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The following scheduled events were cancelled:

London Open Championships	Whitgift	/
Yorkshire Open Championships	Giggleswick	/
The Lady's Cup	Cambridge	
RFA v. WFA	Winchester	
West of England Championships	Marlborough	
Owers Trophy	Barnes	
National BUSF Championships	Marlborough	
Schools Winchester Fives Doubles	Winchester	
National Singles Championships	Barnes	
Ladies U23 championships	Barnes	
RFA President's Cup	Marlborough	
West of England Schools Championships	Sherborne	
The Jesters Tour to Scotland	Edinburgh	
North West Open Championships	Manchester	
National Ladies Championships	Manchester	
North of England Open Championships	Durham	
National U25 Championships	Oundle	
National Doubles Championship	Dulwich	
South East Schools Regional Championships	Tonbridge	
Northern Schools Regionals	Durham	
Midlands Regional Schools U18s	Oundle	
National Winchester Fives Doubles	Malvern	
Scottish Open Championships	Edinburgh	
The Varsity Match 2021	Barnes	postponed to September 2021

## **Rugby Fives Association**

7<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### **Coronavirus: Statement from the President, David Bawtree**

As you are only too aware, the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated the suspension of fives playing due to the closure of schools in the middle of March.

On 25th July, the Government permitted some lifting of lockdown rules including those that applied to sporting facilities. In anticipation of this a sub committee led by Stuart Kirby had been set up by the RFA Board to establish guidelines that would allow for fives playing to resume once schools reopened in September.

This proved to be a difficult task as the game had to be analysed very carefully to include both on and off court practices and it is a tribute to the hard work and commitment of Stuart's group that a set of guidelines was produced within a very tight timescale. These have now been agreed by the Board and submitted to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for approval. The Department had previously advised us that this last step was not strictly necessary as Government consent was only required for "team" sports. Nevertheless they agreed to review our proposals which we welcomed as it will give a formal seal of approval and may help satisfy schools and other court owners that fives can safely resume on their premises.

We will of course press for an early response and will communicate the outcome widely. We are hopeful that approval will be given although it must be borne in mind that fives can only restart if and when the schools give their permission.

## **Rugby Fives Association**

17<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### **Coronavirus: Statement from Philip Atkinson, General Secretary of the RFA**

The following communication has been sent to all schools. It is recommended that Club Secretaries contact their respective school or university to consider how these guidelines can facilitate the resumption of fives-playing.

Dear all,

I'm pleased to confirm that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has approved the attached guidelines for the resumption of playing fives. The following is an extract from the government's email:-

*We do not consider Rugby Fives to be a team sport for the purposes of our guidance (which is the same for sports like squash).*

*There is no formal requirement for you to submit your return to play guidance for approval but we are happy to review and offer comments.*

*I have no substantive comments as your guidance includes the elements that we would expect to see to enable a safe return to activity, in line with government guidelines. It's good to see the inclusion of specific adaptations and mitigations.*

*It is ultimately for governing bodies and clubs to satisfy themselves that they are compliant with current government guidelines and can safely resume activity.*

I hope that this provides reassurance, but should you have any queries or require any further information, please contact Stuart Kirby, who is the RFA's Health and Safety Adviser and has led a small team dedicated to producing these guidelines. His e-mail address: [stuart.kirby20@ntlworld.com](mailto:stuart.kirby20@ntlworld.com)

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## RFA Control Measures during the Coronavirus Pandemic

1. Participants must accept that Control Measures are being put into place to minimise the risk of transmission and not to eliminate it
  2. Participants (or the guardians of players under the age of 18) must make an informed decision about their own risk – particularly if they have underlying health conditions
  3. This check-list must be promulgated to coaches, assistant coaches, players, guardians (i.e. teachers/coaches or parents) and welfare officers
  4. All players must undergo a self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms.
    - Do not attend if you have a high temperature, or a new continuous cough, or a loss of (or a change to) their sense of smell or taste. If you have such symptoms then follow government agency guidance. For players under the age of 18, the parent or guardian must complete the self-assessment.
  5. No inter-Club/School matches or Competitions unless the Club/School has put in place measures to control the spread of COVID-19 that are in line with government advice
  6. Avoid using changing rooms, showers and toilets
  7. Fives courts with enclosures should, if possible, be used with ventilation fans on maximum and windows and doors open
  8. The Club will set up a method for recording the date and attendance at each session to allow Test and Trace to be completed should any member of the Club contract COVID-19. This record must be kept for 21 days.
    - It is expected that schools will already have this in place
  9. Players should sanitize their hands-on arrival and whenever gloves are removed
  10. Clubs/schools should ensure that hand-sanitizer is available for this purpose
  11. Turn up for the Club session already changed ready to play
  12. Do not touch other participants
    - Keep to at least 2 metres apart when off court and when warming up
    - Keep abreast of government requirements, including differences within the UK
  13. When playing competitive games, keep at least 1 metre away from other players, however, moving closer than one metre fleetingly (less than 3 seconds) is allowed so long as you are not face-to-face
    - The relevant distance is from the face of one player to another
    - Keeping to this rule is, in fact, the natural way in which Fives is played
  14. If it appears that two players are likely to clash then a 'let' must be called to prevent contact
  15. Gloves must be worn and removal minimised during a session
  16. The hand-shake at the end of each game is NOT allowed - an elbow bump is OK
  17. Balls should not be handled with bare hands – select a ball after putting on gloves and return the ball to the storage box before removing gloves
  18. Surfaces commonly touched by the players' bare hands should be disinfected, using a technique effective against viruses, before and after play
  19. If possible, gloves should not be shared and any players without their own gloves should be allocated gloves for the duration of the pandemic
  20. If shortages of gloves means that they must be shared then each person handling the gloves must wash or sanitise their hands immediately before and afterwards
    - In addition, cotton inner-gloves should be worn, taken home and washed after every use
  21. After use, gloves should be exposed to the air to allow them to dry out (as normal) and any possible COVID-19 infection to subside
  22. Spectators are allowed but are limited to 6 and, together with the players, must be socially distanced in-line with Government guidance – school Control Measures may supercede this
  23. All Clubs, Schools and Players should review these measures and be responsible for including them in their local plan together with any additional measures thought necessary
- Note: discussion and correlation of these Control Measures with government advice is available on request to [stuart.kirby@rugbyfives.com](mailto:stuart.kirby@rugbyfives.com)

## **South West Open Championships 2020 at Blundell's School, Tiverton -- cancelled**

### **Change of name for Alleyn Old Boys]**

11th August 2020

Amidst all the furore of Covid-19, the distractions of lockdown and quarantine and the all-consuming tensions the pandemic has brought us, one piece of news might have gone unnoticed: the imminent arrival of a new Rugby Fives Club.

For, as Hamish Buchanan tells us: The Alleyn Old Boys have played their last match and completed (although as with everything, not actually completed) their final season. Henceforth that band of men and women who play their Fives on the courts on Townley Road will be known as **The Edward Alleyn Fives Club**.

As Hamish puts it: The School began a fully coeducational intake in 1976 and has continued that practice to the present day; therefore, after the reasonable time span of 37 years since that first intake left the school to become Old Girls, the Alleyn Old Boys' Fives Club has moved with the times and embraced them into the fold. Although, not literally, that would be completely inappropriate in these times. This momentous decision has been made not a moment too soon as many of the up and coming school players that regularly join in on a Tuesday evening are indeed girls. In fact the truncated season was lifted by the regular involvement of 4 or 5 young players each week and they also had some great success in competitions. Notably, Martha Nugent in the Girls' U18 Singles & the Ladies' U23 Doubles and Stuart Scott in the President's Cup.

As chance would have it, the Alleyn's School Old Boys' Fives Club was founded in 1921, so if by the coming year we are once more in a position to play Fives 'as normal' the centenary of the Club may need to be celebrated with perhaps a little more than the customary Curry Night!

All of which raises two questions. UCS Old Boys? The Owers Trophy for Old Boys' Fives?

### **Play resumes at Derby Moor**

21st August 2020

Eight members of the Derby Moor Fives Club resumed play last evening, operating according to government-approved guidelines and with the agreement of Derby Moor Academy.

Among those playing was Stuart Kirby, RFA Board Member with responsibility for Health & Safety. Stuart led the team of Fives-players who drew up the guidelines which were recently approved by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Please see <https://rugbyfives.com/rfa-guidelines-for-resumption-of-play-approved/> for details.

Stuart would be pleased to share his thoughts and expertise with any fellow player or with any Club or School looking to resume play. He can be contacted directly by email or through the RFA website.

## **South East Open Championships at Christ's Hospital, Horsham -- cancelled**

### **Fives Podcasts are back for season 2!**

12th September 2020

The lads are back with their second season, but without Theo Parker, who, newly married, has abandoned his co-presenters and left them to make a fresh appointment! With just two candidates mentioned so far Dave, Matt and Sam have gone away to consider their options. Appropriately so, because the podcast presented today is called "That Assessing Options Episode".

The podcast can be accessed at [mailchi.mp/6e9059bf138c/the-fives-pod-season-2-episode-1-that-assessing-options-episode ...](https://mailchi.mp/6e9059bf138c/the-fives-pod-season-2-episode-1-that-assessing-options-episode)

### **New President and Deputy President for the RFA**

RFA AGM, 23rd September 2020

The 2020 RFA AGM will go down in history for a couple of very important reasons. First, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was held online via Zoom with attendance limited to Directors; and, second, the Association elected its first female Deputy President.

The lady in question in this landmark event is Julie McIntyre, who has done such a superb job in setting up and running the City of Durham Club. She will be deputy to Dave Parlby, who was elected President at the same meeting. He is also a familiar face to RFA members, having been Treasurer for the last four years and, in his playing days, a fearsome left-hander whose Doubles partnership in the 1980s with the late Jeremy Schroeter and Dave Hebden brought a whole array of titles.

At the same time, the RFA welcomed Dave Butler to the board and said a farewell to outgoing President David Bawtree and his predecessor Bernard Atkinson.

### **Cambridge University reveal their new promo video**

Cambridge, 24th September 2020

The RFA is delighted to share with the wider Fives community a wonderful promotional video created by the Cambridge University Fives Club. Ladies Captain Savanna Leboff, Social Secretary Ashwin Ahuja and members of the club edited together this film for the Virtual Freshers Fair, which opens the Michaelmas Term 2020 at Cambridge.

As well as an explanation of the game and a welcome message from Ashwin, it shows play on the superb courts at Cambridge and in the British Universities Tournament at Marlborough College.

## **Michael Haslam 1934-2020**

November 2020

The RFA is sad to report the death of Michael Haslam earlier this month. With the blessing of Michael's daughter, Melanie Whitehead, David Barnes has written a tribute to him.

Michael Haslam attended Sedbergh School and studied medicine at Cambridge and St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The Times records him representing St. Bart's at fives in 1958 in a match against the RFA Club, which he had joined that year. He became an individual member of the RFA itself in 1959 and maintained his membership for the rest of his life – a truly perennial supporter of the game.

In 1980 Michael had the idea of forming a 'Winchester Fives Group' within the RFA. With the RFA's blessing, he published a Winchester Fives Group newsletter describing and illustrating the basic Winchester Fives court and listing a dozen institutions possessing such courts. The newsletter expressed the hope that in due course a tournament might be held 'at some appropriate centre'. Two newsletters later, the decision was announced to hold a Winchester rules open doubles tournament at Bradfield on March 7th 1982. The tournament attracted 21 pairs 'and some late entries had to be turned away', according to Michael's report. He favoured the idea of taking the tournament to different schools in order to cater for a wider clientele, so the second year's event was held at Winchester, with a similarly large entry. Although it took a while for the tournament to gain the accolade of being reported on in the RFA Handbook, it became a regular feature of the March programme. The third event was held at Sedbergh and the fourth at Malvern, to complete the circuit before returning to Bradfield in 1986. Michael was to continue as organiser until 1993.

In the 1980s, when Denise Hall-Wilton and Paula Smith were playing fives at Bradfield, Michael and Shirley's daughter Melanie, then at Reading University, came with other Reading students to play with the Sunday evening club. She developed her game and became one of the leading women players of the first decade of the 21st century, winning the National Ladies' doubles title in partnership with Claire Knowles ten times in all. Her father Michael also had a hand in organising the early Ladies' Winchester Singles from 1988, for which he presented the Crayke Cup, named after his home village in Yorkshire.

Above all an enthusiast for Winchester fives, Michael also took pleasure in more esoteric handball games. In 1995, for example, he engaged in an interesting correspondence with Michael Beaman about Ushaw College and the strange rules of the various handball games that were played there.

## **New Treasurer for the RFA**

26th November 2020

At the RFA's recent board meeting, James Tilston was appointed as the Association's new Treasurer. In this role, he succeeds David Parlby, who became President of the RFA in September.

James (pictured, above right, with Rupert Mathieu) is eminently suited to his new role. Not only will he be a familiar face to everyone in the Fives-playing world, both on and off court, he has also embarked on a career in accountancy since graduating from university. He currently works as Forensic Accounting Manager at BDO UK LLP.

He learned his Fives at St Paul's School, before going on to be captain of the Durham University Fives Club. Since leaving university, he has been a regular on the tournament circuit – and with no lack of success. He has won both the President's Cup and South East Open Doubles title twice, and was part of the Old Paulines team that won the most recent Owers Trophy Old Boys tournament in September 2019.

Following his appointment as RFA Treasurer, he will join the board, combining his duties for the RFA with those for the Jesters Club, for whom he is one of the Rugby Fives representatives.

## **RFA board**

1st January 2021

There has been a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes at the Rugby Fives Association, and today we are able to announce the first fruits of those efforts: a rebranding of the association and the launch of a new website.

The new brand and site form part of a three-fold initiative to reach out beyond the traditional Fives-playing community; the ultimate aim is to sustain, nurture and grow Fives, ensuring that it is a sustainable sport in the long term. To do that, the Association wants to encourage more people to try out the game, which means telling them about it.

The first step in this process is to change the Association's brand – as shown in the image at the top of this story. Historically, there has always been confusion as a result of the word 'Rugby' in the sport's name, so the Association is rebranding itself as The RFA, with the logo showing instantly that the sport is called Fives and revolves around hitting a ball with the hands.

This has been followed by the second step – the launch of the new website at <https://therfa.uk> today.

As well as retaining the elements that have been part of RFA websites in the past, this new site focuses on helping newcomers to the game to find out more about it. Scanning through the site, they can find out how and where to play Fives, with maps, articles and videos to help them along the way.

The Association is also introducing a new approach to social media to give The RFA a more professional look and feel. This will include more photos and videos, as well as new ways for players to interact with each other.

## **Fives Podcast returns for a third season**

Saturday 6th February 2021

It's an exciting new season for the Fives Podcast. Guest hosts will be joining the established team of Dave Butler, Sam Russell and Matt Shaw for a third season, discussing various topics of interest, current and historical. The first guest host is Shinan Zhang, who previously took part in Season 2's That Mental Toughness Episode. Shinan has been interviewing RFA Deputy President Julie McIntyre and ex-Oxford Ladies Captain Phoebe Thornhill about their pathway into Fives and asking why it is that they absolutely love the game!

Two previous podcasts this season have dealt with Dave Parlbey's period as a leading player and explored his targets for the future of Fives as he embarks on his presidency of the RFA. A second episode delves into two-time National Singles champion Matt Cavanagh's "life in Fives" with an illuminating appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses a successful player has to manage.

Watch out for more podcasts to come on future Saturday mornings!

### **Episodes this season:**

*That RFA President Episode 23.01.2021*  
*That Matt Cavanagh Episode 30.01.2021*  
*That Pathway into Women's Fives Episode 06.02.2021*  
*That International Fives Episode 13.02.2021*  
*That Durham Schools Episode 20.02.2021*  
*That Y Club Episode 27.02.2021*  
*That Fives Ball Episode 06.03.2021*  
*That Ian Fuller Episode 13.03.2021*  
*That Fitness Motivation Episode 20.03.2021*  
*That Fives Skills Episode 27.03.2021*  
*That Smithy Episode 03.04.2021*  
*That RFAQs Episode 10.04.2021*  
*That End of season Round-up Episode 17.04.2021*

## **John Evans 1933-2021. The man who restored Fives to Rugby**

February 2021

The RFA is sad to report the death of John Evans, the man who brought Fives back to Rugby School

Dick Warner writes: John (always "Jock" to his generations of pupils) Evans, who died on 3rd February 2021 aged 87, was a super-talented man (an able sportsman, very musical and a first class amateur actor), with a gentle sense of humour, and strong on self-mockery. A committed Christian, he gave his time generously to support faith events and camps, and became a churchwarden, and organist, in retirement at his local church in Easton.

All fives players -- all court game enthusiasts -- owe him a massive debt, for restoring fives to Rugby School.

Educated at Bristol Grammar School, where he became head boy, John played both Rugby Football and Rugby Fives; he subsequently represented Bristol Rugby Football Club and went up to Worcester College, Oxford, to study classics. There he sustained a serious knee



injury playing for the university, which prevented his winning a richly deserved Rugger Blue. Happily, he could still play Fives, winning half-blues in 1955, 1957 and 1958.

A tall, hard-hitting, left hander, John played a lot of fives after university, in particular for the Jesters Club. RFA archivist David Barnes recalls "I remember him and Mike Scott coming down to Winchester in 1959 to play for the Jesters. I hadn't seen the ball hit so hard -- when I managed to sight it, that was."

After the mandatory two year National Service, John reluctantly decided against a career as a concert pianist, instead taking a job teaching classics at Blundell's (1958-63), then moved to Rugby (1963-1981) where he became master in charge of fives 1967-73, following John Inglis, and succeeded by Tony Tiffin, as well as housemaster of Kilbracken House.

He left Rugby to become headmaster of Brentwood School (1981-1993), alma mater to author Douglas Adams and footballer Frank Lampard, where he proudly took the school co-educational. His valedictory event, before retiring to Somerset with his wife Vyvyan, was to play a Mozart double concerto with the head of music, David Pickthall, to rapturous applause from the assembled school and parents.

To the fives world, John attained legendary status in 2010 by achieving what most people thought impossible -- bringing back Rugby Fives to Rugby School where it had originated. In 1989, the four existing courts had been bulldozed to make way for a Design Centre, when Rugby decided that its future lay in admitting girls to the previously male-only school, thereby denying them, and incidentally the boys, the opportunity of learning fives.

The then headmaster had promised to replace the courts, as headmasters do, calculating that time and alumni apathy would allow this commitment to be forgotten, and promptly left. He would certainly have been correct, had John -- by then long retired -- not, by raising hell, inspired the initiative to "bring Rugby Fives back to its spiritual home".

His Quixotic determination to restore fives courts was grounded in his lifetime schoolmasterly experience of prodding and cajoling reluctant pupils into activities that -- when they rouse themselves -- they thoroughly relish. The genesis of the Court Restoration idea came to him when a guest at David Urquhart's (his former head of house at Rugby, and head of school) enthronement as Bishop of Birmingham.

John became increasingly wrathful during the event, learning of the weaselly words about replacement courts by the headmaster who oversaw their destruction, and decided that he would see that Rugby would play fives again.

And, gloriously, against the odds, but not against his belief, Rugby Fives supporters (players, the RFA, the Jesters, ex-players, Rugby School pupils and their parents, anyone who could be buttonholed) raised the funds; Rugby School more than did its bit, by supporting the idea, making space at the Sports Centre, committed to the future maintenance, and appointed an inspirational fives master in Trevor White.

Now both girls and boys have had a decade of playing the game again at Rugby, and a coterie of ancients have enjoyed rolling back the years by playing on the JAE Evans courts. Aged 77, at the official opening, he produced his fives gloves and was keener than anyone to get on court, if only briefly. It gave him huge pleasure to see grandson Freddie representing the school there.

In 2017, despite being physically very infirm, and located three hours drive away, John decided he wanted to attend the annual Jesters dinner at the RAC Club in central London, at which David Urquhart was due to be the speaker. No obstacle prevented him, not even the deadly terrorist attack that day on Westminster Bridge, which imperilled the event, and put a number of guests off attending. The final hurdle of what was quite a logistical saga was to get him up to the dining room on the first floor -- the massively imposing club staircase being well beyond what his legs and sticks could manage, John needed to use the lift. Time was running out, as the doors would be locked by security and no-one admitted after the arrival of the Jesters' patron, the Duke of Edinburgh, for whom the lift was reserved. Thankfully, the Prince Consort was delayed by a few seconds, just long enough for John to be whisked upstairs.

## **Paul Coker 1939-2021**

March 2021

The RFA is sad to report the death, at the age of 82, of Paul Coker, a leading member of that group of Old Merchant Taylors' players -- Graham Prodger, Dick Bulgin, Bob Peters, Geoff Bunting, the Cameron brothers, the Wiles brothers and the young Guy Whiting -- who made the OMTs a major force in club Fives in the 1970s, winning the Wood Cup in 1975.

Paul, who sadly died on 13<sup>th</sup> March, will be remembered by OMTs for his significant contribution to the OMT Society, OMTCC and OMT Fives.

After leaving School, he qualified as a Chartered Accountant, moving from the profession into commerce. He became Finance Director and subsequently Managing Director of the major company Rank Hovis McDougall (RHM).

He used his experience to assist OMT Society very actively in his capacity as a Director of Durrants Club Ltd, the company set up by the Society to oversee the business side of running and maintaining Durrants when it was encountering financial problems in doing both. He was elected a Vice President of The Society.

He played for OMTCC as a top order batsman and occasional bowler and wicketkeeper mainly in its Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 which he captained for some years and into which he introduced some talented MTS schoolboys some of whom went on to play for the OMTCC 1<sup>st</sup> X1 for many seasons. He also was the OMTCC Match Manager and Captain for a number of The Club's Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 matches. He started the OMTCC Veterans X1 which he captained for several years. He also much enjoyed playing on the OMTCC tours to Kent, The Thames area, and abroad. After Paul stopped playing, he was a regular supporter of OMTCC from the boundary and until recent years when his health deteriorated, he and his wife Delphine were present at nearly every match played by OMT in The Cricketer Cup. They were very strong and generous supporters of OMT Cricketer Cup and The Coker picnics on the boundary were "legendary!" Paul was Chairman of OMTCC for a number of years and steered The Club with much sage wisdom through the period in which he was in office. He was honoured by The Club by being elected an Honorary Life Member.

## **National Schools tournaments announced**

Alleyn's School, Dulwich, 14-22 August 2021

The RFA is delighted - ecstatic, even - to announce that it is planning to hold a tournament later this year. In fact, it is planning to hold several tournaments.

The National Schools Tournaments are to be held at Alleyn's School in Dulwich, London, in mid-August, and the dates and details are being confirmed now in the hope that as many pupils as possible will be able to take part. The tournaments are the 2021 National Schools Championships (which ordinarily would have taken place in April 2021) for the academic year 2020-21. However, we are also holding a backdated U18 Open Tournament for the previous 2019-20 academic year, to give those who missed the chance to compete in their final National Schools tournament an opportunity to do so.

However it should be noted that, while it is the Association's intention for the tournaments to constitute the National tournaments for the academic year 2020-21, the board reserves the right to remove this status if it deems the draw is significantly weaker than expected due to the tournament being held in the summer holidays.

The events span the usual age ranges, from Under 13 to Under 18, with both singles and doubles tournaments taking place, and for the first time the Girls' Championships will be held alongside the Open events. What is also different about this event is that entry to the tournament will be made directly by parents and/or pupils in the first instance. This is to ensure that no extra organisational burden is put on teachers/club organisers during their summer holidays. Contact details for the organisers of each event can be found in the National Schools entry letter.

The exact structure of the tournaments will be decided based on the number of entrants, but the aim is to provide Fives for every entrant on every day of each respective tournament. But the organisers also hope to have other activities and events throughout the tournament week, including exhibition matches between the top players in the country, and other handball-related skills games/competitions with prizes taking place on the grounds (weather permitting).

Full details are available on the National Schools entry letter, which you can download by clicking on this link.

Here is a brief overview of the events:

**U13 Open** – 14th August - for pupils in Year 8 or younger in the academic year 2020-21 - organiser Sam Russell

**U14 Open** – 19th-21st August – for pupils in Year 9 or younger in 2020-21 - organisers David Butler/Hamish Buchanan

**U16 Open** – 19th-22nd August - for pupils in Year 11 or younger in 2020-21 - organisers David Butler/Hamish Buchanan

**U18 Open** – 19th-22nd August - for pupils in Year 13 or younger in 2020-21 - organisers David Butler/Hamish Buchanan

**U18 Open 2019-20 Tournament** – 21st-22nd August - for pupils in Year 13 or younger in 2019-20 - organisers David Butler/Hamish Buchanan

**U13-U18 Girls** – 15th August – Eligibility for age groups as in Open categories (above) - organiser Alex Smith

## **Loretto Courts refurbished**

Loretto School, Musselburgh, 5 May 2021

The RFA is delighted to announce the complete renovation of the Roger Whit Fives Courts at Loretto School in Musselburgh, near Edinburgh, writes Richie Murby. With consultation

and support from the RFA, the school has overseen the complete refurbishment of both the viewing area and the courts themselves - reflooring, replastering and painting the playing areas to create a thoroughly rejuvenated venue for fives.

Due to Covid restrictions, this writer has not been able to test out the courts as yet. However, Loretto's captain of fives, Nathan, has had a chance to try out the new surfaces, enthusing that "the new courts are fun and a lot faster than the old ones - and definitely more grippy underfoot".

Though one or two traditionalists might mourn the overhauling of the rough, mottled, and at times almost unplayable 'end' court, the benefits outweigh the nostalgia - with all the other current Scottish fives venues having two courts each, Scotland now has, for the first time in many years, three top-class courts all under one roof.

These are exciting times for Loretto, the home of the Scottish Open, and we are confident that these good-as-new courts will make a huge contribution towards keeping players learning and enjoying the game for many years to come.

## **A return to play after lockdown**

Nationwide, 17 May 2021

Across the country Rugby Fives players are dusting off their gloves and stretching rarely used muscles in preparation for that most joyous of things: a return to court this week. It follows the government's announcement that it would, as planned, relax the Covid-induced restrictions that were in place, and allow 'organised adult sports' to restart indoors from today.

In anticipation of this move, clubs and schools had already been in discussion about access to courts - most of which are contained within academic institutions – and the RFA already knows that Fives will resume in the following locations:

Bristol  
Derby Moor  
Durham  
London - UCS, Alleyn's  
Manchester  
Rossall (after half term)  
Sherborne  
Tiverton - Blundell's  
Tonbridge

For more details on the clubs at these locations, please click on the relevant link above. And for other venues around the UK, please use the RFA's Club Finder. Here you will find contact details for those in charge of the clubs, and they will be able to advise you about a return to play on the courts closest to you.

The Association knows that several other clubs are in discussion with their host schools about returning to court, and we will keep you up to date as they hopefully also make a return to play in the coming weeks.

## **Tim Lewis 1953-2021**

June 2021

It is with great sadness that we report the death of the inimitable Tim Lewis after a short illness.

Stuart Watson has penned this affectionate tribute to his dear friend, Timothy Ronald Edward Lewis:

How can I adequately describe such a colourful and totally unique character to anyone who did not have the pleasure of meeting him? Fortunately, most rugby fives players did not miss out on an encounter with Tim – an indelible, ineradicable experience.

Tim was a remarkable and unforgettable type of guy, who learned how to play the wonderful game of rugby fives during his school days at Clifton College in Bristol. Tim was a boarder at Clifton between 1967 and 1972 and it was always the Easter term sport for those boys who did not wish to play hockey or soccer. However, it was not until he finished school at the age of 18 that Tim learned the game properly under the rather severe tutelage of his lovely and fun-loving brother Pete, the indomitable Malcolm Bramley, and, of course, the great family friend, Cedric Clapp. They had set up the Mamhead Fives Club at the University of Exeter a year or so previously, which metamorphosed into the now infamous Exeter Fives Club.

Tim had “no left hand” at all in those days and these three told Tim he had to play on the left side and take every shot with his left hand – woe betide him if he did not obey and squeezed in an occasional return with his right hand!

Tim was a very underrated singles player. Through the 80s we met up on a Friday evening at the University courts and played three games to 15, which usually took us the best part of an hour and a half; we both learned a lot from each other. When the National Singles qualifying tournaments were introduced in 1988 we entered the West of England Regional and Tim, although well placed in the results, did not qualify but said he would like to come up to London to support me and also be a reserve. When we arrived at the courts, the first person we saw was Jeremy Schroeter, who took one look at Tim and exclaimed “What are you doing here, Lewis, you’re not good enough!” Tim proved to all that in fact he was good enough by qualifying as of right a year or two later and won through to the final of the Plate, where, ironically, his opponent was the same Jeremy Schroeter.

What a doubles partner Tim turned out to be: over the last 30 plus years I have hugely enjoyed the privilege of playing with him in many tournaments. He was so much fun and caused great hilarity wherever he was playing and, of course, in the pub afterwards. I have a mind full of joyful memories, too many to share here, but over a pint of ale in the pub I am sure the name of Tim Lewis will feature strongly in most of our stories from the past and cause us all to laugh merrily with a tear or two shed as well.

Tim and I decided at age of 65 (both born in 1953) to start our “never ending” Retirement Tour, which was rudely interrupted by Covid regulations: it was just before he was taken ill that we were excitedly talking about being able to recommence and add one more year to our original plan to go onto age 70.

Tim provided so much joy to so many and has hugely contributed to the folklore of Rugby Fives. I am sure we will all dearly miss the lovable, full of life person he was -- what a man, what a fives player, what a character, what a friend. Bless you, Tim.

Tributes from fellow players:

“I’m sure I’m not alone in having many fond memories of encounters with Tim over the years.”

“Really sad news ... taken from us far too early.”

“... a fun guy to play against on court and great company in the pub afterwards.”

“... much larger than life .... A super bloke. I’m going to miss his voluble presence on court — fives will be quieter, and less fun, without him.”

“... super bloke who made fives down in the SW great fun. The first time I met him at Blundell’s he was “relaxing” in his usual way outside the court, so I assumed it would be an easy game. How wrong I was!”

“... a privilege to have known him. He will truly be missed.”

## **Durham University Challenger Tournament**

Durham, 3-4 July 2021

**STOP PRESS:** The season has begun! With a tournament organised by the Durham University Fives Club and aimed primarily at university players. There was a Men’s Universities Singles tournament, a Ladies Invitation Singles Tournament and an Open Doubles tournament on the Sunday for those fit and free to enter. Sadly a contingent from Cambridge were prevented from attending by a case of covid requiring their isolation.

*Douglas Law reports:* The inaugural University Challenger Tournament was held this past weekend at the Durham Courts, the first official fives competition held since early 2020. It was a pleasure to have so many players up to the venue to participate in the contest, and with names such as Boyd, Jourdan and Beattie on the roster, the weekend promised some top-quality fives for the many fans who had gathered in the gallery.

The weekend’s play started early on the Saturday, with a couple of DURVsC players competing in the first matches. These early match-ups whetted the appetite for the games that were to follow, with impressive skills on show from all the players in the first round. Notable mentions must go to Will Hanley, whose ancient gloves did nothing to stifle his flair, and Isaac Weaver whose skills, imported from Eton fives, took him to victory in the plate-plate.

In the meantime, the women’s tournament was in full swing, with five top players competing for the title of women’s University Challenger singles champion. These games were all closely fought, with DURVsC players Bell and Elliot acquitting themselves particularly well. The match between Anastasia and Julie drew a large crowd, with both players fighting for the lead throughout the game before McIntyre clinched victory 12-10.

As the day progressed, any rustiness that might have been evident in the play was gone, and players found themselves back in the groove of playing fives as if they had been on the court only yesterday. Two epic matches are worth calling out from the men’s draw. The first was between newly anointed DURVsC captain Doug Law and the relentless Joe Sumner. Sumner’s unparalleled retrieval and stamina ensured a win, but only after a gruelling first game. Law began to flag towards the end of the second, but it still took a determined

performance by Sumner to take victory. The second was the longest game of the day, between ultra-running Durham legend Michael Suddaby and the formidable Scotsman Ben Jourdan. With Suddaby's consistency and reliability on show, Jourdan needed every ounce of his creativity on court to overturn the first set deficit of 15-3 to pull level in the second with a 15-10 win. The third game between the two was neck-and-neck, but tragedy struck after Suddaby seized a 5-4 lead. Stretching to recover from returning one of Jourdan's inch perfect drop shots, Suddaby managed to critically injure his shoulder. Moments later, he withdrew from the tournament, and the relieved Jourdan progressed to the final with Boyd. It was a real shame that we didn't get to see the conclusion of this match between two players who are surely rising stars of the game, and no doubt future rivals across the regional opens.

The day concluded with two finals – for the men's singles, and men's singles plate. In the main competition, Andrew Boyd's precision and top-level experience ensured victory over his teammate, friend and rival Ben Jourdan. It was a tough match between the two, in oppressive heat and humidity, but Boyd's top ten calibre showed through as he pressed for his eventual victory. In the plate final, first-year fives player Dom Percival put up a good fight against Doug Law, nearly pulling off a dramatic comeback, but falling behind in the end. It was very encouraging to see a player so new to the club already progressing to the plate final in just his first appearance in a university tournament.

The following day was for the doubles, but the not before the first match of the day: The women's singles final. Zara Elliot took on Camille Beattie in a rematch of one of the round-robin games from the previous day. A local rivalry stirred under the surface, with the players representing Durham's university and city clubs respectively. In the end the title went to Durham local Camille Beattie, whose crisp hitting had proved too difficult for her opponents to overcome throughout the competition. The final of the women's tournament was livestreamed on the local club's social channels, and as the commentator noted, it really does bode well for the future of this format to see these young players playing such attractive fives.

In the doubles, two pairs emerged as favourites in the round robin. Camille Beattie and Doug Tidy were playing some very impressive shots throughout their matches and were certainly the most solid of all the pairs in the draw. Law and Elliot also looked confident, making short work of most of their opponents. These two pairs came together in the last match of the day. It was a closely fought contest, with precise shots from both sides, but Camille's relentless pressure and Tidy's formidable right hand eventually ground down Law and Elliot. For those interested, the full game is available to review on the DURVsC Instagram page, with Michael Suddaby's colour commentary definitely not to be missed. With no ranking points at stake, the spirit of fives was evident across all the match-ups, and especially in the final.

Credit must go to tournament organiser Michael Suddaby, who reached out to other university captains and players on his own initiative. His love of the game shone throughout the weekend, and we are all very grateful for his efforts in bringing us together for this celebration of fives. The tournament was a fitting end to Michael's captaincy of DURVsC, which was otherwise blighted by the spread of the virus. We hope that this weekend will set the tone for the rest of the tournaments this summer: high quality fives enjoyed by all, played in the true spirit of the game.

### **Men's Universities Singles**

**1st round:** Doug Tidy (Loughborough) bt Isaac Weaver (Durham) 11-5, 11-6; Dom Percival (Durham) bt Andrew Shaw (Durham) 11-3, 11-0; Will Hanley (Durham) bt Callum Clark

(Durham) 11-0, 11-5

**Quarter-finals:** Andrew Boyd (Edinburgh) bt Tidy 15-8, 15-3; Joe Sumner (KCLondon) bt Douglas Law (Durham) 15-13; 15-8; Ben Jourdan (Edinburgh) bt Percival 15-0, 15-9; Michael Suddaby (Durham) bt Hanley 15-1, 15-0

**Semi-finals:** Boyd bt Sumner 15-5, 15-4; Jourdan bt Suddaby 3-15, 15-10, 5-5 (retired)

**Final:** Boyd bt Jourdan 15-4, 15-7

**Plate:**

**Semi-finals:** Law bt Tidy 15-7; Percival bt Hanley 15-0. **Final:** Law bt Percival 15-3

**PlatePlate:** 1st Weaver; 2nd Clark; 3rd Shaw

## **Ladies Invitation Tournament**

Kirsten Bell and Zara Elliot from Durham University; Camille Beattie and Julie McIntyre from the City of Durham Club; and Anastasia de Clermont from Leeds University played out a round robin, from which Camille emerged in 1st place and Zara 2nd. They played a deciding final on the Sunday morning, which Camille won 11-4, 11-6.

## **Open Doubles**

13 players from the previous day's competitions were joined by Poppy Atkinson from the City of Durham Club. 7 pairs then contested a round robin, the last match of which was to prove decisive: 2 pairs had won all their five matches, each had 55 points. Their encounter in that final match went to the wire!

1st: 67 pts Tidy & Beattie (W6 L0)

2nd: 66 pts Law & Elliot (W5 L1)

3rd: 54 pts Sumner & Bell 54 (W4 L2)

4th: 43 pts Boyd & McIntyre (W1 L5)

5th=: 41 pts Clark & Weaver (W3 L3); Hanley & Shaw (W1 L5)

7th: 36 pts Jourdan & Atkinson (W2 L4)

## **City of Durham Festival of Fives**

Durham, 24-25 July 2021

Players from Durham, Derby and Edinburgh came together to celebrate the first month of tournament Fives since March 2020. 10 players contested the Singles and 8 pairs the Doubles.

Report to come

### **Singles**

**Pool A:** 1st Keates L; 2nd Beattie C; 3rd McIntyre J; 4th Atkinson P

**Pool B:** 1st Law D; 2nd McIntyre O; 3rd Hogarth A

**Pool C:** 1st Beattie S; 2nd Hicks A; 3rd Clark C

**Semi-finals:** Keates bt McIntyre O; Beattie S bt Law

**Final:** Lewis Keates bt Simon Beattie

### **Doubles**

#### **The final order**

1st: Jez Sinton & Tom Wakelam

2nd: Camille Beattie & Richard Christie



3rd: Simon Beattie & Callum Yates  
4th: Adam Hicks & Stuart Kirby  
5th: Callum Clark & Brian Kirk  
6th: Angus Hogarth & Oscar McIntyre  
7th: Poppy Atkinson & Douglas Law  
8th: Leah Hogarth & Lewis Keates

## **National Schools Girls' Championships**

Alleyn's School, Dulwich  
Sunday, 15th August 2021

Some 40 girls from 6 different schools contested this season's delayed National Schools Girls' Championships at Alleyn's School. With titles in four different age groups being contested as usual there were 16 competitions, main and plate, going on at the same time on the four courts, a complex operation which organiser Alex Smith ran with aplomb, ably assisted by Rob Ody, Richie Murby and Hamish Buchanan.

The small Under 18 competition ran smoothly and was the first to be completed, with Martha Nugent, now playing her fives with the Edward Alleyn Club, successfully defending the Singles title she won two years ago. In the Doubles Alleyn's fielded Katie Innes & Lucy Arie as their first pair. Their final with two players from Highgate School looked anything but straightforward as the score fluctuated first in favour of one side and then the other, but eventually the home pair's greater experience of Rugby Fives paid off in a match that ended 15-13.

The Under 16 competition involved a dozen players from five different schools. It was clear from the outset that the player to beat in the Singles was Camille Beattie from the City of Durham Fives Club. She dropped just two points in storming to victory, giving the Durham club its first national champion. Camille had no partner for the main Doubles, so it was an opportunity for the Edinburgh Academy pair of Cecily Millar & Rosa Ogilvie to take the title in a tense and high quality final 15-12 against the Alleyn's first pair of Anna Chance & Claudia Davey.

Meanwhile on the front courts two larger competitions were progressing at a fast rate, aided by the application of 'rally points', i.e. every rally counts for a point. In the U14s Rosa Ogilvie of Edinburgh Academy grew in strength and confidence as the day progressed and came out a comfortable winner of the Singles. Having played in the U16 Doubles Rosa took no part in the U14 Doubles, which went the way of the Alleyn's pair, Emily Erdmeier & Annie Guo, at the expense of the Stamford Schools pair, Harriet Denton & Amelia Duncan.

If there were any tired bodies at the end of the day it was among the U13s, who played round robins in Singles and Doubles and then engaged in a knock-out, where matches were increasingly close. The pick of the players were Anna Bailey and Annabelle McAllister, who met in the final of both Singles and Doubles, striking the final shots of the day in a superb 15-13 Doubles final.

Thanks go to Alleyn's and Fives master Rob Ody for hosting the event; to Alex Smith and his various helpers; to supportive parents, teachers and coaches, for some of whom this was a first experience of the game — let us hope they liked what they saw on and off court! And above all, thanks to the players who committed to this special event — they did themselves proud.

## **Selected Scores**

### **U18 Singles**

**Semi-finals:** M Nugent (Edward Alleyn Club) bt L Hawkins (Edinburgh Academy) 11-0; K Innes (Alleyn's) bt L Arie (Alleyn's) 11-7

**Final:** Nugent bt Innes 11-3

**Plate:** L Valensise (Highgate) bt G Edward (Edinburgh Academy) 11-5

### **U18 Doubles**

**Final:** Alleyn's 1 (Innes & Arie) bt Highgate (L Valensise & C Vos) 15-13

**Plate:** Edinburgh Academy/Edward Alleyn Club (H Brown/M Nugent) bt Edinburgh Academy (G Edward & L Hawkins) 11-0

### **U16 Singles**

**Semi-finals:** C Beattie (City of Durham) bt C Vos (Highgate) 11-2; A Chance (Alleyn's) bt H Brown (Edinburgh Academy) 11-5

**Final:** Beattie bt Chance 11-0

**Plate:** C Millar (Edinburgh Academy) bt B Macrae (Edinburgh Academy) 11-5

### **U16 Doubles**

**Semi-finals:** Edinburgh Academy 1 (C Millar & R Ogilvie) bt Alleyn's 1 (C Stephens & S Walby) 11-8; Alleyn's 2 (A Chance & C Davey) bt Edinburgh Academy 2 (B Macrae & O Tait) 11-1

**Final:** Edinburgh Academy bt Alleyn's 2 15-12

**Plate:** City of Durham/Stamford (C Beattie & J Withers) bt Stamford 1 (T Sogunro & N Murison) 11-1

### **U14 Singles**

**Semi-finals:** R Ogilvie (Edinburgh Academy) bt C Davey (Alleyn's) 11-5; E Erdmeier (Stamford) bt A Guo (Alleyn's) 11-3

**Final:** Ogilvie bt Erdmeier 15-3

**Plate:** Davey bt Guo 11-1

### **U14 Doubles**

**Final:** Alleyn's 1 (E Erdmeier & A Guo) bt Stamford 1 (H Denton & A Duncan) 15-7

**Plate:** Stamford 3 (E Green & J Withers)

### **U13 Singles**

**1st round:** T Sogunro (Stamford) bt A Bellamy (Stamford) 11-10; J Park (Edinburgh Academy) bt N Edenborough-Elliott (Stamford) 11-3; E Tyler (Stamford) bt G Edenborough-Elliott (Stamford) 11-1; J Ho (Alleyn's) bt E Thurston (Stamford) 11-2; T Boothman (Stamford) bt F Cavaciuti (Stamford) 11-2; B Grindal (Stamford) bt M Stevens (Stamford) 11-2

**Quarter-finals:** A Bailey (Edinburgh Academy) bt Sogunro 11-5; Park bt Tyler 11-9; Ho bt Boothman 11-8; A McAllister (Alleyn's) bt Grindal 11-8

**Semi-finals:** Bailey bt Park 11-5; McAllister bt Ho 11-10

**Final:** Bailey bt McAllister 15-8

**Plate:** Grindal bt Boothman 15-7

### **U13 Doubles**

**Final:** Edinburgh Academy (Bailey & Park) bt Alleyn's (Ho & McAllister) 15-13

**Plate:** Stamford 3 (Boothman & Thurston) bt Stamford 1 (Grindal & Stevens) 15-10

## National Schools' U13 Championships

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Saturday, 14th August 2021

It was a clean sweep for Alleyn's in this season's delayed National U13 Championships, hosted by Alleyn's School, with Milo Arie winning the Singles and then the Doubles with his partner and runner-up in the Singles, Archie Shaw. 23 boys contested the championships, with 1 from St Dunstan's College (SDC), 4 from Edinburgh Academy (EA), 5 from Alleyn's (AL) and 13 from the Stamford Endowed Schools (SES), who play their fives on squash courts under the guidance of Alex Smith. It was Connor McNaughton from Stamford who won the Singles Plate and then, with schoolmate Rory Jones, the Doubles Plate. Our thanks to Sam Russell, who organised the event and ran proceedings with customary smoothness.

### Scores

**Singles:** After a series of matches involving 4 groups a main draw with 16 players emerged and in due course a Plate competition including some early-round losers.

### Main Draw

**1st round:** A Shaw (AL) bt J Mountain (SES) 11-3; C McNaughton (SES) bt P Doherty (AL) 11-3; F James (EA) bt A Baker (SES) 11-1; C Sharpe (SES) bt W Davies (SES) 11-6; M Arie (AL) bt L Todd (SES) 11-1; F Lonie (EA) bt O Zbikowski (EA) 11-10; C Burrows (SES) bt L Shields (AL) 11-6; T Jarrold (EA) bt M Witham (SES) 11-3

**Quarter-finals:** Shaw bt McNaughton 11-7; James bt Sharpe 11-1; Arie bt Lonie 11-0; Jarrold bt Burrows 11-3

**Semi-finals:** Shaw bt James 11-8; Arie bt Jarrold 11-0

**Final:** Arie (Alleyn's) bt Shaw (Alleyn's) 15-3

**Plate:** McNaughton (Stamford) bt James (Edinburgh Academy) 15-8

### Doubles

**Quarter-finals:** Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-4; Stamford 1 bt Stamford 5 11-6; Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 2 11-3; Stamford 2 bt Stamford 3/4 11-3

**Semi-finals:** Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Stamford 1 11-4; Alleyn's 1 bt Stamford 2 11-4

**Final:** Alleyn's 1 (Arie & Shaw) bt Edinburgh Academy 1 (James & Jarrold) 15-8

**Plate:** Stamford 2 (Jones & McNaughton) bt Stamford 1 (Baker & Sharpe) 16-14

## National Schools' Championships 2021 (inc. retrospective U18s 2020)

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

19-22 August 2021

Over 100 players from 13 different schools and clubs took part in The National Schools' Fives Championships 2021, kindly hosted by Alleyn's School over the course of four days. The event comprised open tournaments at U14, U16 and U18 level, the U13 championships having been completed the previous week.

With such a good turn-out for all categories it was possible to run preliminary groups in round robin format, leading to a knock-out stage and at least one accompanying Plate competition in each age-group. So organisers Dave Butler and Hamish Buchanan were kept busy, particularly over the first two days. A gratifyingly large entry for the U18 competition

meant that nearly every school was eventually represented in the knock-out draw, but by the time the final was reached it was two players from the same school, Alleyn's, who fought for the title, with number one seed, Gwydion Wiseman, triumphing over his friend and partner Stuart Scott. Not surprisingly Gwydion and Stuart then combined to win the Doubles title, beating Marcus Cloke Browne and Kaito Bremner from Winchester.

The U16 entry was the smallest, though boosted by some young players moving up for the Doubles. From the start it looked as if the player to beat in the Singles was Genesis Nsenga, who combines Eton Fives at St Olave's School with Rugby Fives at the Edward Alleyn Club. There was great interest to see who might challenge him in the final of the Singles, whether Theo Vernacchio of Alleyn's or Max Freudenheim of Tonbridge. These two played out a high quality semi-final, with Max coming out on top. Unfortunately the effort of that victory left Max short of the necessary energy to seriously challenge Genesis in the final. But a second chance for the gold medal came in the Doubles, where Tonbridge took on Alleyn's in the final. Yet again, though, Max had to settle for silver as he and partner narrowly lost to the Alleyn's first pair in the best and closest match of the tournament so far.

With virtually no inter-school matches to go on the seeding for the U14 Singles was tricky. There was talk of a very promising player from The Edinburgh Academy who might challenge the best from either St Olave's, Winchester or Alleyn's. There was also a large group from the ever-improving Stamford. In the event it soon became clear that Ronnie Brown from Scotland was indeed the stand-out player. Who would meet him in the final? Much to coach Alex Smith's delight it was Chase Burgess from Stamford Endowed Schools who had the honour of being their first player to reach a national final, some achievement for someone who plays his Fives largely on a squash court and has as yet very limited experience of competing on a standard Rugby Fives court. A silver medal was his reward. Greater delight was to come when Chase joined up with Cameron Drutman for an historic victory in the Doubles final — and Stamford won a Plate in Singles and Doubles, too!

The fourth day was not just the traditional finals day. It was also the day to stage the retrospective U18 Singles and Doubles, offering a chance for those players who left school in the summer of 2020 having had no Schools competition in their final season of school Fives. Seb Fraser (ex-Winchester, now Newcastle University), Vishal Singh (Derby Moor and now Coventry University) and Callum Clark (ex-Edinburgh Academy and now Durham University) took advantage of this initiative on the part of the RFA, along with a substantial number of younger players still at school. The players themselves virtually ran this competition, knock-outs and Plates, at the end of which Gwydion Wiseman played out a superb final with Boris Ames of Blundell's School and then, visibly exhausted from his fourth final of the day, paired up with Stuart Scott once more to defeat Boris and his partner Will Bucknell in another exciting Doubles final. For Gwydion it was a double double — and he has another year left to match the great Peter Mellor's record of three National Schools' Singles titles in a row. Less momentous but still rewarding for Derby Moor was their double in the Plate competitions, where Raheem Yusuf won the Singles and then joined Vishal to win the Doubles.

So many thank-you's to make. Firstly to the organisers Dave Butler and Hamish Buchanan who deserve all the praise they got, and more, for setting up and running the event with such a light touch. To Alleyn's School and particularly Rob Ody for hosting us and dealing with alacrity with whatever logistical issue came up. To solicitous parents and enthusiastic coaches, without whom so few players would have made it to the competition. Above all to the competitors: the Winchester group who braved the rain in a family huddle; the Derby Moor squad who can hardly be kept off court; the tight-knit Alleyn's contingent, all tactics

and pasta; the chirpy Paulines enjoying courts in the cool, fresh air; the adventurous Scots, happy to get a few days off school before term has barely begun; the inspirational Stamfordians doing their coach proud; the ambitious City of Durham party whose obvious love of the game matches the quality of their play; the Tonbridgians who strike the ball with the elegance of their master-in-charge; the long-distance Blundellians, who play the game the way Wayne Enstone has taught them. Everyone there.

### **Selected Scores**

Key: AL (Alleyn's School); BLS (Blundell's School); CoD (City of Durham); DMF (Derby Moor Fives); EA (Edinburgh Academy); Marl (Marlborough College); MTS (Merchant Taylors' School); SPS (St Paul's School); Stam (Stamford School); StDC (St Dunstan's College); StO (St Olave's School); Ton (Tonbridge School); WinC (Winchester College)

### **U18 Singles**

**1st round:** G Wiseman (AL) bt A Millar (EA) 11-0, 11-0; S Beattie (CoD) bt B Harrison (SPS) 11-1, 11-0; M Cloke Browne (WinC) bt Z Taylor-Schindler (AL) 11-4, 11-2; B Ames (BLS) bt F Kottler (Marl) 8-11, 11-8, 11-5; S Scott (AL) bt O Knight (Ton) 11-6, 11-4; B Roberts (SPS) bt A Garella (MTS) 11-3, 11-4; O McIntyre (CoD) bt A Ridley (SPS) 12-10, 11-9; R Yusuf (DMF) bt K Bremner (WinC) 11-0, 11-4

**Quarter-finals:** Wiseman bt Beattie 11-3, 11-3; Cloke Browne bt Ames 11-4, 11-6; Scott bt Roberts 11-6, 11-7; Yusuf bt McIntyre 11-9, 11-6

**Semi-finals:** Wiseman bt Cloke Browne 11-3, 11-1; Scott bt Yusuf 11-9, 11-5

**Final:** Wiseman (Alleyn's) bt Scott (Alleyn's) 11-1, 11-8

**Plate:** Harrison (SPS) bt B Pymont (SPS) 15-12

### **U18 Doubles**

**1st round:** Alleyn's 1 bt Alleyn's 3 15-3; Loretto bt Derby Moor 15-3; Blundell's 1 bt St Paul's 2 15-4; Tonbridge bt Edinburgh Academy 15-3; St Paul's 1 bt Blundell's 2 15-6; Winchester bt Marlborough 15-5; Alleyn's 2 bt Merchant Taylors' 15-9; City of Durham 1 bt St Paul's 3 15-8

**Quarter-finals:** Alleyn's 1 bt Loretto 11-2, 11-5; Blundell's 1 bt Tonbridge 11-0, 11-2; Winchester bt St Paul's 1 11-7, 11-4; Alleyn's 2 bt City of Durham 11-6, 11-3

**Semi-finals:** Alleyn's 1 bt Blundell's 1 11-9, 11-4; Winchester bt Alleyn's 2 11-5, 11-1

**Final:** Alleyn's 1 (Scott & Wiseman) bt Winchester (Bremner & Cloke Browne) 11-4, 11-3

**Plate:** Alleyn's 3 (Harrison & Shaw) bt St Paul's 3 (Harrison & Ridley) 11-9, 3-11, 11-4

### **U16 Singles**

**1st round:** S Beattie (CoD) bt P Harrison (AL)

**Quarter-finals:** G Nsenga (StO) bt Beattie; L Milner (AL) bt C Calzia (SPS); G Slater (Ton) bt D Witham (StDC); M Freudenheim (Ton) bt T Vernacchio (AL)

**Semi-finals:** Nsenga bt Milner; Freudenheim bt Slater

**Final:** Nsenga (St Olave's) bt Freudenheim (Tonbridge) 11-5, 11-0

**1st Plate:** E Arie (Alleyn's) bt M Wyman (Marlborough) 15-12

**2nd Plate:** K Davins (Derby Moor) bt B Cundy (Derby Moor) 11-6

### **U16 Doubles**

**Semi-finals:** Tonbridge bt Edinburgh Academy 2 9-11, 11-2, 11-2; Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 1 11-3, 11-6

**Final:** Alleyn's 1 (Milner & Vernacchio) bt Tonbridge (Freudenheim & Slater) 11-6, 8-11, 11-7

**Plate:** Alleyn's/St Paul's (Dorokhov & Calzia) bt Marlborough (di Gleria & Wyman) 12-10, 11-8

### U14 Singles

**1st round:** R Brown (EA) bt D Hughes (SPS) 15-3; A Dorokhov (AL) bt J Chan (WinC) 15-12; A Cloke Browne (WinC) bt M Arie (AL) 15-4; Aadi (StO) bt C Drutman (Stam) 15-5; S Kolaojo (Ton) bt Bomi (StO) 15-7; T Cowin (Stam) bt A Hogben (SPS) 15-10; C Burgess (Stam) bt S Richarz (AL) 15-1; J Smiley (Ton) bt Yong (StO) 13-4 ret

**Quarter-finals:** Brown bt Dorokhov 15-5; Cloke Browne bt Aadi 15-10; Kolaojo bt Cowin 15-4; Burgess bt Smiley 15-2

**Semi-finals:** Brown bt Cloke Browne 15-4; Burgess bt Kolaojo 15-12

**Final:** Brown (Edinburgh Academy) bt Burgess (Stamford) 11-2, 11-3

**Ist Plate:** M di Gleria (Marlborough)

**2nd Plate:** O Collett (Stamford)

### U14 Doubles

**1st round:** Alleyn's 1 bt Stamford 2 11-8; St Paul's 1 bt Stamford 4 11-0; Stamford 3 bt Tonbridge 2 11-1; St Olave's 1 bt Stamford 5 11-0

**Quarter-finals:** Winchester bt Stamford 6 15-0; Alleyn's 1 bt St Paul's 1 15-10; Stamford 1 bt Alleyn's 2 15-3; St Olave's 1 bt Stamford 3 15-4

**Semi-finals:** Winchester bt Alleyn's 1 15-8; Stamford 1 bt St Olave's 1 15-8

**Final:** Stamford 1 (Burgess & Drutman) bt Winchester (Chan & Cloke Browne) 11-6, 11-6

**Plate:** Stamford 2 (Collett & Cowin) bt Alleyn's 2 (Dorokhov & Richarz) 15-12

### Retrospective U18 Championship for the season 2019-20

#### Singles

**Quarter-finals:** G Wiseman (AL) bt B Harrison (SPS) w/o; A Ridley (SPS) bt V Singh (Derby Moor) 16-14; B Ames (BLS) bt C Clark (EA) 15-0; S Scott (AL) bt P Harrison (AL) 15-9

**Semi-finals:** Wiseman bt Ridley 15-3; Ames bt Scott 15-12

**Final:** Wiseman (Alleyn's) bt Ames (Blundell's) 15-2

**Plate:** R Yusuf (Derby Moor) bt S Fraser (Winchester) 15-3

#### Doubles

**Quarter-finals:** Alleyn's 1 bt Blundell's/Edinburgh Academy 15-1; Winchester bt St Paul's 15-7; Alleyn's 2 bt Derby Moor 15-8; Blundell's 1 bt Edward Alleyn Club 15-9

**Semi-finals:** Alleyn's 1 bt Winchester 15-9; Blundell's 1 bt Alleyn's 2 15-4

**Final:** Alleyn's 1 (Scott & Wiseman) bt Blundell's 1 (Ames & Bucknell) 12-11, 11-4

**Plate:** Derby Moor (Singh & Yusuf) bt Edward Alleyn Club (Nsenga & Nugent) 15-5

## **Derby Moor Invitation Doubles**

Derby Moor Academy, 8th August 2021

13 pairs contested the annual Derby Moor Invitation Doubles, with Raheem successfully defending the title he won last year with Joe Sumner. This year he was paired with Simon Beattie of the City of Durham Club. In the final they beat Derby Moor's Richard Christie and another Durham player, Oscar McIntyre. The 1st Plate (and medals) went to Mark Kiteley & Bally Singh and the 2nd Plate (and boules) to Chris Davey & Dean Ali.

*Brian Kirk reports:* Derby Moor Fives Club held its invitation tournament on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021 after over 18 months of delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic national restrictions.

On a changeable day 26 players plus supporters gathered at the DMFC courts. Thankfully the enclosed courts (carefully ventilated) meant that the heavy rain showers had no effect on play or detracted from the very clear enjoyment the spectators were having watching some very close games.

The format of the draw was the usual match of pairs of players of different capabilities, making for even games.

The first two rounds were planned to allow lesser players to gain experience of playing against more capable players, with the losers migrating to a round robin style plate competition of one game to 11, the pair having most points winning the newly introduced bronze medal. Ed and Imogen from DMFC and Durham respectively, Kristiaan and Ethan, two new youth players from DMFC gaining tournament practice in readiness for the upcoming Schools Championships, Callum and Burt, again two youth players hoping to do well in the Schools, Dan and Chase, two young players from Stamford and Durham respectively and the wild card pair of Bally from DMFC and the vastly experienced Mark Kiteley formed the plate group. After four close games Bally and Mark won.

Round 3 was the trigger point for the more capable players to begin to show their wares. Raheem from DMFC and Simon from Durham (top seeds) played Alex and Stuart. Camille, the very capable hard-hitting young woman from Durham, and partner Lewis played Matt and Anthony. Chris and Dean played Oscar from Durham and Richard. Rob Whitehorn and Poppy from Durham played Brian and Vish.

Losers of round 3 migrated to the newly introduced second plate and after some very close games, some lasting over an hour, Alex and Stuart, Camille and Lewis, Chris and Dean, and Brian and Vish made up the round robin second plate competition which Chris and Dean eventually won.

In the main tournament semi-final Raheem and Simon beat Matt and Anthony while Richard and Oscar beat Rob and Poppy, thus setting up the final. With Richard tiring, the final was not as close fought as expected: Raheem and Simon won easily, 11-0, 11-9, casting down the gauntlet for the Schools Championships later in the month.

### **Scores**

**1st round:** Raheem & Simon Beattie bye; Alex Smith & Stuart Kirby bt Ed Hodges & Imogen Wright 11-1, 11-3; Lewis Keates & Camille Beattie bye; Anthony Goodwin & Matt Orr bt Callum Yates & Burt Cundy 11-9, 12-10; Chris Davey & Dean Ali bye; Richard Christie & Oscar McIntyre bt Chase Burgess & Dan Swinbank 11-1, 11-2; Rob Whitehorn &

Poppy Atkinson bye; Brian Kirk & Vishal Singh bt Mark Kiteley & Bally Singh 11-7, 11-4  
**Quarter-finals:** Raheem & Beattie bt Smith & Kirby 11-6, 11-3; Goodwin & Orr bt Keates & Beattie 9-11, 12-10 11-9; Christie & McIntyre bt Davey & Ali 11-9, 11-6; Whitehorn & Atkinson bt Kirk & Singh 5-11, 11-5, 11-8  
**Semi-finals:** Raheem & Beattie bt Goodwin & Orr 11-0, 12-10; Christie & McIntyre bt Whitehorn & Atkinson 11-3, 11-5  
**Final:** Raheem & Simon Beattie bt Richard Christie & Oscar McIntyre 11-0, 11-9  
**1st Plate:** 1st Mark Kiteley & Bally Singh; 2nd Callum Yates & Burt Cundy; 3rd Dan Swinbank & Chase Burgess; 4th Imogen Wright & Ed Hodges; 5th Kristians Davins & Ethan Watson  
**2nd Plate:** 1st Chris Davey & Dean Ali; 2nd Brian Kirk & Vishal Singh; 3rd Camille Beattie & Lewis Keates; 4th Alex Smith & Stuart Kirby

**This marks the end of the season 2020-2021, where many scheduled events were cancelled because of the Coronavirus Pandemic**