



Rugby Fives Association

Annual Review 2012-13



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A welcome from the President

At the end of his term, **Dick Warner** says a willingness to adapt is crucial for the future

No-one could have enjoyed the last two years as RFA President more than I have. It has been an enormous privilege to get to meet and play Fives with so many of you. As someone who has not played much Fives in the past few years, my aim of competing in as many regional tourneys as possible has been so much fun.

It has been a pleasure to applaud much good play, to hang medals round the necks of finalists, and to present trophies to the worthy winners of tournaments around the UK, from Scotland to Devon, from Oundle to Christ's Hospital by way of London.

My peregrinations around the country have repeatedly proved that Fives players are a very friendly lot, independent of mind and idiosyncratic of dress, and make for great company on court and over a pint or two of beer after sunset. I suppose that knowing they were in for an easy win added to their keenness.

I have had a wonderful time, thanks to all of you, and I'm looking forward to two years of gently declining proconsular activity, before fading back into welcome obscurity.

A wonderful game

My two presidential years have proved to me beyond all doubt that Fives, in all its variations, is a wonderful game, with its demands of skill, fitness, agility, hand-eye coordination, court sense, craft and brute force.

Within our world of Fives, we boast the codes of Rugby, Winchester (plus local variations on the four-wall theme) Eton, for the three-wall game, One-Wall (now dubbed Wallball in the UK) and Handball in Eire.

Wonderful game it may be, but traditional Rugby Fives, as played in large, purpose-built courts, has a very uncertain future. In the Darwinian world of sport, all "minor sports" (as schools dub them) are constantly



'We Fives players are not doomed to extinction, but we have to adapt'

under threat from the "major sports", with their compelling presence on TV and at such occasions as the Olympics. And, if playing numbers diminish, the schools or universities that own the real estate will be quick to find a new use for that space.

It's not just Fives, of course, that faces this challenge every day, but our Rugby variant will be under scrutiny from schools if playing numbers drop, so we need to keep working hard to introduce school kids to the game, and get them addicted, wherever there are courts. Some clubs, notably Derby Moor, Wessex, and Marlborough Town, are conspicuously successful in this.

Under threat

However, there is no question that our habitat is under threat: true, three new courts are about to open in Cambridge, and Rugby School erected two recently, but these are welcome blips in a

downward trend. With so many compelling Olympic sports for youngsters to play, and our breeding ground of playing schools reducing, as courts are repurposed, Fives in its classic form is being marginalised.

That doesn't mean that, like Lonesome the Galapagos tortoise, we Fives players are doomed to extinction. But, we have to adapt.

Playing competitively with a ball against a wall is an age-old pastime in Europe and around the world. This simple-to-learn, pop-up game is extremely durable, in as many variations as there are buildings to hit against (there are apparently 15 different types in Spain alone). In the US, and specifically New York, handball is the sport of choice for High School pupils, with over 20 000 people playing every week on 2000 courts.

Be open-minded

If we are fixated on Rugby Fives, our natural habitat, the number of places we can play is going to diminish. If we are open to playing all sorts of handball, and we are prepared to colonise new niches, then there is an inexhaustible supply of opportunities.

What is the RFA doing to adapt to this changing world? There is much more that can be done, but I think we are doing the right things: we are alert to the threats, and not burying our heads in the sand; the coaching programme that we have invested so much time and money in covers all our principal UK variants; we build bridges with other national associations, and many Rugby Fives players travel to other tournaments (most recently to play in Colombia).

So, in my view, in spite of some black clouds, there is a bright future for Fives, and it is the job of every player, every former player, to tell the world just how wonderful an occupation hitting a ball against a wall can be!

November 2012

The second RFA versus 'Winchester Fives Association' match takes place in Winchester



2012-13 The year in pictures...

December 2012

For the fifth year in a row, James Toop (left) wins the National Singles Championship



November 2012
Dan Grant (left) takes his second BUCS singles title

December 2012

Will Ellison and Jeremy Stubbs win the President's Cup



March 2013
The first Midlands Schools' Regional Tournament takes place



December 2012
In the Ladies Championships, players from Eastbourne win the two big titles

February 2013
Cambridge Uni. plays its final Past v Present match at Oundle



May 2013
Alex Steel (right) and Andy Pringle win the Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles title



March 2013
Will Ellison and Hal Mohammed win their fifth successive Winchester Fives doubles title



April 2013
22 schools take part in the National Schools' Championships



Men's Season Review

Three players dominated the singles events, but a single player dominated in doubles

Forgive us if it seems like you've read this all before, but for the third year running, the same three players have dominated. Between them, James Toop, Will Ellison and Dan Tristao have won every singles tournament.

While James again picked up the big prize – the National Singles title – no one player dominated. James won the London Open, as well as the nationals, while Dan won the South West, the North West and the Scottish, and Will triumphed in Clifton and Durham.

The matches between these three were always a treat to watch, and the report from last 16 of the National Singles Championship is typical. Organiser Charlie Brooks said that Will and Dan's semi was full of fantastic retrieval and superb shot-making, while the final between James and Will was 'a high-quality, high-attrition match, with rallies consistently lasting over 50 shots.'



ABOVE James Toop (r) won a sixth national title

Whenever two of these three clashed, there was never a clue as to who would win. Will lost to Dan, who then lost to James, in the London Open, for example, but less than two months later, Will beat James on his way to the West of England title.

Is there any sign of this dominance coming to an end? Well, perhaps. John Minta scored an impressive semi-final win over Dan in Clifton, and reached the semis in Manchester and Durham.

Matt Cavanagh may be seen as one of the 'old guard', but he was always a threat, reaching the semi-finals in both the London Open and the Nationals.

On this season's form, though, perhaps the biggest challenger is Dan Grant, now recovered from the injury that blighted the previous season. After clinching the National Student singles title, he reached consecutive finals in the North West Open and North of England Championships in



LEFT National Doubles champs Brooks & Ellison
BELOW Veterans' doubles champions Buchanan & Hanton



'For the second year running, every National Doubles finalist was under the age of 30'

2013, only losing to Will in Durham and Dan in Manchester.

Perhaps one name notable by its absence from those above is Hamish Buchanan, but he did retain his National Veterans (over 45s) Singles title, before partnering Bruce Hanton to retain the Doubles title, too.

In the Vintage (over 55) category, Wayne Enstone again proved too strong for everyone in singles, conducting what the organiser called a 'masterclass' on his way to victory in the final against Brian Nithsdale.

Come the doubles, though, it was all change, with four new players in the final: Tony Hamilton and Spencer Beal took on Richard Sutcliffe and Bob Sandie in a cracking match. Lasting well over an hour, it went to three games before Bob and Richard overcame their tiring opponents.

Meanwhile, in the Masters category, the honours again went to the 2012 champions, John East and Martin Wilkinson, with Douglas Rice and Bev Boag emerging as runners-up.

Organiser Bernard Atkinson complimented all those involved on their effort and intensity, so he would doubtless have been impressed with what was on show at the National Doubles Championship, where – after finishing as runner-up three times – Will Ellison finally clinched the title.

Partnering 2012 runner-up Charlie Brooks, he beat the 2012 champions Dan Grant and Dan Tristao in a match

that showed the growing strength of young players: for the second year running, every finalist was under 30.

As befits a national final, it was a tremendous match, full of attacking and counter-attacking, but as it wore on, it was Will and Charlie who more consistently forced errors from the opponents and sealed the win.

Elsewhere on the doubles circuit, you'll see plenty of different winners' names, but what most had in common was that they were generally playing with Will! After finishing as runner-up in the South West and London Opens (in three games both times, it should be noted), he went on to win every other doubles title he competed for.

What's perhaps most remarkable is the number of different players he partnered: Hamish Buchanan in the Yorkshire Open, John Minta in the North West and Tom Dean in the North of England. He also won both the President's Cup and the Scottish Open doubles titles, where his partners were chosen for him, rather than by him.

Last, but not least, Will also renewed his partnership with Hal Mohammed

to take the National Winchester Fives Doubles title at Malvern. Having already completed the 'Grand Slam' last year after winning the title at all four of the competition's venues, they're now attempting the 'Double Slam'. Can they do it? On this form, no one would bet against it.

Such dominance is matched only by the Old Paulines at club level – no surprise given the number of Old Paulines at the top of the game. As in 2011-12, the Paulines retained both the Owers Trophy and the National Club Championship emphatically. What's more, in both cases, it was almost an Pauline final, as their second team only lost in the semis on both occasions – to the Old Eastbournians in the Owers Trophy and the Executioners in the Club Championship.

The Paulines look set for continued domination at this level, but who will crack first – them or Will and Hal? Now that's an interesting question...



London Open Champions Tom Dean and Charlie Brooks (left) with James Toop and John Minta

Ladies' Season Review

With some of the 'usual suspects' absent this year, there were plenty of new winners



Anyone scanning the names of this year's winners would be forgiven for thinking that this season had marked a major sea change in the sport. Of all the winners of the major titles, only Alex Steel and Kathleen Briedenhann had ever seen their names engraved on winners' trophies in the past.

However, rather than viewing this season as a sea change, it's perhaps better to see it as a coming of age for the new blood. After all, every one of the champions has been competing at the highest level for some time.

Eastbourne College's Tessa Mills is perhaps the perfect example of this: three times a winner of the National School Girls' singles title, she has been competing against adults for some time, but this was the year she broke through, taking the Ladies Rugby Fives doubles title with her teacher Kathleen, who won the singles title.

Sceptics will point to the fact that the defending champions in both events were unable to compete, but

'This year was a coming of age for the new blood'

that should not detract from the Eastbournians' achievements. Both have worked hard at their game, as well as taking advantage of the chance to compete internationally in Wallball, and they deserved their titles.

The Ladies' National Rugby Fives championships also showed that the game is spreading. Despite the absence of some 'usual suspects', there was still a healthy number of competitors, including some from Rossall, who had never played in competition before.

Likewise, the game at school level continues to thrive, with the National School Girls' Championships taking place at Marlborough and attracting

a very healthy entry. Eastbourne took the honours at senior level, but with prizes also going to Rugby and Christ's Hospital, it's clear that there is real strength in depth.

The challenge, of course, is to maintain the girls' interest through the school system and beyond. But, with more courts opening (Cambridge being an obvious potential breeding ground) and girls willing to mix it with the boys – this season, we saw the first girl competing in the Under 13s championships, as well as Alex Steel entering the usually male-only South West Open Championships – we can only hope that more and more girls are encouraged to take up the game.

We also hope that some of those more used to Eton Fives will try their hand at our game as this season proved that they can readily adapt. For the first time, both Ladies' Winchester Fives titles went to EFA members, Karen Hird taking the singles title, before teaming up with Fiona Barnes to take the doubles as well.

We in the RFA can only look enviously at the number of ladies playing Eton Fives, but we hope that the example of Fiona and Karen will encourage more to give our game a go.

It certainly encouraged Rosie Scott to have a go, as she and EFA secretary Gareth Hoskins entered the Winchester Fives mixed doubles championship, held this year for the first time since 2010. And, although they weren't among the winners, their style of play caused plenty of problems for the more seasoned four-wall campaigners.

In the end, the title went to Alex Steel and Andy Pringle, but after a day of friendly, but fierce, competition, what everyone will have seen is how much fun competitive Fives can be.

As long as we can keep driving that message home and recruiting more players, the future for women's Fives seems bright.



TOP Eastbourne College girls won the Open doubles at the School Girls' Championships **CENTRE** EFA members adapted well to win the Ladies' Winchester Fives titles **BOTTOM** The Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles event took place for the first time since 2010

Universities'/Under 25s' Review

2012's National Doubles champs, Dan Grant and Dan Tristao, win the big singles titles

The good news is that the purple patch for younger players that we reported on in last year's Review shows no sign of abating. Many of the top young players are among the very best players of the game, full stop.

There's no better proof of that than the fact that the winners of the singles titles at BUCS and U25 level – Dan Grant and Dan Tristao, respectively – both figure in the Top 10 of the national rankings and have appeared in several Open finals this year.

Also continuing to make their mark on the higher levels of the game are players such as Ed Kay (semi-finalist in the BUCS singles and a quarter-finalist in the National Singles), Inigo Ackland (BUCS singles runner-up and in the last 16 of the National Singles) and Chris Burrows, who completed the semi-final line-up at BUCS alongside Grant, Ackland and Kay.

What's encouraging for the future is that there is a large number of young players already challenging this group – and from a good selection of universities. In this year's BUCS event, we saw the likes of Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol, Durham and UCL well represented, as well as less familiar names such as St Andrews.

Former schoolboy champ David Butler, now at Durham, did well to reach the BUCS quarter-finals, where he only lost to the eventual champion. And, with others including Bristol's Sam Rolls alongside the huge crowd from Durham (James Tilston, Julian Aquilina and Peter Hanton, to name but three) and Cambridge (Jacob Brubert and Jack Malde, as well as Ed Kay), it's clear that the U25 title will be hard fought for several years to come.

In the end, though, Dan Tristao was a worthy U25 singles champion after what was described as an 'exciting and unbelievably fast weekend's competition'. He beat Ed Kay in the final, before the two teamed up to take

the doubles title with a two-game win over Julian Aquilina and James Tilston. For Dan, taking the singles title – his fifth – saw him etch his name in the record books, as it took him past Roger Layton's record of four wins achieved just over 20 years ago.

If there was a slight disappointment, it's that the fields for the BUCS and U25s Championships were so similar. It seems that many players are struggling to continue with Fives (or at least

'Dan's fifth Under 25s singles title took him past Roger Layton's record of four wins'

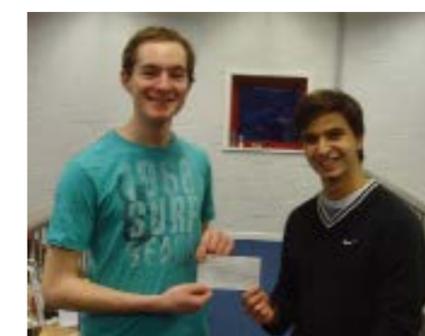
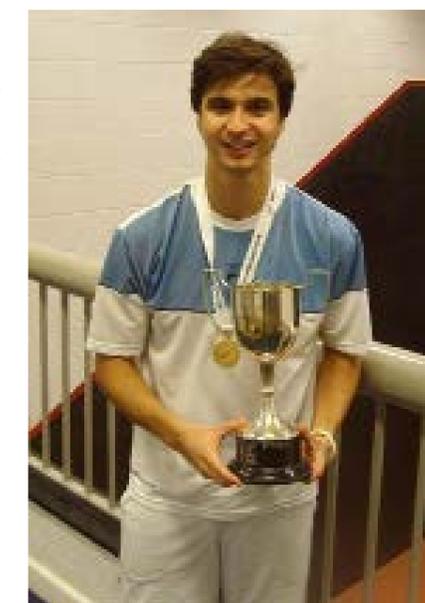
competitive Fives) after university.

However, the RFA is always trying to encourage more young players, and this year Durham received a £200 cheque from the RFA (through the 100 Club) after they had more entrants in Open events than any other university.

Overall, though, Cambridge seemed to be the dominant university at BUCS and – with a semi-finalist and plate winner in the singles, as well as the champions and one half of the plate winners in the doubles – they finished on top of Dave Hebden's unofficial team championship.

The Light Blues also beat their fiercest rivals to win the Varsity Match, recording their first hat trick of wins for 20 years. They had too much firepower at the top, with BUCS champion Ed Kay and Jacob Brubert winning all their games with room to spare, while in the bottom half Chase, Sloper, Judge and Ader had more than enough experience to overwhelm their Dark Blue opponents.

We have already seen that many of these young players are a force in Open competitions, so as long as they can keep playing, the future looks bright.



TOP BUCS singles finalists Grant and Ackland **CENTRE** Dan Tristao won a record-breaking fifth consecutive U25s singles title this year **BOTTOM** Durham University's James Tilston receives a £200 cheque from the RFA

Schools' Season Review

David Barnes looks back on a year that saw success for a wide range of schools



This season saw a third Regional event, in the Midlands. Bringing schools in the same region together for a one-day tournament allows a broader spectrum of pupils to play in competition, with no adverse impact on flagship events. Experience gained by 'average' players can encourage them to step up to the bigger league.

November saw a good tussle between the hosts and St. Paul's in the Winchester Doubles, the final going to locals Wylde and Ganendra. Things went the other way at Sherborne in the West of England in January, where St. Paul's second pair, Arnold and Beltrami, won an exhausting semi against the Wykehamists, only to lose in another three-gamer to their own first pair, Shaw and Edmonds, in the final. Shaw was a convincing winner of the singles, defeating Wyatt-Haines (Blundell's) in two games. In the Colts, Watkinson (Winchester) won the singles, while Derby's Blunden and Whitehorn took the doubles. A total of 64 boys entered, from 10 schools.

The South-East regional, at Christ's Hospital in February, saw Eastbourne, Tonbridge, Whitgift and St. Dunstan's joining the host school. Eastbourne were most successful in the Open, winning singles and doubles, while St. Dunstan's (singles) and Whitgift (doubles) shared the spoils in the Colts.

A month later, another five schools in the South-West took part in the Colquhoun Trophy. Blundell's are very strong at the moment and they took the honours in the Open (with both finalists) and the plate. In the Colts, Blundell's were again victorious, but Sherborne provided stiff opposition in the main final and won the plate.

To complete a trio of fives, five schools played in the first Midlands tournament, at Bedford and Bedford Modern Schools. In addition to the hosts, Oundle, Derby Moor and Rugby entered, and the last two had the best

of the day: Derby took both Open titles, while Rugby won the U15 events.

The Under 13 Championships had 46 players from 8 schools, including newcomers St. Andrew's Eastbourne, Shrewsbury House, Oundle and St. Olave's. The Olavians provided all the finalists in both singles and doubles contests, but Pilgrims and Blundell's also made a mark, with Pilgrims winning the doubles plate and providing a singles plate finalist.

St. Olave's also did well in the Under 14 Championships at St. Paul's. An epic singles final saw Nwuba (St. Olave's) beat Shaw (St. Paul's) in an exhausting

'Experience gained by 'average' players can encourage them to step up'

three-game match, and the doubles went to St. Paul's who beat Alleyn's, also in three games. 44 players, as in the U16 and Open events, took part.

There were 14 schools in the U16s, but Derby Moor came out on top, with Whitehorn beating Watkinson in the singles final. Whitehorn and Blunden then took the doubles, defeating Nunes and Jopling of St. Paul's by the narrowest of margins: 12-11, 12-11!

In the Open, players came from 13 schools, including Edinburgh Academy. Shaw (St. Paul's) confirmed his top seeding in the singles final, beating fellow Pauline Beltrami, while the doubles final was an all-Pauline affair. The second pair (Beltrami and Arnold) beat the first (Shaw & Edmonds) in straight games. Alleyn's won the main singles plate, while Eastbourne took the doubles.

Overall, this was a good season: 31 schools played in at least one event and there was plenty of opportunity for competitive fives at every level.



FROM TOP Blundell's boys took both titles in the Colquhoun Trophy; Derby won both Open events in the Midlands Championships; St Paul's boy Matt Shaw took the Open singles title; Olavians dominated U13 Championships

School reports

With more tournaments and more fixtures, Fives is thriving right across the country

Alleyn's School

A successful season: the 1st IV won more school matches than they lost, and the U.14 'A' team had an unbeaten season. At junior level, the excellent group at year 7 show great potential.

In the Nationals, Zach Brubert reached semis in the Open singles and doubles (with Sam Redmayne). Julian Hanton reached the U14 singles semis and, with Ben Kirwan, the doubles final.

We were fortunate in having such an exemplary captain in Zach Brubert, who received the Hanton Trophy in recognition of his contribution.

Ian Fuller

Bedford Modern School

Fives continues at Bedford Modern School as an after-school activity. A small group of year 12 boys formed the senior team and there is a very keen group of year 8 and 9 players who have enjoyed learning the game.

Fixtures against Bedford School and Merchant Taylors' School had similar results: the senior teams were outclassed but the junior team won.

This year we co-hosted the Midland Schools competition with Bedford School. Hopefully this arrangement will continue in future years.

Phil Smith

Bedford School

The fixtures brought a mixed bag of results, but we did regain the Centenary Cup against Merchant Taylors. In the Midlands tournament, Ali Jones did well to reach the Senior Singles final, while Dan Sorensen and Jack Rice reached the Senior doubles final, and Karan Gupta and MJ Wright won the doubles plate. Within the school, singles competitions have been reintroduced, which seems to have further rejuvenated interest.

Michael Croker

Bradfield College

This season Bradfield has been rebuilding after David Butler moved on to Durham. Alex Rees has played with skill and commitment in his final year and I thank him for his example. Colts Henry Lea and Arthur Norman should make a decent senior pair, but most encouraging, however, has been the enthusiasm from the first-year boys. There is much promise amongst and I very much hope that they will continue to play next season. Finally I would like to thank David Barnes for his continued support and kindness.

Jeremy Ball

Christ's Hospital

Highlights were the almost unbeaten run of the largest U14 squad we have had for years and domination at the National Girls Championships.

The school hosted the second South East Regional Championships, where Abdul Ahmed did well to make the semis of the U16 singles a year young.

The best bit was our girls dominating the School Girls' Championships: we won five of the six categories entered.

U16 Singles winner Louise Mathias did particularly well to win a singles final where she was match point down.

Ed Hatton



Karan Gupta and MJ Wright won the Doubles plate in the Midlands Schools' Tournament

Blundell's School

We have had an encouraging season. To supplement the fixtures at senior level, we continue to play a number of men's sides and this is a great learning experience.

At regional level, we performed very well in the Colquhoun Trophy and, in the West of England, Sam Wyatt-Haines reached the final.

Sam lost in the Nationals' semis, but we hope to be able to take more players – girls and boys – to compete in next year's events.

We are very pleased that six seniors qualified as Level 1 Fives coaches, enabling them to pass on their skills to the junior players.

Chris Hedley-Dent



Six of the most senior players at Blundell's have qualified as Level 1 Fives coaches

Denstone College

The turn-outs were a bit disappointing, with only between four and six regulars every week. However, that did include rising stars James and Adam.

I only organised one fixture – against Derby Moor. The Denstone lads lost by a small margin, a much improved result from previous year's fixtures.

A couple of courts had some light damage, but thanks to Fran Porter, repairs were started. And, as thanks for hosting Derby Moor's tournament, they made some minor repairs, so the courts are ready to be played on.

Anthony Goodwin

Derby Moor Juniors

In what was our tenth season we have had some useful and enjoyable friendly matches, but our main focus has been on tournament play.

At the West of England Schools Championships, Matt Blunden & Robert Whitehorn won the Colts Doubles title, and in the Midlands Schools championships Robert & Rob Christie won the U18 Doubles, and Robert won the U18 Singles. With these successes under their belts seven boys went off to the Nationals at St. Paul's with high hopes.

There Robert Whitehorn won the Colts Singles title and, with Matt Blunden, the Colts Doubles. Craig Baxter & Jai Singh were runners-up in the Colts Doubles Plate, the second time for Craig.

Bob Dolby

Giggleswick School

In June, Catteral House students played the Ian Roberts Memorial Trophy Fives competition. The magnificent trophy was presented by the RFA to the school in memory of T. Ian Roberts OG (1956-2011).

The competition was a knockout doubles tournament and a special mention must go to the match that Robert Snowden and Charlie Husband played against and Samuel Wilson and Xialin Cheung that ended with a win for Samuel and Xialin by 23 points to 21. After many exciting and close games, the winners were Sebastian Dunne and Sam Morphet from the Fountains Tutor Group. The runners up were Isaac Ladds and Miles Taylor.

Neil Gemmell



Dunne and Morphet won the Ian Roberts trophy, which was donated by the RFA

Clifton College

The RFA is delighted that a group of children are playing at Clifton, where Fives has not been actively played since Charlie Colquhoun's death.

The sons of Simon Werkshagen and Robin King invited two friends to join them and the four – three from Backwell School and one from Clifton itself – are playing twice a week.

There are plans to play in the West of England Schools' Championships and to schedule fixtures.

Simon Werkshagen



The group of four boys - including one from Clifton itself - are playing Fives twice a week

Eastbourne College

Our 1st IV enjoyed its best season for 15 years, winning all 10 school matches, some by wide margins. The success was based on six strong players, but Chay Kent (captain) and Dom Barnes – the ever-present first pair – were the basis for most victories.

We expected a strong performance in the SE Regional event, and indeed Chay won the singles and, with Dom, the doubles titles. Then, they won the Senior Doubles Plate at the Nationals.

But the Eastbourne girls were not to be outdone! Tessa Mills won the Girls Nationals senior singles for the fourth consecutive year and won the doubles with Izzy Why. Tessa also reached the singles final at the Ladies Nationals but in a very competitive final lost to her teacher Kathleen Briedenhann.

Spencer Beal

Edinburgh Academy

Fives has continued to grow in popularity as a sport at the Academy with success coming at all levels. The senior first pair won the Edinburgh Schools' Cup and also went to compete in the Nationals.

Ed Cumberlege has been coaching the juniors for two sessions a week and the junior team has had a really strong season with many promising players coming through the ranks.

Ed Cumberlege

KCS Wimbledon

We had a new-look and inexperienced side this year, and duly struggled, but with almost all boys returning next year the outlook appears bright. Tom Middlehurst, Brogan Quinn, Tom

Meddings and Giacomo Boscaini made for an entertaining and – at times – effective 1st IV, and were ably supported by boys further down the school, who took to the sport for the first time this year. In the U15s, Nathan Inkester, Nick Jelcic and Teddy Hawkins-Hooker show particular promise.

Ben Andrews

Kelly College

Fives has been introduced as a Tuesday afternoon activity for the 1st and 2nd years, who all have a go at it for half a term, on a rotation basis. The game has not been universally popular among the girls, but a large number of talented players has been uncovered.

A team travelled to play Sherborne again this year, and an appearance was made in the Colquhoun Trophy by a couple of boys. Some pupils have also played with the Deep West club – although Plymouth's doctors and lawyers usually finish work just before lights out for most boarders.

Nick Geere

Malvern College

There has been a steady group of players, with matches against Blundell's, Bradfield, Marlborough, Radley, Rugby and Winchester. We are prepared to travel up to two hours so if any schools are keen on a fixture then please let me know. We had a successful House competition for boys and girls and hopefully this will result in several players playing regularly. Four colts attended the Colquhoun Trophy and resulted in semi-final places in the main competition and the plate.

Chris Thomas

Marlborough College

The West of England Championships provided our high points. Frosell and Heath won the plate doubles, and Fry reached the Colts singles semis.

It proved hard to sustain momentum through the 'Fives' term. An uneven fixture list and the increasingly crowded calendar, plus the [for us] unhelpful dates of the Colquhoun and the Nationals, meant few of the better players improved after Christmas.

The U14s showed terrific spirit, and were outgunned by harder-hitting opposition more than once, but they achieved the rare beginners' feat of an away win on a Winchester Fives court.

In the girls' nationals, our fearless five gave their all, but were left in the wake of those who play more often. We must emulate these accomplished girls.

Tom Kiggell

Merchant Taylors' School

We've had more boys on court than for some time, and it has been very pleasing to see lots of younger boys taking up the sport for the first time and representing the school.

Results have been mixed, but there were some notable wins: a mixed colts and junior colts defeated St Paul's, the senior side bested Bedford Modern and the U14s won a thrilling match at Christ's Hospital.

All the boys in the Nationals enjoyed the experience and the best result came from Elliot Tebboth and James Vogel who won the Colts plate doubles. Overall Fives is in good health at Merchant Taylors' and the boys are keen to do even better next year.

Nick Hillier

Rossall School

Fives this year has excelled, with a large number of students playing, especially from Years 7 and 8. It was good to see competitive fives, and the boys showed great determination.

The girls had a brilliant year: Kate Shilina (U16) and Anastasia Gned (U13) reached the semis at the Girls' championship, while at the Ladies Rugby Fives Championships Kate Shilina and Maddy Raynor won the doubles plate.

Mungo Winkley

Merchiston Castle School

Merchiston enjoyed another successful season. The first pair – Alex Docherty and Tom Sole – dominated the Scottish schools circuit, but in the final of the Edinburgh Schools' Championships lost narrowly in the deciding game. The highlight of the season came in the final match, with a win over an impressive Sedbergh side.

The Colts' season was much like the Seniors': a force for most of the year, but just falling short in the Edinburgh Championships. Lewis Baird and Benn Morris won their opening matches with ease, but were unable to clinch the trophy. They do, however, have another year in the Colts next year.

The Juniors started their Fives careers positively and look forward to stepping up to the Colts age group.

Matthew Hillier

Oundle School

We had a most enjoyable season, as the Pickard courts continue to improve.

The school's teams played spirited and competitive Fives throughout a fixture-packed Easter term. I'd like to thank Captain Jonathan Cannon for his enthusiasm and diligent leadership throughout the season. The first annual Midlands tournament proved a particular highlight, giving regional U15s and Seniors a superb opportunity to play competitive Fives.

The introduction of U15 Charlie Rogers to our senior team bodes well for the future, as does our inclusion at the National U13s tournament. Our players enjoyed the event greatly, and their Fives is fast improving.

Michael Case



Rossall girls played in all three of the major Girls' and Ladies' Championships this season

Sedbergh School

This year saw plenty of matches for a strong senior squad, with an expanded fixture list providing several opportunities for high-level competition at adult tournaments.

In addition to regular fixtures, we enjoyed playing in Manchester and at the National Winchester Fives tournament at Malvern. We also undertook a short tour of the Midlands and hope to travel even further afield next season.

Again we sent a large contingent to the Nationals and again we reached a Cup semi-final; we await our first Final appearance for quite some time and feel we are getting ever closer! Fixtures remain in short supply for our many keen junior players, although Rossall, who have made a welcome return to the fixture list, provided us with a number of enjoyable tussles.

Jon Lidiard



Sedbergh went to Malvern to play in the National Winchester Fives Championship

Pilgrims' School

Fives at Pilgrims' continues to be busy and happy. On a Monday night, 15 absolute beginners in Year 5 have enjoyed a term of learning and improving. Some can now hit the ball. On a Friday night, 17 old hands have maintained their enthusiasm and development, much helped by the kind, encouraging and wise words of Winchester master Giles Munn.

Internal tournaments have proved hectic, inter-school matches have been friendly and the Under 13 Championships were interesting, but far too drawn out.

My thanks, as ever, go to the boys who enthuse, the staff who guide and Winchester College for their courts.

Geoffrey Hammond

Rugby School

Rugby continues to enjoy success with the new courts and played 14 matches.

The year's highlight was the National Colts' Singles Plate won by Joe Miller. The 1st IV were unbeaten, narrowly squeaking past the Jesters by a point and only playing a St Paul's Colts side.

Sadly, the Midlands Championship clashed with our Crick run, which the seniors never like to miss. However at U15 level George Romain picked up the singles trophy and – with Freddie Evans – the Doubles.

It is a shame that fixtures are so hard to find for the girls, but they have been successful in their championships:

Milly Richards and Kate Broad won the Colts Doubles, and Eliza Talbot Williams and Milly Browne were second and third in the Senior singles.

Trevor White

St. Andrew's Prep School

St. Andrew's Eastbourne, made history when Katie McIntyre became the first girl to play in the Under 13s Championships. She won two matches against the boys in her round-robin pool.

This year's event was the first time St. Andrew's had entered a team, and despite the fact that the pupils had been playing for less than six months at the time, the three-strong team did well. James Allan and Jack Casebourne reached the quarter-finals of the doubles.

The team trained on the courts at nearby Eastbourne College, but it is hoped that St. Andrew's will be able to reinstate the school's own court, which is currently used as a store.

Chris Pinch



The RFA is working with St. Andrew's to try and bring the school's court back into use

St Dunstan's College

A season with some highs and some disappointments. The U14 team did not quite develop as far as I would have liked, but the U15s showed some good potential especially in Waheeb Husaini. The senior teams had an average return, but we can certainly develop a good squad next year.

The highlight was Tom Owen's win in the Colts at the SE Regional event.

The game needs a fresh burst at the younger end – a target for next year.

Rick Bodenham



Waheeb Husaini developed a good all-round game and performed well at the nationals

Sherborne School

We have had over 20 players at training sessions, with over half representing the school. The juniors enjoyed wins over Blundell's, Kelly and a (depleted) Winchester team, while Henry Newman reached the final of the Colquhoun Trophy colts' competition.

Most recently Teddy Knollys reached the semi-finals of the U14 Plate at the Nationals; the first Shirburnain to be entered for a few years.

The seniors have played some strong adult teams, but the victory at King's Bruton was perhaps the highlight.

Nick Scorer

St Paul's School

This has been another very good year, with an impressive haul of silverware.

Our senior players dominated the West of England' Championships, with Matt Shaw winning the singles and – with Tim Edmonds – the doubles.

At the U14s Nationals, Dom Shaw narrowly lost the singles final, but won the doubles with Monty Evans.

In the Open singles, Matt Shaw beat fellow Pauline Ben Beltrami in a tremendous final, but in the doubles, Ben and Ollie Arnold reversed the result from Sherborne, beating Matt and Tim with a superb display.

Sam Roberts

Tonbridge School

Over 60 boys played this year, and it is encouraging that many could play for the school. An afternoon with all seven courts in action for seven leagues shows the spirit of the club at its best.

The SE regionals is a good focus for our better players. Dan Hutt lost in the

Junior singles final and Ben Jones and Ollie Martyn in the Senior doubles final.

It is good that I have the help of David Cooper, Andrew Edwards and Jonathan Harber, plus excellent coaches in Martin Wilkinson and Ian Fuller.

Ian Jackson

Whitgift School

Whitgift had a mixed season, winning 15 of 28 fixtures. The best results came from the U15s, who won all but two matches, but my Senior team lacked the consistency of other teams and won only a few of our fixtures.

The Colts were stronger, and the best result must be our win over MTS.

My hope is to host the regional SE tournament next February, and – rumour has it – on four courts! Fives continues well at the school, and much credit must go to David Mew, our coach, who has been instrumental in encouraging and motivating the boys.

Roll on the new season, and maybe even more new fixtures.

Nick Morgan

Winchester College

It has been a season full of injury, and so our results in school fixtures were a lot more evenly matched than in past years: we only won 13 of 25 matches.

The main highlights came from the tournaments: Wylde & Ganendra won the Winchester Doubles, while Tom Watkinson won the West of England Colts Singles. The season was topped off when Wylde & Ganendra blitzed the first game of the semi of the Open National Doubles. They couldn't complete an upset, but can be very proud.

Giles Munn

RFA Club Report

The Club Manager reports on a successful season



There were forty two matches scheduled this season and from the twenty three that were played (or, moreover, that I have received reports on) the Club won 15 and lost eight.

This included quite a few variations on the usual four-a-side format. There were several six-a-side and eight-a-side matches throughout the year and even a 12-a-side – surely closer to Rugby League than Rugby Fives – in the Strawson Memorial match against the Jesters. What's more, when Durham University only managed to find three players on a cold, snowy Sunday morning in February, with the fair excuse that 'it clashed with the U25s', match manager Bob Sandie devised a three-a-side match with John Hawke and Neil Reddy forming some kind of tag team pairing!

Thanks must go to all of the match managers for giving their time to get these fixtures played. It is an essential part of helping to keep Schools and Clubs using their courts, playing some quality fives and ultimately enjoying the game. Special mention goes to Tony Hamilton for his impeccable organisation of three school matches and subsequent reportage.

The RFA Club President's Cup was won by Will Ellison and Jeremy Stubbs. Will has been known to play three or more times a week, whereas, by playing in the Cup, Jeremy has become a biannual player – the only other tournament to entice him across the Channel is the Veterans. Many congratulations to them and thanks to Gareth Price for his inimitable organisation, and to Merchant Taylor's School for the use of their facilities.

Hamish Buchanan



2012 President's Cup highlights: (clockwise from top) Winners Stubbs and Ellison; the President prepares; Warner and Hanton win T Pot; the tournament takes its toll; Love Mug winners Buchanan and Kiteley

RFA CLUB RESULTS

Opposition	Manager	Other players	Result
Alleyn's	A.Hanton	B.Hanton, H.Buchanan, R.Sulkin	Win
Alleyn Old Boys	R.Perry	T.Dean, W.Ellison, J.Marshall	Win
Blundell's VI	M & M Whitehead*	R.Wyatt-Haynes, A.Rew, D.Hill, K.Kennerley, W.Enstone, T.Lewis	Win
Cambridge University	A.Pringle	J.Sinton, G.Matthews, D.Warner	Loss
Cambridge University	R.Dolby*	E.Hatton, R.Christie, A.Gemade, R.Whitehorn	Loss
Christ's Hospital VIII	A.Smith*	H.Aveston, J.Walsh, J.Sinton, W.Lyons, S.Mighall, G.Matthews, B.Callaghan, T.Webster	Win
Durham III	R.Sandie	G.Tosh, J.Hawke/N.Reddy	Loss
Eastbourne	A.Hamilton	P.Ross, B.Westwood, J.Walsh	Loss
Jesters: Strawson memorial	R.Warner		Loss
Jesters:	R.Perry	W.Ellison, E.Brookes, J.Marshall	Loss
Kings Bruton	P.deWinton*	Hillman, Sanders, Rayner, Bethwaite	Win
Marlborough VIII	J.Hughes	W.Hughes, S.Watson, M.Summerhayes, T.Hillman, J.Webber, A.Rew, Carpenter, T.Butler, N.Lawrence	Win
Merchant Taylors	R.Mathieu		Win
Old Bedford Modernians:	P.Atkinson*	R.Christie, B.Kirk, S.Kirby, J.Lee	Win
Old Bradfieldians:	A.Pringle	R.Dyke, R.Kemp, R.Bridge	Loss
Old Paulines VI:	M.Bate	G.Price, H.Buchanan, T.Dean, E.Hatton, R.Perry	Win
Oxford University	D.Tristao	H.Buchanan, R.Warner, G.Price	Win
Oxford University	E.Hatton	H.Buchanan, R.Perry, G.Rees	Win
Sherborne	A.Passey	W.Gunyon, P.Carling, B.Boag	Win
St. Dunstons	A.Hamilton	N.Morgan, J.Higgins, G.Norman	Win
St. Paul's VIII	A.Wilson	D.Tristao, H.Buchanan, S.Roberts, A.Pringle, J.East, J.Harrison, B.MacKenzie	Win
Tonbridge	A.Hamilton	W.Gunyon, P.Ross, B.Atkinson	Win
Winchester VIII:	D.Tristao	T.Parker, M.Shaw, H.Buchanan, C.Burrows	Win
		G.Price, S.Roberts, J.Minta	Loss

* Non-playing

Club Reports

Many clubs had to battle inclement winter weather, but otherwise it's been a good year

Alleyn Old Boys

A good year for the club with a number of new regular members. Three of these are indeed actual Old Boys (Ed Carr, Rocco Sulkin and Ben Wordsworth), the first for many a year. We only played a handful of matches, winning three and losing one, but we reached the semi final of the Wood Cup, pushing the defending champions and eventual winners, the Old Paulines, all the way in a very enjoyable match.

We play throughout the year and newcomers are always welcome.

Hamish Buchanan

Cambridge University

In the BUCS championships, Ed Kay and Jacob Brubert won the Doubles, before a 24-hour match raised over £4000 for the new courts.

At the U25s, Kay was beaten by Dan Tristao in the Singles final – but partnered him to win the Doubles.

We comfortably beat the Past and went on to achieve our first Varsity Match hat-trick for 20 years.

With the new courts, we look forward to a new era, but are always thankful to President Bob Dolby, and to Oundle, who hosted us for much of our time with no courts.

Ed Kay



Ed Kay led Cambridge to a third successive win in the Varsity Match against Oxford

Caledonian Club

The Caledonian Club enjoyed a fine year of fives, with five or six members turning up for Thursday practice at Fettes College on a regular basis. A good number of matches were played against the Merchiston schoolboys, the Jesters tour in January was a typical delight, and the Scottish Open Championships in May provided some silverware for club members.

While it is always a pleasure to entertain and play the Jesters on their annual tour, it was particularly satisfying this year to see an ex-Caledonian Club member (Jonny Major, former Club Captain) travel over 300 miles to represent the club against the touring side. Everyone involved played great fives in good spirit and in the end the honours were split, with the Caledonian Club winning the Saturday match and the Jesters taking the Sunday match.

With the Scottish Open continuing to attract high-calibre players from further South, it can be tough for those from Edinburgh who do not get to experience the highest levels of play on a regular basis to compete. It was therefore excellent to see Caledonian Club hands on trophies, with Richie Murby winning the singles plate and Mike Kemp getting a share of the overall doubles trophy (in partnership with Will Ellison).

Mike Kemp

Christ's Hospital Club

The Christ's Hospital 'Fives at 5' club has continued to meet on almost every Wednesday throughout the year. Playing numbers have increased and I'm delighted that we are now welcoming under- as well as over-30s!

Highlights included the regular return of several recent captains of the school – Jim Walsh, Bart Callaghan and Scott Mighall amongst others. This culminated in an eight-a-side match

against the school, which featured five former captains in total.

The club's first entry into the Club Knockout competition was also very pleasing, and we reached the semi-finals (through a bye!). One of our older members then nobly stepped on court against the sprightly youths of St Paul's despite his age being greater than all of the opposing team combined.

Anyone who is based in Sussex or within reach is welcome to join, and should contact me.

Ed Hatton

Derby Moor

This year has been a struggle, with our courts inaccessible. We have been playing at Denstone during the week with the juniors playing Eton Fives at nearby Repton at weekends.

Even so, we have played in a number of events, with Anthony Goodwin and Max Frost plate-winners at the National Winchester doubles and North West Open. Jeremy Stubbs won the President's Cup, ably assisted by Will Ellison, while Stuart Kirby and Richard Christie were runners-up in the Yorkshire Open Plate, and Stuart won the Vintage Singles Plate.

We still plan to enclose our two Rugby courts and would like to build a wallball court using the back wall, but we may have to choose between the two. In any case, we are confident that we will start building something during this next season!

Stuart Kirby

Durham University

This season has been highly promising and our first IV have remained unbeaten. The arrival of good young players, such as David Butler and Oliver Quarry, has given real strength in depth.

Compared to recent years, the club's performance at BUCS was slightly below par, although we still had two pairs in the semi-finals. Nevertheless,

Executioners

It's been as good a year as I can remember for the Executioners.

First, we now have two national champions in our ranks, as Alex Steel and Andy Pringle won the Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles title. Elsewhere, we seemed to specialise in runners-up: Andy in the Veterans Doubles, Alex in Ladies Winchester Fives, and Dick Warner in the Scottish Doubles.

However, we were far from disappointed when our elite squad (Andy, plus Tom Maconie, Marcus Bate and Chris Burrows) finished as



The club's summer doubles tournament saw a record 24 players on court at St. Paul's

runners-up in the Club Championship – our best result for almost 20 years.

Also causing us to reach for superlatives was our summer

Durham students have enjoyed a fair amount of success, with Peter Hanton reaching the semi-finals of the West of England doubles, and Julian Aquilina and James Tilston reaching their first main final at the U25s. A particular positive has been the increase in tournament attendance throughout the year – the highest of any university.

Durham has also started weekly development, with the aim of introducing new players to the sport. These have been highly successful, with several players who will soon be pushing hard to join the main squad.

Julian Aquilina

Eastbourne Club

The club has benefited from some major refurbishment to the courts, providing a smooth and true surface, which has stood up well to a full season.

This season we have played two matches against the Old Tonbridgians. The away game was enjoyably close, with the OTs coming out on top by 58-49. However, in the return match, we had a convincing win.

Under Tony Hamilton, the Club aims to play just about every Tuesday evening, although the courts still do not cope well with winter weather and in the summer the plastic roofing can make the game feel a bit like playing in a greenhouse! In good conditions, however, few courts can match the speed and lively bounce of ours. We have a regular, loyal band of six/eight players, with others joining us from time to time, but we are always keen to recruit new interest.

Spencer Beal

Exeter Rugby Fives Club

Wednesday nights at Blundell's from 6.00 is still the time when both sexes, ages from 16 to 72 (with prosthetic limbs to prove it) and all standards gather for blistering Fives.

We are too humble to bore other clubs with our accomplishments during the year apart from mentioning Keith Kennerley getting to the final of the Presidents Cup; oh, and the wonderful plate final at the North West, between past and present Blundellians Alex Rew and schoolboy supremo Sam Wyatt Haynes. Alex, however, was handicapped when he realised that the last time he won the North West plate his opponent was three – so justly Sam came away with the honours.

Tim Lewis

Guthrie Dalesmen

Alas for a second year in a row the Dalesman's collective feet were light on court this season. Our annual opening fixture in December against Sedbergh School at home had to be cancelled due to a measles outbreak at the school. Then to compound matters, the away return weekend fixture clashed with too many of the team's Spring Break, so we opted for a single Sunday Showdown back at Troutdale HQ. Needless to say with so much absence on court and limited match practice in the early season the Dalesmen fell short of what was needed against a highly trained adversary. Losses on home ground are both rare and painful. A lesson learnt to ensure more time pre-season on court next year!

Richard Guthrie

doubles tournament. Braving the refurbishment at St Paul's, no less than 24 players played (and ate the traditional 'banquet' procured in the local petrol station), with Richard Dyke and Duncan Neale winning.

Other winners were Penn Chai, who won the Young Gun award, while the club's singles ladder was won by Riaz Dharamshi, who retained his title. Sadly, he'll be leaving the club when he starts a new job outside London, but the club will be back, looking to build on its success.

Andy Pringle

Jesters Club

The Jesters have enjoyed another set of sparkling fixtures, which have been thoroughly entertaining, in keeping with the ethos of the club. There have been a surprising number of closely fought matches, none more so than the Strawson Memorial. An incredible 12-a-side battle was played out on all six of St. Paul's courts, with players coming from far and wide to participate (a doff of the cap to James Bristow who flew in from Johannesburg for the game); in the end, the Jesters squeezed past the RFA by a point. Outstanding. The match had even got under way ahead of time, meaning the Rugby Fives contingent were first to the bar at Queen's and able to enjoy the evening to its full.

Thanks to all those who played this year, and in particular to the match managers who make it all happen. This year we are adding another couple of schools fixtures, so please look out for those and, as ever, volunteer your services whenever you fancy playing.

Charlie Brooks

Malvern Town Club

This is a fairly new club consisting of Malvern staff and a few Old Boys who have returned to the nest, post-university. Regulars include Chris Thomas, Peter Gray, Stephen Coffey, Ed Ward and Alex Rothnie. If you live in the area and want to join us, we meet on Monday evenings. Our one fixture, against UCS Old Boys, was a resounding triumph, but sadly only one of us could enter the Barnes Bridge and make the most of home-court advantage.

Steve Coffey

Marlborough Town Club

Another excellent season, thanks – as ever – to the College and, in particular, the master in charge of Fives, Tom Kiggell. We are fortunate to have both Rugby and Eton courts, and our numbers continue to grow steadily, particularly at the younger end. This season we hosted the Exeter and North Oxford clubs, sent a team to Kings Bruton, and had members in various competitions. The annual fixture against the College was as competitive as ever, with the town retaining the trophy, but the College winning the 1st IV competition. Finally, thanks to Melissa Cole for running our Eton club tournament and to Jim Hughes for running our Rugby singles club tournament, both hugely enjoyable.

Richard Clark

Old Blundellians

The club had two main events this year. First was the annual Reichwald tournament at Blundell's in October which had a good turnout and was played with a handicapping system of matching an OB with a current pupil. There was also an OB match against Blundell's in March but the details are yet to reach me!

Sadly, my tenure of the Club Secretary's role is to be short-lived, as I am leaving the UK. However, the position will remain in the family, as my brother Nick is taking over.

Ed Cumberlege

Old Paulines

Another cracking year, with hard defences of the Wood Cup and Owers Trophy. The combination of dynamic youth and canny experience proved lethal, with Matt Shaw joining Sam Roberts, Tom Dean, Dan Tristao, Charlie Brooks and Ed Kay. The second team also reached the semis of both events.

We have had major individual success, too, with titles in London, Manchester, Durham and Edinburgh.

The club has grown steadily and this should continue, with many OPs playing at University. Our internal events have seen high-quality matches in the handicap singles (won by Dan Tristao, just) and the President's Cup-style doubles, won by Matt Shaw and Nick Edmonds. Long may it continue!

Tom Dean

Old Merchant Taylors

Over the summer we'll amalgamate fives with tennis, squash and wallball into one giant super-club. This should hopefully see more people crossing over between sports and playing fives and wallball for the first time. Club numbers have been steady but we hope to fill all four courts next season.

Again Dan Grant and Gareth Price led the OMT charge at tournaments. Dan reached his first singles finals at Manchester and Durham, and won the South West doubles with Will Ellison, a title won by Gareth in 2012.

Dan Grant

Old Bradfieldians

It has been a great year for building the club, and we now have a substantial player base enabling reliable fixtures to be organised.

The Fives year started off strongly by winning the plate at the Owers Trophy with a school leaver in every decade since the 70s!

In February there was a fine fixture against the Wessex Club at Bradfield – a clash of the Winchester Fives greats! It was fantastic to see 10 Old Bradfieldians play, and we are thankful for the support of the Wessex Club. A re-match at Winchester is planned for next year.

Finally the club is in anticipation of its first social event, seeing Tony 'Hound Dog' Brown perform with his Elvis tribute band. No better way to finish off the season!

Jez Sinton



A rejuvenated OBs club started the season by winning the Plate at the Owers Trophy

Old Tonbridgians

We had a mixed bag of results, but sadly during one match Graham Beauchamp badly damaged his already rather troubled knee – and he tells me that the medical team have advised that he gives up such a violent game. Our number is sadly depleted by one.

We managed a respectable win over the school and I am very pleased that Guy Harman was able to manage the events and teams during my absence in New Zealand. Our summer season is now under way and all are welcome. There are plenty of spare gloves, so all it needs is enthusiasm.

As ever, we send our grateful thanks to all who regularly play and also to the School for continuing to allow us access to the courts

Neil D Arnott

Oxford University

The Club has much to take from the year. The team has been applying itself with a vigour and determination lacking over the past few seasons. Thanks to a sponsorship deal with Neptune, we were able to hire a coach for the first time and the benefits were highly visible. I would like to thank Wayne Enstone for his hard work.

In addition, there was a big effort to improve the club's approach. This resulted in several fitness sessions and a noticeable improvement in the squad's overall fitness on match days.

This helped establish an atmosphere of dedication and commitment, which was reflected in the Club's record number of entries for BUCS. Henry Jefferies should be particularly commended, producing an awe-inspiring display to beat Peter Hanton.

Although the Varsity match ended in defeat, each player's attitude and commitment were exemplary. I have been very proud to captain the Club and I wish it and its members every success.

George Barnes

Union Boat Club, Boston

The past year has been good to UBC Fives. For one, the venerable Lyman Handball court was refurbished. We also crowned a 2012 club champion, conferring the Gardiner-Norwood trophy to Samuel Devens, who beat his cousin Matthew Iler in a rematch of last year's final. Both men continued their rivalry in the Turner-Devens tournament where Samuel defeated Matthew in a hard fought match.

We are planning a trip to the U.K. for June 2014. The idea is to bring 6-8 players and play some friendly exhibition matches around London. Our club visited the U.K. in the 1980s and had a fantastic time and we hope to replicate the experience.

Nick Elfner

Wessex Club

This year saw our numbers slightly down, but enthusiasm remains strong and we always had four courts in use with the usual mix of ages.

Club matches were keenly contested, the club was well represented in the RFA vs 'WFA' match, but sadly we were outclassed in the Club knockout by a very strong St Paul's II team.

Old Whitgiftians

2012-13 had been another enjoyable season for the Old Whitgiftian Fives Club. At the time of writing, we've played seven matches against a good mix of local and not-so-local opposition, including Christ's Hospital Masters/Old Blues, Old Tonbridgians, Jesters, and Whitgift school/masters.

We had a good turnout for our annual tour to the South West with entertaining games against Sherborne, Tiverton/Exeter and West of England at Clifton. Our club doubles competition was won by Mssrs Butlin & Woolfenden, the latter also winning our singles trophy for the first time following a tough final with Tony Hamilton.

Frustratingly we were defeated all-too-often by this year's climatic conditions, with some of the most frequent incidents of sweating courts we can remember putting pay to several fixtures, including the RFA.



The club's doubles competition was won by Nick Woolfenden and David Butlin (centre)

We look forward to getting at least some, if not all, of these games rearranged during the (hopefully) rather more stable spring/early summer climate!

We play social Fives at the Whitgift school courts in Croydon on most Thursday evenings. Players from any background are always welcome to play at our friendly club. Do contact Nick Woolfenden (nickw5s@hotmail.com) for any more info.

Nick Woolfenden

Bev Boag and his partner were runners up in the Masters and our club tournament saw 26 players compete for the Letchworth Bowl, which was won by David Spiegel and Ben Hale.

Harry Akerman

West of England Club

Our numbers are slightly down which ties in with the fact that Bristol has gone from having three Fives-playing schools to one – Clifton College – and Fives there is in a barren patch.

On the positive side we had another successful Christmas Doubles Tournament, with Simon Werkshagen (again!) and Ben Dunscombe winning. We also had an excellent Singles tournament, with the final between our two young stars, Inigo Ackland and Sam Rolls, and the former winning.

Our congratulations also go to Inigo and Sam for their performances for Bristol University in the BUCS Championships.

The Club also reached the National Club Championship quarter-finals, but we were drawn against the top seeds, the Old Paulines.

The most refreshing news has been the introduction to the game of four

14/15 year olds under the guidance of our club captain, Simon Werkshagen (see page 12). My thanks to Simon for his leadership and also to Richard Larnach for his support and assistance.

We look forward to welcoming back old members - new members are very welcome and should contact me on 07974 670742.

Lionel Lawson

White Rose Club

A year of conflicting fortunes: attendances have continued to fall, and we have had difficulties putting together a four for fixtures; yet, we are still well represented at tournaments, and Bob Sandie and Richard Sutcliffe won the Vintage Doubles.

To attract more members, we have tried to introduce Wallball to local schools. Some have shown an interest, but none have got actively involved.

The small core of players on which the club relies is holding strong, but the majority are ageing. Recently a new player appeared on the scene, so we hope this is a portent of things to come, so the club can survive into the foreseeable future.

John Hawke

Old Bedford Modernians

The weather has had more of an impact on our regular Monday evenings than for more years than



Phil Atkinson (left) and Chris Ryan won the Doubles Plate at the Veterans' tournament

many we can remember, with sweaty courts being the usual culprit but snow closing the school once.

Our 7.30pm start remains very much an aspiration but most of us do get there and eventually get on with it. Our two or three Bedford School boys are enthusiastic and continue to improve. We will miss them as they head off to university.

Mark Kiteley came away with the Love Mug from the President's Cup, won the Plate with Phil Atkinson in the Vintage and came away with a bottle of beer from the Vets Sunday Doubles. Phil also came away with some silverware, partnering me in the Vets and winning the plate.

Chris Ryan

Christopher Martin-Jenkins (1945-2013)

In all the talk of Chris as a cricketer at Marlborough and Cambridge, it passed almost without mention that he was a fine player of Rugby Fives who twice represented Cambridge in the Varsity match and served as RFA President from 1993-95.

Chris played Fives at Marlborough, where standards were not high, but at the beginning of his second year at Cambridge, he professed a desire to play the game seriously. He progressed from the Sparrows, the second team, to the VIII that played Oxford.

In Chris's autobiography he writes most affectionately of the game, but modestly, or perhaps because of the vagaries of memory, omitted to mention that he was elected Captain for 1967-68, since at the time it was still possible that he might return for a fourth year. As is well known, he did not, preferring to become Deputy Editor of 'The Cricketer'.



Chris played little Fives after Cambridge, but he returned whenever possible for the Past versus Present fixture. In his late forties Chris was encouraged by his former Cambridge Captain, Bob Dolby, to play in Veterans' Fives. This he did despite the fact that Fives, played largely around or below knee-level, caused agony to a man who

CMJ: wrote affectionately of Fives (photograph by Patrick Eagar)

had the kind of back problems that afflict those of his height.

Such was Chris's affection for the game, however, that he gladly became RFA President, promoting the game quietly and lauding it in a lengthy article about Fives-playing cricketers such as Jack Davies, Peter May, John Pretlove, Dennis Silk and Vic Marks.

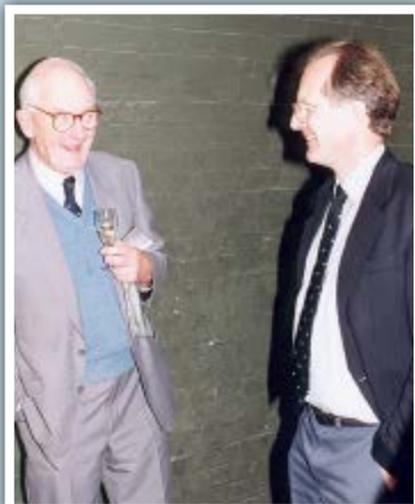
Chris was delighted when his eldest son, James, gained a Half-Blue at Oxford, leading a winning side in 1993.

He was equally delighted when it became clear in 2011 that Fives courts would return to Cambridge after 18 years. Chris was a generous supporter of the appeal to finance the courts in the new Sports Centre, and his name will be on the Honours Boards there.

Bob Dolby

Barry Trapnell (1924-2012)

Asked at a Past versus Present Dinner once just how good a player Barry was, John Pretlove, a multiple Amateur Singles and Doubles champion himself, replied simply:



Barry with David Barnes in 1995 at the closure of the Cambridge courts in Portugal Place

"Bloody good!" Barely anyone is now alive to attest to the quality of Barry's play, but one imagines that, with his exceptional height and immense reach, he was in the same tradition as the legendary Kenneth Gandar Dower, winner of national titles in Rugby and Eton Fives and known – not entirely affectionately – as "the kangaroo". Barry had the misfortune to be an undergraduate during the war years when there was no Varsity Match and, superb games-player that he was, he concentrated on cricket in the season following the cessation of hostilities. In 1946, he played for Cambridge, for the Gentleman versus the Players, and for Middlesex CC.

Over the next few years, however, Barry returned to Fives, playing regularly for the Jesters and winning three national titles: the Amateur Singles in 1949 and the Amateur Doubles with his Cambridge partner Edward Isaacs in the same year. He

won the Doubles once more, this time with an Oxford partner, in 1953.

Barry's extraordinary career thereafter, as an academic, research chemist, public school headmaster (Denstone and Oundle) and businessman, gradually took him away from the world of Fives, but in 1989, on the death of Jock Burnet, Barry was delighted to become President of Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club, a post he held for 15 years.

In this time, Barry had the galling experience of seeing his own college, St. John's, demolish the Fives (and other) courts at Portugal Place. He made many attempts to persuade the authorities at the university to provide the club with "a postage stamp of land" on which to build courts, but to no avail. With his mental health failing, it is unlikely that Barry understood in 2011 that finally his dream of courts in Cambridge was to come true.

Bob Dolby

Jeremy Schroeter (1952-2013)

I met Jeremy for the first time back in the late 1970s at the Clive Orpen experimented-upon courts in Hampstead in a match in which I was playing for UCS Old Boys and Jeremy for the RFA Club.

UCS Old Boys lost. In fact we got thrashed. Largely on account of Jeremy's ability to hit screaming winners with either hand from all parts of the court with deadly accuracy and tremendous power.

Following that first meeting, we started playing against and with each other in a variety of fixtures at many venues in and around London. I was very struck by his tremendous sense of fair play, offering lets to the opposition if there was the slightest hint of an obstruction and all too often refusing quite legitimate lets when they were offered to him.

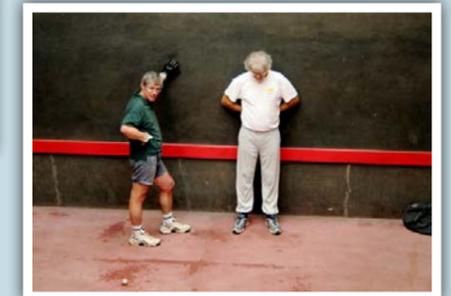
I also greatly liked his style of play which was to try to win the point with virtually every shot that he hit. Attritional fives was not for Jeremy and it meant that watching him in action was very entertaining, with a mix of cracking nicks and loud crashes into the bar, occasionally followed by the thud of the ball hitting the roof, such was the force of his shots.

Somehow we ended up partnering each other in doubles competitions – quite who asked whom I cannot recall – and for some ten years we travelled together around the country to play in most of the regional tournaments, the Club Knockout for the RFA and the National Doubles. I was a rather unfit left-hander with a flipper for a right arm, so Jeremy was the perfect doubles partner for me. He was something of a spring lamb, bounding around all parts of the court, even encroaching into the back left hand corner (my patch!) to retrieve seeming winners and then put us back on the attack, finishing off the point with a sharp cross-court shot at the front or a leap into the air for a crushing volley.

Jeremy was a Fives player extraordinaire with a rich CV of achievements including:



Jeremy (pictured, left, by Denise Hall-Wilton) was a 'Fives player extraordinaire



'His final title was a testament to his determination to live life to the full'

- Winner of the RFA Club President's Cup 8 times – 3 more times than any other player
- Winner of 9 Regional Doubles titles: South West (1), Yorkshire (1), West of England (4), North West (1), Puckle Cup (2)
- Winner of the 1983 Barnes Bridge Winchester Fives Trophy
- Runner-Up in the National Doubles Championship in 1987, 1988, & 1989
- Winner of the Veterans (over 45) Singles in 1998
- Winner of the Veterans Doubles 6 times from 1999 to 2004
- Winner of the Vintage (over 55) Doubles in 2011 & 2012

One of the most telling statistics is the last: his final victory came when he was seriously ill and was a real testament to his courage, strength and determination to live life to the full.

Even in his last months, surrounded and magnificently supported by Ellie, Richard, Patrick and Chloe, he retained the anarchic humour and 'illegitimi nil carborundum' attitude which made him so popular among his friends and fellow Fives players.

It was a real privilege to have known Jeremy and he is greatly missed. David Parly

Denstone College Fives

The history of Fives at a school where it is being brought back to life. **By David Barnes**

Denstone College opened in 1873, and four years later two fives courts were in regular use. They were plain-wall courts with no back wall or roof, and the surfaces were rough enough to warrant the complaint that boys 'could not afford sixpence for a ball which would not last an hour'. This, together with the lack of internal matches, led to a falling-off of interest in the 1880s, remedied by a thorough repair of the courts in 1893 and the presentation by the Chaplain of a 'Flag for Dormitory Competition' a year later. A Handicap Tournament was also started at this time, attracting a large entry.

A letter to 'The Denstonian' of 1886 had pointed out that the game's popularity was being affected by play only being possible in dry weather, but the plea for some sort of covering produced no tangible result; covered courts were not to come for many years. Nonetheless the standard of play was high enough for the newly-instituted Fives IV to play and beat the Masters in 1887. A set of rules for the game was published at this stage, among which was the stipulation that 'under no circumstances may kicking the ball be allowed'.

Matches took place against the Old Denstonians in 1893, 1896 and 1897, and in 1898 the Chaplain, clearly a keen supporter of the game, presented a Cup 'to be played for by the different dormitories by boys under 15'.

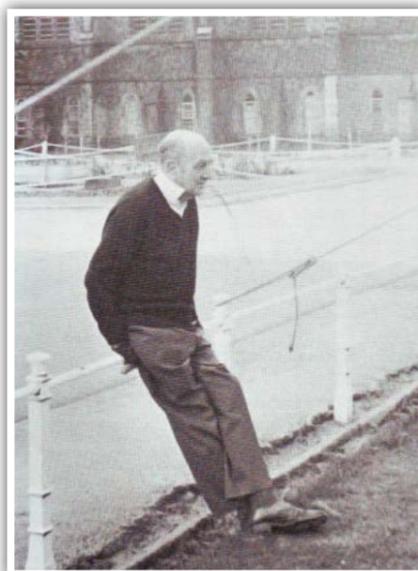
New century, new courts

The new century brought two new courts, similarly uncovered but 'a great improvement on their predecessors in appearance'. A Fives blazer, a mark of status, was awarded in 1903. The Masters were again played in 1906, but a fixture at Uttoxeter Grammar School in the same year provided an insuperable challenge as the courts turned out to be Eton Fives courts! Sadly, this experience seems to have

dissuaded the Denstone authorities from playing any more 'foreign' matches for quite a while.

Wire netting was eventually set up at the back of the Denstone courts 'so that the would-be player will not now have to spend the greater part of his game hunting for lost balls amid the collection of old drainpipes and timber'; but the courts deteriorated quite badly in the War years and no more external matches were held until 1928, when the Heath Grammar School (Halifax) Old Boys and the Manchester YMCA were played. In 1930 the Mancunians were played both home and away. Home court advantage told in both cases. 'Our players were entirely unused to singles, for which their small covered courts had been built,' lamented 'The Denstonian'. Revenge was sweet back at Denstone,

'John Adamson remembered the open courts with little affection'



however, as the Mancunians were 'unused to doubles'.

Adamson's arrival

The source of the above information, John Adamson, arrived to teach at Denstone in 1932 and remembered the open courts with little affection. 'The floors and side walls were rough and cracked,' he wrote, 'and as there were no back walls (or even wire netting), there was a constant risk of colliding with passing cars or pedestrians when the ball was hit out of the back of the court and had to be retrieved.'

Adamson, who had learnt his fives at Durham School and represented Oxford in 1930 and 1932, was instrumental in raising money, mainly from Old Denstonians, to build two new covered, four-walled courts in 1938. The Lent Term of 1939 saw four matches played, including one against the RFA and another against the Masters, who turned out six pairs. That same year a cup was presented by A.Christmas, an Old Denstonian, for the best individual player.

Adamson, described by one of his ex-pupils as 'a towering figure as far as sport was concerned', also ran the cricket and rugby at Denstone. He and J.L.Brear, his fives partner for many years, undertook the coaching, teaching the boys to take the ball off the back wall – a new experience! – and to develop skills equally with both hands. The outbreak of war put a stop to the building of any further courts (two more had been planned), but matches were played against teams from Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield Universities, and later against Oundle and Bedford. Inter-house competitions at senior and junior levels flourished, and Old Denstonian fives players began to make their mark at Oxford and Cambridge. D.A.A.Beardsmore was

LEFT John Adamson in 1982



Secretary of Rugby Fives at Cambridge for the 1944/45 season, although no official Varsity Matches were played during the War years, and D.M.Haynes is also recorded at Denstone as having played for Cambridge during those years. L.D.Ashcroft won selection for Oxford in 1950 (a particularly strong side) and 1952.

A great decade

In 1950, S.D.Hignell and W.G.Tobias won the Mappin Cup for Public Schools' Doubles. This heralded a great decade for fives at the College, which improved its facilities by building two more courts in 1952. The following year saw a clean sweep in the Schools' Championships, D.T.Sparrow winning the Singles (the first Denstonian to do so) and with A.C.Dracup, the Doubles as well, defeating their second pair, E.H.Miller and A.W.Seddon, in the final. Miller and Seddon were good enough to win the North of England Open Doubles in 1954, a title which Dracup and Sparrow took, along with the Scottish Open Doubles, in 1956. Also in 1956, to emphasise Denstone's expertise at Doubles, R.S.D.Jones and N.H.Wood became the third pair from the College to win the Mappin Cup.

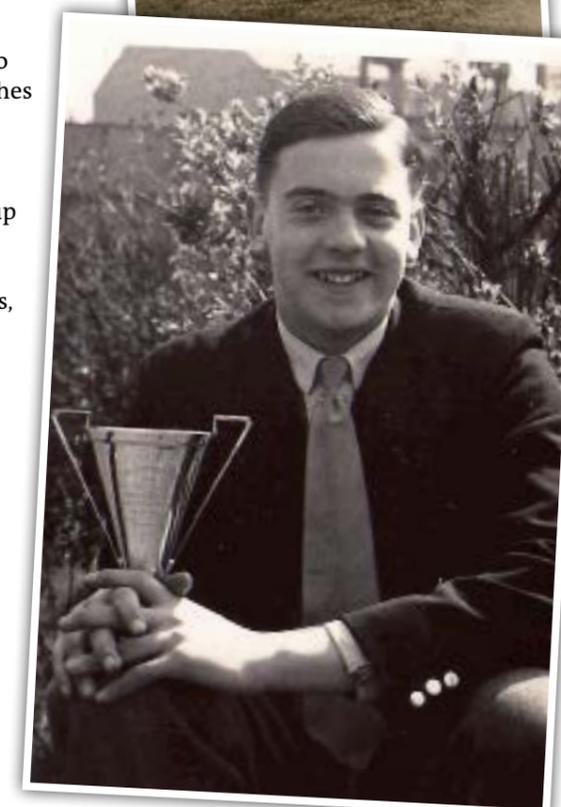
ABOVE Bill Tobias playing on court at Denstone in 1950
RIGHT SD Hignell & WG Tobias with the Mappin Cup in 1950
BELOW DT Sparrow with the Jesters' Cup in 1953

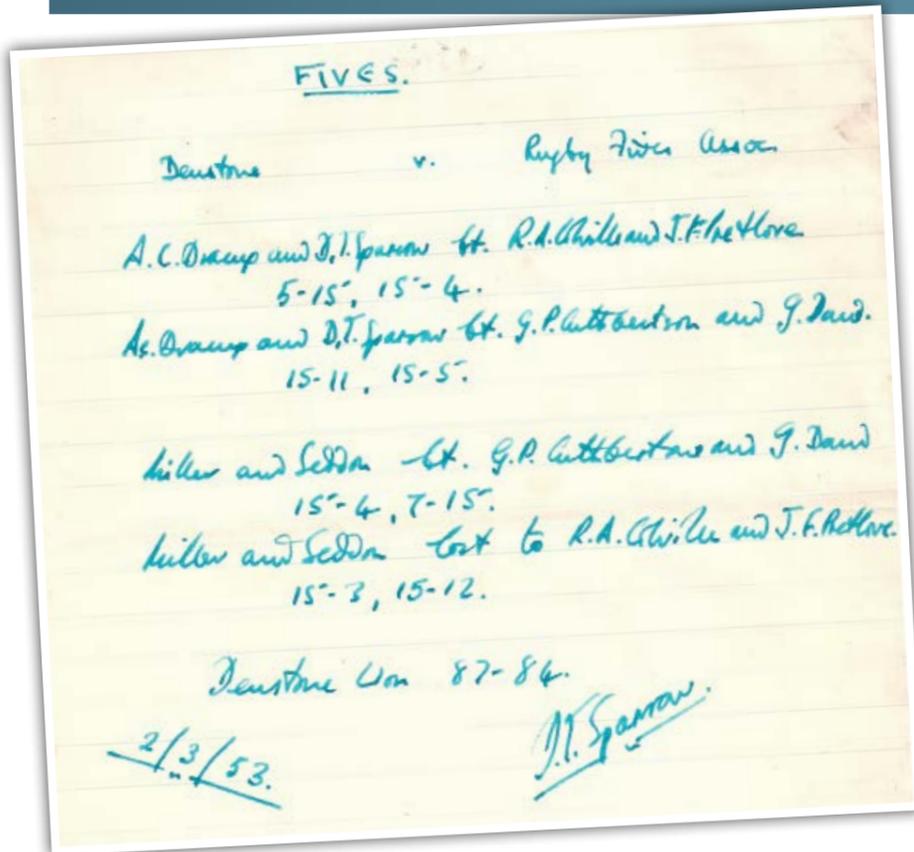


Three of these players were to feature heavily in Varsity Matches and to be team captain in their final year: Tobias (1954-56) and Sparrow (1956-58), both left-handers, for Oxford; and Dracup for Cambridge (1957-59). Bill Tobias still remembers one of Derek Sparrow's favourite shots, 'a high lob dropping nearly dead in the back left corner'!

End of Adamson's reign

In 1958, John Adamson's long and dedicated reign as master-in-charge came to an end. He and Jim Brear had encouraged the best games players, especially cricketers, to invest in fives as a winter sport, and this policy had brought its due reward. Fives was not just for the experts, however: house matches were keenly contested, and a large number





LEFT A match card from 1953: Denstone beat the RFA by three points
BELOW Trevor Newey's trophy in 1963

R.L.Short (Cambridge) from 1968-70, captaining the light-blues in his final year. Tony Tiffin had taken over as master-in-charge in 1962, staying until 1968, when he moved to Rugby. A thoughtful and skilled player and coach, he made a great contribution to Fives at Denstone. Bob Short, one of the best players produced in Tony's time, writes: 'He had a very deft touch and was always hitting the nick. He taught me length rather than power, but I should have heeded him more than I did'

'The Midland Circuit'

What one might call the 'Midland Circuit' was in full swing in the 1960s. Denstone played school matches against Oundle, Bedford, Bedford Modern, Nottingham High, Bloxham and, towards the end of the decade, Rugby and King's Worcester. Visiting clubs were the Universities of Loughborough, Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield, the Old Denstonians, Old Oundelians and Old Haberdashers, the Jesters and occasionally teams from Durham and Edinburgh. Then there was the annual clash with the Masters, who usually lived up to their name.

During the 1960s, various Old Denstonian teams, usually fours but occasionally an eight, had come to play a weekend's fives against the Common Room and the College. In the early 1970s, the team began to be described as the 'Derby Old Denstonians' or just the 'Derby Fives Club' and in the 1972/73 season as the 'Derby Mercia Club'. As the club grew, although it soon attracted members who were not Old Denstonians, the connection with the College became even closer. As it turned out, the club was to hold its practices and home matches there for three decades before returning to Derby and changing its name to Derby Moor Fives Club in 2003.

When Tony Tiffin left Denstone and Colin Shearer took over the reins again in 1968, he introduced matches for Under 15s to provide an incentive to

'The Christmas Cup was contested, although the actual trophy had been lost'

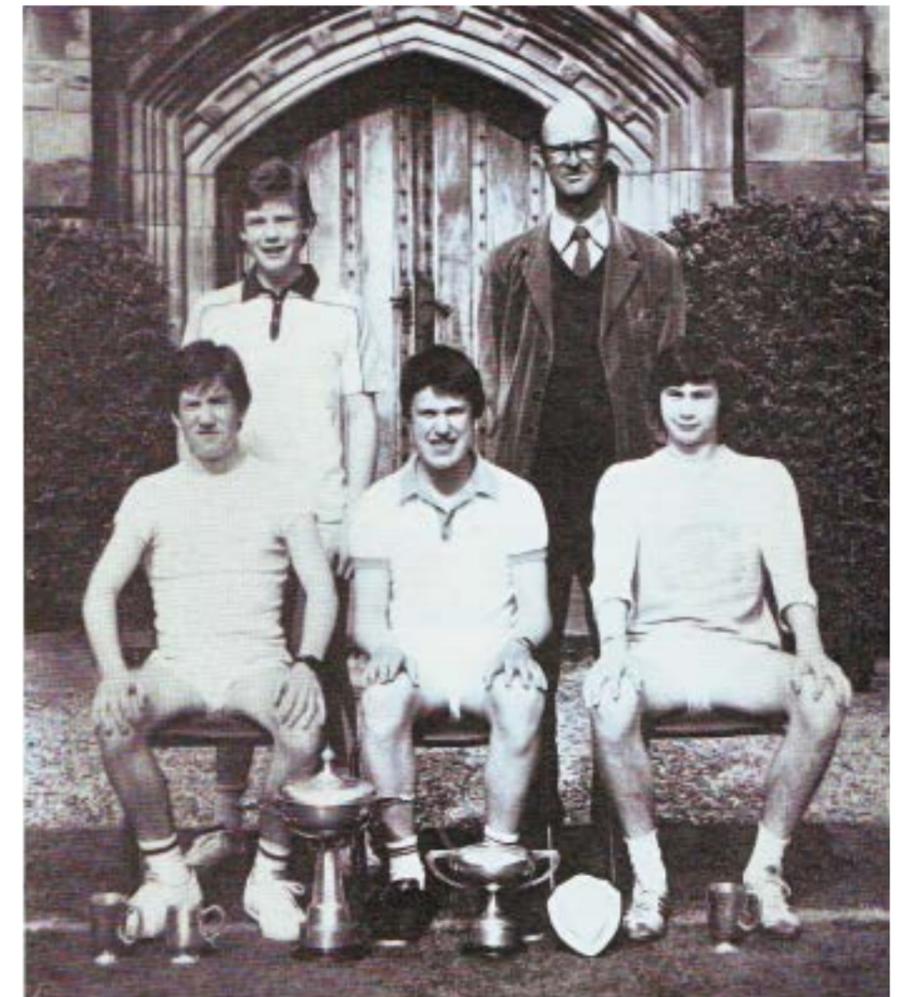
younger players. The College had a particularly good season in 1971, winning 13 out of 15 matches and tying one of the others. S.A. de Belder and Michael Morgan won the Northumbria Shield, a Schools' competition held in Durham, and then capped it by taking the Mappin Cup in the Nationals. Morgan also reached the final of the Schools' Singles, losing to a very good Bedfordian, while de Belder was to play three times for Oxford, captaining the team in 1974. A.C.Palmer, also a part of that superb 1971 Denstone team, played in the same three years for Cambridge and also captained his side.

Quieter period

A quieter period followed these successes, despite the assistance of J.D.Bassett, A.E.Marsden and R.B.Jackson, all masters involved in the coaching of fives at various levels. When Colin Shearer was unable to continue through injury, Richard Jackson took over as master-in-charge in 1975, and it was not long before reward came in the form of more successes at the National Schools at Whitgift. A.Daryani and G.Morgan won the Mappin Cup in 1977, followed by a Singles success for Morgan the next year, only the second time a boy from Denstone had won the Jesters' Cup.

Internal competitions between houses and individuals were still keenly contested at this time. In 1972 the Old Haberdashers, a London Club which had been coming on tour to Denstone since the mid-sixties, gave a cup for Colts Singles 'to mark all the matches over many happy years'. The Derby Mercia Club gave a cup for first-year competition in 1977, and in 1981 the Christmas Cup, still contested although the actual trophy had been lost for more than a decade, was replaced by a trophy from Joan Wood.

A quarter of the school was playing the game regularly in 1980, and the pressure on courts was so great in 1981 that Richard Jackson reported that 'we may have to be more selective in



The Colts' Fives Team — 1982

Standing: T. J. Norris, R. B. Jackson, Esq., Seated: (L to R) M. A. Bollard, J. F. Bradbury, J. C. G. Moss.

ABOVE Denstone's Colts in 1982, winners of both the National Schools' Singles and Doubles titles

future'. 1982 brought further success in the National Schools, when J.F.Bradbury and M.A.Bollard won the Colts Doubles, and Bradbury beat J.C.G.Moss, another Denstonian, in the Colts Singles final. This would have augured well for the future, but sadly Bollard left in July 1982 and Bradbury in February the next year.

Although there were to be no further wins in championships, the game retained good support over the next few years, with well over a hundred boys playing, an outstanding master-in-charge in Richard Jackson and valuable coaching assistance from Colin Shearer, David Dexter and David

Horn. Major repair work was done on the courts in 1985, and matches were played against opponents such as Bloxham, Bedford Modern, Radley and the far-distant Sedbergh and Giggleswick. Some girls were starting to play, as well.

Two crucial losses

In February 1988, disaster struck: Richard Jackson died from a heart attack. Colin Shearer was to retire that same year, and thus two of the men who had put most into Fives at Denstone since John Adamson's day were taken from the College. And sadly, John Adamson himself died that year

of boys were involved in the internal senior and junior singles competitions. So, when Adamson's assistant Colin Shearer took over as master-in-charge, things were in good shape. And when he was joined the next year by Tony Tiffin, fresh from captaining a winning Cambridge side in 1958, Denstone's fives future was assured.

Denstone's improved facilities and tournament successes meant that the season soon expanded to include some Michaelmas Term fixtures. There was an Under 16 team as well as 1st and 2nd IVs, and for several years in the 1960s the Denstone Staff could provide exceptionally strong opposition for the better pupils to practise against. The Headmaster from 1957 to 1968 was B.M.W.Trappnell, a former National Singles champion; assistant Chaplain M.P.Skliros had captained Cambridge at fives; and D.A.Norman had also won three half-blues for Cambridge. Add to them G.A.Tiffin, and you had a four of the highest quality.

Further success in the Mappin Cup came in 1963, when D.D.Braithwaite and T.J.A.Newey (another right- and left-handed pair) were the winners without losing a game, and two more Denstonians played in the Varsity Match, T.H.Peake (Oxford) in 1964 and



'Braithwaite and Newey won the 1963 Mappin Cup without losing a game'

‘There are plans to run inter-house competitions again at both Senior and Colts levels’

too. David Dexter took over next season, but with academic and other sporting commitments he and his team could not maintain the popularity of Fives, and the game faltered, with other higher-profile sports taking priority.

The Derby Mercia Club continued to provide opportunities for practice against good quality opposition for another decade, but fewer pupils responded. The courts became less of a focal point, and their condition began to deteriorate. The Mercia Club moved to Derby Moor in 2003, and at the same time the courts at Denstone were refurbished, thanks to generous donations from a number of Old Denstonians and the RFA.

The good news now is that a recent initiative has brought life back to the game, and with an enthusiastic master-in-charge, Tony Pearson, and a visiting coach, Anthony Goodwin, prospects are much brighter for Denstone’s Fives. The Michaelmas term is the most popular at the moment, and there are plans to run inter-House competitions again at Senior and Colts level. Smaller numbers play in the Lent, which limits the chances for matches and entries to regional and national competitions, but Fives coaching continues into the Summer term, making Denstone one of the few schools playing throughout the year. So far there have been matches against Oundle and Derby Moor, and the reappearance of Denstonians in RFA competitions is eagerly awaited. The newly instituted Midlands Regional would be a good target for a first venture in 2014.



TOP A young Denstone team from 2013
CENTRE Geoff Sherratt (RFA President) with Judy Teather and David Dexter at the reopening of the courts in 2003
BOTTOM The Denstone courts in 2012

■ *The author would like to thank all those who have helped with this article, particularly Denstone Alumni Co-ordinator Fiona Atkinson, Tony Pearson, Anthony Goodwin, Derek Sparrow, Bill Tobias, Trevor Newey, Bob Short, Gordon Morgan, Stuart Kirby and Geoff Smith. John Adamson’s handwritten researches into the early years were also indispensable.*

The Rugby Fives Association Charitable Trust

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



During its last financial year to 30th September 2012 the Trust received income of a little over £7,000 (a little over double the previous year), whilst it made grants in total of a little over £3,000, partly to reimburse the Derby Moor Club for some costs and also to support the national coaching scheme being established by the Fives Federation. Of course, since then we have paid out nearly £11,000 towards the Cambridge courts, partly with the help of donations specifically sent for that purpose. Bob Dolby’s efforts in ensuring the building of those courts cannot be praised highly enough. The Trust still has outstanding commitments towards the costs of the national coaching scheme while well over half of the 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. After accounting for the above, the Trust is left with rather low free funds (approx only £6,000). Even so, I should reiterate that the Trust will always consider applications for grants for both large and small projects.

So NOW is a very good time to provide some additional support to the RFACT; its ability to support many projects has been an important factor in those projects coming to fruition over the last decade; with that ability now somewhat reduced, if you do feel able and willing to contribute to the Trust’s funds please do get in touch with me. I can let you have a gift aid form if needed. Equally if you are willing to consider leaving a legacy to the Trust in your will, then please consider using the template below as



The Trust contributed more than £11,000 to the cost of the new Cambridge courts

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 for their support over the past year and Peter de Winton for his 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	SECOND WITNESS
_____ (Signature of witness)	_____ (Signature of witness)
NAME _____	NAME _____
Address _____	Address _____
Occupation _____	Occupation _____

* Delete as appropriate

End-of-Season Rankings

With more tournament entries, this season's rankings have a young feel to them



The rankings for the 2012-2013 season reflect the continuing impact of younger players in the game, a refreshing and encouraging trend. The trio of James Toop, Dan Tristao and Will Ellison continue to dominate the Singles rankings, as they have done for several years. The last time anyone other than one of these three won an open Singles event was in May 2010, when John Minta (who remains their closest challenger) won the Scottish Open title at Loretto.



‘The influx of further younger players provides genuine cause for optimism for the future’

Those who might regard James Toop (now in his early 30s) as slightly past “younger player” status, should remember that, in the 22 years between 1986 and 2007, the National Singles title was always won by players over 35, apart from once in 2003, when James himself won for the first time at the age of 22. Indeed, James is the only player since 1981 who has won the National Singles Championship at an age of less than 30.



TOP South West champs Gareth Price and Dan Tristao **CENTRE** Hamish Buchanan and Will Ellison, twice champions in 2012/13 **BOTTOM** BUCS singles winner Dan Grant

Last season, James picked up his sixth National Singles title, as well as successfully defending his London title. Will Ellison edges past Dan Tristao in second place with wins in the West of England and North of England, while Dan had wins at the South West, North West and Scottish Opens, as well as winning the Under 25s. John Minta and Matt Cavanagh – at Numbers 4 & 5 – and Hamish Buchanan at 8 maintain the presence of the “old guard”, while Dan Grant (BUCS singles champion), Charlie Brooks and Ed Kay (both National

Singles quarter-finalists), and Inigo Ackland (BUCS finalist) complete the places in the top 10. Dan Tristao's fifth Under 25s title takes him ahead of Roger Layton's record of four wins between 1989 and 1992.

Elsewhere, we have 13 new entrants into the Singles Rankings this year, reflecting a healthy crop of new younger players joining the tournament circuit.

In the Doubles Rankings, Will Ellison strengthens his position at No. 1, crowning another very impressive season with his triumph with Charlie Brooks in the National Doubles where they defeated last year's champions Dan Grant and Dan Tristao in the Final. Charlie moves up to Number 2 in the Rankings. Apart from these four Doubles finalists, honours were picked up by Gareth Price (with Dan Tristao at the South West), Tom Dean (with Charlie in London and with Will in the North of England), Hamish Buchanan (with Will in both Yorkshire and the West of England), John Minta (with Will in the North West), and Michael Kemp (with Will in Scotland). Dan Tristao and Ed Kay defended their Under 25s title while Ed was also successful in the University Doubles where he teamed up with Jacob Brubert.

In addition to the above players, Peter Hanton and Julian Aquilina (semi-finalists in Yorkshire) and Neil Roberts (finalist with John Minta in Yorkshire) make good progress in the top 20. In total, 22 new entrants appear in this year's Doubles Rankings.

Overall, tournament entries in the Doubles were a little up on the previous season, but significantly up in the Singles where we had the best total entry across all events since 2005. This, with the influx of further younger players into the rankings provides genuine cause for optimism for the future.

Dave Hebden

RFA National Rankings 2012-13

Singles

Pos.		Pts	Pos.		Pts
1	J Toop	91.2	31	A George	12.1
2	W Ellison	87.0	32	J Brubert	12.0
3	D Tristao	86.5	33	N Hillier	10.4
4	J Minta	61.8	34	A Pringle	10.0
5	M Cavanagh	60.6	42	F Thomas	10.0
6	D Grant	48.5	36	H Jefferies	9.8
7	C Brooks	44.7	37	S Fraser	9.2
8	H Buchanan	34.5	38	J Aquilina	8.7
9	E Kay	34.1	25	A Lee	8.7
10	I Ackland	30.2	40	J Tilston	8.3
11	L Thomson	25.7	41	J Hughes	8.1
12	T Maconie	24.6	42	J Gravatt	7.1
13	T Dean	22.2	32	R Patel	7.1
14	E Hatton	21.3	44	T Parker	6.5
15	M Bate	21.2	45	R Lamb	5.7
16	C Burrows	19.8	-	N Patel	5.7
32	G Price	19.8	47	S Coffey	5.3
18	M Bowness	19.7	48	M Roberts	4.9
19	N Roberts	19.6	49	J Malde	4.1
20	D Fox	19.3	50	S King	4.0
21	M Skogh	17.8	51	N Austin	2.4
22	R Murby	17.3	-	G Barnes	2.4
23	P Hanton	17.1	-	A Bowden	2.4
24	G Rees	16.9	54	M Kemp	2.0
25	S Rolls	15.8	55	M Shaw	1.8
26	T Widdop	14.8	56	M Frost	1.4
27	S Wyatt-Haines	14.7	57	A Goodwin	1.3
28	A Rew	14.2	58	C Waller	1.0
29	J Major	13.7	59	J Wren	0.8
30	D Butler	12.9			

Doubles

1	W Ellison	96.4	47	P Manning	17.3
2	C Brooks	88.9	34	R Christie	16.6
3	D Tristao	84.3	48	T Chase	15.8
4	H Buchanan	81.9	32	T Maconie	15.8
5	T Dean	80.0	50	S Kirby	15.0
6	D Grant	78.7	51	D Butler	14.1
7	J Minta	71.8	54	E Ronan	14.1
8	G Price	54.8	53	H Akerman	12.2
9	E Kay	52.0	-	C Waller	12.2
10	M Bate	50.0	55	A Bowden	10.0
11	H Mohammed	47.4	-	E Hawke	10.0
12	N Roberts	45.3	34	S Hodgson	10.0
13	P Hanton	41.8	-	H Jefferies	10.0
14	A Pringle	39.4	-	K Kennerley	10.0
15	R Perry	38.7	-	M Mohammed	10.0
16	M Skogh	38.7	43	V Patel	10.0
17	J Toop	36.1	-	J Spencer	10.0
18	M Kemp	34.6	-	R Wyatt-Haines	10.0
19	J Aquilina	33.9	-	S Wyatt-Haines	10.0
20	C Burrows	30.8	65	M Baxter	8.7
21	D Warner	30.0	71	J Malde	8.7
22	A Lee	27.4	67	N Austin	7.1
23	I Ackland	26.5	48	H Aveston	7.1
25	J Gravatt	26.5	34	A Beverly	7.1
19	E Hatton	26.5	54	C Butler	7.1
20	J Hawke	26.5	54	S Coffey	7.1
-	S Rolls	26.5	26	W Enstone	7.1
28	J Tilston	25.5	54	N Finney	7.1
29	J Brubert	24.5	54	A Hanton	7.1
-	R Pearson	24.5	54	N Hillier	7.1
-	R Sandie	24.5	54	T Kiggell	7.1
21	L Thomson	24.5	48	S King	7.1
33	J Marshall	22.4	54	B Kirk	7.1
34	J Beswick	21.2	54	R Lebon	7.1
31	M Frost	21.2	-	B Lowry	7.1
54	T Parker	21.2	54	E Malone	7.1
54	F Thomas	21.2	38	J Pearce-Smith	7.1
38	A George	20.6	48	J Savery	7.1
39	T Widdop	20.0	-	R Sutcliffe	7.1
40	A Goodwin	19.4	-	O Thompson	7.1
41	A Rew	18.7	-	J Walter	7.1
42	C Brechin	17.3	53	S Watson	7.1
34	M Cavanagh	17.3	88	N Edmonds	5.0
27	A Griffiths	17.3	71	J Goodwin	5.0
43	J Hughes	17.3	70	K Ward	5.0

Current shows position following the Scottish Championships, May 2013. Previous shows position at the start of the season

Join the 100 club



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

with the promotion of Rugby Fives, at the discretion of the RFA Committee (now the RFA Board).

Members pay an annual fee to join, and prize draws give a possible return. This year, the funds generated have allowed donations to Shrewsbury House School and Edinburgh Academy for coaching, as well as funding the £200 prize given to Durham University for providing the most student entries in tournaments.

We are always looking to expand our membership, so 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**

If we can lift the number of members to more than 100, we will be able to increase the prize money.

The Club is not in competition with the RFA Charitable Trust, and the scale of the Fund is 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

The RFA's treasurer reports on reaping the benefits of earlier decisions



You may recall that, last year, I mentioned that the purchase in 2012 of three years' worth of trophies would have a beneficial impact in

the next two years. As you can see, this has been the case with a sizeable profit on competitions. Our first Gift Aid repayment of just over £3000 was very useful and related to the first two years of our Charitable status. Future claims will be for each financial year and at about half that amount. Allowing for disbursements out of the Jesters fund, our assets increased by £534.

Subscriptions were slightly down in all areas but are not a cause for concern. We now await the results of the move onto Direct Debits and the changes to subscription levels.

On the expenditure side, the Board decided to subsidise a number of individuals in seeking their coaching qualification. Some of these costs relate to subsidies agreed in the previous financial year. Apart from the direct debit set-up costs, all other expenditure was pretty much in line with the previous year and the Board continues to examine ways of keeping costs as low as possible.

With regard to the 100 Club, some of the difference in subscription levels can be attributed to a number of 2011 payments falling into the 2012 financial year. However, whilst we have attracted some new members, we are aware of the need to keep promoting this fund. This year funds were given to Shrewsbury House School and Edinburgh Academy and we also gave Durham University a 'prize' of £200 for providing the most University entrants in senior competitions.

The Board is content with the position shown to the right.

Ian Fuller

General Secretary & Treasurer

The RFA Income & Expenditure Account Year to 31st July 2013

	2013 £	2012 £
GENERAL FUND		
Income		
Subscriptions & donations: Clubs	673	758
Schools	934	1,054
Individuals	9,858	10,266
Profit/(Loss) from championships	4,173	-23
Interest	301	15
Miscellaneous sales	30	125
Sponsorship/Advertising	75	125
Gift Aid repayment	3,016	0
Total income	19,060	12,320
Expenditure		
Secretarial fees	5,506	5,317
Printing	4,294	4,397
Postage and stationery	759	1,214
Website expenses	420	591
Insurance	936	891
Miscellaneous	61	49
Bank charges	108	206
Coaching Costs	4,240	0
Direct Debit set up costs	468	0
Gifts/Donations	250	290
Total expenditure	17,042	12,955
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	2,018	-635
100 CLUB FUND		
Income		
Subscriptions	651	982
Total income	651	982
Expenditure		
Draw prizes	320	320
Grants	436	168
Bank charges	50	33
Total expenditure	806	521
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	-155	461

The RFA Balance Sheet 31st July 2013

	2013 £	2012 £
GENERAL FUND		
Opening balance	27,214	27,849
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	2,018	-635
Closing balance	29,232	27,214
100 CLUB FUND		
Opening balance	1,660	1,199
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	-155	461
Closing balance	1,505	1,660
TRAVEL FUND		
Opening and closing balance	869	869
TROPHY FUND		
Opening and closing balance	500	500
JESTERS FUND		
Opening balance	4,005	0
Grant received	0	5,000
Disbursements	1,484	995
Closing balance	2,521	4,005
TOTAL FUND VALUE	34,627	34,248
REPRESENTED BY		
Cash at bank		
General Fund	33,122	32,588
100 Club Fund	1,505	1,660
TOTAL	34,627	34,248

For the year ended 31st July 2013 the company was entitled to exemption under section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. **R. Warner - President | P. Fuller - General Secretary** 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. Examiner**

2012/13 Results Round-Up

Full details of all these events on www.rfa.org.uk and www.fivesonline.net

SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Singles - Dan Tristao
Doubles - Dan Tristao & Gareth Price

LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Singles - James Toop
Doubles - Tom Dean & Charlie Brooks

OWERS TROPHY:

Final: Old Paulines bt Old Eastbournians

YORKSHIRE OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP:

Champions - Hamish Buchanan & Will Ellison

WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Will Ellison
Doubles - Hamish Buchanan & Will Ellison

SCHOOLS' WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions: Winchester I (Edmund Wylde & Jerry Ganendra)

NATIONAL STUDENT/BUCS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Dan Grant
Doubles - Cambridge (Ed Kay & Jacob Brubert)

NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Final: James Toop bt Will Ellison

NATIONAL LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Kathleen Briedenhann
Doubles - Kathleen Briedenhann & Tessa Mills

RFA CLUB PRESIDENT'S CUP

Champions: Will Ellison & Jeremy Stubbs
T Pot: Bruce Hanton & Dick Warner
Mates' Plate: Jay Gravatt & Andy Passey
Love Mug: Hamish Buchanan & Mark Kiteley

WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Singles - Matt Shaw (St. Paul's);
Senior Doubles - St Paul's I (Matt Shaw & Tim Edmonds);
Colts Singles Tom Watkinson (Winchester)
Colts Doubles - Derby Moor I (Matt Blunden & Robert Whitehorn)

NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Dan Tristao
Doubles - Will Ellison & John Minta

SOUTH EAST SCHOOLS' REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

U16 Singles - Tom Owen (St Dunstan's)
U16 Doubles - Horner & Raison (Whitgift)
U18 Singles - Chay Kent (Eastbourne)
U18 Doubles - Kent & Barnes (Eastbourne)

UNDER 25S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Dan Tristao
Doubles - Dan Tristao & Ed Kay

VARSITY MATCH

Cambridge bt Oxford 265-176

COLQUHOUN TROPHY

Open singles - Tom McPherson (Blundell's)
Colts singles - Tobias Francis (Blundell's)

NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Will Ellison
Doubles - Will Ellison & Tom Dean

LADIES WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Karen Hird
Doubles - Karen Hird & Fiona Barnes

RFA V BUCS REPRESENTATIVE MATCH:

RFA beat BUCS by 252 points to 157

MIDLANDS SCHOOLS' REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

Senior Singles - Robert Whitehorn (Derby Moor);
Senior Doubles - Derby Moor I (Robert Whitehorn & Rob Christie);
U15 Singles - George Romain (Rugby);
U15 Doubles - Rugby I (George Romain & Freddie Evans)

NATIONAL UNDER 13S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Kameron Swanson (St Olave's);
Doubles St Olaves I (James Tate & Kieran Walton)

WINCHESTER FIVES NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions - Will Ellison & Hal Mohammed

NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Wayne Enstone;
Doubles - Bob Sandie & Richard Sutcliffe

NATIONAL SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Open singles - Matt Shaw (St. Paul's);
Open Doubles - St Paul's II (Ben Beltrami & Oliver Arnold);
Colts singles - Robert Whitehorn (Derby Moor)
Colts doubles - Derby Moor I (Robert Whitehorn & Matt Blunden);
U14 singles - Kosi Nwuba (St. Olave's);
U14 doubles - St Paul's I (Dominic Shaw & Monty Evans)

NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions - Will Ellison & Charlie Brooks

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions - Old Paulines

NATIONAL MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions - John East & Martin Wilkinson

NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Hamish Buchanan;
Doubles - Hamish Buchanan & Bruce Hanton

NATIONAL SCHOOL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior singles - Tessa Mills (Eastbourne)
Senior Doubles - Eastbourne (Tessa Mills & Izzy Why)
U16 singles - Louise Matthias (Christ's Hospital);
U16 doubles - Rugby;
U14 singles - Molly Todd (Christ's Hospital)
U14 doubles - Christ's Hospital
U13 singles - Stella Saunt-Hills (Christ's Hospital)
U13 doubles - Christ's Hospital

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles - Dan Tristao;
Doubles Will Ellison & Mike Kemp

WINCHESTER FIVES MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions - Alex Steel & Andy Pringle



**Rugby Fives
Association
2013**

www.rfa.org.uk