



TOP Winchester Fives Doubles champions Alex Steel (L) and Anita Ganguly
CENTRE The players in the second National School Girls' Championships at Marlborough
BOTTOM 2011 National Doubles champions Melanie Whitehead (L) and Claire Knowles

Universities'/Under 25s' Review

The strength of today's young players is already worrying established stars

Some might expect this to be a piece that focuses on 'stars of the future' or some such, but nothing could be further from the truth. It says something about the strength of today's young players that we're not talking about rising stars here, but risen stars. Many of the names in this piece have already been mentioned in the review of the Adult season.

Mind you, that's hardly a surprise. This season ended with the Under 25 singles finalists – Dan Tristao and Will Ellison – second and third in the national rankings, and BUCS singles champion Dan Grant also in the top 10. It's the same story in the doubles game, with all four of the U25 finalists (the two Dans and Will, plus Hal Mohammed) in the national top 10.

Scan the results of the Under 25 championships and you'll see the names of players who regularly figure at the sharp end of open tournaments. The singles semi-finalists were Messrs Tristao, Grant, Ellison and Burrows, and all four would cause anyone in the adult game a worried moment if they were drawn to play them.

If you're looking for stars of the future, then you need to look at the earlier rounds of this season's U25 championship. The quarter-final line-up included the likes of Peter Hanton and Inigo Ackland (both at Durham University) and Cambridge's Ed Kay, all of whom show that the Under 25 singles title will be fiercely contested for years to come.

There's strength in depth, too. Alongside the relative 'veterans', Ed Ronan and James Marshall, the Under 25 doubles quarter-finals included Durham's Jay Gravatt and

Kit Ward, Alleyn Old Boy Adam George, and the ex-Malvern pairing of Dan Murray and Steve Coffey.

All had performed well in the 2010 BUCS Championships, but for all their efforts, the story of student Fives this season has been the resurgence of Cambridge University. Buoyed by an influx of talented freshers, they went on to win the Varsity match for the first time since 2006, as well as scoring notable success at the BUCS event.

Indeed, it was only the return of Dan Grant to UCL and student-hood that stopped Cambridge scoring a notable double. Playing in his first BUCS event as a student, Ed Kay performed extremely well to reach the singles final, beating Inigo Ackland and Chris Burrows on the way.

True, Dan was clearly the better player in the final, but with a year's more experience under his belt, Ed will come back an even stronger player next year. That much was obvious from his showing in the doubles final (and later in the season, when leading from the front in the Varsity match). He and fellow Old Pauline Tom Chase came through a hard-hitting clash with Durham's Peter Hanton and Charles Leggett to take the title.

Overall, it's perhaps fair to say that Durham had the greatest overall depth in their squad, with four Singles and three Doubles quarter-finalists, but we can learn two lessons from this season's student Fives: first, the 2011 BUCS championships could well be the most closely contested yet; secondly, and even more importantly, the future of Rugby Fives is in very safe hands.



'The story of student Fives this season has been the resurgence of Cambridge'



TOP Tristao won his third U25 singles title. **CENTRE** The teams at the Varsity match. **BOTTOM** Durham's Hanton and Leggett, BUCS doubles runners-up, and singles winner Grant (left)

Schools' Season Review

There were plenty of positives this season, says David Barnes



With two exceptions – the delayed reopening of the Alleyn's courts, and the unavailability of players from at least six schools for the Nationals – this was a most encouraging season. The new courts at Rugby are already proving their worth; there was a healthy entry and a good standard of play in all RFA Schools' events; and ideas are circulating about regional contests to provide more exciting and appropriate challenges for the average player without detracting from the elite. The Colquhoun Trophy, for schools in the South-West, gives a possible template.



In competition, Christ's Hospital were the dominant school at Senior level, winning both singles and doubles at the West of England and the Nationals, with left-hander Thomson the outstanding player and A. Mathias his reliable partner. They were unable to enter the Winchester doubles, won by the home team of Kennedy and Baines, who lost to them two months later in the West of England final. The other singles finalists were Frost of Derby Moor (West of England) and Edmonds of St Paul's in the Nationals, where he and his partner were doubles finalists, as they were at Winchester.



The Colts' events were unpredictable, with a strong Under 15s group challenging the year above them for honours. Outstanding performances were recorded by Wyatt-Haines of Blundell's (National U16 winner), Shaw of St. Paul's (West of England U16 winner), and Wylde and Ganendra of Winchester (U16 doubles winners in both). Others to shine were Brubert and Browett of Alleyn's (National U16 doubles finalists), unable through illness to enter the West of England, but almost redeeming their school's unlucky season at the very end of it.

The Under 14 Championships were as well supported as ever, and the quality of play was impressive. Blunden and Whitehorn from Derby

Moor contested a marathon singles final, with Blunden the eventual winner, and Tonbridge produced a surprise by getting both pairs into the doubles final, with the first pair Webb and Langham emerging as the winners.

The Under 13 event had a smaller entry than usual, and the outstanding school was Pilgrims', with winners in singles and doubles. Alleyn's were

'There was a healthy entry and a good standard of play in all Schools' events'

runners-up in both, and there were also good players from Blundell's, Merchant Taylors' and Rossall.

A big 'thank you' is due to organisers, host schools and masters-in-charge and coaches. David Goodwin, to whom there is a tribute elsewhere in this Review, has stepped down as organiser of the entry and draw for the National Schools' after 34 years' service.

Two long-serving masters-in-charge have also passed on the baton: Charles Swan, who has kept the flag flying at Merchiston for two decades, and Peter Gray, who has travelled widely with his Malvernians in his 20 years in charge.

Also moving on are Tom Root, who has made Rossall a force to be reckoned with; Chris Thomas, who introduced the game at court-less KCS and is now joining Malvern; and Ed Brooke, who began to re-establish Fives at Radley and wrote a brief history of Fives at the College and 'Playing Fives', a booklet for beginners, in a three-year burst of energy before zooming off to America.

Finally, there is exciting news from Denstone College. A coaching day, given this summer by Dick Warner, met with an enthusiastic response, and the school is reintroducing Fives into its mainstream games structure.

TOP National Colts doubles champions Wylde and Ganendra (Winchester). **CENTRE** Christ's Hospital were the dominant school at senior level. **BOTTOM** Sam Wyatt-Haines (Blundell's), U16 National Singles champion

School reports

Right across the country, boys and girls of all ages are enjoying the game

Alley's School

Problems with enclosing the courts meant Fives was only played full-time from the second half of the Lent term.

Our 1st IV was weaker than in the past, but the U16s remain strong and we have good talent at U13 and below. Let's hope that they stay keen.

In the Nationals we had a lower than usual entry, but reached the final of the Colts Doubles, won the U14 Plate doubles and were runners up in the U13 singles and doubles.

We look forward to a full season in new courts and to attracting more boys – and girls – in plusher surroundings!

Ian Fuller

Bedford Modern School

This has been the end of an era for a group of keen players. Led by Matthew Leydon, they have played regularly for the school, and it is to their credit that they have given so much time to Fives.

We have had two fixtures on our own courts against Bedford and Oundle, both close-run affairs won by BMS.

We have a few players in years 7–10 who will hopefully continue the fives-playing tradition. The courts will continue to be open and available for anyone to play on Fridays after school.

Philip Smith

Bedford School

With an expanded fixture list and increasing interest, we have had a fairly successful season. Coaching from David Mew has also contributed significantly. The year did not start well, but the spring term showed more promise with a victory over an RFA team and further wins against Rugby, Oundle and Eastbourne. The mainstays of the 1st IV have been Chris Davey, Dan Sorensen and Stanley Chiang and, since Christmas, Archie Egar. The 2nd IV, meanwhile, have enjoyed an excellent season with only one defeat.

Michael Croker

Blundell's School

We had another productive season, with well over 100 pupils involved.

At the National championships, the highlight was Sam Wyatt-Haines becoming National Colts' champion, while Amy Cross won the U13 cup and Blundell's won the U13 doubles cup at the School Girls Championships.

Proudly we had wins in every match against other schools, and the seniors played competitively against adult sides.

I thank Bertie Matthew, Johnny Nelmes and Paul Rivett, and Wayne Enstone for his continued involvement.

Chris Hedley-Dent

Christ's Hospital

It is no hyperbole to say that this has been the school's most successful season at senior level – thanks to a very strong 1st IV, and in particular the leadership of captain Robert Mathias and our best ever player, Luke Thomson.

Apart from his dominance of the schools' scene, Luke finishes with an unprecedented singles ranking of 12.

The challenge is to build on this. There are promising signs at U14 level, where Louise Mathias cohered a talented side, and the U16s were also impressive, led by Chay Kent and Andea Gemade. There will be rebuilding work, but for now the leavers' efforts should be admired.

Ed Hatton

Derby Moor

Our focus is on tournaments, and in January, our biggest contingent went to the West of England Schools, all at least a year young. The highlight was Max Frost making the U18 Singles final.

We sent two players to the U13 Championships, and in the U14s, Matt Blunden beat Robert Whitehorn in the final, before they lost to the eventual winners in the semis of the Doubles.

Our numbers are small, but the boys are keen to play. Anyone after a contest should look at www.derbymoorfives.org for more information.

Bob Dolby

Eastbourne College

The girls take centre stage, with Tessa Mills winning the Open Singles at the Girls' Nationals for the second year.

The boys' teams have had a mixed season, but the future is bright and the U15 team shows considerable promise.

Finally, a mention about continued improvements to the courts. After improved wiring/lighting, the walls are soon to be completely re-plastered. Next up, new courts, hopefully!

Spencer Beal

Bradfield College

It has been very satisfying to see a core of talented, committed first-years take up the game. Seniors Stuart Cummings and David Butler have become the plate doubles kings, and they – with Oliver Layton and Sam Scott – formed a competent IV. They have inspired the Junior School, and will hopefully continue to do so. Both David Barnes (who I thank for his help) and I are encouraged by this resurgence. Long may it continue!

Jeremy Ball



The senior squad inspired the juniors, and no less than six competed in the U14 Nationals

Edinburgh Academy

This year saw the start of a more structured programme for the Colts and Junior teams. This, with their hard work and relentless enthusiasm, led to the best ever season for Colts at the Academy. The highlight was the Colts Scottish Schools' Championship where both Academy pairs reached the final, with captain James Balfour and Ruaridh Smith taking the title.

Although the Junior team didn't match this great success, there are many positives. More youngsters than ever are playing fives, with the many newcomers fighting for a place in the team. With a year of experience, next season promises some good results.

Ed Cumberlege

KCS Wimbledon

The season began at the Winchester Doubles, where Dan Aldham and Josh Whittaker did well to reach the semis. Dan also played well at the West of England Schools with Arthur Goodwin.

In term, the new U15s remained keen despite some heavy losses, and the 1st Team scored good wins over Alleyns, Merchant Taylors and Christ's Hospital.

In June, we played our first match against the Old Boys. This marked 10 years of KCS Fives and my departure to Malvern. The OB team was too strong for the school, but fantastic weather, good friendship and a delicious tea made it an afternoon to remember.

Chris Thomas

Kelly College

Sadly, one court has been converted into a climbing wall, but it regularly flooded anyway. Of the other two, one is an ex-Winchester court and, while the other is a Rugby court, a swallow moves in each year, and terrorises us.

This year younger pupils have played in their activity sessions, with the third form playing as part of the Duke of Edinburgh programme. Opportunities for older players are more limited, but a couple have played with the Deep West Club, and were not put off by the eccentricity of some club members.

In matches, sweating courts at Blundell's seemed to make the game more interesting for some. Then, at Sherborne, an inauspicious start in the Singles was redeemed in the Doubles.

Nick Geere

Merchiston Castle School

This has been a season of success and commitment from all players – a fitting end to my 24 years as coach at the school.

The Senior side was led by Peter Legget, an exemplary captain. He and Patrick Baker made up the first Pair. They played with few mistakes, showed real persistence, and won points through patience and clever, imaginative shots. They were a joy to watch and were able latterly to overcome adults reasonably comfortably. They won the Edinburgh Fives Championships for the second year in a row and were right up there with top pairs of the past. They were well supported by the second Pair, Matthew Watson and Angus Paterson. They developed

their game well and were much sounder by the end of the season.

Of the Senior team's 14 matches, they won eight and lost six, but won all their school matches. The Caledonian Club were defeated – twice – as were Edinburgh University and the Merchistonians. Sadly we couldn't play the Jesters at first-team level and, just as unfortunately the first Pair could not compete in the British Championships, but a very enjoyable trip to Sedbergh resulted in wins for the Seniors and Colts.

The Colts have shown a lot of promise and keenness. They lost once to a good Edinburgh Academy side but defeated them in the return. The Juniors too worked hard to improve their game.

Charles Swan



Charles Swan (right), who has retired this year after 24 years as Fives coach at Merchiston Castle, with his last First IV

King's School, Bruton

Fives continues to thrive in a small way, played by a small group of aficionados, whose enthusiasm (mostly) offsets their inexperience.

Morale was high at the start of term, higher than the standard of our play as it turned out. We didn't win any of our matches – against the RFA, Sherborne and Blundells – disappointing, but reflecting our inexperience.

Appearing were: Florian Singhoff – the captain, Arslan Aliev, Stephen De Mora, Ed Deaney, Lloyd Wallace, James Wilcox, Ruslan Zenyalov, Yuki Kawamoto and Adam Benton.

Charles Oulton

Loretto School

Fives continues to make advances and we were able to field both Junior and Colts teams. As a consequence, the fixture list was slightly extended and, as usual, the school enjoyed the visit of the Jesters and the opportunity to join in the Edinburgh schools competition.

Once again the flag was carried by Simon Whait, whose game developed considerably during the year. He did very well to reach the quarter-finals at Sherborne but was ill at the National Under 14s, so not at his strongest.

With an enthusiastic intake the sport can continue to grow next year.

Roger Whait

Malvern College

The 1st IV results against schools – played 9, won 8 – must be among the best of any recent Malvern side.

The highlight of the year was the tour to the South-East with fixtures against Eastbourne, Sutton Valence, Christs Hospital and Tonbridge.

In competitions we were delighted that Jamie Killick (undefeated in singles this year) won the Colquhoun Trophy and Shi Nan Zhang once again reached both the U16 singles and doubles finals at the girls Nationals.

After over 20 years running the Fives at Malvern I am delighted to be able to hand over the reins to Chris Thomas who will be joining us from KCS.

Peter Gray

Marlborough College

Wins were hard to come by this season, but there was good interest in the game, giving us something to build on.

We were thrilled to host the girls' nationals, and even more thrilled that Laura Jardine Paterson and Louisa

Treadwell won the U18 doubles trophy. Clemmie Keyes won the U14 plate, and I hope this inspires the younger girls.

The boys' highlight was the West of England, when Alex Frosell and Bertie Heath played their best Fives to push the eventual winners hard in the semi-finals of the doubles. The U15 group enjoyed a hard-fought internal ladder, and competition for team places was fierce; if this is sustained, it should improve everyone's play.

Tom Kiggell

Oundle School

We enjoyed another challenging and spirited season on the Pickard Courts, with winter matches against Bedford and Bedford Modern an ideal platform. Led superbly by Captain Tom Hoskins, we notched up wins against Radley, Rugby and Eastbourne. Once again, the School's fixture against the Old Oundelians was a particular highlight.

Meanwhile, the U16s continue to grow with experience after strong outings against Rugby and Allyn's,

and the U14s are playing with enthusiasm and increasing skill following two wins over Derby Moor.

We were also delighted to host the BUCS Championships, and to welcome back a number of Old Oundelians.

Michael Case

Radley College

Edward Loftus proved a real star for the U14s and encouraged the other players admirably. In the Shell singles competition, he won comfortably.

The Colts won against Merchant Taylors and Malvern, and lost to Winchester, but most of the time supported the firsts, who were lead wonderfully by George Fox-Edwards. He has proved a great captain and his play has refined considerably, capping off a great career by making the semi-final of the Plate at Nationals.

So, 1600 miles on the road, lots of fun, lots of games, lots of pizza, and a few wins as well – in our terms a successful season!

Ed Brooke

Rossall School

Rossall had one of its quieter years, although, at the West of England, Alexander Lewis won the singles plate and the U13 Nationals saw the doubles plate retained, this time through David Trapnell and Chase Mills.

As I leave, I look back on an incredible five years, with so many people to thank for helping Rossall thrive in this fantastic sport. Our Gap student pairing of Ashley Lumbard and Sam Newby were again brilliant, while Old Rossallians Phill Brown and Ian Preston's support is outstanding.

A new Director of Sport brings a new vision, and where Fives will fit in we'll see. That said, Mungo Winkley, new Master in charge, will fight for Fives.

Floreat Rossallia

Tom Root

Rugby School

What a marvellous first year in the new courts. The pupils have taken to the game well, and there is real pride here.

To win the National U16 girls' singles and doubles might have been enough, but Marcus Hunter's fine victory in the National Colts' Plate and a string of wins over more experienced schools have made 2010/11 something special.

St Paul's School

In tournament fives this year, our only victory came early on: Matt Shaw won the Colts singles at the West of England tournament.

For the Nationals, two of our top four who had missed the West of England – Nick Edmonds and Theo Parker – were now available. Theo showed how much he had improved by comfortably defeating Derby's Max Frost. Nick then wore down Theo to reach the final, where he battled to the end against a superbly accurate and hard-hitting opponent.

Despite our regular successes at senior level, it's five years since we won the National Colts singles. Matt Shaw was pre-tournament favourite, having beaten all the other seeded players during the season, but it was not to be, as he lost in the semis. Yul Kahn-Pascual nearly produced the upset of the tournament, but lost in a mammoth three-game quarter-final to the eventual winner.

The Under 14s showed great strength in depth – with a powerful top 12 players who show enormous potential. With Tonbridge, Derby

Moor, Winchester and Bradfield all strong, we had tough matches, and look set to have stiff competition for this year group for the future.

This year was the first for some while without Mr King in charge, after he decided to stand down. In honour of his long devotion to Fives at the school, the Old Pauline Fives Club organised the 'King Cup' – for the winner of the school U14 singles competition. The first winner was Tristen McFarlane.

Sam Roberts



Peter King and the first winner of 'his' trophy

Fixtures included Bedford, Derby Moor, Oundle, Radley and Tonbridge, and we won more than we lost.

Francesca Ruffell and Hannah Hawkesley may take pride of place, but Hunter and Harry Mallinder both impressed a year young in the Colts, and seniors George Terry and Tris Edwards were more than respectable.

Trevor White

Sedbergh School

As many as 25 boys turn out for practice regularly, and the number of beginners bodes well for the future.

This year saw losses in some fixtures, but with three of our 1st IV in Year 10, things may be different in the future. As usual we enjoyed fixtures against John Guthrie's Dalesmen, but perhaps the highlight was Tonbridge's visit, and we would love to hear from other schools interested in visiting.

At the Nationals, we were pleased to win the Doubles Plate, but we will be back next year to make a successful assault on the main competition!

Finally, this year girls will be playing – and taking part in their Nationals.

Jon Lidiard

Sherborne School

Our Senior IV (Alex Mitchell, George Gordon-Head, Jamie Smart and Ed Dance) showed great improvement on last year and won against King's Bruton, Marlborough and Kelly.

In the Colquhoun Trophy, Jamie was second in the Open competition, and at the Nationals, he reached the quarter-finals of the plate, which will provide him with valuable experience.

Over 20 boys play regularly and half represent the school. Most are in their first year and show much promise.

I am delighted by our growing fixture list and an increasing number of boys playing – long may it continue!

Nick Scorer

St Dunstons College

The season started amidst heavy snow which caused real problems. When the delayed RFA match took place, Tony Hamilton let captain Malachi Connolly beat him. After that, the first team had a mixed season, but the introduction of youth in Eddie Jones and Conor Strutt-Clare looks good for the future. The U15s were our most successful

Tonbridge School

This year we say goodbye to an exceptionally good group, many of whom plan to play at university and beyond. But they helped to a vintage year and perhaps appropriately, as it was my twenty-first year in charge.

The club was led by an inspirational captain, Alfred Ainsworth. He won the Schools' singles at Rossall and, with Nick Whitney, the plate at the Schools' Winchester Doubles.

Eight senior players also had a delightful weekend tour to Rossall and Sedbergh.

Over the term all three U14 teams were unbeaten, with the As coming back to beat St. Paul's by three and, in the last match of the season, the Bs doing the same to beat Winchester by two. At the Nationals, the U14 doubles final was between Tonbridge I and Tonbridge II with Elliot Webb and Harry Langham beating Mide Segun and Hamish Nolan.



In a vintage season for Tonbridge, the U14 National Doubles final was an in-house affair

However Fives here is much more than just the top few players and with over 60 boys playing, the game is in a healthy state.

Ian Jackson

group, with an improving Finbarr Sida-Murray backed by Andy Rogers. We must develop more U14 talent, but Tom Owen is an excellent prospect. I thank Andy Pringle and Chris Burrows for their work and can report that Rugby Fives is going strong at SDC.

Rick Bodenham

UCS

UCS has always had an interesting approach to Fives. It's a sport that a select few stumble on if they are utterly useless at the grandiose sports of football or rugby AND didn't get a sick note. However they soon become (roughly speaking) finely tuned athletes; and the shouts of 'turning' can be heard around the school.

However this season has been very limited – by a tree falling onto the roof of the courts. Happily, repairs have been made, and next season should fire on all cylinders. Maybe, we'll even have a match for the first time in years.

James Clifford

Whitgift School

My 'bottom up' development for Junior fives is beginning to pay dividends. I run four teams, and my Seniors have played several matches. With star Colt

Elliott Mack playing, we had some close results, but he can only rarely play. At the Nationals, we left with a medal: the 2nd Plate U16 for Thomas Walters. Fives is a minority game here, but the enthusiasm of the merry band of 20 is most rewarding. Long may it continue!

Nick Morgan

Winchester College

This season, there was a certain level of hope and expectation and I am delighted that both were exceeded.

James Kennedy and Nick Baines convincingly won the Winchester Fives Championships, and at the West of England Tournament Edmund Wylde and Jerry Ganendra won the Colts' Doubles. They continued their streak by winning the National Colts Doubles.

In matches, we played 29, won 22, lost 6 and drew 1, with U16 wins over St Paul's and Alleyn's leading to the first unbeaten season for Winchester U16s. The U15s were also unbeaten, while the U14s were involved in some of the closest matches, five of their 11 games won or lost by 10 points or less!

It has been an excellent season and I would like to thank Jamie McManus and Christopher Berry for their help.

Giles Munn

RFA Club Report

Hamish Buchanan looks back on his first 12 months as Club Manager



This has been a transitional year for the Club. Ed Hatton has been assisting me, and in the future, he will look after schools matches and I will cover the club and university ties.

Together, we have revamped the fixture list, and at least 12 new match managers have been signed up.

This year, there were 18 wins, 9 losses and 3 ties. One noticeable trend in the victories was an ability to overturn a deficit in either the singles matches or, in the absence of singles, the first round of doubles – surely down to the experience and stamina of the seasoned Club player.

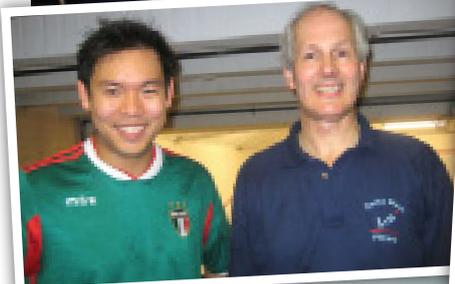
Possibly the stand-out victory against the Club was when the Old Whitgiftians scored their first win in this fixture for as long as your correspondent can remember.

The first of the three ties occurred at the Strawson memorial match, where Dick Warner orchestrated two 7 a-side teams from the St. Paul's balcony. After singles, doubles, more singles, games to 15 and 11, nobody knew whose side they were on, partners changed and, incredibly, it ended up a tie.

Many thanks to Gareth Price and all at Merchant Taylors for a splendid President's Cup. Congratulations to Clive Butler and John Minta who won the Cup, with John achieving the rare feat of successfully defending the title.

A final thank you to all the opposition teams for their flexibility and hospitality. I hope next year will see more matches played, but be at least as successful with regard to enjoyable fives and good beer.

If any clubs or schools are without a match and would like one, please contact myself or Ed to arrange one.



President's Cup highlights: (clockwise from top) winners Butler & Minta, plenty of R&R, plate winners Price & Russell, Burows & Parker, Lee & Kirby and (bottom left) Joan Wood and David Barnes

Club Reports

From Sparrows to Jesters, the game is thriving all over the country

Alleyn Old Boys

A dramatic, and at times traumatic, year for the AOBs began last summer, when the courts were closed for building work that included re-roofing, enclosing of the back area of each pair of courts and – here’s the traumatic bit – resurfacing the floors and painting the walls.

After some initial teething problems, the final re-opening occurred in February, which did not leave much of the season left to play many matches, two wins and a tie being the tally at the end of year.

The good news is that, although some older players may bemoan the loss of ‘our beloved old courts’, we do now have four bright and modern-looking courts, where spectators can watch in comfort and the future of Fives at Alleyn’s looks pretty good.

Hamish Buchanan

Bank of England

Unfortunately, the Bank of England’s fives section’s ability to meet as vibrant a fixture list as in previous years was heavily curtailed by two factors this year. First, a series of injuries to key players – some long-term – depleted the section’s strength. And second, the courts had fallen somewhat into disrepair, with the roofs continuing to leak. Nevertheless, the section still managed five fixtures, recording a creditable three victories.

The lack of extra-section competition was also mitigated somewhat by the continued existence of our highly competitive singles ladder, on which places have been chopping and changing all season.

Happily there is also light at the end of the tunnel. Players are recovering from injury, if not growing younger, and having agreed with the Bank a funding plan to pay for the repairs, the work has now been completed.

Iain de Weymarn

Caledonian Club

This season saw the step-down of our long-serving Captain, Simon Fraser, after 14 years in charge. We continued to share court time with Edinburgh University, which has helped ensure a more reliable turnout. Everyone was delighted to see the Fettes courts refurbished, and we are grateful to the school for our continued use of their facilities. We played several matches against Merchiston, and the Jesters’ visit again proved a highlight. Four Scotland-resident players took part in the Scottish Open, with Simon Hodgson winning the doubles.

Practices resume in September, and if you would like to come along, or know someone that might, do get in touch!

Jonny Major

Cambridge University

With the return of Messrs Kelly, Reid and Brubert from injury or year abroad, two very good freshers, plus the returning Elliott Malone and Luke Rowland, the outlook was positive.

We entered BUCS for the first time in a few years and competed in three finals, with freshers Kay and Chase winning the Doubles. However, one fixture makes or breaks our season, and we won the Varsity match for the

Derby Moor

Our biggest success was Clive Butler winning the President’s Cup, but Richard and Clive lost the final of the Northern Winchester tournament.

We played Cambridge twice, and in the Wood Cup DM I had a good match against Executioners II and a one-sided match against Manchester.

The most major event is that rebuilding is in progress. We are planning to enclose the courts and possibly build a pair of 1-wall courts.

Bob Dolby

first time since 2006. Finally, I would like to thank Oundle for our use of their courts, Peter Reynolds, our Senior Treasurer, and finally Bob Dolby for updating the website and running the Past versus Present fixture.

Charles Compton

Christ’s Hospital

The Wednesday ‘Fives at 5’ club continued throughout most of the year, and the club was graced with the regular presence of the current upper sixth form superstars, chief amongst them National Schools Champion Luke Thomson, and club captain Robert Mathias. The respective universities of this year’s 1st team will undoubtedly be champing at the bit to acquire them, particularly that old place out in East Anglia in some marshland...

Matches were played against the Old Whitgiftians and Eastbourne amongst others, and the evenings produced an eclectic mix of Old Blues and pleasant entertainment throughout. Long-time regulars such as Ross ‘Big Right Hand’ Stuart and Stephen ‘Impossible Reverse Angles’ Walsh continued to thrill the (occasional) spectator, and we still strive to achieve our ambition of fielding a team for the club knockout!

Ed Hatton



Stuart Kirby, as ever, having a blast on court

Durham University

Durham Fives has increased in strength with six freshers joining the healthy club. The BUCS championships saw some promising results; Charles Legget reached the semis of the singles, and with Peter Hanton narrowly lost the doubles final. Our previous winners Alex Griffiths and Inigo Ackland lost in the semis, but showed particular grit, especially Alex who was carrying a shoulder injury.

Early in the new year, the Fives team played the Jesters in Edinburgh, while later at the Under-25s championship, Kit Ward and Jay Gravatt won the doubles plate.

Our final fixture was a win against St. Pauls' – a strong end to a season which bodes well for the future.

Peter Hanton

Edinburgh University

The highlight of the year for all the players up here, as always, was definitely the Jester's January tour, which seems to condense more fives into a whirlwind weekend than the rest of the year combined. Other than the weekly sessions with the Caledonian Club, the staple of all Edinburgh fives players are the regular matches against the boys at Merchiston School on cold and wintry Monday nights. Sadly this was Charles Swan's last season in charge of fives at Merchiston and his contribution to Scottish fives will be sorely missed. The Scottish Open brought with it the usual tough competition from south of the border but, despite a small entry, the doubles tournament couldn't have been closer and was an excellent end to the season in Edinburgh.

Ed Cumberlege

Exeter Rugby Fives Club

Another year of near misses and creaky bones but the "fab four" of Watson, Lewis, Rew and Savery continue to work on their games and the new roofs are reducing their ability to blame the courts for lack of practice! Now joined regularly by Nick Austin and Wayne Enstone they are having to work extra hard to keep standards up and welcome newcomers every Wednesday evening at Blundell's Courts, Tiverton from 6 o'clock.

Alex Rew, Secretary

Executioners

Great news this year. We can now claim a national champion in our midst: Alex Steel, who (with Anita Ganguly) won the Ladies National Winchester Fives doubles title.

Other club members doing well include Dick Warner picking up the Vintage singles and doubles plates, and Richard Dyke put in a sterling performance in the President's Cup.

Again, our first side lost in the club championship semis to the Y Club. Our second side lost at Derby, but deserve great credit, for the manner of their loss and for enduring several hours in the car with Guy Matthews.

We also confirmed our position as London's friendliest club, hosting many pilgrims from Alleyn's while their courts were being refurbished.

Several more new 'friends' were also made at our annual socials – in a Clapham pizza restaurant at Christmas and then in Barnes in July, for Guy's speech and prizegiving.

Andy Pringle won the singles ladder, Ed Hatton and Tafara Golding won the doubles title, and Alex Steel was voted 'Most Competitive Player'.

We would have a picture of the winners, but for one problem: Guy is yet to buy the prizes to give out...

Andy Pringle



The players in the Executioners annual doubles tournament at St Paul's show shocking disobedience

Jesters Club

The Jesters season got off to a fantastic start with the Strawson match with the RFA. As always, it was a high-quality affair, but this year was remarkable for the broad range of ages turning out,.

This year's tour to Scotland saw over 20 Jesters playing 19 fixtures in just three days! The focus is on playing the schools, offering experience to the youngsters, and promoting Fives, but it is also a test of endurance for those playing. So, thanks to Frank and Harry Akerman for their organisation and encouragement to those most in need.

The other fixtures were also mainly against schools and universities. This is especially important against those without extensive fixture lists, and this year we are adding at least three more schools to the list, a trend I hope will continue. These games provide crucial motivation to keep students playing Fives after school.

Charlie Brooks

Marlborough Club

The club has enjoyed another excellent year. The number of regular players continues to grow, with club nights on Sundays and Wednesdays. November brought our annual fixture against the college, and earlier this year we held the inaugural Hughes Cup singles competition, organised by Jim Hughes and won by Jamie Davies after a thrilling final with Tim Brown.

The new Saunders League provides regular singles competition, and we have begun to play Eton Fives. This has been driven by our leading lady player, Melissa Cole, who played in the ladies and mixed championships at Eton.

Tom Kiggell also arranged a trip to Bradfield to try Winchester Fives, and the season finished with the annual dinner, which was as glittering as ever, with more awards than is strictly necessary, including the prestigious Golden Glove and Hillman Cup.

Richard Clark

Old Blundellians

The School are having a very successful year with some headline wins but the overall standard has improved considerably over the last few years leading to some very enjoyable Fives on OB Day for The Reichwald Trophy.

The Courts now have new roofs courtesy of TRE Lewis construction and the OB Club itself has undergone a positive change with the introduction of Ed Cumberledge as Club Secretary, Andrew Wyeth as Treasurer and Alex Rew as Club Captain.

Ed is very organised and keen to arrange more matches with more

players so please contact him if you are an OB or if you would like to arrange a fixture against the OB's. ecumberlege@googlemail.com

Alex Rew

Old Bradfieldians

Unfortunately due to a low number of active Fives players, the Old Bradfieldian Fives Club has stalled. This is therefore a 'cry to arms'! Any OBs who are playing or want to play Fives please contact Jeremy Sinton (jeremy.sinton@mediacom.com) or visit the OB Fives Club Facebook page. This year, the Old Bradfieldians

only played one match – against the Executioners. Chris Thomas, Jeremy Sinton, James Marshall & 'a filler' for Ed Ronan (who had broken his hand) tied the match, leaving the Old Bradfieldians 'undefeated' for the year!
Jeremy Sinton

Old Merchant Taylors

We meet on Wednesday evenings, and this year have welcomed not only new players, but also some talented former players. Dan Grant and Gareth Price have been ever-present on the national tour, although neither has broken the tournament duck for OMT... yet. However, Dan won the U25 Doubles, John Walter got to the semis at the Veterans, and recently Bhaswar Baral got his tournament boots on again to travel to the South West. Away from fives, MTS has had four 1-Wall Handball courts built, and an OMT Handball club is due to start. Lastly, a brand new clubhouse has opened next door to the fives courts, with changing facilities and a well stocked bar. This will be great news at the President's Cup, but we hope it will be crucial in recruiting recent leavers. As ever we hope our practices will ring with the sound of balls being hit on all four courts...

Gareth Price

Old Tonbridgians

We meet on Tuesdays for social fives, often joined by boys from school and playing on Rugby or Winchester courts.

Our season runs from October to June, commonly extended through the summer depending on the enthusiasm of members and the temperature!

In the Autumn we had a fixture against Old Whitgiftians, but our usual enlarged fixture, against Eastbourne, was postponed due to bad weather.

I am delighted to welcome Duncan Batchelor and am hopeful of Guy Harrison rejoining us having left the School about seven or eight years ago. New players are always most welcome, so please just e-mail or call me if you want to join in.

Neil Arnott

Old Whitgiftians

By the time you read this the Club will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Richard Hunt, our President, was at the first meeting and our most recent

Manchester YMCA

As Manchester is such a remote place, very few know what's happening up north. However, we're delighted to report that the club still exists, despite being knocked off its perch in the Wood Cup this year.

Next year Wayne Enstone will be putting the team through extra fitness classes. They say John Beswick collapsed at the thought and only revived when Brian Nithsdale said he'd get a round in.

Claire Knowles continues to win everything and anything, and is the club's last 'Untouchable' – beating all-comers without losing a point. And, John Minta has inherited the mantle of the club's oldest player on the circuit at the top of the game.

Marco Skogh and Matt Bowness continue pushing John hard on court, and rumour has it that David Fox has been seen. It's also nice to see Phil Bishop back and we hope to see more of Ben Taberner this year.

More encouragingly, it is good to know that the Club has a good dozen new regular players, and there is intense rivalry between Matt Wade and Dalton Lewis, as well as between Mark Roberts and Richard Ingram.

We boast an Irish Handball player in Damien Connolly, and perhaps the most improved player this year is Wayne Harrison.

We've been told that Fred Beswick is unwell, and everyone will send him and Shirley their best wishes. Meanwhile, the other local Eminence Grise Geoff Sherratt continues to support the club.

The Club has welcomed a number of visiting teams, including Leeds, White Rose and Derby Moor. The club is very grateful to them for making the effort. In the meantime, Fives at the YMCA remains indebted to John Beswick as Club Secretary, Social Secretary and prime mover and shaker. Long may it continue!

Kevin Henry



(L-R) John Beswick, John Minta, Phil Bishop, Marco Skogh - runners-up for the Y Club at the National Club Championship

AGM! If you've lost contact, now is the ideal time to re-establish connection. We play most Thursdays and welcome anyone. For details, contact Nick Woolfenden (nickw5s@hotmail.com).

This season, South East opposition included the RFA, Old Tonbridgians, Christ's Hospital, Eastbourne and the Jesters, and we also played Sherborne, Exeter & Tiverton Clubs and West of England on our annual tour. Finally, Ed Hatton won our delayed 2009-10 singles competition!

Nick Woolfenden

Radley Manuals

It has been a quiet year, in which we played only one fixture – against the College. However, it was a heartening affair. The arrival of Ed Brooke has seen a marked increase in the quality of fives and this year was no exception. It was also great to see Graham Spensley back on court at Radley after a 20-year sabbatical from Fives in France!

The Manuals' have slowly been building numbers and I hope to get more fixtures in the diary next season.

Finally, on a somewhat sad note, Ed has now left Radley, but I would like to thank him for all his efforts. He leaves Radley fives in a good state - a state I hope will be built on in years to come.

Tom Maconie

Southampton University

It has been a quiet year, with just three regular players making the trip to Winchester every Tuesday. Whilst there were no official fixtures for the University Team, Ben Hale and Stephen Coffey represented the Wessex Fives Club several times.

The BUCS competition was the highlight, where Edward Ward and Stephen Coffey did well to reach the later stages of the plate competitions, and Stephen won the Singles plate.

We say farewell to Ben Hale and Edward Ward who have been stalwarts of the club. Highlights of the past three years have been the unofficial Socials, with Hale in particularly fine form.

Stephen Coffey

Wessex Club

Another busy year on the Winchester Courts with our usual mix of ages and abilities – 51 players in total during the year. Several boys from Winchester

Old Paulines

The OPRVsC enjoyed an extremely memorable season with victories in both team events of the year. After regaining the Owers Trophy, which we last won in 2008, the club went on to put an end to the Manchester Y Club's five-year hold over the Wood Cup. The teams at both events typified the current state of the club: a youthful core with a dash of experience. Congratulations to

the players at both events: Adrian Lee (captain), Alan Beverly, Charlie Brooks, Dan Tristao, Henry Jefferies, Sam Roberts and Tom Dean.

The Thursday evening club nights have also been well attended, and with a growing fixture list, the club is looking in good shape. We look forward to enjoying the season to come and the challenge of defending two trophies.

Tom Dean



Peter King (second left) chats with his Old Pauline proteges after their first ever win in the National Club Championship

College also regularly joined us. We had several excellent club matches, but the highlight of the year was our win against Alleyn Old Boys in the Wood Cup quarter-final – by only four points. 28 players competed in our end of season tournament for the Letchworth Bowl, with Toby Marshall and Jamie Orchard beating Martin Patterson and Will Akerman in the final.

Harry Akerman

West of England Club.

We enjoyed another active season with a mix of matches, competitions and real ale at the Port of Call.

Our club singles was won by Kevin Brice, and the Christmas Doubles by Simon Maskell and Chris Waller. Simon Werkshagen, our captain, had qualified for the final, winning his qualifying games single-handedly, but withdrew, saying doubles competitions shouldn't be won by individuals!

We had a good game against a strong Wessex side in the Wood Cup, but faded away towards the end of the doubles. Our training routines will have to be re-examined!

We also congratulate Chris Waller,

who left Clifton last year and played for Oxford University.

We re-group in mid-September, and anyone in Bristol wanting to play should call me on 07974 670742.

Lionel Lawson.

White Rose Club

The untimely death of Ian Roberts has left a huge hole at the centre of the club. He will be missed by all at Halifax.

Our members show the flag far and wide, but time is catching up with many of us: more than half qualify for the Veterans, a few for the Vintage, and one for the Masters. Not tied to a school, we have no natural source of new players, and the steady supply of students seems to have dried up. However, we managed to field a team for the Wood Cup, losing to the eventual winners in the quarter-finals.

Elsewhere, Bob Sandie won the North of England Winchester title and the doubles plate at the Veterans', Tim Widdop won the Derby Invitation title, and Paul McIntyre won the plate. Paul's father, Grem, won the doubles plate at the Scottish Open.

John Hawke

Go West, Young Man

Peter Dunscombe on 36 years at the West of England

I thought my first involvement with the West of England Championships (WoE) was in 1966 when I played while at Clifton. However the RFA has no records of my participation!

The sixties was a golden era for Clifton Fives, with great players such as John Bretten, David Spence and Chris Bascombe followed by two of my contemporaries, Tony Dixon and Alan Brown, who won the schools' doubles.

At the RFA AGM in 1975 Dave Hebden asked me if I would take on the event as I was moving back to Bristol. I accepted and the rest is history.

Bristol was well endowed with courts at that time – 13 in all – so it is sad that there are now only four at Clifton. However, it was fortunate that these courts were available as the tournament grew and grew. By the mid-eighties, we often had over 70 competitors in the singles and almost 40 pairs in the doubles.

To complete the event, we used the courts at both Bristol Grammar School and Colstons so I had to rely on help from the likes of Peter de Winton. As

I always played in both the singles and doubles, it left me exhausted!

As the courts were withdrawn so the size of the tournament declined. However, almost 10 years ago when Clifton pulled down their 'new' courts and Bristol could no longer accommodate us, Mike Cleaver came to our rescue and offered us the facilities at Sherborne. Happily, we were able to return to Clifton when, with a grant from the RFA Charitable Trust, two of the 'old' courts were refurbished.

Over my 36 tournaments, Wayne Enstone has to be the greatest singles champion, winning 13 times, while Fuller and Hebden won the doubles 11 times. The longest tournament was in 1978 when David Barnes and Jeremy Schroeter beat Steve Ashton and Tony Wynn – at 10.15pm on the Sunday evening. The worst moment was when David slipped, was concussed and ended up in hospital, and the most exciting final was the 2010 singles match between James Toop and Will Ellison.



Peter Dunscombe (left) at the end of his final West of England Championships in 2010

I am delighted that Simon Werkshagen has agreed to take on running the WoE, and I know he'll do a good job, but I look forward to being around and maintaining contact with the Fives world at future events.

Schools' leaver

David Barnes looks back on David Goodwin's time running the Schools' Championships

In 1977, David Goodwin took over running the National Schools' Championships at his old school, Whitgift, on the retirement of Charles Whyte, his former housemaster.

David had played in the event in 1961 and captained the team the next year, going a long way in the singles, before winning three half-blues at Oxford.

The Championships moved to the new courts at St. Paul's in 1980, and the luxury of supervising from a warm indoor balcony may have helped persuade the organiser to continue in his role. Alastair Mackenzie also



David Goodwin (right) with Michael Beaman

took a hand in the 1980s, but David, although busy teaching at Chigwell, continued to play a vital part, sending out entry forms, organising the draw and supervising when available.

This invaluable contribution to Schools' Fives was to continue for 34 years, although David would be the first to say that he could not have done it without help: particularly from Peter King, who has now taken on David's role in full; and from Michael Beaman, RFA General Secretary for a decade, who helped to successfully introduce the Under 14 competitions from 1995.

Ian Roberts (1956-2011)

Ian Roberts was at Giggleswick School from 1969-74 and was engaged in writing the official history of the School at the time of his premature death. Thus it was entirely appropriate that his funeral should be held in the School Chapel, where the congregation heard two fine tributes and witnessed his coffin borne out by members of the White Rose Rugby Fives Club.

Ian's article on Fives at Giggleswick, written for the RFA Handbook in 1999, was typical of the man: scholarly, enthusiastic, humorous. He was passionate about Fives and rejoiced in its eccentricities. He enjoyed discovering that 'Gig' had first built Eton, then Winchester, and lastly Rugby Fives courts, and that these last had been deliberately designed with a floor sloping from front to back for better drainage, despite the fact that they were also provided with roofs.

Ian had a highly successful school career, before winning an Exhibition to Queen's College, Oxford, to read History, graduating with First Class Honours. No doubt just as important in his eyes, he also played Fives at Oxford and got into the Beavers team to play the Cambridge Sparrows.



Ian (second left) won the Love Mug for the first time in 1987, partnered by Cliff Dare (left)

After Oxford, Ian chose to go into the law. After qualifying, he worked in Leeds for Simpson, Curtis and Booth & Co, and then as a partner for Irwin Mitchell in Sheffield and London. He specialised in corporate work, at which he showed both brilliance and his own inimitable tenacity, from which the RFA was later to benefit.

In the five short years that Ian was on the Board, he was one of the most effective directors, co-editing the joint RFA/EFA Annual Review, attending almost every meeting, providing a venue for some of them, advising on any matter requiring legal expertise and, in what turned out to be his final

legacy, working tirelessly in order to win Charitable Status. In addition, he was for years the organiser of the Heath Old Boys Open Doubles in Halifax (later named the Yorkshire Open with a move to Giggleswick). And then there was the White Rose Club, whose affairs Ian organised, undertaking a typically meticulous correspondence with Calderdale Council to ensure that the courts were kept open and maintained.

Ian derived huge pleasure from the White Rose Club's wins in the Wood Cup in 1991 and 1994. Then there were various triumphs in the plate competitions at the President's Cup, an event of which Ian was a great supporter: the Love Mug in 1987 and 2006, and the Mate's Plate in 1999. And lastly there was the Scottish Open Doubles win with John Minta in 2007, his first Open Doubles title.

Everyone who knew him will miss Ian: his family, his school and university friends, his law colleagues, the many people he came across in his historical researches, and, in a very special way, all those involved in the administration and playing of the game he loved.

Brian Dance (1929-2011)

Brian Dance was Headmaster of St. Dunstan's College from 1973 to 1993, two decades in which the school's Fives players won more championships than did the representatives of any other school.

No fewer than 16 National Schools' titles – eight Singles and eight Doubles – were taken by Dunstonians in that period, the second 'golden age' of Fives at the College.

Described by a former pupil as 'a source of immense strength, wisdom, leadership and kindness', Brian Dance was an ever-present Headmaster who led by example. He supported the whole range of the College's activities, and it was a rare Fives match which

did not receive an enthusiastic visit at some stage of the afternoon, however cold and blustery the weather.

For many years, St. Dunstan's hosted the annual representative match between the RFA and the British Universities, and tea with the Dances afterwards was a regular feature of the day. Their son David, who learnt his fives at Bedford School in the 1970s, became Universities' Doubles champion in 1983/4 and played in the match that season.

Brian Dance was elected a Vice-President of the Rugby Fives Association on his retirement from St. Dunstan's in 1993, in recognition of his unstinting support for the game.



Rugby School Fives

David Barnes looks at the game in its spiritual home

The opening of the new Fives courts at Rugby School in 2010 brought to an end more than 20 barren years at the School which gave its name to one of the codes of Fives. It was in 1989 that the decision was taken to remove the existing courts, and to build the Design Centre on the site.

It is tempting to assert that Rugby Fives was ‘invented’ at Rugby School, just as Eton Fives was first played at Eton College. But the plain-court game, with no buttresses or steps, has a history which is harder to trace, because of its very simplicity. We can say, however, that Rugby was among the first – and the most prestigious – schools to play the game on an organised basis, and that its pupils came to prefer its directness to the intricacies of the buttress games of Eton and Winchester, and to any version of the game played with a bat.

The School records ‘Fives’ being played in the early 19th century with hands and bats in areas not originally intended for such games. In 1900 H.C. Bradby wrote: ‘When it first came into existence we do not know, but given a wall, a paved ground and a boy, one may be fairly safe in conjecturing that some sort of Fives will be played. The buildings completed in 1816 afforded, unintentionally no doubt, special facilities for the game. There were two specially suitable places known in the Thirties, at any rate, as the Great and Little Fives Courts.’

In a letter to his father dated October 1st 1813, a young Rugbeian named TJ Churton wrote: ‘Our most fashionable game now is Fives, which has been principally brought in by the Quadrangle, where there is good room to play, as also against the end of the School towards the play-ground, and in the great School. I am very fond of it, tho’ not yet very expert. It is a very good exercise, and makes one warm without putting one out of breath.’

Thomas Hughes, who went to Rugby in 1834 and himself excelled at sport, refers several times in ‘Tom Brown’s Schooldays’ to Fives and the Fives court. And another early witness to the game was EH Bradby, writing in 1839: ‘As to our games here, there are none besides cricket, football and fives. At the first I have played twice, at the third, never.’

Bat Fives and handball

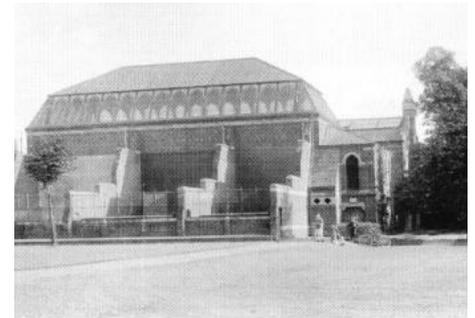
John Inglis, long-time researcher of Fives at Rugby and master-in-charge from 1957-67, writes of this early period: ‘The Fives he (Bradby) notes was Bat Fives played against the west end of School House by senior boys who could afford a new bat when they broke one; and he would have been one of the fags at either side employed to retrieve the ball when it went out of court. More primitive games of handball were played in the cloisters round two sides of the Old Quad and, in particular, in the porch leading in from the street which formed an almost enclosed area with ledges at different heights. To the relief of pedestrians, the reconstruction of the Chapel caused Bat Fives to move to the South side of the Rackets Court where the Rev. LF Burrows had paid for the paving of a court.’ Thompson, the local maker of bats, was also no doubt much relieved as this development ensured the continuation of his business.

The first two formal, (uncovered) four-walled Fives courts at Rugby were built in 1860 on the north side of William Butterfield’s 1859 Rackets court. They may well have been the first Fives courts to be designed by a famous architect, and they cost £235. On what were they based? Very close by in Rugby, there was already a sizeable four-walled Fives court (34 ft long by 22 ft wide) at Thomas Bloxam’s private boarding school. Rugbeians could use that court for hand-Fives, and some masters wanted to copy its



dimensions, but the eventual decision was to experiment. One court was to be much wider, and the narrower court was to have a small buttress on the left-hand wall, based on the advice of Old Rugbeians at Oxford.

It soon became apparent that neither court was particularly suitable for hand-Fives as Rugbeians saw the game. By one of the ironies of sport, and in a very English fashion, it was the space between the two courts that emerged, once paved, as a compromise solution. This court was about as wide as Bloxam’s; but the plans, unearthed by historian Ian Roberts in the City of London Metropolitan Archives, show it was 10 feet longer than a modern court. Doubles was probably a better game than singles here, but both were played. The sheer length of the court must have required quite a hit for the ball to reach the back wall; and when it did, the doors in the side walls at the back to permit access from one court to the next must have made the ball even harder to dig out of the corner.



LEFT A view Of Rugby School In 1854 showing Bat Fives being played against the school walls
ABOVE The 1860 Courts, as they were in 1900
BELOW Fives Bats In Rugby School Museum

Close inspection of the 1900 picture seems to show that another, slightly higher back wall was built in front of the doors to shorten the court, make the game less exhausting and remove one element of chance.

This court soon had rivals, as two Eton Fives courts, paid for by masters, were built on to the east end of the Rackets court in 1863, and two more went up the next year. Plenty of masters played both games, but a preference emerged for the plain-court version, and in 1875 there was a plan to convert the two partly redundant Butterfield courts – the larger one now dubbed ‘The Wilderness’ – to almost the same size as the centre one. This was vetoed by the Head Master, who felt that a later generation might prefer a mixture of sizes! He soon put matters right, however, by subscribing generously to two new courts built in 1877. An unusual trophy has come down to us from this time, a hip-flask won by FH Bowden Smith, the third son of one of the masters. He was only



‘The School has records of ‘Fives’ being played in the early 19th century’

14 and had apparently come ‘1st in Double Hand Fives’. There is no record in *The Meteor* (the Rugby School magazine) of this, but it is hard to believe that hip-flasks were routinely awarded for house competitions, particularly to boys of his age!

The game’s popularity ebbed and flowed, but more pairs of uncovered four-walled courts were built in 1893 and 1898. The later ones, for unknown reasons, were significantly smaller than previous courts at Rugby, occasioning calls for larger ones! There are reports in *The Meteor* of 1905 and 1906 of more new courts being built, finally giving Fives more status, as the School pair was allowed to wear colours and blazer badges like the Rackets pair. Two further courts, covered this time and with red floors, were given by the Old Rugbeian Society in 1910. These six courts built in the first decade of the century survived and remained playable until 1989.

Eton Fives ‘a last resort’

H.H.Hardy wrote in 1911: ‘There is no lack of Fives players. Of these, the majority play the Rugby game, in the four-walled, un-buttressed court, whose latest dimensions are 29 x 19 feet, with the service board at 29 inches. The Eton Courts are used, but a good deal as a pis-aller [a last resort]; the slogging rallies, not unvaried by crafty ‘placing’, having always been far more popular in Rugby than the finesse and surprises of the Eton game.’

The reduced dimensions of the early 20th Century courts demonstrate that

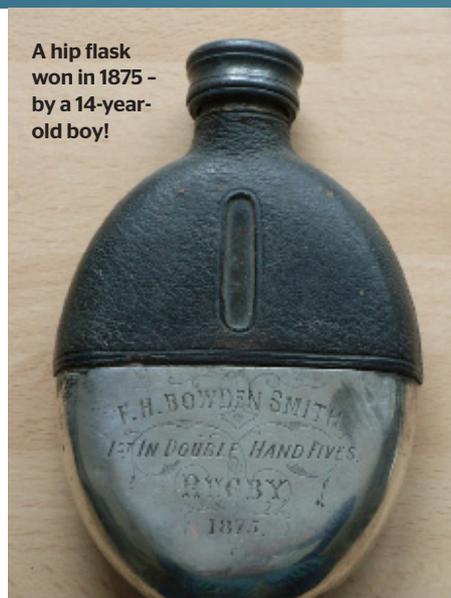
the game had developed a good deal at Rugby since 1860. In fact, they almost matched the 28 x 18 feet (with the bar at 30 inches) to be laid down by the RFA in 1931. In 'foreign' matches against Cheltenham (1903) and Malvern (1904), however, the Rugbeians were dismayed to find that not all courts were the same as theirs, and they duly lost both matches heavily. What was disconcerting was that the Cheltenham courts – possibly based on the original Rugby court – were about ten feet longer than theirs; and the Malvern courts had large Winchester-style buttresses! Another traditional Rackets opponent, Clifton, was also played at Fives in the early 1900s. The pairs sometimes overlapped between the two sports, with the Fives match following the Rackets. In this case, it must have been a long day for all concerned!

Full fixture list for court games

In that golden era before the First World War, the Easter Term was the term for Fives and Rackets, and Hardy said it was 'very full up with a series of School Ties in all the Courts games.'

A feature of the Rugby courts, all uncovered until the 1910 ones, was the slope from front to back, and the gully and drain at the back to dispose of the rainwater. This feature was occasionally found elsewhere. Other schools to build four-walled courts around this time were Christ's Hospital (1901), Oundle and Alleyn's (1905), Tonbridge (1906), Giggleswick (1907), Haileybury (1908), Winchester (1909), Bristol Grammar (1910), Whitgift (1911) and St. Paul's (1912). Not all of them followed the Rugby model, but Giggleswick certainly did, and the Christ's Hospital courts were 34 feet long and had a drain at the back and inter-connecting doors in the side walls, like the old courts at Rugby.

Bat Fives, which had continued as



A hip flask won in 1875 – by a 14-year-old boy!

'Rugbeians were dismayed that not all courts were the same as theirs'

a competitive sport in the 1890s, was no longer played after 1903, and the internal Eton Fives competition, which had continued since 1868 alongside the Rugby ones, ended in 1913. Hockey was fast becoming more dominant, but Rackets and Rugby Fives – the game's title now fully established – were played to a good standard.

The 1st World War limited school Fives matches, but internal competitions continued. When peace returned, there was a general expansion of the game in schools as travel became easier and more courts were built. On the national scene, a short-lived Fives Association was formed in 1923, and four years later the Rugby Fives Association came into existence. Court dimensions and rules became formalised, the Varsity Rugby Fives Match started in 1925 and the Public Schools' Rugby Fives Championships began in 1930.

Rugby slowly built up its Fives fixture list during this period, Oundle being a regular match, starting in 1928. The first fixture, with three pairs per side, was drawn 6 games all, although there was initial uncertainty as to how to score the match. Oundle developed into one of the most successful schools in competitions over the next two decades, while Rugby gave rather less

priority to the game. Match reports during the 1930s often complain of the lack of practice time, and Rugby only rarely entered a pair for the Public Schools' Championships, an exception being 1934, when the School had two very good players, JF Hayley and CM MacLehose, who were both later to represent Oxford.

During the 1930s, matches were also held against Cheltenham, Malvern, Bedford and Denstone; and against such visiting sides as JF Burnet's Jesters, various Oxford and Cambridge Colleges, Old Boy teams from Alleyn's, Dulwich, Malvern and Rugby, and of course the faithful 'Old Guard', or Common Room. Sadly, not only were the matches mostly lost, but also one year, in 1936, the Cheltenham match was cancelled to make way for Hockey house matches! As ever, the relative speed of the different courts and balls was a matter of much post-match discussion. A report in 1932 describes the Rugby courts as being 'very fast and very true' and contrasting them with the ones at Cambridge: 'the difference in speed... is equal to that of a taxi and a four-wheeler'.

The War Years

The 2nd World War years saw plenty of play at Rugby – Clifford 'Bull' Rogers, a good left-hander, was in charge of the game from 1940 on – but there was an understandable reduction in matches. Those that were played were against top opposition (Oundle, Bedford) and the results were as before; but four cups were competed for in internal competitions in 1941 and the frosty winter in 1942 meant that the courts were in high demand.

The same thing occurred in 1947, and on February 21st 1948 a team from the newly-founded RFA Club came to play at Rugby, one of only seven schools selected for the honour. Some fine players went from Rugby to play for

Oxford in the post-war years: GA Cox (1946), P Scanlon (1948), and MS Berthoud (1952/3/4/5). The last-named captained a winning Oxford side in 1955 with some very distinguished players, one of them a freshman called JAE Evans, who was to later have a lasting influence on Rugby Fives!

It would be good to report that the 1950s brought greater success in Fives matches and national competitions to Rugby School. But, despite welcome signs of revival at various stages, the old pattern seemed to have reasserted itself. Part of the reason was no doubt the conflict with hockey, and another part the geography: Oundle, Bedford and Denstone were among the very strongest schools at the time. A satisfactory solution was to play 'A' sides from Oundle and Bedford, which brought more balance, and fixtures against Marlborough and Bloxham were also more even. Clubs continued to come from London, Oxford and Cambridge, and Manchester YMCA was also on the guest list from 1960 to '62.

John Inglis modestly recalls his initiation as master-in-charge: 'It was impressed upon me, when I was invited to look after Fives in 1957, that boys ran the game at Rugby, and that beaks only provided help when asked.

This worked well for the next ten years, as keen captains asked me and my much stronger partner John Evans to play on most whole school days through the winter. The only task was to drive four friendly boys to matches at other schools from time to time. The Games Committee in about 1960 decreed that boys could only represent the school in one sport in the Lent term, so a nucleus of dedicated Fives players developed, and there could no longer be claims that hockey prevented fives players from practising. In 1966 a fine reinforcement arrived: John Watkinson, the national singles champion, although bitten seriously by Rackets, would sometimes play Fives to keep his hand – or hands – in.'

The dawn of a golden era

No Rugbeian had entered the Schools Championships for many years, so it was a pioneering move when AF Doulton and JSJ MacLehose travelled to Whitgift School in 1963, reaching the third round of the doubles competition. Encouraged, MacLehose and MJ Hawkins entered the next year, losing narrowly in the third round of the doubles to the eventual winners, Clifton. A barrier had been removed and greater things lay ahead.



ABOVE WFA Fletcher's 1890 Bat Fives Trophy
BELOW Rugby's first match in its new courts was against Bedford School in November 2010

Mike Cleaver, who arrived at Rugby in 1962, remembers playing Fives three or four times a week. 'Fives was not a major sport so had to come after the main team games. We arranged it with the staff and if they were not able to play we played ourselves. There is no doubting the excellence of the coaching – all three masters were only too keen to help us improve and put Rugby back on the Fives map. By playing such hard-hitting players boys are going to improve – and we did!'

Colts events had not begun in the 1960s, and the West of England event was initially reserved for schools from that area, so in 1966 the only open competitions were the National Schools championships. Rugby entered TA Cowie, MJ Cleaver, AF Colver and RCO Skinner, a team which had won five of its six matches during the season. Cowie was beaten in Round 3 by Weston of Bedford Modern, the ultimate winner of the singles, and Colver went one further, losing to Weston's doubles partner. Colver and Cowie reached round 4 of the doubles, losing to eventual winners Clifton.

In 1967, after an unbeaten season, with both Oundle and Bedford defeated at full strength, Colver and Cowie reached the final of the Schools doubles, losing in a two-hour final to



Baker and Hebden of Alleyn's; their second pair (Cleaver and GAJ Sparling) had pushed the Alleyn's boys all the way in the third round. In the singles, Colver reached the semi-finals, losing to Dalzell of Bedford, the eventual winner. The next year was another unbeaten season and saw Cowie and Cleaver win the Schools doubles title, while Cowie reached the semi-final of the singles, losing to Leary of Bristol Grammar School.

By this time, the West of England Schools event had become open to all, and in January 1969 Rugby won both titles. Cowie took the singles, while he and his partner Skinner concluded their school career triumphantly, beating Alleyn's in the doubles final without conceding a point.

Rugbeians make their mark

The great achievements of the late sixties were a hard act to follow, although Rugby had good sides and entered four players for the National Schools in 1969, 1970 and 1971. But while the School had a quieter period in the first half of the new decade, Old Rugbeians were making their mark at University level and beyond. A whole succession of them played for Oxford: GB Colver (1969/70/1/2), JCA Leslie (1971/2), RTW Warner (1971/2/3), DM Harland (1972/3), JD Loake (1973), R Kennedy (1973) and D Urquhart (1984). Cambridge honours were won by AF Colver (1968/70), TA Cowie (1970/1/2/3), JM Harland (1971/2/3) and RCO Skinner (1972). At Durham, MJ Cleaver (1968-70) reached the British Universities Doubles final in 1970.

Of this group, the Cambridge men had the greatest success. TA Cowie was British Universities Singles and Doubles champion in 1970, then National Singles champion in 1971 and 1972 and runner-up in 1973; he was also a National Doubles finalist with MJ Cleaver the same year. AF Colver was



'The School's great achievements of the late sixties were a hard act to follow'

British Universities Doubles champion in 1969, and JM Harland won the Universities Singles in 1972. In that same year's Varsity Match, seven of the sixteen players were Rugbeians.

A word now on Staff changes around that time. John Watkinson, who had won his third National Singles title in 1970, left in 1971, but Tony Tiffin, who had captained Cambridge in 1958 (one of his opponents in the Varsity Match being a certain JAE Evans), came to Rugby in the same year. John Evans, who had been master-in-charge of Fives since 1967, handed over to Tony in 1973 and left Rugby in 1981.

From 1975, Rugby was again participating in Schools competitions, including the newly introduced Under 16 level at the Nationals. PT Yates reached the 3rd Round of the Open singles, while RA Palfreyman went one further in the Colts. Over the next few years, several fine players were to emerge, among them RS Wilson, PE Clayton, RB Irani and IRH Jackson. Palfreyman and Wilson won the North of England Schools Championship in 1978, the last year it was held, and reached the final of the West of England Schools Doubles. Clayton later played a lot of good fives at Manchester University and for the YMCA Club, while Irani and Jackson went on to Cambridge, where between them they

Rugby's 1968 Team had an unbeaten season, with Cowie and Cleaver going on to win the National Schools Doubles title

won eight half-blues. Jackson was also a British Universities Doubles winner in 1987. Their respective brothers, NB Irani and DH Jackson also played to a good standard, Jackson representing Cambridge in 1985.

An end - and a new beginning

In 1983, WJ Hughes-D'Aeth became master-in-charge, and the school continued to play matches and enter a pair for the Nationals; but support gradually fell away, and the valuable site of the courts became the projected, and then actual, location for a new Design Centre. It was hoped that new courts would be built as part of the second phase of the Sports Centre, but as the years went by and funds were spent on other essential projects, no new courts emerged. Letters were written to The Meteor and the Head Master, pressure from past organisers, players and supporters of the game was applied, and in 2008, the Governing Body of Rugby School allocated space for two new courts to be built on to the Sports Centre.

A massive fund-raising effort, spearheaded by John Evans and Dick Warner and unstintingly supported by Old Rugbeians, the RFA and its members, and by Kerry Wilson and the Development Department at the School, achieved its challenging target, and the new courts were opened in October 2010. It is a tribute to Trevor White, the master-in-charge, and his new recruits that Rugbeians have already made an impression in boys' and girls' National Championships in their first season. The future looks bright for Rugby's Fives!

The author would like to express his gratitude to John Inglis for his unstinting assistance with this article; also to John Evans, Mike Cleaver, Dick Warner, Tony Tiffin, Ian Jackson, Adrian Ridgwick, Trevor White, Rusty Maclean, Kerry Wilson, Stuart Hill and David Arnold.

The Rugby Fives Association Charitable Trust

(Registered Charity No. 1087264)

(Trustees: J. East, F. Akerman, B. Hanton, D. Hebden, C. Niven and A. Pringle)



During its last financial year to 30th September 2010 the Trust received income of a little over £5,500 (a 25% increase on the previous year).

Grants totalled £10,561,

£561 being used to reimburse some Derby Moor expenses, with the balance being paid to Rugby School which helped towards the final push to enable their two new courts to proceed as planned. Since the end of the last financial year, the Trust has also paid £10,000 towards the substantial refurbishment of the courts at Alleyn's, which has now been completed.

The Trust has also committed to spend certain funds to support the coaching scheme being established by the Fives Federation. Nearly one third of our remaining funds are specifically allocated towards the needs of the Derby Moor fraternity, who have been

a model in funding and supporting their own activities through the use of the Charity's accounts.

While the RFA is itself also now a charity, that step has been taken to a considerable degree to maximise efficiencies and the return from subscriptions to make it easier for the RFA to match its income with its expenditure year-on-year. The Trust is very much still needed to support major projects in the Rugby Fives world as well as more minor demands to enable people to keep playing; and I should reiterate that the Trust is always willing to consider applications for grants, small or large, connected with Rugby Fives.

If you felt able and willing to contribute to the Trust's funds, please do get in touch with me and I can let you have a gift aid form. If you are willing to consider leaving money to the Trust in your will, then please



The Trust has contributed major funds to the court refurbishment at Alleyn's

consult your solicitor or consider using the template below as a codicil to your will, suitably adjusted of course if you are writing a new will.

As ever, I would like to thank all my fellow Trustees, as well as Peter Dunscombe and Peter de Winton for their assistance with the Accounts.

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

John East

I _____ (Name)

Of _____ (Address)

Declare this to be a _____ (first/second as appropriate) Codicil to my last Will dated the _____ day of _____ 19 ____ /20 ____ ("my will").

My Will shall be construed and take effect as if it contained the following clause:

I give free of inheritance tax to The Rugby Fives Charitable Trust, registered charity number 1087264

a)* _____ Per Cent (_____ %) (percentage in words and figures) of my residuary estate for the general purposes of said charity.

b)* The sum of _____ Pounds (£ _____) (sum in words and figures) for the general purposes of the charity.

The receipt of any Trustee or other officer for the time being of the said charity shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors.

In All other respects I confirm my Will _____ (and Codicil dated) (date of Codicil)

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand on this _____ day of _____ 20 ____

Signed by the said _____ (Name)

(Signature of testator)

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

FIRST WITNESS

(Signature of witness)

NAME

Address

Occupation

* Delete as appropriate

SECOND WITNESS

(Signature of witness)

NAME

Address

Occupation

End-of-Season Rankings

Dave Hebden reports on lists with a distinctly youthful feel to them



James Toop, who retained his National Singles title last December, remains at the top of the RFA Singles Rankings, his fourth successive year at Number 1. However, his lead over the chasing pack is much reduced this year, with Ellison and Tristao closing the gap in 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Will Ellison, in particular, had a great season including wins at the London and West of England events, where he defeated Toop in both finals. His other wins in the South West and Scottish Championships took his tally for the season to four titles. Dan Tristao continued his impressive form with two senior titles at the North

'James Toop remains at Number 1, but his lead is much reduced this year'

West and North of England events, and picked up his third successive U25 title.

The 'old guard' of Minta, Cavanagh and Buchanan occupy positions 4-6, whilst University Champion Dan Grant moves up to Number 7. Marcus Bate and Johnny Major move into the top 10 for the first time following some good results over the year, and the increasing strength of younger players in Fives is further illustrated by a batch of young talent who move up into the top 20. Luke Thomson comes into the rankings for the first time at Number 12 after winning the National Singles Plate, while Chris Burrows, Hal Mohammed, Ed Kay, Tom Dean and Charlie Legget all make inroads into the top 20. Gareth Price and Adam George also make good progress into the top 30.

After a very close battle with Will Ellison in the Doubles Rankings, Hamish Buchanan finally came out on top once again, his eighth year at Number 1. Will won five titles – three with Hal Mohammed, one with Marcus Bate and one with Hamish – over the season, a great achievement. Hamish's title tally was just three, but one of these was the main prize, the National Doubles, which he won for the eighth time with Robin Perry, and this was sufficient to keep him at Number 1 by a narrow margin.

The highest entry into the top 10 was Dan Tristao, who won the North of England Championship with Hamish and the U25s with Dan Grant. Adrian Lee and Andy Pringle also move up into the top 10. New entries into the top 20 include Gareth Price, Tom Dean, Chris Burrows and Ed Hatton, while Wayne Enstone and John Beswick make a return to the higher flight after reaching finals at the South West and Yorkshire Opens respectively. The final event of the year in Scotland was won by Jay Gravatt and Simon Hodgson who move up into the top 30, as do Neil Roberts, Charlie Legget, and BUCS champions Tom Chase and Ed Kay.

This is the 30th year of published rankings and this season's lists seem to have an optimistically youthful flavour to them, although this impression may be due in part to the compiler getting that much older! For those with a nostalgic leaning, the top ten in the first Singles Rankings back in 1981/82 read Enstone, East, Hebden, Wynn, Fuller, Hyde, Heron, Parlby, Davies, Schroeter, with our illustrious President Dickie Warner coming in at Number 14!



TOP Toop ranked No 1 in singles for fourth year. **CENTRE** Thomson highest new entrant in singles list. **BOTTOM** Pringle and Dean climb doubles rankings, while Minta (right) is highest ranked of 'old guard' in singles.



RFA National Rankings 2010-11

Singles

Pos.	*		Pts
1	1	J Toop	88.6
2	5	W Ellison	78.3
3	4	D Tristao	71.6
4	2	J Minta	69.3
5	7	M Cavanagh	54.3
6	6	H Buchanan	49.6
7	8	D Grant	41.7
8	3	E Fuller	35.3
9	14	M Bate	34.3
10	31	J Major	29.5
11	13	T Maconie	27.5
12	-	L Thomson	23.3
13	12	M Bowness	21.3
14	15	E Hatton	20.9
15	20	C Burrows	20.1
16	22	H Mohammed	19.0
17	45	E Kay	18.8
18	23	T Dean	18.4
19	24	C Legget	18.2
20	10	D Fox	17.0
21	17	A Beverly	16.3
22	21	M Skogh	16.1
23	9	N Roberts	15.8
24	26	C Brooks	15.6
25	19	P Cohen	15.2
26	28	I Ackland	14.6
27	39	G Price	14.3

Pos.	*		Pts
28	25	K Henry	14.1
29	50	A George	13.9
30	27	T Kiggell	13.0
31	49	E Brooke	12.5
32	35	A Griffiths	11.8
33	37	R Murby	11.2
34	-	P Hanton	10.8
35	40	A Lee	10.4
	43	A Pringle	10.4
37	34	J Fabes	10.1
38	32	J Bristow	10.0
	35	J Hughes	10.0
40	29	A Rew	9.8
41	-	S Moger	8.7
42	44	J Savery	8.6
43	33	C Hay	7.4
44	16	J Beswick	7.1
45	-	J Gravatt	6.2
46	38	S Korris	5.0
47	-	S Coffey	4.7
48	46	H Aveston	3.5
	54	B Taberner	3.5
50	58	D Ackland	2.9
51	48	S Watson	2.7
52	55	S Adcock	2.4
	-	T Chase	2.4
54	-	A Goodwin	2.3

Doubles

Pos.	*		Pts
1	1	H Buchanan	91.7
2	2	W Ellison	90.0
3	3	M Bate	84.9
4	7	H Mohammed	78.7
5	6	R Perry	67.1
6	4	J Minta	58.3
7	25	D Tristao	55.7
8	11	D Grant	52.0
9	12	A Lee	50.5
10	13	A Pringle	50.0
11	14	C Brooks	49.5
12	10	J Toop	46.9
13	5	B Taberner	45.8
14	49	G Price	43.3
15	31	T Dean	42.1
16	28	C Burrows	39.4
17	31	W Enstone	35.4
18	23	J Beswick	32.4
19	8	P Bishop	31.6
	42	E Hatton	31.6
21	26	A Beverly	30.8
22	9	E Fuller	30.0
23	-	J Gravatt	29.2
24	46	S Hodgson	28.3
	49	N Roberts	28.3
26	42	E Kay	27.4
27	42	C Legget	25.0
28	-	T Chase	24.5
	22	T Maconie	24.5
30	18	I Ackland	22.4
	68	J Major	22.4
32	26	J Bristow	21.2
	31	E Ronan	21.2
34	70	H Akerman	20.0
	18	A Griffiths	20.0
	18	J Hawke	20.0
	54	G McIntyre	20.0
	-	J Pearce-Smith	20.0
39	60	J Marshall	18.7
40	70	R Christie	17.3

Pos.	*		Pts
	81	P Hanton	17.3
	-	S Kirby	17.3
	15	S Korris	17.3
	18	R Sandie	17.3
45	35	A George	15.8
	46	J Hughes	15.8
	41	P Manning	15.8
	46	A Rew	15.8
	15	T Widdop	15.8
	36	N Wolstenholme	15.8
51	36	E Cumberlege	14.1
	36	J Fabes	14.1
	60	M Frost	14.1
	36	M Gibbor	14.1
	54	A Goodwin	14.1
	42	K Ward	14.1
57	36	J Furniss	13.2
58	60	H Aveston	12.2
	23	K Henry	12.2
	54	M Hine	12.2
	60	S King	12.2
62	-	P Cohen	10.0
	-	J Savery	10.0
	52	R Sutcliffe	10.0
	-	L Thomson	10.0
66	58	S Adcock	7.1
	52	M Bowness	7.1
	60	E Brooke	7.1
	60	R Bury	7.1
	60	T Kiggell	7.1
	-	T Lewis	7.1
	-	S Maskell	7.1
	-	M Moger	7.1
	-	D Murray	7.1
	58	D Park	7.1
	-	S Watson	7.1
77	70	J Buckhalter	5.0
	49	C Hay	5.0
	60	R Price	5.0
	70	A Tong	5.0

* Second column shows position at start of season

Join the 100 club



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

associated with the promotion of the game of Rugby Fives, at the discretion of the RFA Committee (now the RFA Board). Over the years, funds have been made available to many schools to assist with projects, and latterly £2500 was donated to Rugby School for the new courts. We are also contributing towards the cost of coaching at the Edinburgh Academy. Currently we have just over 55 members but are looking to increase this number and if we can exceed 100 then the prize money can be increased. Please contact me if you would like to join.

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

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

Summer Draw
1st Prize **£150**

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

The winner of the 2011 summer draw was Jerry Cooper.

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

Financial report

Our Treasurer reports on the Association's accounts



Regular readers of my financial reports will recall that over the years it has been hard to submit accounts reflecting the true position of our

finances because of delays in funds being sent through and/or expenses being outstanding. This was mainly due to the fact that March and April are very busy months in our season with a high proportion of events being held immediately prior to the financial year end. So, the Board decided to change the year end to the 31st July by which time these issues will have been settled. So for this year I am reporting on a 15 month accounting period.

It is pleasing that the losses of past years have been reversed and that we can report a small profit of £753.

On the income side subscriptions have held up well and it is good to see the small increases in clubs and schools figures. Highly profitable National Schools' championships helped competitions to return to profit and a sponsor for the Winchester doubles was a most welcome development. Sales of ties at the dinner were very successful and helped to offset the 'loss' on the dinner itself.

On the expenditure side, printing costs are down as we received two amounts from the EFA for producing the Newsletter having not received any last year. Postage/stationery and website expenses are down while this year it was decided to hold a reception at the Schools championships.

The 100 Club has contributed towards the cost of coaching at Edinburgh Academy and the Board is looking at ways of increasing the membership of the Club so that such grants can be continued and expanded.

Overall, the Board is content with the position shown to the right.

Ian Fuller,

The RFA Income & Expenditure Account 15 months to 31st July 2011

GENERAL FUND	2011 Year to 30 April £	2010 £
Income		
Subscriptions & donations: Clubs	723	548
Schools	1,004	984
Individuals	10,050	10,351
Profit/Loss(-) from championships	297	-359
Interest	21	16
Miscellaneous sales	243	0
Sponsorship	250	0
Total income	2,588	11,540
Expenditure		
Secretarial fees	5,150	5,150
Printing	3,885	4,665
Postage and stationery	568	1,201
Website expenses	178	684
Insurance	805	700
Miscellaneous	50	50
Bank charges	188	163
Loss on dinner	264	0
Reception @ National Schools	747	0
Total expenditure	11,835	12,613"
Surplus/Loss (-) for the period	753	-1,073
100 CLUB FUND		
Income		
Subscriptions	547	556
Total income	547	556
Expenditure		
Draw prizes	320	320
Grants	741	0
Bank charges	25	13
Total expenditure	1,086	333
Surplus/Loss (-) for the period	-539	223

The RFA Balance Sheet 31st July 2011

GENERAL FUND	2011 15 months to 31st July £	2010 Year to 30th April £
Opening balance	27,096	28,169
Surplus/Loss(-) for the period	753	-1,073
Closing balance	27,849	27,096
100 CLUB FUND		
Opening balance	1,738	1,515
Surplus/Loss(-) for the period	-539	223
Closing balance	1,199	1,738
TRAVEL FUND		
Opening and closing balances	869	869
TROPHY FUND		
Opening and closing balances	500	500
TOTAL FUND VALUE	30,417	30,203
REPRESENTED BY		
Cash at bank		
General Fund (inc. Travel and Trophy Funds)	29,218	28,465
100 Club Fund	1,199	1,738
TOTAL	30,417	30,203

For the period ended 31st July 2011 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 (1) of the Companies Act 2006. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the period in question in accordance with section 476 (1) to (3). **F.Akerman - President**
"I have examined the books and accounts of the Rugby Fives Association. In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention that indicates that the accounts do not agree with the books."
F W P de Winton - Hon.Auditor

2010/11 Results Round-Up

SOUTH WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Will Ellison

Doubles: Will Ellison & Marcus Bate

LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Will Ellison

Doubles: Will Ellison & Hal Mohammed

OWERS TROPHY

Champions: Old Paulines

YORKSHIRE OPEN DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

Champions: Hamish Buchanan & Will Ellison

WEST OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Will Ellison

Doubles: Will Ellison & Hal Mohammed

SCHOOLS WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: Winchester 1 (Baines & Kennedy)

NATIONAL STUDENT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Dan Grant (UCL)

Doubles: Ed Kay & Tom Chase (Cambridge)

NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champion: James Toop

RFA CLUB PRESIDENT'S CUP

Champions: John Minta & Clive Butler

Love Mug: Gareth Price & Sam Russell

T-Pot: Ady Lee & Stuart Kirby

Mates Plate: Chris Burrows & Theo Parker

WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Singles

Winner: Luke Thomson (Christ's Hospital)

Senior Doubles

Winners: Christ's Hospital (Thomson & Matthias)

Colts Singles

Winner: Matt Shaw (St Paul's)

Colts Doubles

Winners: Winchester (Ganendra & Wyld)

NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Dan Tristao

Doubles: Will Ellison & Hal Mohammed

NATIONAL LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Claire Knowles

Doubles: Claire Knowles & Melanie Whitehead

NATIONAL UNDER 25S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Dan Tristao

Doubles: Dan Tristao & Dan Grant

VARSITY MATCH

Cambridge bt Oxford by 238 pts to 201

NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Dan Tristao

Doubles: Dan Tristao & Hamish Buchanan

RFA V BUCS REPRESENTATIVE MATCH

RFA beat BUCS by 235 points to 189

LADIES' WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Kathleen Briedenhann

Doubles: Anita Ganguly & Alex Steel

WINCHESTER FIVES NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: Will Ellison & Hal Mohammed

NATIONAL UNDER 13S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Kinnear (Pilgrims)

Doubles: Pilgrims 1

COLQUHOUN TROPHY

Open Champion: Jamie Killick (Malvern)

Colts Champion: A Frosell (Marlborough)

NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Wayne Enstone

Doubles: Ian Fuller & Jeremy Schroeter

NATIONAL SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Open Singles: Luke Thomson (Christ's Hospital)

Open Doubles: Christ's Hospital I (Thomson & Mathias)

Colts Singles: Sam Wyatt-Haines (Blundells)

Colts Doubles: Winchester I (Ganendra & Wyld)

Under 14 Singles: Matt Blunden (Derby Moor)

Under 14 Doubles: Tonbridge I (Webb & Langham)

NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: Hamish Buchanan & Robin Perry

NATIONAL MASTERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: Bernard Atkinson & David Bawtree

NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Singles: Hamish Buchanan

Doubles: Hamish Buchanan & Bruce Hanton

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: Old Paulines

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles: Will Ellison

Doubles: Jay Gravatt & Simon Hodgson

NATIONAL SCHOOL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Singles: Tessa Mills (Eastbourne College)

Senior Doubles: Laura Jardine Paterson & Louisa Treadwell (Marlborough College)

U16 Singles: Francesca Ruffell (Rugby School)

U16 Doubles: Francesca Ruffell & Hannah Hawkesley (Rugby School)

U14 Singles: Louise Mathias (Christ's Hospital)

U14 Doubles: Olivia Walsh & Louise Mathias (Christ's Hospital)

U13 Singles: Amy Cross (Blundell's School)

U13 Doubles: Alice Smith & Emily Combe (Blundell's School)

DERBY MOOR INVITATION DOUBLES

Champions: Tim Widdop & Mike Baxter



**Rugby Fives
Association**

2011