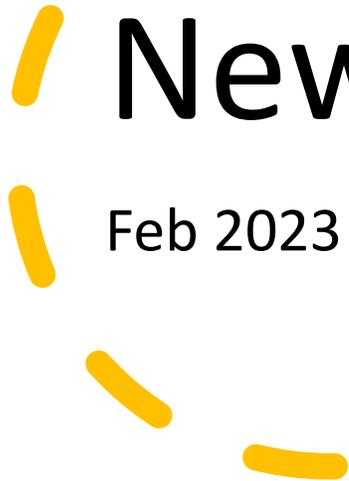




# RFA President's Newsletter

Feb 2023





#### President's Notes:

We are now well into the season and the tournaments played so far have produced some notable outcomes. You can read all about these in the news section of our website, but here are a few highlights.

**Dan Tristao** retained his National Singles title in a scintillating match against Ben Beltrami. This was Dan's seventh title and his 6<sup>th</sup> in a row. The U23 National Ladies singles and doubles titles were won by school pupils (Camille Beattie/Rosa Ogilvie and Olivia Smart respectively). At the President's Cup all the prizes were taken by mixed doubles pairings, which has never happened before.

**Louise Mathias** continued her dominance of the women's game winning her fourth successive Ladies National title, and her fourth successive doubles title with Shinan Zhang.





Winchester School not only managed a clean sweep in the West of England Schools in both doubles and singles but contributed all the finalists - congratulations to both the contestants and their coaches for this fantastic effort.

Big congratulations go to Lewis Keates also, who is our new under 25 national champion, and to his doubles partner Bally Singh who together won the under 25s doubles.

Meanwhile in Spain, Egoitz Campo won in the 1st Azkarate Memorial Tournament in Squash Court Fives, blazing a trail for this format of the game.

The Ladies nationals produced some outstanding performances and had high viewing figures on Instagram too.

More finals have been streamed this season than ever before, either on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, so keep an eye out for live games during the big tournaments.



### David Parlby

RFA members will be sorry to hear that our former President, David Parlby, suffered a serious head injury in a fall (not on a Fives court). David is currently convalescing at home and the RFA would like to extend its best wishes to him for a complete recovery.

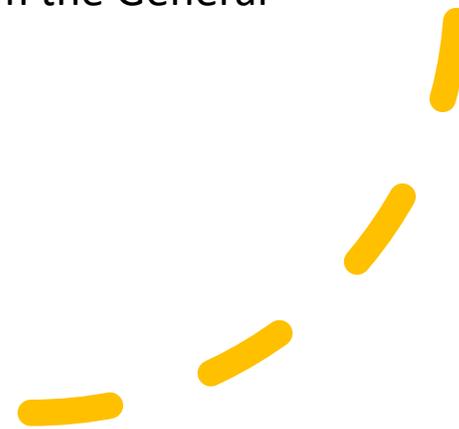
### Indemnity and insurance:

The RFA has become aware that the schools where our member clubs play, and where we play tournaments, are increasingly asking for evidence of insurance/indemnity. The RFA has such policies to cover all our tournaments, and as these have recently been renewed. We have now taken out new policies in which **all member clubs are also covered**. This has increased the premium by £520 and some of this cost will have to be passed on to the member clubs. However, this should be much cheaper than each individual club purchasing separate indemnity. Any individual club requiring the documentation can obtain this from the General Secretary.



Warm regards,

Julie



# A brief overview of the main topics from the last Board Meeting (15 Dec 2022)

## **Sub-Committees:**

As mentioned in my last newsletter, the Board wish to continue to move forward with the strategic objectives outlined previously and which can be found in the strategy documents on the website. It was therefore proposed and agreed that there should be 5 subcommittees formed, all led by Board Members, but which could include those with special expertise who were not board members.

**Coaching and Schools.** Scope: coordination and delivery of Activator Coach Awards, Level 2 coaching, and individual coaching support to schools/school coaches. Coaching materials. RFA relations with Schools. School leavers policy. Lead: Julie McIntyre

**Communication.** Scope: content, coordination, design, regular review and updating of our channels of communication including website, twitter, WhatsApp, email, Annual Review. Lead: Andy Passey

**Clubs and Tournaments** Scope: Financing and Structure of RFA Affiliated Clubs, scheduling, balance and delivery of RFA tournaments and revival of club matches Lead: Hamish Buchanan

**Courts, Membership and Finance.** Scope: Regular review of courts status and use, identification of financial support needs. Advancing the design and financing of new courts. Appropriate investment of RFA funds. Membership. Lead: Chris Blakeley

**Health, Safety and Safeguarding.** Scope: Updated safety reports, risk assessment and safeguarding policy (Leads: Stuart Kirby and Alex Smith)

## School Leavers

The Board recognizes that the time that players are most likely to be lost to the game is around the time that they leave school, or university if they have been playing there. A school leavers policy was therefore adopted, which stresses several measures designed to increase awareness of the RFA amongst School leavers, and we have extended the free membership of the RFA by one year from 18 to 19 years old (still only £10 per year until 25).

A poster is being produced for all schools and clubs to encourage year 13s to stay connected!

