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## South West Open Championships 2021

Blundell's School, Tiverton,

Saturday/Sunday, July 31st-August 1st 2021

**STOP PRESS** This year's competition was dedicated to the memory of Tim Lewis, who died in June. Ed Kay successfully defended the Singles title he won in 2019, beating Will Ellison in the final. Will partnered Charlie Brooks to win the Doubles against Kay and Dave Butler. In the two Plates Joe Sumner defeated Lewis Keates in the Singles, while Lewis then paired up with Bally Singh to beat Joe and Addie Chai.

**Organiser Wayne Enstone reports:** This year's 38<sup>th</sup> Championship was very special in several ways, it being the first Championship for two years and held in memory of Exeter Fives Club Legend Tim Lewis.

Despite having to move the date back we still had an entry of some 32 players, with six players in the top ten of the National Singles Rankings playing in the Singles. There was a mixture of youth and experience, plus National Ladies Champion Louise Mathias, and former National Ladies Double Champions Maddy Raynor and Alexandra Steel — a wonderful mix.

In the Singles first round there were some fine performances considering there has been no competitive play for almost eighteen months. This set the scene for the rest of the day, with young Blundell's sixth-former Ed Swarbrick taking experienced Dan Sorensen to the first three-gamer, to be followed in the second round by Old Blundellian Addie Chai taking Dan Grant to another three-gamer, and a quarter-final where DG had three wonderful games with Tom Watkinson, with Tom edging into his first semi-final at these championships and upsetting the seedings. Another seed upset saw a revitalised Charlie Brooks turn back the years to beat Dave Butler in two hard-fought games for a place in the semi-finals. In the other quarter-finals one felt for Sam Russell as he competed in most rallies with Ed Kay; however, Ed produced endless winning shots to shut the door on that challenge, as did Will Ellison in beating a lively Matt Shaw. Both semis were played after the Doubles semis, which was the players' choice, with Tom Watkinson blasting away against a very sharp Ed Kay, Ed again winning in two entertaining games. Charlie Brooks had his moments of success in the other semi-final; however, Will held off the challenge and came up with his big shots to end what had been a great day of fives in the main competition.

The Doubles began at mid-day, with two three-gamers in the first round, Chris Davey & Dan Sorensen just edging it over the very experienced Nick Geere & Stuart Watson, 11-8 in the third. Cameron Low & Louise Mathias similarly beat Richard Christie & Stuart Kirby 11-7 in the third. All the seeds went through to the semi-finals reasonably comfortably with the exception of Dan Grant & Matt Shaw, who took three games to beat Louise Mathias & Cameron Low. One may have thought Bonfire Night had come early in the first semi, with Tom Watkinson rocketing the ball about against big-hitting Charlie Brooks & Will Ellison, Sam Russell playing the back-up role with Tom, with some quite remarkable play; however, Charlie and Will proved too strong eventually and won through to the final. In the other semi, Dan Grant, struggling with a back issue earlier in the day, had a superbly mobile Matt Shaw as a partner, which helped them push Dave Butler & Ed Kay to three games, with Dave & Ed holding steady to win the third 11-6 and take their place in the final on Sunday morning.

The Plate competitions finally started well into the afternoon, which resulted in a very late finish, gone 9 o'clock in the evening. Congratulations go to Joe Sumner for beating Lewis Keates in a real cliffhanger in the Singles final, 16-14. In the Doubles final, Lewis and his partner Bally Singh powered their way to a very convincing win against Joe & Addie Chai 15-3.

RFA President David Parlby came along on Saturday to support and watch, and commented how impressed he was with the high standard of play shown in both Singles and Doubles. David won the South West Doubles back in 1987 — how time flies!

Alexandra Steel very kindly organised the Saturday evening meal for us at a new venue, which proved most successful and was certainly well supported. As usual competitors and spectators could have a good relax and catch up with old friends, making the championships a real social occasion.

On Sunday morning the Singles final began, with Ed Kay wanting to retain his title from 2019 and Will Ellison wanting to win his eighth. Both players attacked each other from the start, winning alternate rallies with the score on love all for the best part of 10 minutes. The quality of play was magnificent. Ed just slowly started edging the rallies with a mixture of his clinical wall shots and deft angles, and at 7-2 to Ed it looked an uphill battle for Will. Despite Will's determination and

excellent play Ed started to dominate the rallies, winning the first game 11-6. The second game presented a similar picture, with Ed looking more invincible as the game progressed. At 2-9 down Will did hold Ed up with a mini-revival; however, Ed managed to hold off Will's challenge and emerged a very impressive winner, successfully retaining his title.

In the first game of the Doubles final Will Ellison & Charlie Brooks hit their usual former National Doubles Championship form, taking a 5-0 lead; however, Dave Butler & Ed Kay eased the score back to 4-6 down. Using their experience Charlie and Will appeared to inject even more pace into their hitting and began to dominate once again and closed out the game out, winning 11-4. The second game was quite the reverse of the first, especially with Dave hitting several winning shots in a row to help take Ed and himself into a quick 7-1 lead. Question for spectators was Would this match be a three-gamer? At this point Charlie Brooks hit a series of blast angle shots that brought Will and himself back into the game, still 4-7 down, only to see Dave and Ed move to game ball at 10-7 and looking set for the win. Not the case in Charlie and Will's minds obviously, as they kept their nerve and after several hard-fought rallies and multiple winning serves they managed to recover to make it 10-all. Unfortunately, the game ended surprisingly quickly as Ed attempted a winning serve that just clipped the board, giving Charlie and Will match point. which they took to win the game 12-10 and seal victory.

Whilst the finals were being played Alexandra Steel organised twelve other players to compete in the fun American Doubles Tournament. After many close games, Alexandra & Matt Shaw took home the local Dartington Glass trophies — well done to them all for holding up after playing every pair, five games in two hours' play — wow!

As usual, Trophy Presentations took place for the Winners and Runners-up. However, it felt this year that all the players who competed were winners in the sense of being back on court at long last. Well done then to all. Another great Championships on and off court. Here's to next year, all welcome.

Thanks go to: Alexandra Steel, our social meal director plus performing multi organisational roles, and to mum Caroline; to Lesley Enstone, Catering Manager; to Blundell's School staff for opening doors, cleaning courts and general administration; to Matt Shaw for entries and publicity and for performing multi-media roles with Sam Russell and Dan Grant, all of which kept those not in attendance informed throughout the two days; finally to Howard Wiseman, via Dominique Redmond, for producing an excellent standard of ball for this year's championships.

Lastly: TO TIM LEWIS — we all missed his usual laughing on and off court, for sure!

## **Singles**

**1st round:** D Sorensen bt E Swarbrick 12-11, 2-11, 11-8; C Low bt S Watson 11-1, 11-1; J Sumner bt M Sage 11-1, 11-3; A Chai bt A Smith 11-4, 11-5; C Davey bt K Kennerley 11-3, 11-1; L Mathias bt S Johnson 11-0, 11-2; L Keates bt N Geere 11-2, 11-1

**2nd round:** E Kay bt Sorensen 11-0, 11-0; S Russell bt Low 11-8, 11-5; T Watkinson bt Sumner 11-2, 11-5; D Grant bt Chai 6-11, 11-6, 11-4; D Butler bt Davey 11-9, 11-1; C Brooks bt Mathias 11-2, 11-1; M Shaw bt Keates 11-6, 11-1; W Ellison bt B Ames 11-4, 11-0

**Quarter-finals:** Kay bt Russell 11-2, 11-2; Watkinson bt Grant 11-8, 4-11, 11-6; Brooks bt Butler 11-8, 11-6; Ellison bt Shaw 11-0, 11-6

**Semi-finals:** Kay bt Watkinson 11-4, 11-6; Ellison bt Brooks 11-6, 11-3

**Final:** Kay bt Ellison 11-6, 11-2

**Plate:** Sumner bt Keates 16-14

## **Doubles**

**1st round:** Brooks & Ellison bt C Hedley-Dent & W Enstone 11-0, 11-0; Chai & Sumner bt Kennerley & Sage 11-4, 11-0; Davey & Sorensen bt Geere & Watson 11-4, 9-11, 11-8; Russell & Watkinson bt M Whitehead & J Whitehead 11-0, 11-0; Grant & Shaw bt M Raynor & A Steel 11-1, 11-4; Mathias & Low bt R Christie & S Kirby 11-0, 6-11, 11-7; L Keates & B Singh bt Johnson & Smith 11-3, 11-1; Butler & Kay bt B Ames & Swarbrick 11-2, 11-4

**Quarter-finals:** Brooks & Ellison bt Chai & Sumner 11-3, 11-0; Russell & Watkinson bt Davey & Sorensen 11-0, 11-6; Grant & Shaw bt Mathias & Low 11-5, 6-11, 11-3; Butler & Kay bt Keates & Singh 11-5, 11-6

**Semi-finals:** Brooks & Ellison bt Russell & Watkinson 11-6, 11-2; Butler & Kay bt Grant & Shaw 6-11, 11-4, 11-6

**Final:** Brooks & Ellison bt Butler & Kay 11-4, 12-10

**Plate:** Keates & Singh bt Chai & Sumner 15-3

**American Doubles:** Alexandra Steel & Matt Shaw

## The South East Open Championships 2021

Horsham, Saturday 28th August 2021

**STOP PRESS** Dave Butler did the double at the South East Open Championships, winning his fourth regional Singles title and his fourth regional Doubles title, this time with Bart Callaghan, master i/c Fives at Christ's Hospital.

### Scores

#### Singles

**1st round:** D Butler bt W Hanley 11-6, 11-0; M Suddaby bt C Davey 11-9, 11-5; O Arnold bt J Sumner 11-2, 11-1; S Russell bt E Hatton 11-6, 11-3; T Watkinson bt L Mathias 11-2, 11-5; R Whitehorn bt A Chai 11-6, 11-2; D Law bt D Grant 2-0 ret.

**Quarter-finals:** Butler bt Suddaby 11-2, 11-4; Arnold bt Russell 11-3, 7-11, 11-8; Watkinson bt Whitehorn 11-4, 11-3; L Keates bt Law 11-7, 10-12, 11-3

**Semi-finals:** Butler bt Arnold 11-1, 11-8; Watkinson bt Keates 11-7, 11-7

**Final:** Butler bt Watkinson 11-7, 11-5

**Plate:** 1st Chai; 2nd Sumner; 3rd Davey

#### Doubles

**Group 1:** 1st Hatton & Whitehorn; 2nd Davey & Watkinson; 3rd Arnold & Hanley; 4th Chai & Mathias

**Group 2:** 1st Law & Russell; 2nd Butler & B Callaghan; 3rd Keates & Suddaby; 4th Mathias & Sumner

**Semi-finals:** Butler & Callaghan bt Hatton & Whitehorn 15-5; Law & Russell bt Davey & Watkinson 15-9

**Final:** Butler & Callaghan bt Law & Russell 15-8

**Plate:** Keates & Suddaby bt Arnold & Hanley 15-12

## The Yorkshire Open Championships 2021

Derby Moor Academy,

Saturday/Sunday, 11-12 September 2021

**STOP PRESS** Ed Kay successfully defended his Yorkshire Open Singles title but not without a tough challenge from first-time regional finalist Julian Aquilina. Ollie Arnold, beaten by Ed in the quarter-final, went on to win the 2nd Singles Plate, then teamed up with Ed to win the Doubles. Joe Sumner won the 1st Singles Plate, beating Lewis Keates, while Keates & Bally Singh won the Doubles Plate at the expense of Chris Davey & Raheem Yusuf.

*Organiser John Hawke writes:* Saturday 11th September saw the export of the Yorkshire Open Fives tournament to the courts of the Derby Moor club. Although the move was prompted by uncertainty of the availability of the Giggleswick courts due to Covid, the change of venue also made sense for other reasons. Derby is easily accessible from both London and the North East; with the demise of the Halifax courts few, if any, Yorkshire based players are available; and, historically, the Derby club has provided a large proportion of the entries for the Giggleswick Doubles.

The reward for the change of venue came in the form of the largest entry for many years, with 15 Singles entrants and 10 Doubles pairs. As to the accessibility, players came from London, Durham and even as far away as Devon, with the organiser travelling from Anglesey.

Now to the Fives. Within an hour of the nominal start time some serious Fives was underway. Because of the high number of Derby players it proved impossible to avoid matches between club members, the most notable of which was the hotly contested battle between Lewis Keates and Anthony Goodwin. Anthony finally won after three gruelling games. The remainder of the first round matches were settled in two games, with the star players providing plenty of exercise for those of lesser abilities.

Ed Kay was made to work reasonably hard in his journey to the final, all his opponents scoring at least 7 points in every game. Dave Butler, on the other side of the draw, was uncharacteristically lethargic, maybe due to taking the demon drink on Friday night, and was deposed from his number two seeding in the semi-finals by Julian Aquilina. Julian went on to push Ed to 3 games in the final. Ed eventually won 11-2, 9-11, 11-7.

The plate, for first-round losers, was played as a knockout competition, one game to 15. Again this produced some close matches, with Joe Sumner eventually victorious, having defeated Lewis Keates in the final.

A second plate was intended to include all the first round plate losers, but many of these had already thrown in the towel, leaving a single match to be both first round and final. Louise Mathias beat Vishal Singh 15-7.

To ensure that everyone had their fill of matches as round-robin was also held for cup second round losers. Ollie Arnold dominated with a win in every game. The Taunton medical contingent had a good day!

For the evening a meal had been organised by the Derby lads at a local restaurant. A good time was had by all.

Sunday was doubles day. The highlights of the early round were the three game match won by Law and Suddaby against Mathias and Hill, and a repeat of the singles rivalry between Keates and Goodwin. Lewis Keates was again on the losing side, him and his partner Bally Singh being beaten in three close games by Anthony Goodwin and Max Frost.

First seeds Ollie Arnold and Ed Kay had an uneventful progress to the final, whereas Butler and Aquilina, the second seeds, were beaten surprisingly easily by Sam Russell and Tom Watkinson in the semi-finals. Sam and Tom's euphoria was short lived as Ollie and Ed beat them in the final 11-0, 11-3.

The plate competition was run as two round-robins of three pairs each. Kirk & Kirby, Mathias & Hill and Keates & Bally Singh formed the first group, with Christie & Vishal Singh, Law & Suddaby and Davey & Yusuf the second. Keates & Singh, as winners of group one, then played Law & Suddaby who came second in group two while Davey & Yusuf played Mathias & Hill. Keates & Bally Singh eventually won the plate final against Davey & Yusuf 15-8.

The presentations at the end of a tiring day were made by the ever-young Bob Dolby. In addition to the usual cups, plates and medallions, Bob had also managed to produce RFA mugs for the doubles plate runners up and a bowl for Louise Mathias as a reward for her victory in the first-round losers singles competition.

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. The organiser's food calculations were somewhat thrown off by the absence of a certain Bob Sandie, but the excess has found a home at an Anglesey charity. The Derby courts have proved their worth as a tournament venue; the Yorkshire Open may, strangely, have found a new permanent home.

We look forward to seeing you all, and more, next year.

## Scores

### Singles

**1st round:** O Arnold bt R Yusuf 11-0, 11-1; C Davey bt M Suddaby 11-5, 11-5; T Watkinson bt L Mathias 11-0, 11-1; J Aquilina bt D Law 11-2, 11-2; A Goodwin bt L Keates 11-5, 9-11, 11-8; S Russell bt V Singh 11-2, 11-1; D Butler bt J Sumner 11-5, 11-4

**Quarter-finals:** E Kay bt Arnold 11-8, 11-7; Watkinson bt Davey 11-9, 11-1; Aquilina bt Goodwin 11-3, 11-3; Butler bt Russell 11-9, 11-8

**Semi-finals:** Kay bt Watkinson 11-7, 11-7; Aquilina bt Butler 11-2, 11-9

**Final:** Kay bt Aquilina 11-2, 9-11, 11-7

**Plate:** Sumner bt Keates 15-10

**2nd Plate:** 1st Arnold; 2nd Russell; 3rd Davey; 4th Goodwin

**3rd Plate:** Mathias bt V Singh 15-7

### Doubles

**1st round:** R Christie & V Singh bt S Kirby & B Kirk 11-0, 11-5; D Law & M Suddaby bt L Mathias & A Hill 11-6, 10-12, 11-4

**Quarter-finals:** O Arnold & E Kay bt Christie & V Singh 11-4, 11-5; M Frost & A Goodwin bt L Keates & B Singh 11-7, 7-11, 11-4; S Russell & T Watkinson bt C Davey & R Yusuf 11-7, 11-4; J Aquilina & D Butler bt Law & Suddaby 11-4, 11-2

**Semi-finals:** Arnold & Kay bt Frost & Goodwin 11-5, 11-2; Russell & Watkinson bt Aquilina & Butler 11-4, 11-2

**Final:** Arnold & Kay bt Russell & Watkinson 11-0, 11-2

### Plate

**Group A:** 1st Keates & B Singh; 2nd Mathias & Hill; 3rd Kirby & Kirk

**Group B:** 1st Davey & Yusuf; 2nd Law & Suddaby; 3rd Christie & V Singh

**Semi-finals:** Keates & B Singh bt Law & Suddaby; Davey & Yusuf bt Mathias & Hill

**Final:** Keates & B Singh bt Davey & Yusuf

## RFA National Rankings 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Open Singles Rankings

After Yorkshire Open Championships, September 2021

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	D Tristao	97.2
2	2	E Kay	94.8
3	3	W Ellison	85.9
4	4	B Beltrami	63.3
5	5	D Butler	55.6
6	7	J Aquilina	48.4
7	9	C Brooks	47.1
8	6	D Grant	46.2
9	8	T Watkinson	42.3
10	10	A Boyd	38.4

Showing 1 to 10 of 67 entries

### Open Doubles Rankings

After Yorkshire Open Championships, September 2021

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	2	W Ellison	97.8
2	3	E Kay	95.9
3	5	O Arnold	85.1
4	4	D Grant	73.8
5	6	B Beltrami	72.8
6	1	D Tristao	71.3
7	7	D Butler	69.9
8	8	C Brooks	68.7
9	9	T Parker	66.5
10	10	M Shaw	60.7

Showing 1 to 10 of 111 entries

## The 91<sup>st</sup> Varsity Match 2021

St Paul's School, Sunday 19th September 2021

At this year's Varsity Match, postponed from February due to the coronavirus pandemic, Oxford Men won their fourth consecutive victory, while Cambridge Ladies made it six in a row. There was no Sparrows versus Beavers match. Oxford Men built on a small lead from the Singles, winning the first round of Doubles heavily, while the Light Blue Ladies had too much skill in both Singles and Doubles for their inexperienced Dark Blue opponents.

Cambridge now counts 57 wins since 1925 against 34 by Oxford. In the Ladies Match Cambridge lead by 6-1.

**91<sup>st</sup> CAMBRIDGE v. OXFORD**  
St. Paul's School, Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021

<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>Oxford</b>	
<i>Singles</i>		
S Garella ( <i>Captain</i> ) (St John's)	v. BB Kirwan ( <i>Captain</i> ) (Magdalen)	3-15
A Ahuja (Gonville & Caius)	v. JAS Dare (St Anne's)	15-4
BS Yass (Downing)	v. A Naumenko (St Edmund Hall)	10-15
BDK Burgess (Gonville & Caius)	v. LA Odgers (St Peter's)	15-7
GF Crawley (Churchill)	v. QMJH Gueroult (Balliol)	13-15
ERB Hyde (Jesus)	v. HCG Turner (Queen's)	15-0
DK Leboff (Trinity Hall)	v. TR Monro-Davies (St Hilda's)	1-15
LR McKnight (Clare)	v. NA Heymann (St Catherine's)	5-15
		<b>77-86</b>
<i>Doubles</i>		
Garella & Yass	v. Dare & Kirwan	3-15
		3-15
Burgess & Crawley	v. Gueroult & Naumenko	10-15
		15-10
	v. Dare & Kirwan	3-15
Ahuja & Leboff		0-15
	v. Monro-Davies & Odgers	13-15
	v. Heymann & Turner	7-15
Hyde & McKnight		15-2
	v. Heymann & Turner	15-1
		15-16
	v. Monro-Davies & Odgers	9-15
		0-15

**Oxford won by 295-209**

The match was delayed until September by the Coronavirus pandemic

Cambridge now counts 57 wins against 34 by Oxford.

No Sparrows versus Beavers match was played

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**7<sup>th</sup> CAMBRIDGE LADIES v. OXFORD LADIES**  
St. Paul's School, Sunday, 19th September 2021

**Cambridge**

**Oxford**

*Singles*

SA Leboff ( <i>Captain</i> ) (Clare)	v. SOA Jackman (Christ Church)	15-7
HCM Nugent (Selwyn)	v. VA King Forbes (Jesus)	15-2
CL Roker (Robinson)	v. MAA Strevens (Magdalen)	15-1
VA Boyd (Queens')	v. HE Goldie-Jones (Jesus)	15-0
		<b>60-10</b>

*Doubles*

Leboff & Roker	v. King Forbes & Strevens	15-1
		15-2
Boyd & Nugent	v. Goldie-Jones & Jackman	15-0
		15-1
	v. King Forbes & Strevens	15-1
		15-3
	^^^	<b>120-9</b>

**Cambridge Ladies won 180-19**

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**Ladies' Reserves:** HG Tunks (Newnham) bt SAK Irwin (Jesus)

**The London Open 2021**



**STOP PRESS** Will Ellison successfully defended his title from 2019, the fifth time he has won the Singles, and then won the Doubles with Dan Tristao for the sixth time together, making it 9 London Doubles titles in all. In the Singles final Will defied the seeding to beat Ed Kay in straight games, while in the Doubles the unfamiliar pair of Charlie Brooks & Theo Parker defeated second seeds Ben Beltrami & Ed Kay at the semi-final stage before going down convincingly to Will & Dan in the final. Theo picked up the Singles Plate at the expense of Ben Jourdan, while, in the Doubles Plate, Julian Aquilina & James Tilston were too experienced for the new pair of Will Edmonds & Emrys Thursfield in a well fought final.

*Organiser Will Ellison reports:* We were back to St. Paul's for the 26th London Open, following the absence of a tournament last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. There were familiar names etched again on both trophies, with several new records set – Will Ellison won the Singles for a record-extending 5th time, and with Dan Tristao won the Doubles title for a record-extending 6th time as a pair. Will now holds a record 9 London Doubles titles overall. Will also moved to third in the all-time list of open titles, with 79, overtaking Dave Hebden, while Dan won his 53rd. Some highly competitive Plate matches saw Theo Parker emerge as victor in the Singles, with Julian Aquilina & James Tilston picking up the Doubles title.

I would like to start by thanking everyone who took part in what has become a busy stretch in the fives calendar. In particular, it was wonderful to see several new faces in the open tournament scene as well as so many schoolboys – in particular, Ben Roberts, Ben Harrison and Aiden Whitham of St. Paul's, current U16 National Champion Genesis Nsenga, current U18 National Champion Gwydion Wiseman, plus Oscar McIntyre from the City of Durham Club. It was fantastic to have a large contingent of past and present Cambridge University players participating in the doubles and I hope they will return to many more events. Andrew Boyd and Ben Jourdan deserve a specific mention for making the trip down from Scotland – they managed to finish the doubles tournament just in time for their train back!

The tournament commenced on Saturday morning, with the pick of the first round Singles matches being Theo Parker versus Sam Russell. Sam ultimately managed to upset the seedings with an 11-6, 11-2 win to book himself a slot in the quarter-finals.

Onto the next round, and once again Sam Russell was creating headlines, taking a game off top seed Ed Kay, and only losing 11-7 in the decider. It is great to see his fives going in the right direction (maybe all the lockdown running helped somehow!). Other matches of note were between the fourth and fifth seeds – Julian Aquilina and Charlie Brooks, which Julian clinched in two close games, continuing the fine form he showed in the Yorkshire Open. Ben Beltrami and Tom Watkinson had another close two-gamer, with Tom leading 9-6 in the second, but Ben managing to find a way through to take it 11-9. Will Ellison completed the line-up for the semi-finals with a comfortable win over Andrew Boyd.

In the semi-finals, Ed Kay came through against Julian Aquilina more comfortably than in the final in Yorkshire (which had been a 3-gamer), although the second game (11-8) was a close affair. In the other semi Will Ellison beat Ben Beltrami decisively, although Ben was possibly suffering from a long working week and a tough previous match with Tom.

The final was therefore a repeat of 2019, and the result was similar – Will played an extremely consistent game, putting pressure on Ed with relentless side-to-side hitting and retrieving any drop shots with interest. He won it 11-4, 11-3 – very much a reversal of the 11-6, 11-2 win by Ed in the South West Open final. It will be interesting to see how these rivalries play out in the remainder of the season, especially with the return of Dan Tristao now likely for the West of England Open.

The Singles Plate consisted of two groups of 5, with each match a game to 11. After the 20 matches were completed, a final consisting of Theo Parker versus Ben Jourdan ensued. Theo came through 15-9 to clinch the bronze medal.

The doubles tournament commenced on the Sunday morning, with the top four seeds all receiving a bye. The first round had some close and high quality matches, with mentions to Ben Hale and Helena Tunks for their win over Ashwin Ahuja and Holly Nugent by 11-7, 12-11 (a real nail-biting second game!), as well as to Savanna Leboff and Ben Yass for theirs over mother-and-son pair of Julie and Oscar McIntyre by 12-10, 11-6. It was great to see so many mixed pairs taking part, as well as James Toop back playing again, resuming his National Doubles partnership with Gwydion Wiseman.

The quarter-finals followed the seedings, with the exception of Andrew Boyd and Ben Jourdan's good win over Julian Aquilina and James Tilston (11-8, 11-8).

The semi-finals provided one of the shocks of the tournament, with Charlie Brooks and Theo Parker finding top gear to dispatch second seeds Kay and Beltrami by the incredible scoreline of 1 and 0, marked by an awesome combination of consistency and winners. In the other semi-final, Ellison and Tristao came through against Boyd and Jourdan in two games.

The doubles final was a demonstration of ruthless consistency, retrieval and winners from Ellison and Tristao, who won by the comfortable scoreline of 11-5, 11-2 to take the title. Dan's drop shots were often paired with follow-up shots from Will to devastating effect.

The Doubles Plate was another great contest, with 4<sup>th</sup> seeds from the original tournament Julian Aquilina and James Tilston living up to their billing as top seeds to win and defend the plate title they won in 2019, coming through 11-9, 11-4 against the Cambridge pairing of Will Edmonds and Emrys Thursfield. This was only after a long group stage, with two groups of three playing individual matches best of three games to eleven. Well done to everyone who took part in what was a lot of fives for the day!

## Scores

### Singles

**1st round:** A Whitham bt W Hanley 11-4, 11-2; O McIntyre bt G Nsenga 11-6, 11-0;

**2nd round:** E Kay (1) bt Whitham 11-2, 11-3; S Russell bt T Parker (8) 11-6, 11-2; C Brooks (5) bt J Sumner 11-2, 11-4; J Aquilina (4) bt C Blackaby 11-0, 11-0; B Beltrami (3) bt B Roberts 11-3, 11-0; T Watkinson (6) bt B Harrison 11-4, 11-0; A Boyd (7) bt B Jourdan 11-4, 11-3; W Ellison (2) bt McIntyre 11-2, 11-2

**Quarter-finals:** Kay bt Russell 11-8, 10-12, 11-7; Aquilina bt Brooks 11-9, 11-6; Beltrami bt Watkinson 11-6, 11-9; Ellison bt Boyd 11-1, 11-4

**Semi-finals:** Kay bt Aquilina 11-5, 11-8; Ellison bt Beltrami 11-2, 11-1

**Final:** Ellison bt Kay 11-4, 11-3

**Plate:** Parker bt Jourdan 15-9

### Doubles

**1st round:** B Hale & H Tunks bt A Ahuja & H Nugent 11-7, 12-11; A Boyd & B Jourdan bt W Edmonds & E Thursfield 11-0, 11-6; J Toop & G Wiseman bt B Roberts & A Whitham 11-0, 11-2 ; S Leboff & B Yass bt J McIntyre & O McIntyre 12-10, 11-6

**Quarter-finals:** W Ellison & D Tristao (1) bt Hale & Tunks 11-1, 11-5; Boyd & Jourdan bt J Aquilina & J Tilston (4) 11-8, 11-8; C Brooks & T Parker (3) bt Toop & Wiseman 11-0, 11-2; B Beltrami & E Kay (2) bt Leboff & Yass 11-1, 11-1

**Semi-finals:** Ellison & Tristao bt Boyd & Jourdan 11-8, 11-2; Brooks & Parker bt Beltrami & Kay 11-1, 11-0

**Final:** Ellison & Tristao bt Brooks & Parker 11-5, 11-2

**Plate:** Aquilina & Tilston bt Edmonds & Thursfield 11-9, 11-4

## The Owers Trophy 2021

St Paul's School, Barnes

Sunday 10th October 2021

**STOP PRESS** It was a first team trophy for the Derby Moor Fives Club, founded in 2003 when the old Derby Mercia Club ceased to play on the courts at Denstone College and undertook refurbishment of two courts at the Derby Moor Community College in order to set up a new club.

*Organisers Alex Smith and Ben Hale report:* For the first time, the RFA's annual alumni team competition, the Owers Trophy, has been won by the team of former pupils from Derby Moor Academy.

The Derby men defeated the alumni of Winchester College, the Old Wykehamists, in a nail-biting and hard fought final, with the pairs neck-and-neck and victory going down to the final game. The first games of the final were very close, with two games won by each side and the Winchester team had a 3 point advantage before the final game. So the last Derby Moor pair went into their game with a lot to do, but managed to hold on and clinch a convincing final game 15-5, so that Derby Moor won by 7 points overall, 48-41.

The plate was an all-Alleyns affair, with the two teams from Edward Alleyn Fives Club playing each other, and the EAFC first pair coming out narrowly on top.

### **Scores**

**Preliminary rounds:** Derby Moor beat Edward Alleyn Club 1 45-22, beat Edward Alleyn Club 2 45-3. Winchester beat EAFC 1 34-30, beat EAFC 2 45-14

**Final:** Derby Moor Academy beat Old Wykehamists 48-41

**Plate:** Edward Alleyn Club 1 beat Edward Alleyn Club 2 41-36

### **Teams**

**Derby Moor:** Lewis Keates, Anthony Goodwin and Bally Singh

**Wykehamists:** Tom Watkinson, James Smith and Ben Hale

**Edward Alleyn 1:** Hamish Buchanan, Stuart Scott and Ed Carr

**Edward Alleyn 2:** Rocco Sulkin, Nick Smith and Patrick Harrison

## **The Lady's Cup 2021**

Cambridge University Sports Centre

Saturday, 16th October 2021

*Organiser Bob Dolby reports:* 16 pairs contested the annual Lady's Cup competition on the new courts at Cambridge University. There were students from three universities including Cambridge and from three schools, travelling from East Anglia, London, Bedford, Stamford and even Edinburgh. There was as usual a wide range of ages, experience and abilities. A small number were complete beginners, including four very enthusiastic and supportive parents.

The primary purpose of this event, hosted by the Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club, is to encourage women's Fives. The emphasis is very much on gaining experience of the game, on fun and enjoyment rather than competition, though in the later stages of the day, where round robins give way to knock-outs, the intensity of play does increase!

The magnificent solid silver Lady's Cup itself was originally donated by Mrs Malt in memory of her husband Philip "Pussy" Malt, national champion in Singles and Doubles in the period of 1930-35. Philip Malt sadly died in 1937 from TB while at the height of his powers. The Cup was played for by members of the Alleyn Old Boys' Fives Club in 1938 and 1939, whereafter it disappeared during the war and for several decades until it was rediscovered and repurposed for the current competition in 2014.

The day began with 90 minutes of friendly games to help the players get to know each other and acclimatise to the glass-backed courts. After lunch three different groups were set up and scores recorded, from which it was possible to allot players to three separate competitions, reflecting their relative standard.

On one court the Lady's Plate was played out between 4 pairs; on another court four more pairs contested the Lady's Bowl, and on Court One the Lady's Cup involved the 7 strongest pairs. Players from Stamford School dominated the Plate and the Bowl but Cambridge University's Ladies Captain, Tarn Chamberlain James, was eventually in a winning pair. The magnificently well organised and enthusiastic pupils of Stamford ran these two competitions themselves.

The Lady's Cup competition saw Katie Sumner and her father Stuart win their quarter-final against a very young pair from Stamford, Dan and Jasmine; next up master-in-charge Alex Smith and acting Head of Girls' Sport Charlotte Fletcher, playing her first day of Fives ever, beat another pair of youngsters from the school. Both games were close but not so close as the victory gained by Rosa Ogilvie and Louise Hawkins from Edinburgh, who beat Joe Sumner and his mother Joanne 12-10. Lu Arie and Katie Innes, the national U18 Doubles champions, had a bye.

The two semi-finals were as close as it gets: Alex and Charlotte beat Katie and Stuart 12-10; Lu and Katie won 12-11 against Rosa and Louise. Both games could have gone either way, as could the final, where Alex and Charlotte came through 12-11 after several match points alternated from one side to the other. The applause for "sir" and "miss" was deafening!

While all this was going on every player and most spectators had a go at the Ball-in-the-Box Challenge, which was won by Dan and Jasmine by a score of 28 points out of 50. They looked very pleased!

Prizes were awarded, words were spoken and the event came to an end by 4.30. Hopefully it achieved its aim: fun, enjoyment and improvement. I enjoyed it as much as ever.

Huge thanks go to Alex for bringing his group from Stamford; to parents who brought their offspring from far and wide; to young competitors who made their own way; to Elliot who ran the Challenge; and to the lovely Sarah who dispensed sticky labels and prizes. And to all the players, who made the day a success.

## Results

**The Lady's Cup:** Charlotte Fletcher & Alex Smith bt Lu Arie & Katie Innes 12-11

**The Lady's Bowl:** Tarn Chamberlain James & Cameron Drutman bt Conner McNaughton & Izzy Sharpe 15-11

**The Lady's Plate:** Bea Grindal & Rory Jones beat Harry Jones & Emily Tyler 15-7

## The West of England Open 2021

Sherborne School, Dorset

Saturday/Sunday 23-24 October 2021

**STOP PRESS** Ed Kay added a second West of England Open Singles title to his record while beating both Will Ellison and Dan Tristao in the process. Ed went on to record a fifth consecutive Doubles title with partner Will Ellison, for whom it is an eighth Doubles title, having previously won twice with Hal Mohammed and once with Hamish Buchanan. Sam Russell won a closely contested Singles Plate, beating Chris Davey in the final; Old Blundellians Boris Ames and Will Bucknell won the Doubles Plate, beating a number of more experienced pairs in the process.

### Singles

**1st round:** B Ames bt L Mathias 11-0, 11-1; C Davey bt S Watson 11-6, 11-5; W Bucknell bt N Geere 12-10, 11-4

**2nd round:** D Tristao bt Ames 11-3, 11-3; O Arnold bt S Russell 11-9, 2-11, 11-3; J Aquilina bt Davey 11-0, 11-2; B Beltrami bt A McCreath 11-0, 11-2; W Ellison bt C Low 11-4, 11-4; T Watkinson bt J Sumner 11-2, 11-0; M Shaw bt L Keates 11-4, 11-9; E Kay bt Bucknell 11-0, 11-2

**Quarter-finals:** Tristao bt Arnold 11-5, 11-0; Beltrami bt Aquilina 11-8, 11-2; Ellison bt Watkinson 8-11, 11-7, 11-1; Kay bt Shaw 11-4, 11-9

**Semi-finals:** Tristao bt Beltrami 11-8, 4-11, 11-4; Kay bt Ellison 11-5, 11-0

**Final:** Kay bt Tristao 11-8, 11-0

**Plate:** Russell bt Davey 11-3, 11-4

### Doubles

**1st round:** Ames & Bucknell bt K Kennerley & Watson 11-0, 11-6; Davey & Mathias bt B Baral & N Geere 11-1, 11-7  
**Quarter-finals:** Ellison & Kay bt Ames & Bucknell 11-5, 11-0; Russell & Watkinson bt Keates & Sumner 7-11, 11-6, 11-3; Shaw & Tristao bt Low & McCreath 12-10, 11-2; Arnold & Beltrami bt Davey & Mathias 11-6, 11-4  
**Semi-finals:** Ellison & Kay bt Russell & Watkinson 11-2, 11-6; Arnold & Beltrami bt Shaw & Tristao 8-11, 11-5, 11-5  
**Final:** Ellison & Kay bt Arnold & Beltrami 11-3, 11-3  
**Plate:** Ames & Bucknell bt Low & McCreath 15-8

## Updated National Rankings

November 2021

Now that tournament Fives is back up and running again, the RFA has today published the latest Open Singles and Doubles Rankings, along with the following update from the RFA's Rankings Tsar, Dave Hebden:

This update reflects the singles and doubles results from the London and West of England events held over the last month. The new Singles Rankings hold particular significance, because they will be used as the basis for determining the seeding in the forthcoming National Singles Championships.

In the Singles list there are not too many dramatic changes, so perhaps the main interest lies in the respective positions of the "Big Three" – Tristao, Kay, and Ellison. With Ed Kay winning three of the 5 events held this season I had thought that there was a good chance that he would take over the number one position. In the end, although the gap was closed, Dan Tristao held on to top spot by a narrow margin. It turned out that Dan's better record against Will over the last 3 years was sufficient to keep him at the top. I suppose that a top spot going into the National Singles for a player who has won that event on the last four occasions is not really too contentious. Will Ellison's win at the London sees him move a little closer to the top two, and we look forward to some great tussles in the Nationals.

Lower down, Cameron Low moves into the top 30 after a good performance in the West of England Plate. We also say goodbye from the Singles rankings, for now at least, to Hamish Buchanan, three-time National Champion in 1999, 2001 & 2007, a player who has graced the rankings over a very long period.

In the Doubles, Ellison, Kay and Arnold remain in the top three places, while Dan Tristao moves up to #4 and Charlie Brooks to #5.

It's encouraging to see a clutch of 10 new entries in the Doubles rankings. Ben Hale & Helena Tunks, Savanna Leboff & Ben Yass, and James Toop & Gwydion Wiseman were all quarter-finalists in the London Open, while Boris Ames & Will Bucknell reached the quarter-finals of the West of England Open. Will Edmonds & Emrys Thursfield also did well in the London Plate. We now have four female players in the Open Doubles rankings, a record I think.

Finally, I'm pleased to say that entry levels for the 2021-22 season have held up pretty well, despite the recovery from the Covid disruptions.

## Open Singles Rankings

After West of England Championships, October 2021

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	D Tristao	96.6
2	2	E Kay	95.0
3	3	W Ellison	90.0
4	4	B Beltrami	64.4
5	5	D Butler	55.2
6	7	J Aquilina	50.1
7	9	C Brooks	48.4
8	9	T Watkinson	44.0

Current	Previous	Name	Points
9	8	D Grant	43.1
10	11	R Murby	37.8

Showing 1 to 10 of 63 entries

## Open Doubles Rankings

After West of England Championships, October 2021

Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	W Ellison	98.2
2	2	E Kay	95.3
3	3	O Arnold	85.1
4	6	D Tristao	82.9
5	8	C Brooks	76.9
6	5	B Beltrami	75.0
7	7	D Butler	70.3
8	9	T Parker	68.4
9	4	D Grant	67.5
10	10	M Shaw	60.7

Showing 1 to 10 of 118 entries

## Durham Ladies Championships

Durham University Sports Ground  
Saturday/Sunday 6-7 November 2021

**STOP PRESS** The 3rd Durham Ladies Championships were played on the University Courts over the first weekend of November, featuring 14 players from the University, the City Club and the Edinburgh Academy. This is the first of the ranking events this season, to be followed in December by the Ladies' U23 Championships at St Paul's, then in January by the Ladies' National Championships in Manchester

*Julie McIntyre reports:* It was down to the wire for the City of Durham Ladies competition in 2021, with the organiser coming back from Covid-19, one of the courts used for storage until the day before, and a few others unable to make it — all bets were off! Thanks go to D & P Trophies also, who made a replacement medal for us and delivered it on Saturday morning!

Thankfully everything came together and the wonderful Edinburgh Academy girls lit up the courts once again after our long Covid break. It was great to have two super-enthusiastic Durham University students also, and with an army of club helpers everything came together for a cracking competition.

Tom Wakelam was in the hot seat for the Singles on Saturday, doing the draw and weaving his magic to sort everyone into age groupings, as well as an overall knockout competition.

There were quite a few close-fought games and some very well-matched opponents. At one point we had the National U14 champion playing the National U16 champion, and there were plenty of first time match-ups, so anything was possible.

I hope everyone enjoyed the streaming from one of the courts (thanks to Phil Beattie). The game footage will be tidied up and available on our website shortly (<https://cityofdurhamfives.uk/about-fives/>).

Congratulations to Camille Beattie (City of Durham) on winning the overall competition, plus the under 16 category, to Kirsten Bell (Durham University) for winning the Over-18 section, and to Holly Brown (Edinburgh Academy), who won

the the Under 18s. There was great promise shown by the other girls — we look forward to seeing them all develop over time.

As always, everyone played in the spirit of the game, and had a good laugh too. And they were all ready for their dinner in the evening!

Tom also produced the Doubles draw for Sunday. No age-groupings this time, just two pools of round-robin games, then play-offs for first, second and third place.

This time Kirsten Bell & Sophia Breese (Durham University) beat Camille Beattie & Leah Hogarth (City of Durham), with Poppy Atkinson & Imogen Wright (City of Durham) coming third in a play-off against Rosa Ogilvie & Olivia Smart (Edinburgh Academy). Again, there were plenty of close games, with not much in it, sometimes creating a bit of a headache for the organisers!

We finished off with a big free-for-all pile-in at the end, with a few extra players, and everyone went home exhausted.

Many thanks to Tom, Phil, Yasuyo, Tony, Josey, Geoff, Richie and Jo, and the boys who came along to support. We look forward to next year.

## Scores

### Open Singles Championship

**1st round:** Olivia Smart (Ed Acad) bt Roseanna McNaught Davis (Ed Acad) 11-9, 11-2; Imogen Wright (City Club) bt Louise Hawkins (Ed Acad) 7-11, 11-4, 12-10; Sophia Breese (University) bt Clemmie Davidson (Ed Acad) 11-2, 11-4; Holly Brown (Ed Acad) bt Poppy Atkinson (City Club) 11-3, 11-2; Chrissie Clark (Ed Acad) bt Cecily Millar (Ed Acad) 11-5, 7-11, 11-8

**Quarter-finals:** Camille Beattie (City Club) bt Olivia Smart 11-0, 11-0; Imogen Wright bt Sophia Breese 11-8, 12-10; Rosa Ogilvie (Ed Acad) bt Holly Brown 11-9, 11-7; Kirsten Bell (University) bt Chrissie Clark 11-1, 11-4

**Semi-finals:** Beattie bt Wright 11-2, 11-0; Bell bt Ogilvie 11-9, 3-11, 11-1

**Final:** Beattie bt Bell 11-0, 11-0

**Over-18 Singles:** Kirsten Bell bt Sophia Breese

**U18 Singles:** 1st Holly Brown; 2nd Poppy Atkinson; 3rd Louise Hawkins

**U16 Singles:** 1st Camille Beattie; 2nd Rosa Ogilvie; 3rd Chrissie Clark

### Open Doubles Championship

**Pool A:** 1st Beattie & Leah Hogarth (City Club); 2nd Bell & Breese (University); 3rd Brown & McNaught Davis (Ed Acad); 4th Hawkins & Millar (Ed Acad)

**Pool B:** 1st Ogilvie & Smart (Ed Acad); 2nd Atkinson & Wright (City Club); 3rd Clark & Davidson (Ed Acad)

**Semi-finals:** Beattie & Hogarth bt Atkinson & Wright 11-8, 11-8; Bell & Breese bt Ogilvie & Smart 11-5, 11-7

**Final:** Bell & Breese bt Beattie & Hogarth 11-5, 11-9

**3rd/4th Place:** Atkinson & Wright bt Ogilvie & Smart 12-11, 11-3

**5th Place:** Hawkins & Millar

## National Singles Qualifiers

Saturday/Sunday 13-14 November 2021

On the weekend of 13-14 November 53 players competed for a place in the final rounds of the National Singles Championship for the Jesters Club Cup, which will be staged on the courts of Cambridge University over the weekend of December 4-5.

From this weekend's events, held at four locations around the country, 12 players will qualify to join Dan Tristao, Ed Kay, Will Ellison and Ben Beltrami in the draw. We await the decision of #onlyhebdenknows as to who is entered into that draw!

**St Paul's School, London. 20 competitors**

Semi finals: J Aquilina bt S Russell; C Brooks bt T Parker

Final: Aquilina bt Brooks

5th Place: B Kirwan

**Derby Moor Fives Club, Derby. 12 competitors**

Semi-finals: L Keates bt D Tidy; C Davey bt M Suddaby

Final: Keates bt Davey

Plate: O McIntyre

**Blundell's School, Devon. 5 competitors**

Final: O Arnold bt C Low

3rd Place: N Geere

**Fettes College, Edinburgh. 16 competitors**

Semi-finals: T Watkinson bt A McCreath; A Boyd bt B Jourdan

Final: Watkinson bt Boyd

Plate: T Chan

**Draw for the National Singles Finals**

December 4/5, Cambridge

Organiser Charlie Brooks has today published the draw for the National Singles 2021 — the Jesters Club Cup — to be played this coming weekend. Dan Tristao is seeded Number One, looking for his 5th consecutive title. Ed Kay (seeded 2), who has been runner-up to Dan on the last two occasions, will be looking for that elusive first title, while two-time champion and third seed Will Ellison will be looking to make it into the final for a ninth time.

Clubs from as far apart as the West of England Club in Bristol, the Edward Alleyn Club and the Old Paulines in London and the Caledonian Club in Edinburgh are well represented, while Lewis Keates from the Derby Moor Club and Old Bedfordian Chris Davey represent the Midlands.

There are several players from the Universities: Singles champion Andrew Boyd from Edinburgh; Archie McCreath, Cameron Low and Theo Parker (yes, really –still a student!) from Bristol; and the National Schools U18 Champion Gwydion Wiseman is making his debut — against the defending champion!

All matches look competitive but particularly intriguing are Tom Watkinson versus Sam Russell and Charlie Brooks against Ollie Arnold, who won the Plate last time out.

Play starts at 9.30 on Saturday morning on the glass-backed courts at the Cambridge University Sports Centre. As ever, it's best of 3 to 15 in the main draw. The Plate will be a round robin — two groups of 4, playing one game to 15. The final will be played on Sunday morning.

**British Universities (BUSF) Championships**

Marlborough College, Wiltshire

Saturday/Sunday 20-21 November 2021

**STOP PRESS** 33 players from 8 universities took part in this year's championships. In the Singles top seed Andrew Boyd from Edinburgh University beat his fellow student Ben Jourdan. Andrew and Ben went on to contest the Doubles final against defending champion, Theo Parker of Bristol University, and his partner Cameron Low; Theo and Cameron won a close and lengthy match. Three Plates were played: Edinburgh University's Ollie Heath beat fellow student Andrew Shaw in the Singles; together they went on to win the Doubles, while Kirsten Bell won the Women's Plate against Lizzie Ware in an all-Durham University final.

**BUSF Team Event**



*Dave Hebden writes:* This year's BUSF Team Event was won by Edinburgh for the first time. The margin in the end was quite substantial, with Andrew Boyd and Ben Jourdan appearing in both the Singles and Doubles finals, and Ollie Heath and Andrew Shaw picking up further points in the Plate events. Edinburgh had finished 2nd and 3rd in recent years, so this was a well deserved victory. Bristol, who won the Doubles, came 2nd, while Durham, who had semi-finalists in both the Singles and Doubles, were a good 3rd. It was nice to see the successes being spread across different teams with all of the 8 participating Universities picking up some points.

The full results:

Edinburgh	52
Bristol	37.5
Durham	21
Loughborough	13.5
Cambridge	12
Oxford	12
KCL	11
Warwick	11

## Scores

### Singles

**Preliminary round:** H Nugent (Cam) bt M Stricker (Ox) 15-1, 15-1; L Ware (Dur) bt G van Bergen (Ox) 15-0, 15-0; K Bell (Dur) bt A Murphy (Ox) 15-0, 15-0; A Fairweather (Ox) bt S Breese (Durham) w/o

**1st round:** M Hawkey (Ox) bt C Clark (Dur) 2-1 ret; E Thursfield (Cam) bt V Thakrar (Ox) 15-2, 15-2; D Tidy (Lough) bt Nugent 15-3, 15-0; C Low (Bri) bt Ware 15-0, 15-0; H Jackson (Dur) bt H Turner (Ox) 15-3, 15-9; B Yass (Cam) bt O Heath (Edin) 15-1, 15-7; R Patel (Cam) bt A Hutchinson (Ox) 15-13, 6-15, 16-14; I Weaver (Dur) bt L McKnight(Cam) 15-0, 15-0; A Chai (War) bt Bell 15-0, 15-0; D Law (Dur) bt Fairweather 15-0, 15-0; L Odgers (Ox) bt A Shaw (Edin) 15-2, 15-1

**2nd round:** A Boyd (Edin) bt Hawkey 15-1, 15-0; Tidy bt Thursfield 15-12, 15-2; Low bt Jackson 15-5, 15-3; J Sumner (KCL) bt Yass 13-15, 15-8, 15-7; B Jourdan (Edin) bt Patel 15-0, 15-1; Chai bt Weaver 15-0, 15-1; Law bt Odgers 15-7, 15-10; L Wells (Cam) bt Ng (Ox) 15-4, 15-0

**Quarter-finals:** Boyd bt Tidy 15-0, 15-1; Low bt Sumner 15-0, 15-3; Jourdan bt Chai 15-12, 15-11; Law bt Wells 15-3, 15-7

**Semi-finals:** Boyd bt Low 15-2, 15-2; Jourdan bt Law 15-5, 15-6

**Final:** A Boyd (Edin) bt B Jourdan (Edin) 15-6, 15-11

**Open Plate:** O Heath (Edin) bt A Shaw (Edin) 15-7

**Women's Plate:** K Bell (Dur) bt L Ware (Dur)

### Doubles

**1st round:** Low & T Parker (Bri) bt Bell & Ware (Dur) 15-2, 15-3; Dare & Hutchinson (Ox) bt Nugent & Yass (Cam) 15-6, 15-9; J Davies & Tidy (Bri/Lough) bt Thakrar & Turner (Ox) 15-2, 15-3; Thursfield & Wells (Cam) bt Fairweather & Murphy (Ox) 15-0, 15-2; Law & Weaver (Dur) bt S Leboff & Patel (Cam) 15-0, 15-1; T Monro-Davies & Odgers (Ox) bt Heath & Shaw (Edin) 15-0, 15-1; Clark & Jackson (Dur) bt Hawkey & Ng (Ox) 15-10, 15-2; Boyd & Jourdan (Edin) bt Stricker & van Bergen (Ox) 15-0, 15-0

**Quarter-finals:** Low & Parker bt Dare & Hutchinson 15-4, 15-5; Davies & Tidy bt Thursfield & Wells 15-13, 15-8; Law & Weaver bt Monro-Davies & Odgers 15-10, 15-4; Boyd & Jourdan bt Clark & Jackson 15-3, 15-3

**Semi-finals:** Low & Parker bt Davies & Tidy 15-5, 15-7; Boyd & Jourdan bt Law & Weaver 15-1, 15-8

**Final:** C Low & T Parker (Bri) bt A Boyd & B Jourdan (Edin) 15-12, 15-11

**Open Plate:** O Heath & A Shaw (Edin) bt H Nugent & B Yass (Cam) 15-12

## Schools Winchester Fives Doubles Championship

Winchester College, Sunday 28th November 2021

*Jamie McManus reports:* After the enforced hiatus of last year, the Schools' Winchester Fives Doubles tournament returned to its place as the 'season opening' tournament for schools. 15 pairs took part, representing Alleyn's, Christ's Hospital, Marlborough, Stamford, St. Paul's, Tonbridge and Winchester. The championship brought together some of the top talent in the U18 year group but also, with four U15 pairs involved, had an eye on the future.

Right from the start it was pleasing to see pairs from all schools making use of the buttress and doing their best to retrieve from it, too. In the main draw, things went very much according to the seeding as Alleyn's I and St. Paul's I made it through to one semi-final, while Alleyn's II and Winchester I came through the other half of the draw. With players thoroughly warmed up the hard hitting really got under way, with St. Paul's and Alleyn's slugging things out in traditional style but with the occasional buttress twist, while Winchester I, clearly on a mission, blew Alleyn's II away.

In the final, Winchester I got points up early against Alleyn's I, Cloke Browne playing particularly well from the left-hand side of the court, and he and his partner Wu took the first game comfortably. Alleyn's then fought back hard and at 11-10 in game 2, the match was up for grabs by either side. Fittingly, when Winchester pulled away for the win, they did so by getting the buttress back in play – it was the last thing struck as match point was won.

In the Plate competition two large groups meant plenty more fives for everybody. Marlborough overcame Tonbridge I in a tight game to win group A, and Winchester II made relatively serene progress through group B. A highlight of the group matches was the game between Stamford I and Winchester II, a repeat of the U14 Doubles final from the Nationals in August. This time Winchester won out 11-8 – utilising home court advantage, of course! Nevertheless there was a definite sense of many more excellent contests to come. In the Plate Final itself, Winchester II's experience and power proved too much for Marlborough as they won through 15-5.

As tournament organiser, I am most grateful to all the players and masters i/c for making the effort to come down to Winchester and provide an excellent and enjoyable day full of Fives. Despite the disruptions of the previous 18 months, it seemed to me that School Fives was simply picking up from where it had left off; the prospects for a competitive season ahead were obvious.

### Scores

**1st round:** Winchester II bt Marlborough 15-1, 15-8; St Paul's I bt Stamford II 15-2, 15-4; Tonbridge I bt Winchester III 15-6, 15-4; Christ's Hospital bt Tonbridge II 15-7, 15-5; Alleyn's II bt Stamford I 15-0, 15-6; Winchester I bt Stamford III 15-1, 15-2; St Paul's II bt Alleyn's III 15-10, 15-13

**Quarter-finals:** Alleyn's I bt Winchester II 15-9, 15-3; St Paul's I bt Tonbridge I 15-2, 15-6; Alleyn's II bt Christ's Hospital 15-6, 15-9; Winchester I bt St Paul's II 15-1, 15-1

**Semi-finals:** Alleyn's I bt St Paul's I 15-3, 15-9; Winchester I bt Alleyn's II 15-0, 15-0

**Final:** Winchester I (M Cloke Browne & S Wu) bt Alleyn's I (S Scott & G Wiseman) 15-5, 15-10

### Plate

**Group A:** 1st Marlborough; 2nd Tonbridge I; 3rd Christ's Hospital; 4th Winchester III; 5th Stamford I; 6th Stamford III

**Group B:** 1st Winchester II; 2nd St Paul's II; 3rd Alleyn's III; 4th Tonbridge II; 5th Stamford II

**Semi-finals:** Winchester II bt Tonbridge I; Marlborough bt St Paul's II

**Final:** Winchester II (K Bremner & C Lee) bt Marlborough (A Kiggell & R Stratton) 15-5

## The National Singles Championships

Cambridge University Sports Centre

Saturday/Sunday 4th-5th December 2021

**STOP PRESS** With his victory in the National Singles Championship Dan Tristao moves equal with James Toop with six titles, five of them in consecutive years, and equal with Neil Roberts in his number of open Singles titles — 33 in all, second only to Wayne Enstone on 94!

The David Gardner Longboat aka The Plate was won by Sam Russell.

*Charlie Brooks reports:* Dan Tristao won his fifth consecutive National Singles title and his sixth in total, equalling James Toop on both counts, to be the joint second most successful National Singles player after Wayne Enstone. A large crowd saw Dan beat Will Ellison in the final, in a familiar showdown between the most successful players of the last decade. It had all the hallmarks of previous clashes both at this tournament and others around the country... Enviably range of shots? Tick. Phenomenal retrieval? Of course. A close game? We'd be disappointed if it wasn't!

Will stormed into a 6-0 lead within the first few minutes, playing all-round Fives to keep Dan moving, and finding regular winners. As Dan settled and found his range, especially the touch and angles at the front of the court, he first turned the tide and then asserted dominance. Dan has honed these tactics to perfection and knows how to take advantage as a game wears on. Will was drawn into this pattern and was made to cover the full depth and width of the court seemingly numerous times each rally. Despite chasing everything down, Will could not dictate the points and Dan came away with the first game, 15-11.

The second game started in very much the same vein. Evenly matched, long rallies, but Dan with a telling edge. This brought the score to 13-7 and what everyone assumed would be the inevitable outcome. Not Will though! A superb fightback, where he upped his level to match and better Dan (with the help of mishit winner!) to draw level at 13-13. A rally for the ages followed, with enough drama for an entire match — control of the point ebbing and flowing, the two opponents covering inconceivable distances; it turned out to be a microcosm of the final. It was Dan who eventually triumphed, winning the next couple of points as well for a 15-11, 15-13 victory.

As you'd expect from the National Singles, there was some scintillating play throughout the draw, not just in the final, with a range of techniques on show; the energy of Watkinson and Kay, the power of Arnold and Beltrami or the accuracy of Aquilina and Tristao.

On Saturday, the day had culminated in an epic semi-final between Ed Kay, who has been in the past two finals, and Will. Using his intimate knowledge of his home courts, Ed pulled away at the end of the first game with a couple of unreturnable shots off both hands to win 15-9. The second game saw a score reversal as Will's experience came to the fore.

And so to the decider. As with the final, these two players are so closely matched; it was nip and tuck throughout: 10-10, 11-11, 12-12, 13-13! Another breathless rally ended with Ed on the floor after more retrieving, but showing great sportsmanship managed to scramble away to allow Will to play his shot to win the point and, not long after, the game. In the quarter-finals, Julian Aquilina certainly gave Ben Beltrami a run for his money, before Ben's shot making and experience at this level pulled him through to the semis. Julian has shown fantastic consistency this season, putting his opponents under pressure with his high-paced line-and-length game. This was enough to force a win in the first, but Ben's shot making fired him level, blasting many a winner in the second. Many more followed in game three, before Julian's superior fitness seemed to be putting him in the ascendancy. But no; alas, he had left himself too much to do.

Undoubtedly this lengthy 3-gamer took its toll on Ben. He fought valiantly in the semi-final against Dan, but never looked to have the upper hand. 15-10 in the first showed that he has the ability to stay with, and challenge, Dan; the winners were at times incredible. By the end though, Dan was finding it easier to control rallies and took the second to 6. Elsewhere, there were reasonably comfortable first round victories for Andrew Boyd, Tom Watkinson and Charlie Brooks. They booked themselves quarter-finals against the top 3 seeds, with glimmers of hope of an upset — such is the level at the top though, these are few and far between.

In the plate, Sam Russell showed superb consistency in the group games and then the final against Cameron Low. As ever in this competition, the standard of matches was very high indeed. In particular, the group game between Sam and Ollie Arnold was exactly the high-quality affair to be expected. The score ended 15-5, but that did not reflect the encounter, which was 5-5 after about half an hour. In the other group, Cameron had upset the seedings by beating Theo Parker; his languid style belies a steely determination that outlasted Theo's array of shots.

This year saw one of the biggest turnouts ever, with 57 players competing across 4 qualifying events (Edinburgh, Tiverton, Derby and London). Combined with the Challenger event on the same weekend, the numbers grew to 70. Here's to 100 participants in the near future!

## Scores

### Singles

**1st round:** D Tristao (1) bt G Wiseman 15-9, 15-5; A Boyd (8) bt T Parker 15-5, 15-3; J Aquilina (5) bt L Keates 15-5, 15-7; B Beltrami (4) bt C Davey 15-3, 15-1; W Ellison (3) bt C Low 15-2, 15-4; C Brooks (6) bt O Arnold 15-9, 15-4; T Watkinson (7) bt S Russell 15-2, 15-8; E Kay (2) bt A McCreath 15-0, 15-0

**Quarter-finals:** Tristao bt Boyd 15-9, 15-9; Beltrami bt Aquilina 11-15, 15-2; 15-9; Ellison bt Brooks 15-2, 15-7; Kay bt Watkinson 15-0, 15-3

**Semi-finals:** Tristao bt Beltrami 15-10, 15-6; Ellison bt Kay 9-15, 15-9, 15-13

**Final:** Tristao bt Ellison 15-11, 15-13

### Plate

**Group 1:** Low bt Parker 15-9, bt Wiseman 15-1, bt Keates 15-2; Parker bt Keates 15-7, bt Wiseman 15-6; Keates bt Wiseman 15-6

**Group 2:** Russell bt Arnold 15-5, bt McCreath 15-6, bt Davey 15-4; Arnold bt McCreath 15-6, bt Davey 15-4, McCreath bt Davey 15-11

**Final:** Russell bt Low 15-6, 15-4

## 3rd Challenger Tournament

Cambridge University Sports Centre

Sunday, 5th December 2021

**STOP PRESS** In the third Challenger Tournament, following the success of the first such event in December 2019, which Christian Blackaby won, and the second, in Durham, won by Andrew Boyd in July 2021, Anthony Goodwin from the Derby Moor Fives Club won the Tankard, beating Genesis Nsenga of the Edward Alleyn Club in the final.

Cambridge University was represented by Emrys Thursfield, Lennie Wells, Ben Yass and Holly Nugent, with former players Laurence Cook and Savanna Leboff; Derby Moor by Anthony Goodwin, Ashley Hill, Vishal Singh and Aaron Wheatley, the Edward Alleyn Club by Joe Garratt and Genesis Nsenga, plus newcomers to RFA events Oscar Naden and Max Langtry.

*Charlie Brooks reports:* Anthony Goodwin emerged victorious from the RFA Challenger Tournament, after a series of extremely close matches throughout the day. In the main draw, the semi-finals and final were very tight affairs, and the plate competitions continued this theme. Coming through to win the plates were Laurence Cook (1st Plate), Oscar Naden (2nd Plate) and Savanna Leboff (3rd Plate). Congratulations to all!

This was the third Challenger Tournament, after the 2019 debut (more had been planned before Covid lockdowns struck), and was held at the Cambridge courts alongside the National Singles. The event is open to everyone, except the 16 who qualified for the Nationals. This ensures new match-ups, allowing a wider variety of players, including newcomers and younger players, to compete in closely fought knockout games.

The tournament started with 4 groups of 4 players each, playing up to 11. Most of these followed the seedings, but there were some cracking contests that set the tone for the day: Wells vs Cook and Mathias vs Wheatley both ended 11-10. Once the groups were completed, players were split into the main draw (for the group winners) and 3 plate competitions — this is where the action really sparked into life.

Throughout the group stages, those players not on court were able to watch some of the National Singles finals. Did this added inspiration spur on the Challengers? It certainly seemed that way as match after match went down to the wire. Of the 12 knockout games, all but one was 15-10 or closer, and that one was after the two opponents had each edged their previous game 16-15!

With such an exhibition, it is tough to pick any out specifically, but the whole event was surely epitomised by Louise Mathias and Oscar Naden in one of the semi-finals. It went to 16-15 after more than an hour of hard-fought play.

In the main draw, Anthony just about got the better of Emrys Thursfield in the top half, while a hotly contested match between Genesis Nsenga and Ashley Hill went the way of the younger player, Genesis winning 16-14. That score was repeated in the final, but this time it was Anthony who came out on top. He used all his experience and guile to save a number of match points, with both players' hard-hitting producing numerous clear winners.

Thank you to all competitors; it was a brilliant showcase of Fives and demonstrated the value of this format. There were players who had never played in ranking tournaments before, and closely contested matches for all entrants — exactly the intent. The RFA is planning to hold two more Challenger Tournaments this season, so please keep an eye out as we head into 2022.

## Scores

**Group 1:** Anthony Goodwin bt Ben Yass 11-5, bt Oscar Naden 11-0, bt Savanna Leboff 11-0; Yass bt Naden 11-4, bt Leboff 11-1; Naden bt Leboff 11-0

**Group 2:** Ashley Hill bt Laurence Cook 11-6, bt Lennie Wells 11-6, bt Joe Garratt 11-0; Wells bt Cook 11-10, bt Garratt 11-2; Cook bt Garratt 11-0

**Group 3:** Emrys Thursfield bt Aaron Wheatley 11-8, bt Louise Mathias 11-3, bt Max Langtry 11-0; Wheatley bt Mathias 11-10, bt Langtry 11-0; Mathias bt Langtry 11-7

**Group 4:** Genesis Nsenga bt Vishal Singh 11-4, bt Ritvik Patel 11-4, bt Holly Nugent 11-3; Singh bt Patel 11-2, bt Nugent 11-4; Patel bt Nugent 11-5

## Main Draw:

**Semi-finals:** Goodwin bt Thursfield 15-11, Nsenga bt Hill 16-14

**Final:** Goodwin bt Nsenga 16-14

**3rd Place:** Thursfield bt Hill 15-13

**1st Plate:** Semi-finals: Yass bt Wheatley 15-12, Cook bt Singh 15-10. Final: Cook bt Yass 16-14

**2nd Plate:** Semi-finals: Naden bt Mathias 16-15, Garratt bt Patel 16-15. Final: Naden bt Garratt 15-2

**3rd Plate:** Semi-finals: Leboff bt Langtry 15-10, Nugent bt Wells w/o. Final: Leboff bt Nugent 15-10

## Ladies U23 Championships

St Paul's School, Barnes

Saturday, 11th December 2021

**STOP PRESS** With Louise Mathias and Shinan Zhang no longer eligible we looked to see new names on the trophies this year. It was Schools champion Martha Nugent who took the Singles title, and Holly Nugent & Savanna Leboff from Cambridge the Doubles. The entry was small but the standard high. We missed more possible competitors from Durham and Edinburgh but were delighted to have the National Schools Doubles champions from Alleyn's and a new pair from Oxford. We hope next year to revert to the previous weekend to align with the National Singles, and we look forward now to the Ladies' National Championships in Manchester in January.

## Scores

### Singles

**1st round:** Lucy Arie bt Viola King Forbes 15-4; Holly Nugent bt Celia Hanna 15-0; Imogen Wright bt Haulwen Goldie-Jones 15-0

**Quarter-finals:** Martha Nugent bt Arie 15-0; Savanna Leboff bt Katie Innes 15-1; Katie Sumner bt H Nugent 15-12; Ibbey Lee bt Wright 15-1

**Semi-finals:** M Nugent bt Leboff 15-3; Lee bt Sumner 15-9

**Final:** Martha Nugent bt Ibbey Lee 15-3, 15-4

## Plate

**Group A:** 1st Imogen Wright; 2nd Viola King Forbes; 3rd Katie Innes; 4th Celia Hanna

**Group B:** 1st Holly Nugent; 2nd Lucy Arie; 3rd Haulwen Goldie-Jones

**Final:** Holly Nugent bt Imogen Wright

## Doubles

**1st:** Savanna Leboff & Holly Nugent — 3 wins. Gold

**2nd:** Katie Sumner & Imogen Wright — 2 wins. Silver

**3rd:** Ibbby Lee & Viola King Forbes — 1 win. Plate

**4th:** Haulwen Goldie-Jones & Celia Hanna — no wins.

## The President's Cup

Oundle School; Sunday, 12th December 2021

**STOP PRESS** With a change of venue and a reduced field of 24 organisers Hamish Buchanan and Alex Smith opted initially for 4 groups, followed by the usual 4 competitions, all best of 3 to 15. The eventual winners of the Cup, the Plate, the Mug and the T-Pot (see photographs below) must have been as tired as ever!

Dave Hebden notes that in winning the Love Mug, Holly became the third female player to win a President's Cup trophy; the others being her sister Martha, who won the main event with Ed Kay in 2018, and Louise Mathias, who has won both the Mate's Plate (2019) and the Love Mug (2018).

## Scores

**Group A:** 1st Simon Beattie & Ben Yass; 2nd Dave Butler & Holly Nugent; 3rd Ashwin Ahuja & Chase Burgess

**Group B:** 1st Tim Hebblethwaite & Emrys Thursfield; 2nd Sarthak Garella & Ed Rose; 3rd Chris Davey & Savanna Leboff

**Group C:** 1st Joe Garratt & Ben Hale; 2nd Martha Nugent & Euan Townshend; 3rd Lewis Keates & Julie McIntyre

**Group D:** 1st George Fox-Edwards & Stuart Kirby; 2nd Bruce Hanton & Nick Whitney; 3rd Stuart Scott & Helena Tunks

## President's Cup

**1st round:** Beattie & Yass bt Hanton & Whitney 15-5, 15-9; Hebblethwaite & Thursfield bt Nugent & Townshend 15-1, 15-0; Garratt & Hale bt Garella & Rose 15-6, 15-9; Fox-Edwards & Kirby bt Butler & Nugent 15-9, 15-9

**Semi-finals:** Hebblethwaite & Thursfield bt Beattie & Yass 15-7, 12-15, 15-6; Garratt & Hale bt Fox-Edwards & Kirby 15-4, 16-14

**Final:** Hebblethwaite & Thursfield bt Garratt & Hale 15-4, 15-6

## Mate's Plate

**Semi-finals:** Beattie & Yass bt Hanton & Whitney 15-5, 15-6; Fox-Edwards & Kirby bt Ahuja & Burgess 15-8, 15-6

**Final:** Beattie & Yass bt Fox-Edwards & Kirby 15-7, 9-15, 15-5

## Love Mug

**1st round:** Ahuja & Burgess bt Nugent & Townshend 15-6, 15-8; Butler & Nugent bt Davey & Leboff 15-9, 15-11; Hanton & Whitney bt Keates & McIntyre 15-6, 9-15, 15-13; Scott & Tunks bt Garella & Rose 15-9, 15-4

**Semi-finals:** Butler & Nugent bt Ahuja & Burgess 6-15, 15-5, 15-8; Scott & Tunks bt Hanton & Whitney 15-5, 15-4

**Final:** Butler & Nugent bt Scott & Tunks 15-7, 15-3

## T-Pot

**Semi-finals:** Garella & Rose bt Nugent & Townshend 15-11, 15-5; Davey & Leboff bt Keates & McIntyre 15-11, 13-15, 15-9

**Final:** Garella & Rose bt Davey & Leboff 15-6, 15-10

## Updated Women's Rankings

December 2021

The RFA is delighted to publish up-dated Women's Rankings in Singles and Doubles after the successful staging of three events since the beginning of the 2021-2022 season: the National Schoolgirls' Championships in August, the Northern Ladies' Tournament in October and the National Ladies' U23 Championships in December.

Those players who took part in these events have made significant progress up the Singles rankings, among them Camille Beattie, Kirsten Bell, Lucy Arie and Katie Innes, with Imogen Wright, Rosa Ogilvie and Savanna Leboff entering the top 30 for the first time.

In Doubles Martha Nugent rises to enter the top 3, with Kirsten Bell, Camille Beattie, Holly Nugent and Katie Innes progressing higher in the top 30 and Leah Hogarth, Imogen Wright, Savanna Leboff, Sophia Breese and Rosa Ogilvie entering that group for the first time.

Louise Mathias maintains her dominant position as Number 1 in Singles and Doubles and, with her Doubles partner, will represent the standard to which all will aspire in the upcoming Ladies' National Championships in Manchester on the weekend of January 22-23.

SINGLES Top 10				DOUBLES Top 10			
<i>Current</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>
1	1	L Mathias	86.2	1	1	L Mathias	81.9
2	2	K Briedenhann	77.9	2	2	S Zhang	67.5
3	3	M Raynor	75.9	3	5	M Nugent	66.7
4	5	M Nugent	75.6	4	3	T Mills	64.6
5	4	T Mills	72.1	5	4	K Briedenhann	63.8
6	7	K Sumner	70.0	6	6	A Steel	62.6
7	8	I Lee	69.9	7	7	M Raynor	62.5
8	6	S Zhang	68.1	8	17	K Bell	58.9
9	15	C Beattie	61.5	9	9	K Sumner	53.5
10	26	H Nugent	59.1	10	8	M Kent	51.4

## Basque Rugby Fives Championship

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

The RFA recognises the first Basque Championship launched by Egoitz Campo. Match report from the organiser is detailed below; we hope to continue to build relationships internationally and hope to see players travel over for tournaments in the future!

On the 10th of December in the squash court of the Derio municipal sports centre (Derio – Basque Country), the *Basque Association of Beach Tennis and Minority Sports* organised the first Basque Rugby Fives Singles Championship. 5 players participated: Luis, Aitor, Juanjo Andi, and Egoitz (the organiser).

The experience was very cool and all of us had a good time after putting on the gloves and practising a bit. I explained them the rules and then it was into the competition. Rugby Fives is an intense sport and a lot of fun. The most consistent player was Egoitz, but Aitor showed that he will become a great future talent.

Our idea is to organise the Basque Doubles Championship in March or April, where we will try to encourage 8 players in order to be able to make 4 pairs. If all goes well in the summer we will organise the Tournament of Galdakao (Singles and Doubles), which will have a different and faster format.

**Preliminary match:** Egoitz Campo 2-0 Luis Getxo (11-1 and 11-2)

**Semi-finals:** Egoitz Campo 2-0 Aitor Galda (11-6 and 11-5); Juanjo Sinde 2-0 Andi Erromo (11-2 and 11-4)

**3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> position match:** Aitor Galda 2-0 Andi Erromo (11-0 and 11-2)

**Final:** Egoitz Campo 2-1 Juanjo Sinde (11-5, 9-11 and 11-4)

## New Year RFA Rankings

After the National Singles December 2021

4 January 2022

Naturally, after a couple of months packed with important Fives tournaments, the new year brings new official RFA Open Singles and Doubles Rankings (which you can see on the [Rankings page on this website](#)), along with the following update from the RFA's Rankings Tsar, Dave Hebden:

The New Year rankings include the results from the seven ranking tournaments that took place in the second half of 2021, following the enforced break in the tournament calendar caused by covid, during which we lost 13 rankings events.

Since the last rankings update was published in October, we have had the University Championships, the National Singles Championship, and for the second time, a Challenger singles event for players outside the top 16, for which ranking points were once again on offer.

In the Singles Dan Tristao remains at the top following his win in the National Singles Championship. Although Will Ellison beat Ed Kay to reach the final, Ed retains second spot in the rankings, but the gap between the two is much reduced. These three remain well clear of fourth-placed Ben Beltrami, who was the fourth player in the semi-final line-up at the Nationals. Elsewhere in the top 10 there is little change, although Andrew Boyd moves up to ninth after winning the University event and reaching the quarter-finals in the National Singles. His opponent in the University final, Ben Jourdan, moves up to #16, while Cameron Low enters the top 20 at #18. Both these players also qualified for the last 16 of the National Singles, although Ben had to drop out due to injury.

Anthony Goodwin benefited from winning the Challenger event and moves up to #21. Other Singles qualifiers Archie McCreath and Gwydion Wiseman make progress in the top 30, while Uni semi-finalist Douglas Law moves up to #31.

We then see an encouraging crop of 13 young new entries, six from the University event (Doug Tidy, Lennie Wells, Ben Yass, Oliver Heath, Andrew Shaw, Louis Odgers), three from the National Singles Qualifiers (Wyman Chan, Stuart Scott, Aiden Whitham), and four from the Challenger event (Ashley Hill, Genesis Nsenga, Laurence Cook, Emrys Thursfield). Is it possible that there are some future champions amongst this group?

The Doubles update includes results from the University Championships. Given that this is not an open event, the points awarded for this competition are reduced, so we do not see a huge change in the overall rankings. However, champions Andrew Boyd and Ben Jourdan improve their positions, while Cameron Low and Douglas Law both enter the top 20.

Lower down, Julius Davies, Emrys Thursfield and Harry Jackson all make progress, while we have 11 new entries (Doug Tidy, Isaac Weaver, Callum Clark, Murray Dare, Oliver Heath, Adam Hutchinson, Teddy Monro-Davies, Louis Odgers, Andrew Shaw, Lennie Wells, and Holly Nugent). Holly joins three other female players now in the Open Doubles Rankings.

Congratulations to Theo Parker for maintaining a good entry in the University Championships despite the current difficulties, and to Charlie Brooks, who managed an entry of 57 players for the National Singles, very close to the all-time record of 59.

		SINGLES Top 10					DOUBLES Top 10	
Current	Previous	Name	Points		Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	D Tristao	96.8		1	1	W Ellison	98.2
2	2	E Kay	93.1		2	2	E Kay	95.3
3	3	W Ellison	92.2		3	3	O Arnold	85.1
4	4	B Beltrami	66.3		4	4	D Tristao	82.9



5	5	D Butler	55.9		5	5	C Brooks	76.9
6	6	J Aquilina	50.7		6	6	B Beltrami	75.7
7	8	T Watkinson	46.9		7	7	D Butler	70.3
8	7	C Brooks	46.7		8	8	T Parker	70.1
9	11	A Boyd	41.9		9	9	D Grant	67.5
10	9	D Grant	38.3		10	10	M Shaw	60.7

## West of England Schools Championships

Sherborne School, Dorset

Saturday/Sunday, 8-9 January 2022

**STOP PRESS** Three titles for Alleyn's School and one for Winchester College, the two dominant squads at this year's Championships.

*Sam Roberts reports:* After an uncertain few weeks over Christmas and the New Year, waiting to see whether new covid restrictions would be announced which would prevent the tournament taking place, or whether so many players and supervising staff would be forced to isolate that no meaningful competition was possible, it was a wonderful thing to stage the Schools West of England Fives Championships, and to feel that perhaps fives was back to normal, two years since the last event. We are extremely grateful to Sherborne School for hosting the tournament.

In the end, covid, other school sports fixtures and revision for GCSE assessments took their toll on the entries. Blundell's were forced to withdraw all their players because a key member of staff was isolating, and the U16s were reduced to 15 players in the Singles.

Despite all these issues, it was a weekend of excellent fives, played in front of enthusiastic (masked ...) supporters.

In the U16 Singles, things went according to seeding – apart from a fantastic run by Fintan Delaney of St Paul's, who swept aside fourth seed Laurie Milner of Alleyn's in the quarter-final and nearly took out the top seed, Anthony Cloke Browne of Winchester, in the semi-final, with Anthony scraping through 11-9 in the third game. In the final, Theo Vernacchio of Alleyn's kept his composure to win a mammoth tussle in the first game and then achieved victory in a shorter second game, against an understandably tired Cloke Browne.

In the U16 Doubles, the draw was strengthened by two pairs from Stamford who made a seven hour round trip on the Sunday in order to play. Despite their long journey, Stamford first pair of Chase Burgess & Cam Drutman cruised past Tonbridge to reach the semi-final – both being U15 pairs who should return stronger next year. In the semi-final, Winchester 1 (Cloke Browne & Jeffrey Chan) were a little too consistent and hard hitting for Stamford, and in the other half of the draw, Alleyn's (Milner & Vernacchio) defeated the Sherborne pair of Alex Upton & Charlie Money with some well organised and effective play. The final was hard fought and intense – Winchester unsettling Alleyn's to take the first game easily, before Alleyn's regained their composure, cut down on the errors and won the match in three games.

In the Open Singles, the semi-finals involved two match-ups between Alleyn's & Winchester – Gwydion Wiseman against Marcus Cloke Browne, and Stuart Scott against Shiloh Wu – but only after Cloke Browne had come through a fantastic three-gamer against Aiden Whitham of St Paul's, and Scott had weathered a brilliant passage of play from Genesis Nsenga of St Olave's, who took the match to three games. In the semi-finals, Wu's superior accuracy and low hitting was too much for Scott, and Wiseman's speed and variation eventually prevailed against Cloke Browne, who nevertheless made the top seed work hard for his win. The final produced a memorable display of high quality, relentless fives. In the first game, Wu and Wiseman were evenly matched, each taking it in turns to hit the perfect length or a clean nick. Wiseman closed out the game, partly thanks to some unreturnable serves, and then held his nerve in the second, showing great self-discipline and focus to slowly drag Wu out of position in the long, draining rallies, before playing his winners. Despite it only going to two games, it was one of the highest quality, most evenly matched finals for years.

In the Open Doubles, the early rounds were fairly one sided – apart from Tonbridge 1 (Neil Hudson & Max Freudenheim) rallying to nearly take St Paul's 2 (Alex Ridley & Benny Harrison) to a third game decider, and St Paul's 1 (Aiden Whitham & Ben Roberts) being forced to claw their way back from 10-3 down to win the second game and close out the match against the scratch 'Edward Alleyn Club' pairing of Genesis Nsenga & Jake Johnston. The semi-finals were

wonderfully intense affairs, with long rallies and superb retrieving, as the two St Paul's pairs each came close to taking their matches to a third game. In the final, Winchester (Cloke Browne & Wu) played consistent, powerful fives in the first game, establishing an early lead and only conceding two points to Alleyn's (Wiseman & Scott). A similar fast start in the second game took them into a commanding 6-1 lead. With their backs to the wall, the Alleyn's pair found new aggression and commitment and they stormed through to take the game. In the third game, Alleyn's gained an early lead but Winchester were still playing excellent fives and they gradually pulled level, and then moved clear to take the deciding game 11-7. It was a classic final, and a fitting way to end the tournament.

## Results

### Open Singles

**1st round:** H Akerman (Win) bt K Lee (Ton) 15-2; B Harrison (StP) bt J Johnston (All) 15-1; N Hudson (Ton) bt C Yates (Der) 15-3; A Whitham (StP) bt O Wallace-Vorberg (All) 15-2; H Shaw (All) bt J Pyman (She) 15-4; A Todd-Leask (Mar) bt G Slater (Ton) 15-2; F Mercer (She) bt A Huang (Ton) 15-4; G Nsenga (StO) bt M Bolt (All) 15-7; A Ridley (StP) bt M Fowle (She) 15-5; B Roberts (StP) bt A Murat (Ton) 15-4; M Freudenheim (Ton) bt B Cundy (Der) 15-0; P Harrison (All) bt W Fahle (She) 15-3

**2nd round:** G Wiseman (All) bt Akerman 11-0, 11-0; B Harrison bt Hudson 11-4, 11-9; Whitham bt Shaw 11-1, 11-3; M Cloke Browne (Win) bt Todd-Leask 11-0, 11-1; S Scott (All) bt Mercer 11-0, 11-0; Nsenga bt Ridley 11-6, 11-9; Roberts bt Freudenheim 11-3, 11-4; S Wu (Win) bt P Harrison 11-5, 11-1

**Quarter-finals:** Wiseman bt B Harrison 11-0, 11-5; Cloke Browne bt Whitham 11-4, 3-11, 11-8; Scott bt Nsenga 11-5, 8-11, 11-3; Wu bt Roberts 11-2, 11-5

**Semi-finals:** Wiseman bt Cloke Browne 11-3, 11-7; Wu bt Scott 11-3, 11-5

**Final:** G Wiseman (All) bt S Wu (Win) 11-9, 11-6

**Plate:** A Ridley (StP) bt H Akerman (Win) 15-4

### Open Doubles

**1st round:** Tonbridge II bt Derby Moor 15-8; Tonbridge I bt Alleyn's II 15-5; St Paul's II bt Tonbridge III 15-0; St Paul's I bye; Edward Alleyn bt Marlborough I 15-2; Alleyn's III bt Marlborough II 11-5

**Quarter-finals:** Alleyn's I bt Tonbridge II 11-0, 11-0; St Paul's II bt Tonbridge I 11-5, 12-11; St Paul's I bt Edward Alleyn 11-6, 12-11; Winchester bt Alleyn's III 11-0, 11-3

**Semi-finals:** Alleyn's I bt St Paul's II 11-9, 11-5; Winchester bt St Paul's I 11-3, 11-8

**Final:** Winchester (M Cloke Browne & S Wu) bt Alleyn's I (S Scott & G Wiseman) 11-2, 9-11, 11-7

**Plate:** 1st Marlborough I (A Todd-Leask & A Kiggell); 2nd Alleyn's II (P Harrison & H Shaw)

### U16 Singles

**1st round:** M Di Gleria (Mar) bt O Woolf (Ton) 15-6; F Delaney (StP) bt A Kulkarni 15-2; L Milner (All) bt R Goodman (StP) 15-4; T Vernacchio (All) bt A James-Duff (Win) 15-3; J Kennedy (Win) bt A Upton (She) 15-10; R Zhou (Win) bt O Wilson (Ton) 15-8; J Chan (Win) bt C Money (She) 15-9

**Quarter-finals:** A Cloke Browne (Win) bt Di Gleria 11-5, 11-1; Delaney bt Milner 11-8, 11-5; Vernacchio bt Kennedy 11-7, 11-6; Chan bt Zhou 11-0, 11-0

**Semi-finals:** Cloke Browne bt Delaney 8-11, 11-4, 11-9; Vernacchio bt Chan 11-2, 11-2

**Final:** T Vernacchio (All) bt A Cloke Browne (Win) 11-9, 11-5

**Plate:** A Upton (She) bt R Goodman (StP) 15-13

### U16 Doubles

**1st round:** Sherborne bt Stamford II 15-0; Tonbridge bt Marlborough II 15-7

**Quarter-finals:** Alleyn's I bt Winchester III 11-5, 11-0; Sherborne bt Winchester II 11-4, 11-4; Winchester I bt Marlborough I 11-7, 11-6; Stamford I bt Tonbridge 11-0, 11-2

**Semi-finals:** Alleyn's I bt Sherborne 11-0, 11-6; Winchester I bt Stamford I 11-6, 11-4

**Final:** Alleyn's I (L Milner & T Vernacchio) bt Winchester I (A Cloke Browne & J Chan) 2-11, 11-4, 11-6

**Plate:** 1st Winchester III (A James-Duff & J Kennedy); 2nd Winchester II (A Kulkarni & R Zhou)

## National Ladies' Championships

Manchester Y Club

Saturday/Sunday, 22-23 January 2022

The RFA is delighted to report that Rugby Fives has had some excellent coverage on the radio ahead of the National Ladies Championships. In fact, no less than two sections of the Stacey Copeland show on BBC Radio Manchester were devoted to the game.

In the first, RFA Deputy President Julie McIntyre explained to the host just what the game entails and where the sport's name comes from. She also looked forward to the championships, as well as encouraging more women and girls to take up the game.

**STOP PRESS** Denied the chance by covid in 2021, Louise Mathias now won her third successive National Ladies' Singles title and then, with Shinan Zhang, their hat-trick of Doubles titles also. We missed Alexandra Steel, Maddy Raynor and Katie Sumner among others but had a strong field of mostly young players from all over the country who provided a high quality and competitive entry once again. Our warmest thanks go to the Y Club for hosting the event and to Louise in particular for organising the fives and the dinner.

### Results

#### Open Singles

**1st round:** Miriam Stricker bt Rebecca Crossley 11-0, 11-0; Viola King Forbes bt Chloe Petrie 11-2, 11-4; Helena Tunks bt Dami Tariuwa 11-0, 11-0

**2nd round:** Louise Mathias bt Stricker 11-0, 11-0; Lizzie Ware bt Julie McIntyre 11-1, 11-1; Camille Beattie bt Holly Brown 11-3, 11-1; Shinan Zhang bt Louise Hawkins 11-0, 11-0; Ibbey Lee bt Cecily Millar 11-2, 11-2; Holly Nugent bt King Forbes 11-1, 11-0; Savanna Leboff bt Imogen Wright 11-2, 11-0; Martha Nugent bt Tunks 11-0, 11-0

**Quarter-finals:** Mathias bt Ware 15-1, 15-1; Beattie bt Zhang 15-1, 15-7; H Nugent bt Lee 12-15, 15-9, 15-13; M Nugent bt Leboff 15-2, 15-5

**Semi-finals:** Mathias bt Beattie 15-1, 15-0; M Nugent bt H Nugent 15-4, 15-4

**Final:** Louise Mathias bt Martha Nugent 15-6, 15-8

**Plate Semi-finals:** Cecily Millar bt Imogen Wright 15-12; Helena Tunks bt Holly Brown 15-8

**Plate Final:** Helena Tunks bt Cecily Millar 11-0, 11-1

#### Doubles

**1st round:** Julie McIntyre & Dami Tariuwa bt Wendy Nicholls & Dana Wilson 11-5, 11-5; Holly Brown & Chloe Petrie bt Miriam Stricker & Rebecca Crossley 11-2, 11-1

**Quarter-finals:** Louise Mathias & Shinan Zhang bt McIntyre & Tariuwa 15-0, 15-2; Camille Beattie & Imogen Wright bt Viola King Forbes & Savanna Leboff 15-11, 15-5; Ibbey Lee & Helena Tunks bt Louise Hawkins & Cecily Millar 15-6, 15-3; Holly Nugent & Martha Nugent bt Brown & Petrie 15-0, 15-1

**Semi-finals:** Mathias & Zhang bt Beattie & Wright 15-2, 15-2; Nugent & Nugent bt Lee & Tunks 15-7, 15-9

**Final:** Louise Mathias & Shinan Zhang bt Holly Nugent & Martha Nugent 15-8, 15-3

**1st Plate:** Viola King Forbes & Savanna Leboff bt Louise Hawkins & Cecily Millar 11-4, 11-5

**2nd Plate:** Holly Brown & Chloe Petrie bt Julie McIntyre & Dami Tariuwa 15-2

**3rd Plate:** Miriam Stricker & Rebecca Crossley bt Wendy Nicholls & Dana Wilson 15-10

# National U25 Championships

Cambridge University Sports Centre  
Saturday/Sunday, 29-30 January 2022

**STOP PRESS** Ben Beltrami won his second U25 Singles title and then partnered Ollie Arnold to win their third consecutive Doubles championship in two days of full-on Fives going into the early hours of the evening. It was pleasing to see the increased participation of women in both Singles and Doubles. The stand-out performance of the weekend involved the two young players from Winchester College, who dominated and won both plates. We give organiser James Smith warmest thanks for the way he ran his third and final competition with a light but rigorous touch and look forward to returning to Oundle School next year with new organiser Joe Sumner.

*Organiser James Smith reports:* This weekend, as ever, saw the next generation of fives come together, albeit in unfamiliar surroundings: due to covid restrictions, the U25s had to be moved from regular venue Oundle School to Cambridge. However, this did nothing to dampen the spirits of the players, as a total of 39 players descended on the courts to play on at least one of the days.

As usual, the Singles matches began in earnest on Saturday morning, with players blitzing through the first round (one game to 15). Notable performances early on were Yusuf's 16-14 victory against Odgers, and Weaver overcoming Nsenga 15-11. Thereafter the draw ran according to seeding – Whitehorn and Chai playing the pick of the second round matches, the former overcoming his opponent after losing the first game to win 8-15, 15-6, 15-5. More gruelling games followed in the quarters and semi-finals before two familiar finalists, Beltrami and Watkinson, squared up. Ben won 15-3, 15-13 to take home his second Singles title in his final year of this competition.

Meanwhile the Plate entrants were divided into two groups, playing matches to 7 – a lot of Fives for everyone involved! Cloke Browne and Wu, the debutants from Winchester College, saw off their rivals to narrowly progress through each group stage before facing off in the final – Wu taking home the spoils 2-15 15-13 15-7.

Attention then turned to Doubles, which again progressed according to seeding; there was a high quality of Fives played throughout and a number of the top seeds had to overcome spirited challenges from those below them. In the end, Beltrami & Arnold proved too strong for the rest of the field and beat Boyd & Jourdan 15-5, 15-0 in the final to secure their third consecutive Doubles title.

The Plate again was very tight again, a testament to the standard of Fives being played. Cloke Browne & Wu progressed through their half of the draw before beating Thursfield & Barnett 15-8, 15-4 in the final, to ensure both plates would be making their way back to Winchester.

I would like to thank everyone who made the journey to play over the course of the weekend, and on behalf of the RFA I would like to thank Cambridge University Sports Centre for being such a hospitable and willing host at short notice for a great weekend of Fives. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to next year's tournament, returning to Oundle School under new organiser Joe Sumner.

## Results

### Singles

**1st round:** R Yusuf bt L Odgers 16-14; J Sumner bt G van Bergen 15-0; L Keates bt T Monro-Davies 15-2; B Jourdan bt S Wu 15-6; J Smith bt K Bell 15-5; I Weaver bt G Nsenga 15-11; O Arnold bt O Heath 15-1; A Boyd bt J Dare 15-2; B Yass bt M Hawkey 15-4; D Law bt L Ware 15-0; C Low bt M Cloke Browne 15-7; R Whitehorn bt H Turner 15-0; A Chai bt A Murphy 15-0; E Thursfield bt L Mathias 15-7; T Watkinson bt A Ahuja 15-1

**2nd round:** B Beltrami bt Yusuf 15-1, 15-0; Keates bt Sumner 15-5, 15-12; Jourdan bt Smith 15-8, 15-8; Arnold bt Weaver 15-3, 15-2; Boyd bt Yass 15-2, 15-0; Low bt Law 15-13, 15-7; Whitehorn bt Chai 8-15, 15-6, 15-5; Watkinson bt Thursfield 15-3, 15-1

**Quarter-finals:** Beltrami bt Keates 15-1, 15-7; Arnold bt Jourdan 15-8, 15-7; Boyd bt Low 16-14, 15-7; Watkinson bt Whitehorn 15-5, 15-3

**Semi-finals:** Beltrami bt Arnold 15-0, 15-3; Watkinson bt Boyd 15-12, 15-8

**Final:** Beltrami bt Watkinson 15-3, 15-13

**Plate:** Wu bt Cloke Browne 2-15, 15-13, 15-7

## Doubles

**1st round:** Hawkey & Heath bt Bell & Ware 15-8; Dare & Turner bt Ahuja & H Nugent 15-5

**2nd round:** Arnold & Beltrami bt Hawkey & Heath 15-0, 15-1; Smith & Yusuf bt S Leboff & Yass 15-8, 15-0; Law & Weaver bt Monro-Davies & Odgers 15-8, 15-5; Watkinson & Whitehorn bt S Garella & H Tunks 15-5, 15-0; Low & A McCreath bt Cloke Browne & Wu 15-5, 15-9; Keates & B Singh bt I Lee & Mathias 15-1, 15-2; Chai & Sumner bt C Barnett & Thursfield 15-9, 15-2; Boyd & Jourdan bt Dare & Turner 15-3, 15-2

**Quarter-finals:** Arnold & Beltrami bt Smith & Yusuf 15-2, 15-5; Watkinson & Whitehorn bt Law & Weaver 15-5, 15-10; Low & McCreath bt Keates & Singh 15-7, 15-7; Boyd & Jourdan bt Chai & Sumner 15-11, 15-12

**Semi-finals:** Arnold & Beltrami bt Watkinson & Whitehorn 15-2, 15-4; Boyd & Jourdan bt Low & McCreath 15-12, 15-5

**Final:** Arnold & Beltrami bt Boyd & Jourdan 15-5, 15-0

**Plate:** Cloke Browne & Wu bt Barnett & Thursfield 15-8, 15-4

## North West Open Championships

Y Club, Manchester

Saturday/Sunday, 12-13 February 2022

**STOP PRESS** In the absence of the 2020 Singles champion, Ed Kay, and of one half of the previous winning Doubles pairing, Dan Grant, it was no surprise to see Will Ellison and Dan Tristao meeting in the Singles final, with Will victorious; then Will and Dan combining to defeat Ollie Arnold & Ben Beltrami in the Doubles final. Home player Marco Skogh won the Singles Plate, narrowly beating Mike Suddaby, who now also plays his Fives in Manchester, while the Doubles Plate was an all-Derby Moor affair, with Lewis Keates & Bally Singh beating Max Frost & Anthony Goodwin.

### Scores

#### Singles

**1st round:** A McCreath bt L Keates 11-9, 8-11, 11-8; T Parker bt D Law 11-8, 11-3; S Russell bt D Fox 11-6, ret.; B Beltrami bt M Skogh 11-5, 11-2; C Low bt M Suddaby 11-0, 11-3; C Davey bt A Goodwin 11-4, 8-11, 11-7; W Ellison bt D Naden 11-2, 11-3

**Quarter-finals:** D Tristao bt McCreath 11-4, 11-8; Russell bt Parker 4-11, 11-8, 11-7; Beltrami bt Low 11-9, 11-6; Ellison bt Davey 11-0, 11-0

**Semi-finals:** Tristao bt Russell 8-11, 11-0, 11-0; Ellison bt Beltrami 11-7, 11-6

**Final:** Ellison bt Tristao 11-4, 11-6

**Plate:** M Skogh bt M Suddaby 16-14

#### Doubles

**1st round:** Davey & J Minta w/o Fox & Skogh

**Quarter-finals:** Ellison & Tristao bt Davey & Minta 11-9, 11-6; Low & McCreath bt Law & Suddaby 11-3, 11-0; Parker & Russell bt M Frost & Goodwin 11-2, 12-10; Arnold & Beltrami bt Keates & B Singh 11-0, 11-5

**Semi-finals:** Ellison & Tristao bt Low & McCreath 11-4, 11-3; Arnold & Beltrami bt Russell & Parker 11-1, 12-10

**Final:** Ellison & Tristao bt Arnold & Beltrami 9-11, 11-7, 11-1

**Plate:** Keates & Singh bt Frost & Goodwin 15-8

## Oxford and Cambridge Past versus Present 2022

St Paul's School, Barnes and the Cambridge University Sports Centre

Saturday, 12th February 2022

*Nick Whitney reports for Oxford:* After an enforced break in 2021, the 36th Oxford Past vs Present match took place at St Paul's School on Saturday. Despite the Present missing several key players with covid we were able to contest a full Men's VIII, Beavers IV, and for the first time a full Ladies IV.

Proceedings started with Singles for the Men's VIII. Stand-in Present captain, Louis Odgers, could only get 1 point from Peter Hanton, who was on fine form playing at Nr 1 for the Past. The remaining singles games were all more closely contested affairs, but all went the way of the Past. A highlight was a 15-13 nailbiter between the 5th seeds, Quentin Gueroult (Present) and Samuel Adcock (Past), who was returning to Fives for the first time in over a decade.

The Past's depth and experience came to the fore in the Doubles. The Present battled hard and scored good points throughout these games, with 3rd pair Vivek Thakrar & Adam Hutchinson able to steal a game from Johnny Longden & Tom Owen. The final score was 342-198, meaning the Mackenzie Bowl was won by the Past for another year.

The Ladies' fixture was also won by the Past (117-27), with the strength and depth of the Past too much for the Present, who were deprived of two key players, including captain Gabriela van Bergen, by covid. Nonetheless, there was some excellent Fives on display, especially in the top singles game between Viola King Forbes (Past) and Miriam Stricker (Present), which Viola just edged 16-15.

The day was rounded off by some Mixed Doubles exhibition matches before a dinner at Queen's Club, where we gave the Present team our best wishes for the upcoming Varsity Match.

*Bob Dolby reports for Cambridge:* 18 members of the Past turned out to take on the Present Men's VIII, a Ladies IV and play some Mixed Doubles for the Ted Isaacs Trophy. With the Present deprived of two players, one by covid, last year's captain Sarthak Garella guested for the Men's Present and drew the short straw of Singles against Ed Kay! Unsurprisingly the Singles went very much the way of the Past, except for an impressive win for Hon.Sec. Ben Burgess over the 2019 captain Jeremy Manger.

The Doubles too favoured the Past, but CURFC's 1st pair of Emrys Thursfield & Ben Burgess came out 29-25 over two games against Ed Kay & Steve Platts and only lost to Ian Jackson & Ashwin Ahuja 14-16, 15-16. One extraordinary feature of the Doubles was the sight of 75 year-old Martin Wilkinson playing in two hard games in the third pair. The Past won the match and the Trapnell Tankard 321-163.

On court 3 Holly Nugent led her VI to victory in the Mixed Doubles, before she, Rosie Taylor, Cameron Roker, Imogen Jenner and Lucy Richman took on a strong Ladies Past side composed of Savanna Leboff, Helena Tunks, Sophie Kenny and Tori Boyd. The Present won 3 of the 9 games played and a final score of 90-65 did great credit to the Present even in defeat.

The Match was followed by the 73rd Jock Burnet Dinner at Pembroke College where President Bob Dolby managed to forget to read out a letter of best wishes from 93 year-old Chris Metcalfe, the one remaining member of the side that played in the very first Past versus Present in 1949!

## **The 92nd Varsity Match**

St Paul's School, Barnes  
Saturday, 19th February 2022

In a match played with its usual friendly intensity the Oxford Men's VIII maintained their recent dominance, winning by 333-211, while the Cambridge Women's IV inflicted a heavy defeat on the inexperienced Oxford team.

There was a Sparrows v Beavers Match, which the Oxford team won comfortably, but it required guest appearances by former and future members of both universities to make up the necessary numbers. Oxford also won the Women's Reserves match.

Commiserations to Cambridge's Ben Yass, who was forced to retire after being hit by a ball in his Singles match. Congratulations to the four captains, Jamie Dare and Emrys Thursfield, Gabriela van Bergen and Holly Nugent, in raising their sides and getting to St Paul's on time despite the transport problems caused by stormy weather. Huge thanks to referee Marcus Bate for his calm and efficient organisation and running of the 92nd of these fixtures.

With the majority of this year's players still eligible and with several promising players coming from Fives-playing schools next year, the standard in 2023 can only be higher and the competition all the more intense.

**92<sup>nd</sup> CAMBRIDGE v. OXFORD**  
 St. Paul's School, Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Cambridge Men**

**Oxford Men**

*Singles*

ED Thursfield ( <i>Captain</i> ) (Merchant Taylors' & Fitzwilliam)	v. LIM Odgers ( <i>Hon.Sec.</i> ) (St Paul's & St Peter's)	15-8
BS Yass (St Paul's & Downing)	v. JAS Dare ( <i>Captain</i> ) (Tonbridge & St Anne's)	1-15
WL Wells (St Paul's & St John's)	v. A Naumenko (Alley's & St Edmund Hall)	7-15
BDK Burgess ( <i>Hon.Sec.</i> ) (Tonbridge & Caius)	v. TR Monro-Davies (St Paul's & St Hilda's)	11-15
ECS Pyman (Sherborne & Corpus Christi)	v. HCG Turner (Alley's & Queen's)	7-15
GF Crawley (Oundle & Jesus)	v. A Hutchinson (Oundle & Exeter)	15-7
MA Langtry (RGS, Newcastle & Emmanuel)	v. MJ Hawkey (Winchester & Magdalen)	1-15
BH Shindler-Glass (St Paul's & Peterhouse)	v. V Thakrar (St Paul's & Somerville)	14-16

**71-106**

*Doubles*

Burgess & Thursfield	v. Dare & Naumenko	10-15
		15-13
Crawley & Wells	v. Monro-Davies & Odgers	10-15
		15-12
	v. Monro-Davies & Odgers	4-15
Langtry & Shindler-Glass		9-15
	v. Dare & Naumenko	16-15
		6-15
	v. Hutchinson & Turner	7-15
		8-15
L McKnight (Magdalen CS & Clare) & Pyman	v. Hawkey & Thakrar	7-15
		15-7
	v. Hawkey & Thakrar	4-15
		3-15
	v. Hutchinson & Turner	4-15

**140-227**

**Oxford won 333-211**

Cambridge now counts 57 wins against 35 by Oxford.

Sparrows versus Beavers match was played

## 8<sup>th</sup> CAMBRIDGE WOMEN v. OXFORD WOMEN

St. Paul's School, Saturday, 19th February 2022

### Cambridge

### Oxford

#### *Singles*

HCM Nugent ( <i>Captain</i> ) (Alleyn's & Selwyn)	v. MK Stricker (Hansenberg & Wolfson)	15-1
ID Jenner (Brighton College & St John's)	v. MAA Strevens (Peter Symonds, Winchester & Magdalen)	15-2
CL Roker (Latymer US & Robinson)	v. G van Bergen ( <i>Captain</i> ) (Runnymede College & Jesus)	15-2
RCW Taylor (King's, Canterbury & St Edmunds)	v. CG Hanna (Fortismere & Wolfson)	15-0
		<b>60-5</b>

#### *Doubles*

Nugent & Taylor	v. Strevens & Stricker	15-7
		15-3
	v. Hanna & van Bergen	15-0
		15-1
Jenner & Roker	v. Hanna & van Bergen	15-0
		15-1
	v. Strevens & Stricker	13-15
		15-6
		<b>118-33</b>

### Cambridge Women won 178-38

Cambridge Women now have 7 wins to 1

\*\*\*\*\*

### In the Sparrows versus Beavers match Oxford won by 180-15.

*Singles:* SA Leboff (Guest) lost to C Ng (Winchester & Trinity) (*Captain*) 1-15; E Kelly (Sutton GS & Robinson) lost to F Kottler (Guest) 0-15; LR McKnight (Magdalen College School & Clare) (*Captain*) lost to M Hale (Guest) 3-15; BD Steel (RGS, Guildford & Caius) lost to RTW Warner (Guest) 2-15 [= **6-60**]

*Doubles:* McKnight & Leboff lost to Kottler & Ng 0-15, 1-15; lost to Hale & Warner 3-15, 3-15; Kelly & Steel lost to Hale & Warner 0-15, 2-15; lost to Kottler & Ng 0-15, 0-15 [= **9-120**]

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### In the Women's 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Match Oxford won 60-25

#### *Singles*

LE Richman (Royal Latin & Trinity Hall)	v. AG Fairweather (Parkstone GS & St Peter's)	3-15
L Conway (Johnston CS, Durham & Clare)	v. HE Goldie-Jones (Parmiter's, Watford & Jesus)	9-15

<i>Doubles</i>	Conway & Richman	v. Fairweather & Goldie-Jones	3-15
			10-15
			<b>25-60</b>



# Midlands Schools Regional Championships 2022

Oundle School, Sunday, 27 February 2022

*Alex Smith reports:* After last being played in 2019, the Midlands Schools Regional Championships returned in exciting form to Oundle School, where we were very pleased to see Bedford School, Derby Moor, Oundle School, Rugby School and Stamford Schools entering players.

The senior (U18) competition had a large entry and was hard fought throughout, with Rugby School winning both Singles and Doubles trophies, for the first time since the Midlands Regionals began.

At the junior end of the tournament, for boys and girls aged U15 and U14, there was not as much variety of school entries, but this did not put any players off, and the singles and doubles involved many tough, long games. Stamford School ended up winning contests against some tough Derby Moor opposition, who themselves managed their share of silverware.

## Results

### U18 Singles

**Group A:** 1. J. Crawford (Oundle), 2. B. Cundy (Derby Moor), 3. E. Dunning (Oundle)

**Group B:** 1. R. Menhart (Bedford), 2. D. Leng (Rugby), 3. B. Preece (Oundle)

**Group C:** 1. C. Yates (Derby Moor), 2. G. Woodhull (Oundle), 3. V. Bobrakov (Rugby)

**Group D:** 1. A. Young (Rugby), 2. R. Millard (Oundle), 3. R. Darrell-Brown (Oundle)

**Quarter-finals:** R. Menhart (Bedford) bt G. Woodhull (Oundle) 11-2, D. Leng (Rugby) bt J Crawford (Oundle) 11-3, A. Young (Rugby) bt B. Cundy (Derby Moor) 11-2, C. Yates (Derby Moor) bt R. Millard (Oundle) 11-8

**Semi-finals:** A. Young bt C. Yates 11-2, R. Menhart bt D. Leng 11-2

**Final:** A. Young (Rugby) bt R. Menhart (Bedford) 15-1.

**Plate:** V. Bobrakov (Rugby)

### U18 Doubles

**Group A:** 1. Rugby, 2. Oundle II, 3. Oundle III

**Group B:** 1. Bedford/Rugby, 2. Oundle I, 3. Derby Moor

**Final:** Rugby School (Young & Leng) bt Oundle School I (Crawford & Millard)

**Plate:** Derby Moor (Cundy & Yates)

### U15 Boys' Singles

**Quarter-finals:** C. Burgess (Stamford) bt H. Wright (Stamford) 11-4, O. Collett (Stamford) bt D. Britton (Stamford) 11-8, K. Davins (Derby Moor) bt T. Cowin (Stamford) 11-8, C. Drutman (Stamford) bt E. Watson (Derby Moor) 11-1

**Semi finals:** C. Drutman bt K. Davins 11-5, C. Burgess bt O. Collett 11-3.

**Final:** C. Burgess (Stamford) bt C. Drutman (Stamford) 11-6.

**2022 Plate:** T. Cowin (Stamford)

**2021 Plate:** K. Davins (Derby Moor)

### U15 Boys' Doubles

**Gold (Winners):** Stamford School I (Burgess & Drutman)

**Silver (Runners-up):** Stamford School III (Collett & Wright)

**2022 Plate:** Stamford School II (Cowin & Britton)

**2021 Plate:** Derby Moor (Davins & Watson)

### U15 Girls' Singles

**Gold (Winner):** J. Withers (Stamford High School)

**Silver (Runner-up):** G. Cameron (Stamford High School)

**Plate:** E. Green (Stamford High School)

## **U15 Girls' Doubles**

**Gold (Winners):** Stamford HS I (Withers & Cameron)

**Silver (Runners-up):** Stamford HS II (Green & Gibbs)

## **U14 Boys' Singles** (all Stamford)

**Quarter-finals:** C. McNaughton bt Bogan 11-2, R. Jones bt Sharpe 11-7, H. Jones bt E. Hunter 11-9, C. Burrows bt R. Vines 11-1

**Semi-finals:** McNaughton bt R. Jones 11-9, Burrows bt H. Jones 12-10

**Final:** C. Burrows (Stamford) bt C. McNaughton (Stamford) 11-4

**Plate:** E. Hunter (Stamford)

## **U14 Boys' Doubles**

**Gold (Winners):** Stamford I (McNaughton & Sharpe)

**Silver (Runners-up):** Stamford II (Burrows & Hunter)

**Plate:** Stamford III (R. Jones & Vines)

## **U14 Girls' Singles** (all Stamford High School)

**Quarter-finals:** E. Tyler bt A. Williams 11-0, F. Cavaciuti bt P. Thapa 11-6

**Semi-finals:** B. Grindal bt E. Tyler 11-2, M. Stevens bt F. Cavaciuti 11-1

**Final:** B. Grindal bt M. Stevens 11-1

**Plate:** E. Tyler

## **U14 Girls' Doubles**

**Gold (Winners):** Stamford HS I (Grindal & Stevens)

**Silver (Runners-up):** Stamford HS II (Tyler & Cavaciuti)

**Plate:** Stamford HS III (Wright & Thapa)

## **North of England Championships 2022**

Durham University Fives Courts

Saturday/Sunday, 26-27 February 2022

After a covid-induced hiatus of two years the North of England championships took place once more on the courts of Durham University, with a Singles entry of 26, and 13 pairs contesting the Doubles. There were players from the two local clubs — the University Club and the City of Durham Club —, from Derby Moor, Cambridge University, and a clutch of players from the South, South East and South West, including defending Singles champion Ed Kay and defending Doubles champions Ollie Arnold & Ben Beltrami.

Highlights of the Singles were a three-gamer between Tom Watkinson and Sam Russell and what some deemed an upset when Richie Murby beat Julian Aquilina in straight games. Neither winner could match Ben Beltrami or Ed Kay in the semi-finals, however, and in the final Ben found, not for the first time, that Ed simply got better as their match progressed. The Plate final was an all-Uni contest between Nathan Jerome-Armah, back on court after a long break from the game, and Will Hanley, who won his “best ever singles game”.

The Doubles went to form and expectations up to the final. Then, when Julian Aquilina & Ed Kay won the first game, there were thoughts of an upset. However, in the second game Ben cut out errors, Ollie continued his consistent onslaught from the left, Ed took a few unsuccessful risks, and suddenly the momentum switched to the defending champions. Meanwhile in the Plate final, Simon Beattie & Oscar McIntyre, now in their final school year, enjoyed what must be the most exciting win of their burgeoning career in beating Will Hanley & Nathan Jerome-Armah in a Town v. Gown encounter.

Huge thanks go to organiser Julian Aquilina and to the hosts, the City of Durham Club, for setting up and running a superb weekend's Fives. The National Doubles and the National Mixed Doubles now beckon, as well as the National Schools Championships. Not to mention three Winchester Fives events!

## Scores

### Singles

**1st round:** I Weaver bt M Langtry 11-4; M Suddaby bt E Wardle 11-1; R Whitehorn bt D Swinbank 11-1; S Beattie bt L Ware 11-2; O McIntyre bt K Bell 11-0; E Thursfield bt N Jerome-Armah 12-10; D Law bt A Hicks 11-0; O Arnold bt J McIntyre 11-2; L Keates bt C Beattie 11-1; W Hanley w/o P Atkinson

**2nd round:** E Kay bt Weaver 11-4, 11-1; Whitehorn bt Suddaby 11-3, 11-3; S Russell bt S Beattie 11-4, 11-6; T Watkinson bt O McIntyre 11-3, 11-4; J Aquilina bt Thursfield 11-2, 11-0; R Murby bt Law 11-3, 11-4; Arnold bt Keates 11-2, 11-4; B Beltrami bt Hanley 11-1, 11-2

**Quarter-finals:** Kay bt Whitehorn 11-3, 11-1; Watkinson bt Russell 11-12, 11-6, 11-5; Murby bt Aquilina 11-6, 11-6; Beltrami bt Arnold 11-1, 12-10

**Semi-finals:** Kay bt Watkinson 11-6, 11-0; Beltrami bt Murby 11-6, 11-6

**Final:** Kay bt Beltrami 11-6, 11-2

**Plate:** Hanley bt Jerome-Armah 15-5

### Doubles

**1st round:** Hanley & Jerome-Armah bt Bell & Ware 15-2; Keates & Whitehorn bt C Beattie & Hicks 15-6; Law & Weaver bt Atkinson & Wardle 15-0; R Christie & V Singh bt L Hogarth & J McIntyre 15-2; S Beattie & O McIntyre bt Langtry & Thursfield 15-6

**Quarter-finals:** Arnold & Beltrami bt Hanley & Jerome-Armah 11-1, 11-0; Keates & Whitehorn bt Law & Weaver 11-3, 11-9; Russell & Watkinson bt Christie & Singh 11-1, 11-4; Aquilina & Kay bt Beattie & McIntyre 11-2, 11-4

**Semi-finals:** Arnold & Beltrami bt Keates & Whitehorn 11-4, 11-5; Aquilina & Kay bt Russell & Watkinson 11-8, 11-9

**Final:** Arnold & Beltrami bt Aquilina & Kay 8-11, 11-2, 11-4

**Plate:** S Beattie & O McIntyre bt Hanley & Jerome-Armah 15-9

## Colquhoun Trophy Tournament for South West Schools

Marlborough College, 6th March 2022

*Jamie McManus reports:* Sunday 6 March saw the first playing of the Colquhoun Trophy tournament for two years, as players from Blundell's, Marlborough, Sherborne and Winchester came together for an excellent day of Singles. Particular thanks are owed to Tom Kiggell and Marlborough College for being so hospitable, the warming cooked lunch provided by our hosts being a very significant improvement on the usual packed lunch solution.

In the U18 competition, Blundell's players Ed Swarbrick and Felix Stone impressed despite the long car journey from Tiverton before losing out in the quarter-finals to Chris Lee and Archie Todd-Leask, while Felix and Archie's 12-10, 2-11, 11-8 match was one of the highlights of the day. Henry Akerman, having lost out to Adam Kiggell in the main competition, would also find the Blundell's pair tough opposition in the Plate but won through in both games to take the honours. Meanwhile with things having gone to seeding in the main draw, Chris Lee and Kaito Brenner found themselves in a hard-hitting and competitive final, which eventually went Chris's way 11-7, 11-9.

There were no significant upsets in the U16 competition as Winchester's Anthony Cloke Browne and Jeffrey Chan won through to the final; but Kai Neu impressed in making the semi-finals, and a Plate format that guaranteed all those involved at least 4 matches across the day was won in the end by Aneesh Kulkarni once he had overcome a succession of his Wykehamist peers. The main final between Jeffrey and Anthony was a match of two halves. Jeffrey raced into the lead and was 11-6, 10-7 up before Anthony really found his footing to turn things around and win 6-11, 12-11, 11-0.

## Results

### U18 Singles

**Preliminary round:** E Swarbrick (Blundell's) bt V Simpson (Marlborough) 15-0

**Quarter-finals:** J Lee (Winchester) bt Swarbrick 11-1, 11-2; A Todd-Leask (Marlborough) bt F Stone (Blundell's) 12-10, 2-11, 11-8; A Kiggell (Marlborough) bt H Akerman (Winchester) 11-5, 11-3; K Bremner (Winchester) bt R Stratton (Marlborough) 11-4, 11-1

**Semi-finals:** Lee bt Todd-Leask 11-6, 11-4; Bremner bt Kiggell 11-7, 11-2

**Final:** Lee (Winchester) bt Bremner (Winchester) 11-7, 11-9

**Plate:** 1st Akerman; 2nd Stone; 3rd Swarbrick

## U16 Singles

**Preliminary round:** R Zhou (Winchester) bt R Beard (Sherborne) 15-7; T Miers (Winchester) bt B Aubury (Winchester) 15-6; K Neu (Marlborough) bt G Bowden (Winchester) 15-6; A Kulkarni (Winchester) bt C Casben (Marlborough) 15-1

**Quarter-finals:** A Cloke Browne (Winchester) bt Zhou 11-1, 11-4; Miers bt S Woodford (Marlborough) 11-8, 11-4; Neu bt A Upton (Sherborne) 11-2, 11-5; J Chan (Winchester) bt Kulkarni 11-3, 11-4

**Semi-finals:** Cloke Browne bt Miers 11-2, 11-4; Chan bt Neu 11-2, 11-2

**Final:** Cloke Browne (Winchester) bt Chan (Winchester) 6-11, 12-11, 11-0

**1st Plate:** 1st Kulkarni; 2nd Zhou; 3rd Woodford

**2nd Plate:** 1st Bowden; 2nd Aubury; 3rd Casben

**Super Plate Final:** Kulkarni bt Bowden 15-6

## RFA Dinner, The Queen's Club, London

23 April 2022

The RFA is to hold a formal dinner on the evening of Saturday April 23 at The Queen's Club in Baron's Court, west London. The date has been chosen to coincide with the National Club Championship, which is being played at St Paul's School in Barnes that weekend and will draw many players and guests to the capital.

The dinner will celebrate the return of competitive Fives after Covid-19 and to help raise funds for the RFA. It's open to all members of the association, their guests and participants in the Club Championship. Tickets for the dinner cost £72 per person for pre-dinner drinks, a three-course carvery meal and half a bottle of wine. However, for attendees aged under 25, the price is reduced to £36 per person – provided that they are, or become, members of the RFA on 23 April. Dress is smart casual.

Attendance is restricted to 120, so members are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. To reserve your ticket(s), please click on this link [to send an email to the organisers](#) including the completed application form, which you can download below, as soon as possible.

## RFA Rankings

15 March 2022

With the new year having brought a welcome run of RFA events – including the Under 25, North West, and North of England Championships – we are delighted to bring you the new official RFA Open Singles and Doubles Rankings), along with the following update from the RFA's Rankings Tsar, Dave Hebden:

“The top three in the Singles Rankings remain the same as before, but things could not be very much closer. Dan Tristao maintains his position at the top thanks to his National Singles wins over the last two years, as well as having a very marginally superior head-to-head record against the other two. Ed Kay, after his win in the North of England Championships, now holds four open singles titles this season, and retains second place, while North West champion Will Ellison follows closely in third position.

Ben Beltrami, who makes a habit of never beating those above him in the rankings, but never losing to those below him, is solidly in fourth place. If more players did this, my task of compiling the rankings would be very much easier! Following good results in the Under 25 and North of England Championships, Tom Watkinson nudges ahead of Julian Aquilina into #6, and North of England semi-finalist Richie Murby enters the Top 10 at #9.

Highest new entry, at #22, is Marco Skogh, who had some very good victories en route to winning the North West Plate Singles. It is encouraging to see a total of eight new entries in this update. Joining Marco are Shiloh Wu, Nathan Jerome, Marcus Cloke Browne, Oscar Naden, Will Hanley, Isaac Weaver, and Michael Hawkey.

The top three Singles players also occupy the top three places in the new Doubles Rankings, but this time in reverse order. Will Ellison stays at #1, with Ed Kay in close pursuit at #2. Dan Tristao moves up to #3 after his win with Will in the North West. Ben Beltrami, Theo Parker, and Tom Watkinson also make progress in the Top 10.

Rob Whitehorn enters the Top 20 at #19 following his semi-final appearance with Lewis Keates in Durham, and there are also good upward moves from Isaac Weaver, Bally Singh, Oscar McIntyre, Nathan Jerome, Vishal Singh, Richard Christie, and Charlie Barnett. Finally, congratulations to five new entries, Simon Beattie, Will Hanley, Marcus Cloke Browne, Shiloh Wu, and Max Langtry.”

The next rankings update will be at end of season following the National Doubles and Scottish Championships.

SINGLES Top 10				DOUBLES Top 10			
Current	Previous	Name	Points	Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	D Tristao	96.2	1	1	W Ellison	97.8
2	2	E Kay	94.7	2	2	E Kay	95.1
3	3	W Ellison	94.0	3	4	D Tristao	88.3
4	4	B Beltrami	71.4	4	3	O Arnold	87.4
5	5	D Butler	56.2	5	6	B Beltrami	79.2
6	7	T Watkinson	50.7	6	5	C Brooks	71.3
7	6	J Aquilian	50.0	7	8	T Parker	67.2
8	7	C Brooks	46.7	8	7	D Butler	65.9
9	13	R Murby	42.1	9	9	D Grant	62.0
10	9	A Boyd	42.0	10	11	T Watkinson	58.3

## The National Winchester Fives Doubles Championship

Sedbergh School, Cumbria

Sunday, 13th March 2022

**STOP PRESS** 11 pairs contested the National Winchester Fives Doubles Championship, organised by Harry Akerman. From the group stages a main draw and a Plate draw emerged. In the main draw former winner Dave Butler and his first-time partner Lewis Keates fought their way to the final, after a tough semi-final against Harry Akerman & Andrew Passey. In the final, however, they found defending champions Will Ellison & Ed Kay too much to handle. Will has now won this title eleven times, 6 times with Hal Mohammed, Ed on five occasions, all with Will. In the Plate the ex-Oxford pairing of Matt Hale & Nick Whitney took away the spoils — which means the Hale brothers now have the unique distinction of having won between them the Grand Slam of Barnes Bridge Plates: Ben at Winchester, Bradfield and Malvern, and Matt now at Sedbergh.

*Organiser Harry Akerman reports:* Despite a smaller than usual draw for the Barnes Bridge this year, 11 pairs had a great day of fives thanks to the generosity of Sedbergh School, who kindly hosted and fed us on a pleasant Spring day up in The Lakes. 2 round robin groups settled the seedings for the main draw, which was played in a usual knockout format. Most of the quarter-final matches went as expected, although the hard hitting Oscar McIntyre complemented by his very steady partner Adam Hicks came close to knocking out Andy Passey & Harry Akerman by taking the first game 11-7 and finding themselves up in the second. The semi-final saw Ben Hale & Mike Suddaby get more points off Will Ellison & Ed Kay than anyone else did in the day. In the next door court Andy & Harry surprised themselves winning the first seven rallies of their match against Dave Butler & Lewis Keates, thus finding themselves 7-0 up. Normal service was resumed as Dave & Lewis went on to win the first game 11-7. The second game was a tighter affair, with Andy & Harry taking it 11-9 but in doing so they ran out of steam, so Dave & Lewis went through as deserved winners. The final was a classy watch, but there was only ever going to be one winner. For a while at the start of the second game Dave & Lewis stayed with Ed & Will, but the consistency, power, touch and speed around the court proved too much and so Will won his 11<sup>th</sup> and Ed his 5<sup>th</sup> Barnes Bridge.

The Plate final saw Oscar & Adam take on Matt Hale & Nick Whitney, with the latter pair looking to avenge their 11-7 loss of the morning's round robin match. Some steady play saw Matt & Nick get their revenge coming out 15-4, 15-11 victors, so Matt gets his name on a Plate that now displays a 'Hale' as a winner for three of the last four years.

Thanks very much for those who came from afar to help make this such an enjoyable day, with a special thanks to those who are also making the trek up to the Jesters Tour in Edinburgh for back-to-back fives weekends. Thanks also to Rupert Follett and the boys from Sedbergh for joining in and getting stuck into the fives. There was plenty of potential, enthusiasm and good sportsmanship on show.

### Scores

**Group A:** Will Ellison & Ed Kay; Sam Follett & Lukas Muehlau; Phoenix Ogilvie-Robertson & Henry Scott; Harry Akerman & Andy Passey; James Griffin & Rhys Robinson

**Group B:** Dave Butler & Lewis Keates; Matt Hale & Nick Whitney; Rupert Follett & Tom Wakelam; Ben Hale & Mike Suddaby; Adam Hicks & Oscar McIntyre; Ollie Griffin & Zeri Tomlinson

**Quarter-finals:** Ellison & Kay bt M Hale & Whitney 11-0, 11-1; B Hale & Suddaby bt O Griffin & Robinson 11-3, 11-1; Akerman & Passey bt Hicks & McIntyre 7-11, 11-5, 11-4; Butler & Keates bt S Follett & Robinson 11-0, 11-1

**Semi-finals:** Ellison & Kay bt B Hale & Suddaby 11-4, 11-7; Butler & Keates bt Akerman & Passey 11-7, 9-11, 11-5

**Final:** Ellison & Kay bt Butler & Keates 15-2, 15-5

### Plate

**1st round:** J Griffin & Robinson bt R Follett & Wakelam 15-4; S Follett & Muehlau bt O Griffin & Tomlinson 15-9

**Semi-finals:** Hicks & McIntyre bt J Griffin & Robinson 15-7; M Hale & Whitney bt Ogilvie-Robertson & Scott 15-0

**Final:** M Hale & Whitney bt Hicks & McIntyre 15-4, 15-11

hard-fought National U13 Championships

## National U13 Championships

St Paul's School, Barnes

Sunday, 13th March 2022

**STOP PRESS** 38 players contested this year's U13 Championships. Competitors from Berkhamsted School, newcomers who play Eton Fives, dominated both the Singles and Doubles with their hard hitting and impressive footwork, but were pushed hard in both categories by players from Alleyn's, Stamford and the Manchester Y Club, also represented in this event for the first time. Warm thanks go to organiser Sam Russell and to the Blundell's contingent who made the long journey from Tiverton.

*Organiser Sam Russell reports:* "The game of fives is alive and well" a voice, belonging to a former pupil at St Olave's and current grandfather to a competitor in this year's U13 Championships, rang out from the balcony of the St Paul's School courts. It would be hard to disagree – the quality of this year's tournament was up there with the best it has ever been.

In the singles, it quickly became clear that Berkhamsted, who were playing the sport for the first time as Eton Fives specialists, were going to be the school to beat, with 5 out of 6 of their entrants qualifying for the knockout stages. Stamford, however, were certainly not going to roll over, having consistently improved since Alex Smith introduced fives at the school – and were also genuine contenders for the title, with Jones and Hunter winning their groups comfortably.

The key battle in the round of 16 was between Burrows (Stamford), who was a favourite for the tournament having reached the quarter-finals as an U12 the previous year, and Keane, a member of the high class Berkhamsted contingent. The game was won by Keane 11-4, consolidating Berkhamsted's credentials as the school to beat.

Meanwhile, however, Val Fikhter (of the Y-Club) was making easy work of his half of the draw, beating Geldeard (Alleyn's) and Taylor-Ross (Blundell's) on route to the semi-finals, dropping only 6 points in the process. Having practised with adults at the Y Club, and also being a junior wrestling champion, he was playing with a consistency and physicality seldom seen at U13 level.

The semi-finals saw Fikhter take on Hunter (Stamford) and Josh Fienberg take on Keane (the two of them from Berkhamsted). Both games were of very high quality with long rallies and remarkable accuracy; however, Fikhter and Fienberg both ended up convincing winners.

The final was simply the best game of U13s fives in recent history. Fikhter game out of the blocks firing, clearly familiar with intense competition, and established an early lead. Fienberg soon found his rhythm, starting to manipulate the ball down the left-hand side skillfully, in order to set up his big right hand winners. While Fikhter retrieved with effective consistency, he could not get on top in the rallies and Fienberg managed to turn the early deficit into a 14-3 lead. The prospect of losing galvanized Fikhter, who dug in admirably, saving a number of match points and slowly eat away at the score line. While a comeback looked on the cards, it was ultimately not meant to be, and Fienberg completed a deserved victory 15-8.

In the doubles, Fienberg then paired up with Faulkner to convincingly take down Alleyn's in the final. It had been an incredibly impressive showing by the Alleyn's pair of Zheng & Dorokhov, who made it to the final despite only being the 2<sup>rd</sup> pair at their school by beating Stamford 11-9 in the semi-finals, which was the game of the tournament. Stamford are no doubt now within touching distance of getting their hands on the top prize, having been the most consistent school at U13 level for the past 3 years.

Stamford did, however, win the Plate competition, beating the Y Club in the final. Commendation goes to Negyal & James-Duff, who successfully paired up despite being a couple of years younger than the rest of the field. Equally Grindal, Stevens, Tyler and Wright all performed incredibly well and will no doubt be the pairs to beat at the Girls' Nationals.

Many thanks to all who entered, particularly the coaches for all they do to promote fives at their school. See you next year.

**Key:** All = Alleyn's; Berk = Berkhamsted; Bl = Blundell's; Man Y = Manchester Y Club; Stam = Stamford; Wes = Wessex Club

## Results

**Group 1:** 1st H Severino (All); 2nd: R Kohashi-Khan (All); 3rd: A Bogan (Stam). Also played: T Trix (Blu), W Parker (Blu), S Patel (Berk)

**Group 2:** 1st J Fienberg (Berk); 2nd P Taylor-Ross (Blu); D Dorokhov (All). Also played: E Zheng (All), B Grindal (Stam), F Fox (Man Y)

**Group 3:** 1st V Fikhter (Man Y); G Shilton (All); 3rd B Bownes (Berk). Also played: T Stevens (Stam), W Stephens (Blu), S Negyal (All), N Buck (All)

**Group 4:** 1st L Faulkner (Berk); 2nd C Burrows (Stam); 3rd T Foo (All). Also played: G Cox (Blu), A O'Byrne (All), E Tyler (Stam)

**Group 5:** 1st H Jones (Stam); 2nd Z Scott (Berk); 3rd A Geldeard (All). Also played: F James-Duff (Wes), R Wright (Stam), M Spring (Blu), T Green (All)

**Group 6:** 1st E Hunter (Stam); 2nd J Keane (Berk); 3rd F McAllister (All). Also played: D Khan (Blu), K Aravintham (All), H Van de Wait (Blu)

**Round of 16:** Severino bt Bogan 11-2; Keane bt Burrows 11-4; Jones bt Bownes 11-3; Fienberg bt Shilton 11-3; Fikhter bt Geldeard 11-1; Taylor-Ross bt Kohashi-Khan 11-4; Hunter bt Scott 11-5; Faulkner bt McAllister 11-3

**Quarter-finals:** Keane bt Severino 11-5; Fienberg bt Jones 11-0; Fikhter bt Taylor-Ross 11-5; Hunter bt Faulkner 11-5

**Semi-finals:** Fienberg bt Keane 11-1; Fikhter bt Hunter 11-1

**Final:** Fienberg (Berk) bt Fikhter (Man Y) 15-8

**Plate:** Hunter (Stam) v Faulkner (Berk) not played.

## Doubles

**Preliminary round:** Alleyn's 6 bt Stamford 4; Alleyn's 5 bt Blundell's 4; Stamford 3 bt Blundell's 3

**1st round:** Alleyn's 1 bt Alleyn's 6 11-2; Berkhamsted 3 bt Alleyn's/Wessex 11-6; Stamford 2 bt Blundell's 2 11-0; Berkhamsted 1 bt Alleyn's 3 11-2; Stamford 1 bt Alleyn's 5 11-4; Alleyn's 4 bt Blundell's 1 11-6; Alleyn's 2 bt Berkhamsted 2 11-2; Manchester Y Club bt Stamford 3 11-4

**Quarter-finals:** Alleyn's 1 bt Berkhamsted 3 11-5; Berkhamsted 1 bt Stamford 2 11-1; Stamford 1 bt Alleyn's 4 11-0; Alleyn's 2 bt Manchester Y Club 11-2

**Semi-finals:** Berkhamsted 1 bt Alleyn's 1 11-5; Alleyn's 2 bt Stamford 1 11-9

**Final:** Berkhamsted 1 (Faulkner & Fienberg) bt Alleyn's 2 15-2

**Plate:** Stamford 1 (Burrows & Hunter) bt Manchester Y Club (Fikhter & Fox) 11-6

## Scottish Schools Championships

Fettes College, Edinburgh, March 2022

With many thanks to Richie Murby for the following information on the 2022 Scottish Schools Championships, which were played on 3 separate days in March.

**U18 Singles:** Fettes College was the venue for the Scottish Schools' Singles U18 Championships, in which 14 players from Edinburgh Academy, Fettes College, Merchiston Castle School and Loretto School took part. Encouragingly, each school advanced at least as far as the quarter-finals, and there were many thrilling and close matches throughout what was an extremely enjoyable day of Fives.

Edinburgh Academy's young squad did well to produce four of the eventual quarter-finalists, but Wyman Chan of Fettes won the Boyd Trophy in the main competition in a scintillating final, while Merchiston provided the runner-up in the main competition, Lachlan Ferguson and took home the McKeown Plate.

**U18 Doubles:** Wyman Chan of Fettes College added to his Boyd Trophy win by taking the U18 doubles championship with his in-form doubles partner Toby Chan. Among many good performances from the four schools represented, Edinburgh Academy's young 1st pair of Calum Swanson and Ronnie Brown did very well to oust the 2nd seeds, Merchiston I, in the semi-finals. However, they had no answer to the composed combining and great finishing of the Fettes duo. Meanwhile, the Plate saw two very entertaining and close semi-finals, with Sam Park and Isaac Ferguson of Merchiston deservedly emerging as winners. Wyman and Toby went on to win the Plate at the National U18 Doubles in London.

**U16 Doubles:** This competition was won by the pair from Merchiston Castle, Sam Park and William Gale. There was no Singles competition held but Sam went on to win the National U16 Singles competition in London.

All four Edinburgh Schools entered players in the National Schools Championships in London and made their mark in each of the three categories, particularly in the U16s, where Calum Swanson & Hugo Rintoul from Edinburgh Academy won the Marchant Cup, a first for the Academy, the Singles title having gone to Merchiston.

There was no Scottish tournament for the Girls this year but we look forward to seeing some of the players from the Edinburgh Academy at the National Schoolgirls' Championships at Oundle School on Sunday April 24th.



## Results

### 18 Singles

**Pool A:** 1. Lachlan F (Merchiston); 2. Thomas W (EA); 3. Alec S (EA); 4. Jamie B (Fettes)

**Pool B:** 1. Nathan G-W (Loretto), 2. Calum S (EA); 3. Xander M. (EA); Murray H (Fettes)

**Pool C:** 1. Toby C (Fettes); 2. Hugo R (EA); Thomas R (Merchiston)

**Pool D:** 1. Wyman C (Fettes); Ronnie B (EA); Isaac C (Merchiston)

**Quarter-finals:** Lachlan F (Merchiston) bt Ronnie B (EA) 15-8; Toby C (Fettes) bt Calum S (EA) 15-11; Wyman C (Fettes) bt Thomas W (EA) 15-3; Hugo R (EA) bt Nathan G-W (Loretto) 15-2

**Semi-finals:** Lachlan F (Merchiston) bt Toby C (Fettes) 15-7; Wyman C (Fettes) bt Hugo R (EA) 15-6

**Final:** Wyman C (Fettes) bt Lachlan F (Merchiston) 12-11, 11-4

**Plate:** Isaac C (Merchiston)

### U18 Doubles

**Quarter-finals:** Wyman C & Toby C (Fettes) bt Sam P & Isaac F (Merchiston) 15-3, Nathan G-W & Joshua F (Loretto) bt Will H & Max C (EA) 16-14, Lachlan F & Isaac C (Merchiston) bt Thomas W and Max K (EA) 15-2, Calum S & Ronnie B (EA) bt Jamie B & Matthew W (Fettes) 15-7

**Semi-finals:** Wyman C & Toby C (Fettes) bt Nathan G-W & Joshua F (Loretto) 15-4, Calum S & Ronnie B (EA) bt Lachlan F & Isaac C (Merchiston) 15-5

**Final:** Wyman C & Toby C (Fettes) bt Calum S & Ronnie B (EA) 11-1, 11-1

**Plate semi-finals:** Sam P & Isaac F (Merchiston) bt Will H & Max C (EA) 15-13

Jamie B & Matthew W (Fettes) bt Thomas W and Max K (EA) 15-13

**Plate final:** Sam P & Isaac F (Merchiston) bt Jamie B & Matthew W (Fettes) 15-9

## Geoff Sherratt 1941-2022

The RFA is sad to report the death, at the age of 80, of ex-President Geoff Sherratt, after a long illness.

David Barnes and Dave Hebden provide the following account of Geoff's long and outstanding participation in the sport of Fives. [David Hebden subsequently amplified this with reminiscences from Peter Woods and himself.]

### Geoff Sherratt and Fives

Geoff started to play fives at the YMCA with Peter Woods in the early 1970s. They were encouraged and coached by Fred Beswick, and became regulars at Club nights and on tour. Geoff eventually became Club Captain for several years.

#### 'Manchester Championships' (3 different names)

1977 Geoff organised the Lancashire Open Championships, taking over from Fred Beswick.

1978-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86 Geoff organised the (renamed) Greater Manchester County Open Championships.

Then he organised the (again renamed) North West Open Championships 1987-88-89-90.

So Geoff organised the same regional event, with three different names, for 14 years. John Beswick took over as organiser of the North West Open in 1991.

#### Wood Cup (National Club Championship)

The YMCA have the proudest record in the Wood Cup competition: 16 wins out of 26 appearances in the final. We don't know exactly how often Geoff played for the Club squad in the Wood Cup, but it must have been a large number of times. The following skimpy details are from the RFA Handbook, which was not always good at recording names of players.

In 1978 Geoff played a key role supporting the YMCA squad which succeeded in winning their first Wood Cup Trophy, with Enstone, Wynn, Murray and Woods playing in the final.

The following year Geoff was in the YMCA side to win the Wood Cup final (Enstone, Wynn, Sherratt and Murray). The semi-finals and final were played on the Merchant Taylors' School courts, and the other finalists were the Old Merchant Taylors'.

The YMCA went on to win the Wood Cup in 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1986. In each of these years the winning final side was Enstone, Ashton, Davies and Hyde, but Geoff contributed in each of these campaigns in the earlier rounds.

In 1987 Geoff was back in the YMCA final winning team alongside Enstone, Ashton and Curry.

### **Open Championships**

Although a late starter in the game of Fives, Geoff became a very good player. In addition to his contribution to YM Fives, Geoff was often to be seen on the open tournament circuit. He was always competitive and had some notable successes, including winning the South West Doubles with Dave Hebden in 1986 and having a good run in the National Doubles with Wayne Enstone in the late 1980s.

### **Veterans Championships**

Geoff first qualified by age to enter the Veterans Championships in April 1987. He reached the final by beating Roger Freebairn in the semis, but lost in the final to Tony Hughes, his doubles partner.

Geoff's glory years in the Veterans event were 1988, 1989 and 1990 when he won the Doubles with John Howe. He and John were also runners-up in 1991.

### **The Rugby Fives Association**

Geoff was very proud to be elected President of the RFA in 2003. He played an important part in the administration and development of the RFA during the period 2001-2003 (as Deputy President) and 2003-05 (as President). He was an enthusiastic supporter of RFA events, presenting the trophies whenever possible, and he travelled without fail from Manchester to London for RFA Committee and Board meetings.

## **Jesters Tour to Edinburgh**

Edinburgh, 18-20 March 2022

*Ben Hale reports:* Having had to cancel the January 2021 and January 2022 Jesters tours to Edinburgh we were delighted (relieved) to finally get up to Edinburgh the weekend of 18-20 March.

We didn't quite make it to The Cumberland for our traditional Friday pub lunch to start the tour but were on the Edinburgh Academy courts at half one for the usual conveyor belt of young fives players representing their Junior and U16 boys and girls. We played through to 5pm with many victories for Fives. A team of four, including senior tourist Andy Passey resplendent in his new tracksuit, also headed out to Merchiston Castle for the traditional Friday afternoon banana skin fixture against their U16s — though this year experience did not win out.

The Friday Fives finishes with the select tournaments. Fettes saw six school boys each teaming up with a Jester to play a pairs tournament. Hard luck to the two lads that drew the organisers — we didn't do so well. The three pairs featuring Max (EA), Will (EA) and Nathan (Loretto) all did well, finishing with scores in the mid-forties. However, Sam from Merchiston partnering tour debutant Lewis Keates scored 52 out of 55, thereby once again winning the Akerman Quaich for Merchiston. Well played, Sam (and Lewis). Over at the Academy eight of their senior girls paired up with four Jesters (Hector McFarlane's maths, not mine) to play out an almost three-hour round robin which was eventually decided on a points per game basis, with Olivia of EA and Jester Shinan Zhang winning ahead of Louise and Jen from EA, who'd both been playing with Jez Sinton.

After the tournaments we headed to Fettes for the ever welcome and never under-catered curry reception. The touring Jesters are joined by many of our weekend opponents, parents and teachers for a meal that never disappoints and definitely never runs out! Our thanks as ever to the staff at Fettes for being so welcoming. Hasty arrangements were then made to visit old favourites on Rose Street before the following day's Fives.

Saturday morning saw all the fit and able tourists take to the court, along with many who possibly weren't. This year's matches featured a North vs. South (well played to the North, although does Ben Jourdan of Edinburgh count as north of

the UK or south of Scotland?); the Wessex Club against Southampton University (somewhat of a Tuesday evening at Winchester in the 2010s vibe which someone won by two points, but given Andy Passey was the only person not eligible for either team it was hard to keep track); and this year's edition of the Sinton-Matthews Cup! As there were a number of absent friends from the usual Bradfield and Christ's Hospital contingent this year's fixture took on something of an invitational character with the match somewhat predictably ending in a tie ... . Lunch was taken at Clark's Bar — many thanks to Jez Sinton for arranging and supervising!

The afternoon saw a return to the school fixtures, starting with a match against the Edinburgh Academy U16s, who scored moral victories in their singles — particularly against Butler and Suddaby — and very nearly nicked a doubles against Suddaby and this Hale. The U16 girls followed where there were no victories, moral or otherwise, for Alex Smith's serve! The girls couldn't quite manage the scalps of Zhang and Thornhill either. We also sent teams out to Merchiston and Fettes to join the touring Tonbridge school team for some tough matches involving several promising young Fives players and some Jesters.

In a new addition we also sent four Jesters up to Strathallan for some squash court Fives. I've heard only good things about the scenery on the drive, the food provided and the Fives played. A repeat fixture next year seems a must! The plan to round off the day of Fives had been to stage our usual clash with the Accies, along with the inaugural Frank Akerman Survivor Series for anyone left standing — unfortunately nobody was! *#bringbackFrank* Suffering as we were by this point we were no match either for the Accies team of Boyd, Murby, Jourdan x2 and McFarlane and once again surrendered the teapot — but given that it resides in Hector's attic we never really had it anyway.

We had dinner as always at La P'tite Folie — fortunately nobody mentioned the rugby — it was a delight to not only be joined by some local Fives luminaries but also by the touring Tonbridge team. Thoughts were shared by Matthews and Smith with a riposte from McFarlane before we disappeared into the night with rumours of further victories — not sure I can call them moral or for the game of Fives ...

We rounded off the Fives on Sunday morning with games against the senior teams from each of Fettes, the Academy and Loretto, plus a game against the Caledonian Club at Merchiston. Lacking Boyd, Jourdan and Murby as they were, we were actually able to beat the Cali Club. Things were tight down at Fettes though, with their first pair seeing off Hale Snr and Wakelam but not quite managing to repeat the feat against Chai and Zhang. I caught the end of the game at the Academy which followed their match with Tonbridge — a lot of tired bodies! The reports from Loretto indicate that Andy Passey continued to spite his birth certificate, finishing the tour as he'd started it. That just leaves me to thank the schools and masters in charge for hosting and welcoming us; our drivers for actually making the tour happen; and Dave, who does all the work!

And P.S. — congratulations to Calum and Hugo from EA on their National U16 Doubles title!

## **National Schools Championships**

St Paul's School, Barnes

Saturday/Monday, 26-28 March 2022

*Bob Dolby reports:* After the hiatus caused by the pandemic the National Schools Championships returned to St Paul's School this year, in a stream-lined format, run by Dave Butler, aided principally by Ian Jackson, Hector McFarlane and Alex Smith. More than 200 people attended over the three days, either as spectators or players, and huge thanks must go to all of them and to the players' coaches for their enthusiastic support of the event. It was good to see the Deputy President of the RFA, Julie McIntyre, supporting her City of Durham Club, and the new Secretary General of the RFA, Chris Blakeley, familiarising himself with this annual feast of Fives.

The standard and intensity of play in all three age-groups was remarkable, and was highest in the U18 category. Such was the quality of the top 20 or so of the players of that age, among them several regional champions, that upsets were expected, and they duly occurred in both the Singles and the Doubles. The 8 players representing Alleyn's, Durham, Tonbridge and Winchester who reached the quarter-finals of the Singles had ousted highly fancied players from St Olave's, St Paul's, Fettes and Merchiston, and it was by no means certain that the two top seeds, Gwydion Wiseman and Shiloh Wu, would progress to the final. Once they did so the topic of discussion in the gallery was: Can Gwydion make it three titles in a row and equal Peter Mellor's unique record from the 1960s? Peter was himself present to see if it would

happen. It didn't. Shiloh played extraordinarily well, Gwydion rather below his best. The Jesters Cup went to Winchester, giving Shiloh a chance to return next year to defend it.

In the U18 Doubles there was also the question: Could Wu & Cloke Browne make it a clean sweep of all three Schools Doubles Championships, a feat rarely accomplished, or could the Alleyn's pair of Wiseman & Scott make it three in a row, never done? Both pairs first had to beat pairs from St Olave's and City of Durham in semi-final matches which were as fine as any seen at that stage of the competition. Once more the two top seeded pairs did get through and, yes, the Winchester pair did pull off the treble of Winchester Fives Doubles in November, West of England Schools Doubles in January and National Schools Doubles in March.

The U16 age-group was enlivened by the presence of very good players from Edinburgh Academy and Merchiston Castle challenging the traditional strength of Alleyn's, St Paul's, Winchester and the emerging players of Stamford School. There was very little to choose between the eight players who made the quarter-finals, with some of the encounters going to three games. There was no doubt that the top seed from Alleyn's was increasingly hampered by injury, but it was no great upset to see the fine top player from Scotland, Merchiston's Sam Park, win a three-game final. It was a wonderful surprise though for the Edinburgh Academy pair of Hugo Rintoul & Calum Swanson to win the magnificent Marchant Cup for U16 Doubles, the first time the school has done so. In that final, another three-gamer, it was again Alleyn's who took the silver.

The U14 competition was run over two days. Seeding was worked out by the organiser in conjunction with the various coaches and proved to be very accurate once the group stages were completed. Year in, year out those watching are amazed by the promise shown and the level already achieved by this inexperienced group. Young players from Alleyn's, Merchiston, St Paul's, Tonbridge, Winchester and increasingly Stamford caught the eye in both Singles and Doubles. In the end it was double gold for Winchester and double silver for Merchiston.

Dave Butler deserves great credit for managing to run, so calmly, an event with nearly 150 players from 17 schools in just three days, but so too do the players — once they get going they run much of the show themselves. Branded shirts are a huge help to everyone in finding their opponents!

Equally warm thanks must go to St Paul's School, to its master i/c Sam Roberts, and to the very accommodating Sports Centre staff for hosting the championships so generously.

## Results

### U18 Singles

**Group 1:** 1st K Bremner (Win); 2nd C Boy (StO); 3rd E Swarbrick (Blu); 4th A Young (Rug); 5th P van der Spuy (Ton)

**Group 2:** 1st G Nsenga (StO); 2nd M Mayor (Blu); 3rd M Bolt (All); 4th K Lee (Ton)

**Group 3:** 1st B Harrison (StP); 2nd A Todd-Leask (Marl); 3rd J Bartlett (Blu); 4th E Arie (All)

**Group 4:** 1st O McIntyre (Dur); 2nd J Johnston (All); 3rd M Freudenheim (Ton); 4th F Clayton (Blu); 5th R Menhart (Bed)

**Group 5:** 1st L Ferguson (Mer) (StP); 2nd F Stone (Blu); 3rd M Hughes (CH); 4th D Leng (Rug); 5th J Wormersley (Bed)

**Group 6:** 1st B Roberts (StP); 2nd W Chan (Fet); 3rd T Whyte (EdA); 4th J Cole (Blu); 5th V Bobrakov (Rug)

**Group 7:** 1st P Harrison (All); 2nd A Ridley (StP); 3rd O Hanger (CH); 4th A Murat (Ton); 5th D Swinbank (Dur)

**Group 8:** 1st N Groombridge-Westacott (Lor); 2nd C Calzia (StP); 3rd H Shaw (All); 4th A Khurana (EdA)

**Group 9:** 1st C Lee (Win); 2nd M Nugent (EdwA); 3rd I Coates (Mer); 4th W Sauvel-Porter (StP); 5th A Hicks (Dur)

**Group 10:** 1st T Chan (Fet); 2nd H Akerman (Win); 3rd A Glover (Sed); 4th T Worth (CH)

**Round of 16:** G Wiseman (All) bt C Lee (Win) 11-1; 11-5; N Hudson (Ton) bt K Bremner (Win) 11-3, 11-2; O McIntyre (Dur) bt A Whitham (StP) 11-4, 11-7; M Cloke Browne (Win) bt L Ferguson 11-4, 11-1; S Scott bt B Roberts (StP) 11-6, 11-1; B Harrison (StP) bt M Campanale (Ton) 3-11, 11-4, 11-6; S Beattie (Dur) bt G Nsenga (StO) 11-5, 11-5; S Wu (Win) bt P Harrison (All) 11-4, 11-3

**Quarter-finals:** Wiseman bt Hudson 11-0, 11-2; Cloke Browne bt McIntyre 11-2, 11-6; Scott bt Harrison 11-3, 11-9; Wu bt Beattie 11-7, 11-1

**Semi-finals:** Wiseman bt Cloke Browne 11-6, 11-3; Wu bt Scott 11-3, 11-3

**Final:** S Wu (Win) bt G Wiseman (All) 11-3, 11-5

## U18 Singles Plate

**Quarter-finals:** M Freudenheim (Ton) bt W Chan (Fet) 12-10; M Mayor (Blu) bt N Groombridge-Westacott (Lor) 12-11; J Johnston (All) bt T Chan (Fet) 11-7; A Todd-Leask (Marl) bt T Whyte (EdA) 11-9

**Semi-finals:** Freudenheim bt Mayor 15-10; Johnston bt Todd-Leask 15-6

**Final:** M Freudenheim (Tonbridge) bt J Johnston (Alleyn's) 15-8

## U18 Doubles

**Round of 32:** Rugby 1 bt Marlborough 1 11-4; Blundell's 2 bt Tonbridge 3 11-9; Winchester 2 bt Blundell's 3 11-5; Durham 1 bt Christ's Hospital 1 11-1; Merchiston 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-9; City of Durham 2 bt Bedford 1 11-6; Christ's Hospital 2 bt St Paul's 3 12-11; St Olave's 1 bt Blundell's 1 11-5; Alleyn's 4 bt St Paul's 2 11-5; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Tonbridge 2 11-6

**Round of 16:** Alleyn's 1 bt Rugby 1 11-0; Winchester 2 bt Blundell's 2 15-2; City of Durham 1 bt Merchiston 1 15-2; St Paul's 1 bt City of Durham 2 15-2; Tonbridge 1 bt Alleyn's 3 15-4; St Olave's 1 bt Christ's Hospital 2 11-8; St Paul's 2 bt Fettes 1 15-12; Winchester 1 bt Tonbridge 2 15-2

**Quarter-finals:** Alleyn's 1 bt Winchester 2 11-5, 11-5; City of Durham 1 bt St Paul's 1 11-4, 11-8; St Olave's 1 bt Tonbridge 1 11-8, 12-10; Winchester 1 bt St Paul's 2 11-0, 11-1

**Semi-finals:** Alleyn's 1 bt City of Durham 1 12-11, 11-4; Winchester 1 bt St Olave's 1 10-12, 11-7, 11-7

**Final:** Winchester 1 (M Cloke Browne & S Wu) bt Alleyn's 1 (S Scott & G Wiseman) 11-9, 11-4

**Plate Final:** Fettes 1 (T Chan & W Chan) bt Alleyn's 3 (P Harrison & H Shaw) 11-5, 11-6

## U16 Singles

**Group 1:** Qualified T Vernacchio (All). Into Plate F Edelmn (Ton), T Miers (Win), H Wright (Stam)

**Group 2:** Qualified A Cloke Browne (Win), S Park (Mer). Into Plate T Blythe (All), H Mountain (Stam)

**Group 3:** Qualified W Hodgson (EdA). Into Plate F Delaney (StP), A Kulkami (Win), O Collett (Stam)

**Group 4:** Qualified J Chan (Win), A Dorokhov (All). Into Plate W Gale (Mer), A Tully (StP)

**Group 5:** Qualified N Prabhu (StP). Into Plate D Britton (Stam), L Chilton (Win), L Saunders-Aroma (Ton)

**Group 6:** Qualified L Milner (All), H Rintoul (EdA). Into Plate F Hewitt (Stam), O Wilson (Ton)

**Group 7:** Qualified Y Negyal (All), C Swanson (EdA). Into Plate A Cliff (Ton), M Di Gleria (Marl)

**Group 8:** Qualified M Cunningham (EdA), S Inglis (StP). Into Plate G Bowden (Win) T Cowin (Stam)

**Group 9:** Qualified C Drutman (Stam), K Davins (DeM). Into Plate B Aubury (Win), S Richarz (All)

**Group 10:** Qualified C Burgess (Stam). Into Plate R Goodman (StP), E Watson (DeM), R Zhou (Win)

**Round of 16:** Vernacchio bt Milner 15-5; Drutman bt Cunningham 15-13; Dorokhov bt Prabhu 15-7; Cloke Browne bt Chan 15-12; Hodgson bt Negyal 15-11; Rintoul bt Inglis 15-4; Swanson bt Burgess 15-5; Park bt Davins 15-0

**Quarter-finals:** Vernacchio bt Drutman 15-3; Dorokhov bt Cloke Browne 15-11; Hodgson bt Rintoul 15-9; Park bt Swanson 15-2

**Semi-finals:** Vernacchio bt Dorokhov 11-4, 10-12, 11-6; Park bt Hodgson 11-5, 11-6

**Final:** S Park (Mer) bt T Vernacchio (All) 11-6, 7-11, 11-9

**Plate Semi-finals:** Prabhu bt Inglis 12-11; Gale bt Milner 12-10

**Plate Final:** N Prabhu (StP) bt W Gale (Mer) 11-3

**Bowl Final:** A Hogben (StP) bt A Kulkami (Win) 11-5

## U16 Doubles

**Preliminary round:** Winchester 3 bt Stamford 2 11-10; Alleyn's 3 bt Tonbridge 2 11-7; Winchester 4 bt Derby Moor 11-6

**Round of 16:** Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 2 15-12; Winchester 2 bt St Paul's 2 15-9; Marlborough 1 bt Winchester 3 15-3; Stamford 1 bt Alleyn's 3 15-0; St Paul's 1 bt Winchester 4 15-13; Merchiston 1 bt Tonbridge 1 15-2; Edinburgh Academy bt Alleyn's 2 15-4; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Winchester 15-9

**Quarter-finals:** Alleyn's 1 bt Winchester 3 15-3; Stamford 1 bt Marlborough 1 15-12; Merchiston 1 bt St Paul's 1 15-3; Edinburgh Academy bt Winchester 1 15-9

**Semi-finals:** Alleyn's 1 bt Stamford 1 11-5, 11-6; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Merchiston 1 11-9, 11-4

**Final:** Edinburgh Academy (H Rintoul & C Swanson) bt Alleyn's 1 (L Milner & T Vernacchio) 9-11, 11-2, 11-6

**Plate Final:** Alleyn's 2 (A Dorokhov & Y Negyal) bt Edinburgh Academy (M Cunningham & W Hodgson) 11-5

**Bowl Final:** Stamford 2 (D Britton & O Collett) bt St Paul's 2 (S Inglis & A Tully) 11-7

### U14 Singles

**Group 1:** Qualified L Fiddes (Mer), J Haurie-Pelleg (Ton). Into Plate I Madhok (StP), A Sabharwal (Marl)

**Group 2:** Qualified J Kennedy (Win). Into Plate R Hargreaves (Mer), J Henderson (Marl), L Orlandi (StP)

**Group 3:** Qualified M Arie (All). Into Plate C Burrows (Stam), E Calzia (StP), D Radia (Ton)

**Group 4:** Qualified A James-Duff (Win). Into Plate O Carroll (Ton), J Ferro (StP), S McMurray (Bed)

**Group 5:** Qualified F Corrie (Mer), J Lawrie (EdA). Into Plate A Parkinson (Win)

**Group 6:** Qualified F Foley. Into Plate R Jones (Stamford), L Shields (All), E Xiao (Win)

**Group 7:** Qualified S Khurana (All), P Monro-Davies (StP). Into Plate H Attenborough (Ton), F Birkin (Marl)

**Group 8:** Qualified R McGregor (Win). Into Plate A Bogan (Stam), S Christie (StP), F James (EdA)

**Group 9:** Qualified J Bourne (Ton). Into Plate T Carling (StP), T Jarrold (EdA)

**Group 10:** Qualified C McNaughton (Stam), H Spoerri (Win). Into Plate T Evans-Gough (Marl), A Twinch (StP)

**Group 11:** Qualified Z Goulding (Win). Into Plate N De Villiers (Mer), S Stevenson (Ton), L Wyman (Marl)

**Group 12:** Qualified A Shaw (All). Into Plate M Bilagi (StP), H Jones (Stam), R Winkley (Win)

**Round of 16:** Fiddes bt Khurana 15-2; McGregor bt Bourne 15-7; Shaw bt Lawrie 15-8; James-Duff bt Spoerri 15-2; Arie bt Haurie-Pelleg 15-4; Foley bt Goulding 15-8; McNaughton bt Monro-Davies 15-7; Kennedy bt Corrie 15-0

**Quarter-finals:** Fiddes bt McGregor 15-13; James-Duff bt Shaw 15-4; Arie bt Foley 15-10; Kennedy bt McNaughton 15-1

**Semi-finals:** Fiddes bt James-Duff 15-10; Kennedy bt Arie 16-14

**Final:** J Kennedy (Win) bt L Fiddes (Mer) 11-5, 11-3

**Plate:** L Shields (All) bt O Carroll (Ton) 15-10

**Bowl:** A Parkinson (Win) bt E Xiao (Win) 15-13

### U14 Doubles

**Preliminary round:** Marlborough 2 bt Tonbridge 3 15-10; Merchiston 2 bt Marlborough 3 15-4; Winchester 4 bt Marlborough 1 15-10; Stamford 3 bt St Paul's 2 15-2; Alleyn's 2 bt St Paul's 4 15-5; Winchester 3 bt St Paul's 5 15-2; Stamford 2 bt St Paul's 3 15-12

**Round of 16:** Winchester 1 bt Marlborough 2 15-1; St Paul's 1 bt Tonbridge 2 15-5; Tonbridge 1 bt Merchiston 2 15-10; Winchester 4 bt Stamford 1 15-6; Merchiston 1 bt Stamford 3 15-0; Winchester 2 bt Alleyn's 2 15-2; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Winchester 3 15-2; Alleyn's 1 bt Stamford 2 15-0

**Quarter-finals:** Winchester 1 bt St Paul's 1 15-2; Tonbridge 1 bt Winchester 4 15-6; Merchiston 1 bt Winchester 2 15-5, Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 15-6

**Semi-finals:** Winchester 1 bt Tonbridge 1 11-2, 11-2; Merchiston 1 bt Alleyn's 1 11-5, 11-7

**Final:** Winchester 1 (A James-Duff & J Kennedy) bt Merchiston 1 (L Fiddes & F Foley) 11-8, 11-4

**Plate:** Stamford 1 (C McNaughton & C Sharpe) bt St Paul's 3 (M Bilagi & E Calzia) 15-13

**Bowl:** Merchiston 2 (N De Villiers & R Hargreaves) bt Winchester 3 (A Parkinson & H Spoerri) 15-4

## The National Doubles Championship for the Cyriax Cup

Alleyn's School, Dulwich

Saturday/Sunday, 2-3 April 2022

**STOP PRESS** On Sunday morning Charlie Brooks & Will Ellison claimed their fifth Cyriax Cup together, beating defending champions Ed Kay & Dan Tristao in a three-game final which lasted for two and a half hours. For Will it was his sixth title, having previously won the event once with Dan.

The previous day Cameron Low and Archie McCreath had played out the Plate competition, winning the much coveted trophy against James Toop & Gwydion Wiseman in an increasingly tough final, while James Smith & Raheem Yusuf won the 5-pair round robin for the B Plate.

## Results

**Group A:** 1st E Kay & D Tristao 3 wins/33 points; 2nd C Low & A McCreath 2/27; 3rd T Davey & J Garratt 1/11; 4th C Beattie & H Wiseman 0/12

**Group B:** 1st C Brooks & W Ellison 2/30; 2nd J Toop & G Wiseman 1/19; 3rd A Hicks & O McIntyre 0/2

**Group C:** 1st T Parker & T Watkinson 2/30; 2nd C Davey & L Keates 1/24; 3rd J Smith & R Yusuf 0/9

**Group D:** 1st J Aquilina & J Tilston 2/30; 2nd A Ahuja & E Thursfield 1/18; 3rd T Hebblethwaite & N Whitney 0/6

**Quarter-finals:** Kay & Tristao bt Ahuja & Thursfield 15-4, 15-1; Aquilina & Tilston bt Low & McCreath 15-12, 15-8; Parker & Watkinson bt Toop & Wiseman 15-9, 13-15, 15-11; Brooks & Ellison bt Davey & Keates 15-5, 15-0

**Semi-finals:** Kay & Tristao bt Aquilina & Tilston 15-11, 15-11; Brooks & Ellison bt Parker & Watkinson 15-6, 15-8

**Final:** Brooks & Ellison bt Kay & Tristao 15-10, 12-15, 15-8

**Plate Semi-finals:** Low & McCreath bt Ahuja & Thursfield 15-6, 15-4; Toop & Wiseman bt Davey & Keates 15-7, 15-8

**Plate Final:** Low & McCreath bt Toop & Wiseman 15-5, 15-13

**B Plate:** 1st Smith & Yusuf 4 wins/60 points; 2nd McIntyre & Hicks 2/52; 3rd Hebblethwaite & Whitney 3/49; 4th Beattie & Wiseman 1/33; 5th Davey & Garratt 0/16

## The National Rugby Fives Mixed Doubles championship

Alleyn's School, Dulwich; Sunday, 3rd April 2022

**STOP PRESS** In 2019 the RFA staged the first National Rugby Fives Mixed Doubles Championship, which was won by Helena Tunks & Douglas Law. After a 2-year gap 22 players came together this season to contest the title for a second time. Organiser Ashwin Ahuja paired them up in President's Cup style and split the resulting combinations into 2 groups. After a series of group matches two knock-out draws resulted, for the Silver Salver and for the Plate.

In the Plate final Ibbby Lee & Ashwin Ahuja were unable to cope with Douglas Law's power, however much they tried to target his steady partner Julie McIntyre. In the main final Camille Beattie & Nick Whitney were a shade too consistent for Savanna Leboff & Emrys Thursfield.

This event has the potential for considerable further growth. What better than convivial but competitive mixed doubles on a sunny April day on the splendid indoor courts at Alleyn's?!

## Results

**Group A:** 1st Martha Nugent & Joe Garratt 4 wins/73 points; 2nd Lizzie Ware and Will Hanley 4/70; 3rd Ibbby Lee & Ashwin Ahuja 4/70; 4th Helena Tunks & Will Edmonds 2/62; 5th Lois Conway & Lewis Keates 1/39; 6th Kirsten Bell & Adam Hicks 0/26

**Group B:** 1st Camille Beattie & Nick Whitney 4 wins/60 points; 2nd Savanna Leboff & Emrys Thursfield 3/57; 3rd Julie McIntyre & Douglas Law 2/42; 4th Dana Wilson & Oscar McIntyre 1/37; 5th Shinan Zhang & Liam McKnight 0/19

**Main semi-finals:** Beattie & Whitney bt Ware & Hanley 11-4, 11-0; Leboff & Thursfield bt Nugent & Garratt 11-6, 11-8

**Main final:** Beattie & Whitney bt Leboff & Thursfield 11-3, 11-9

**Plate semi-finals:** Lee & Ahuja bt Wilson & O McIntyre 15-11; J McIntyre & Law bt Tunks & Edmonds 15-4

**Plate final:** J McIntyre & Law bt Lee & Ahuja 11-9, 11-4

## The Veterans Championships

Marlborough College; Sunday, 10th April 2022

**STOP PRESS** It was a double for John Minta in the 2022 National Veterans Championships. John won the Singles for the third time by beating defending champion Matt Cavanagh in the final, then went on to defend the Doubles title with partner Dave Fox in a final against Harvey Bishop & Tom Kiggell. Derby Moor's Richard Christie also did the double in the Plate by first winning the Singles and then the Doubles, with Stuart Kirby.

*Organiser John Hawke reports:* A week before the event was due to take place the entry for both singles and doubles was minute, certainly not worth the drive for the organiser from Anglesey to Marlborough, however beautiful Snowdonia is at this time of year. Stalwart efforts by Messrs Dolby, Kirk and Blakeley, and the reduction of the tournament to a single day, prompted the usual flurry of late entries, some as late as Saturday morning. In the end we had seven singles players and seven doubles pairs.

As always with Fives tournaments, play started promptly, 30 minutes late. All those present were previous entrants, while those youngsters who had reached qualifying age during the pandemic had seemingly opted to holiday abroad rather than play Fives. Shame on them.

Some tournament rustiness was demonstrated in the first round — not surprising after the long lay-off, but the only slight surprise was the defeat of Bhaswar Baral by Nick Geere, although Bhas was getting better as the match progressed, only losing the second game 15-16. As cup holder, Matt Cavanagh was given a bye in the first round, then played Nick in the semi-finals, so had only limited opportunity to shake off the cobwebs before, in the final, coming up against John Minta, a man to whom cobwebs don't stick and who had had ample practice in a hard semi-final against his doubles partner Dave Fox. Matt appeared to be uncharacteristically error prone as he went down to 5 and 4, John thereby claiming his third Veterans Singles title.

In the plate, a round robin, Richard Christie defeated both Bhaswar Baral and Keith Kennerley to claim the trophy.

The stars of the afternoon doubles session were the pairing of Harvey Bishop & Tom Kiggell, even though they lost the final to Fox & Minta. In the first round they looked composed as they saw off Hendry & Kennerley 15-6, and then, in the semi-finals, defeating Baral & Geere 15-3. On the other side of the draw Fox & Minta had a bye in the first round, before a harder than expected semi-final against Tim Hebblethwaite & Morgan Spillane, which they won 15-11.

The tight first game of the final had the organiser wondering whether proceedings would finish before dark. However, the strain of losing 11-12 had taken its toll on the Marlborough Club underdogs, who went from 7-3 up in the second up to lose 7-11, allowing Dave & John to retain the cup.

In the plate Richard Christie was again victorious, ably assisted by partner Stuart Kirby. They defeated both Hendry & Kennerley and Kiteley & Folland.

Along with the Masters' and Grand Masters' tournaments, which were run on a single court at the same time, the building was a hive of post-pandemic enthusiasm. Apart from Phil Atkinson, who suffered a Masters-induced wrist fracture, it appeared that everyone enjoyed both the Fives and the conversations with old friends. We are all exceedingly grateful to Marlborough College for the use of the facilities, and wish Phil a speedy recovery.

## Results

### Singles

**Quarter-finals:** N Geere bt B Baral 15-7, 16-15; D Fox bt K Kennerley 15-9, 15-4; J Minta bt R Christie 15-6, 15-3

**Semi-finals:** M Cavanagh bt Geere 15-5, 15-3; Minta bt Fox 15-12, 15-11

**Final:** Minta bt Cavanagh 15-5, 15-4

**Plate:** 1st Christie 30 pts; 2nd Baral 21 pts; 3rd Kennerley 10 pts

### Doubles

**Quarter-finals:** T Hebblethwaite & M Spillane bt R Christie & S Kirby 15-1; H Bishop & T Kiggell bt Hendry & K Kennerley 15-6; B Baral & N Geere bt P Folland & M Kiteley 15-12

**Semi-finals:** D Fox & J Minta bt Hebblethwaite & Spillane 15-11; Bishop & Kiggell bt Baral & Geere 15-3

**Final:** Fox & Minta bt Bishop & Kiggell 12-11, 11-7

**3rd Place Play-off:** Hebblethwaite & Spillane bt Baral & Geere

**Plate:** 1st Christie & Kirby 30 pts; 2nd Hendry & Kennerley 27 pts; 3rd Folland & Kiteley 11 pts



# The Grand Masters and the Master Doubles Championships

Marlborough College  
Sunday, 10th April 2022

## The Grand Masters Championship

**Final:** B Boag & M Wilkinson bt B Atkinson & M Summerhayes 4-11, 12-10, 11-6

Surely the most competitive Grand Masters final of all time, in this its second running of the event! After some discussion as to pairings it was decided that Bernard Atkinson and Bev Boag, the defending champions from 2019, would split up, Bev partnering newcomer Martin Wilkinson and Bernard enjoying the company of the other debutee Mick Summerhayes. The result was as competitive a final as you could possibly imagine. This was not Brooks & Ellison relentlessly attacking the back corners and rear wall but rather Bernard skimming services some 5-10 centimetres above the floor, Mick nagging away down the left-hand wall, Martin playing the spirit-sapping reverse angles and Bev stroking the ball devilishly into the unoccupied areas of the front of court. Impeccable positioning, barely a let in sight, a minimum of tactical drinks breaks and no one fell over. This was mature sport at its best.

## The Masters Championship

With five pairs entering the organisers opted for a round robin, to culminate in a Grand Final and a Third Place play-off.

With play scheduled to start at 9.30 the first ball was struck in anger around 10.45, with Brian Kirk & Phil Atkinson cruising into a 13-3 lead against defending champions Spencer Beal & Tony Hamilton. With a major upset threatening Phil managed to catch an opponent's foot, fall over and be ferried by a lovely lady to the local A&E, whence he eventually returned, duly plastered, with a broken arm. Flexible as ever Brian drafted in as a new partner one of the spectators, who had been planning a leisurely day's viewing and window shopping with his lady, and the two of them promptly lost the restarted game 15-3. Things improved hugely for Brian, however, as his new partner was Old Whitgiftian Peter Ross, who quickly tuned in to the high standard required of him and carried Brian eventually to the final.

Meanwhile relative youngsters Chris Blakeley & Neil Arnott fancied their chances of success in the third place play-off but found themselves out-played by John Ogle and duracell man Bernard Atkinson, who was not content to limit himself to just the one competition, while Mark Kiteley likewise paired up with Marlborough Club's Tom Hillman for the Masters, then with Paul Folland in the Veterans. One can only admire the stamina of these chaps. Dick Warner will be hard-pressed to cope next year when he sorts out his calendar.

### Round robin

**1st** S Beal & T Hamilton 60 points; **2nd** B Kirk & P Ross 48 pts; **3rd**= N Arnott & C Blakeley and B Atkinson & J Ogle 31 pts each; **5th** T Hillman & M Kiteley 16 pts

**3rd Place Match:** Atkinson & Ogle bt Arnott & Blakeley 15-9

**Final:** Beal & Hamilton bt Kirk & Ross 15-10

## National Schools Girls' Championships

Oundle School  
Sunday, 24th April 2022

*Organiser Alex Smith reports:* The National School Girls' Tournament was back to its usual calendar slot early in the summer term, and a large number of excited players from 7 schools gathered at the excellent facilities of Oundle School on Sunday morning. I would like to thank Oundle School and their fives staff for kindly hosting the championship and also the coaches and parents from the participating schools for bringing such an excellent bunch of players and assisting on the day, and finally Bob Dolby and Chris Blakeley for their encouraging and supportive presence throughout the day.

The day began with a large number of singles group games in all age categories. The use of 'rally scoring' helped keep the games to schedule and proved popular with the players, as it avoided lengthy play with no score.

In the senior competition, as expected the person to watch was Camille Beattie from the City of Durham Club, playing above her age group. She duly made her way to the later stages, but not without fierce competition from a number of very impressive players from the Edinburgh Academy, Alleyn's, Marlborough, Rugby and Eastbourne College. Both singles and doubles finals were superb demonstrations of the high quality of female fives playing at school age. City of Durham were pushed close in both by players from the Academy. Camille finished a deserving champion, taking the singles in an excellent match against Holly Brown, and the doubles with partner Imogen Wright, where they faced the Academy's second pair, Louise Hawkins and Cecily Millar, in the final.

In the junior age groups, Alleyn's and Edinburgh Academy were again able to demonstrate their strength in depth in reaching the finals, with Eastbourne also getting into the silverware in the plate, whilst the girls from Stamford made their mark in the U13.

At U16, Rosa Ogilvie & Olivia Smith from Edinburgh won out in the doubles, with Anna Chance & Annabelle McAllister of Alleyn's giving them a tough game, whilst Rosa also took the prize against Anna in the singles. In the U14s, Anna Bailey of Edinburgh Academy similarly scored a singles win over Janice Ho of Alleyn's, but in the doubles Janice with her partner Diva Tiwari gained revenge for Alleyns by taking the doubles in a hard-fought game against Anna and her partner Millie. In the U13s, the enthusiastic squad from Stamford held off the challenge from Alleyn's in the doubles, with Bea Grindal & Tilly Stevens winning the group convincingly in the end, but honours were shared as, in the singles, Bea lost a tough final against the impressive Taylor-Rose Foo of Alleyn's.

The day was, as ever, a fantastic celebration of fives playing and camaraderie, with all the players getting stuck into a long day of play with much laughter and excitement. Well done to everyone who took part.

## **Results**

### **U18 Singles**

**Group A:** 1st C.Beattie (CoD) 33 pts; 2nd = C.Petrie (EdAc) and I.Colbourne (Rug) 23pts; 4th C.Stanworth (Eastb) 21 pts

**Group B:** 1st K.Innes (All) 33 pts; 2nd L.Hawkins (EdAc) 27 pts; 3rd E.Bruce Jones (Rug) 26 pts; 4th P.Shakespeare (Eastb) 17 pts

**Group C:** 1st I.Wright (CoD) 33 pts; 2nd= S.Grant Down (Eastb) and C.Millar (EdAc) 25 pts; 4th G.Douglas Miller (Rug) 21pts

**Group D:** 1st H.Brown (EdAc) 33 pts; 2nd L.Gribben (Rug) 29 pts; 3rd H.Barton (Marl); 4th K.Marshall (Eastb) 12 pts

**Round of 16:** Beattie bt Marshall 11-1; Millar bt Bruce Jones 11-10; Douglas Miller bt Innes 11-10; Gribben bt Petrie 11-7; Brown bt Stanworth 11-7; Barton bt Colbourne 11-6; Hawkins bt Grant Down 11-4; Wright bt Shakespeare 11-2

**Quarter-finals:** Beattie bt Millar 11-3; Gribben bt Douglas Miller 11-2; Brown bt Barton 11-9; Wright bt Hawkins 11-10

**Semi-finals:** Beattie bt Gribben 11-3; Brown bt Wright 11-4

**Final:** Beattie (City of Durham) bt Brown (Edinburgh Academy) 15-1

**Plate:** Innes (Alleyn's) bt Colbourne (Rugby) 11-2

### **U18 Doubles**

**Preliminary round:** Eastbourne 2 bt Stamford 11-4

**Quarter-finals:** City of Durham bt Alleyn's 11-3; Rugby 2 bt Eastbourne 2 11-5; Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Eastbourne 2 11-0; Edinburgh Academy 2 bt Rugby 1 11-1

**Semi-finals:** City of Durham bt Rugby 2 11-3; Edinburgh Academy 2 bt Edinburgh Academy 1 11-8

**Final:** City of Durham (Beattie & Wright) bt Edinburgh Academy 2 (Hawkins & Millar) 15-6

**Plate:** Rugby 1 (Douglas Miller & Gribben) bt Eastbourne 1 11-3

### **U16 Singles**

**Group A:** 1st R.Ogilvie (EdAc) 33 pts; 2nd D.Dunkley (Eastb) 27 pts; 3rd A.Guo (All) 18 pts; 4th A.Duncan (Stam) 7 pt

**Group B:** 1st A.Chance (All) 33 pts; 2nd R.McNaught-Davis (EdAc) 24 pts; 3rd P.Fleming (Marl) 22 pts; 4th J.Withers (Stam) 16 pts

**Group C:** 1st O.Smart (EdAc) 33 pts; 2nd= A.Allin (Marl) and C.Davidson (EdAc) 25pts; 4th E.Green (Stam) 16 pts

**Group D:** 1st C.Clark (EdAc) 22 pts; 2nd E.Erdmeier (All) 16 pts; 3rd G.Cameron (Stam) 13 pts

**Preliminary round:** Guo bt Erdmeier 11-10; Clark bt Withers 11-2 11-2; Dunkley bt Cameron 11-10; Allin bt Davidson 11-10; Fleming bt McNaught-Davis 11-10

**Quarter-finals:** Chance bt Guo 11-4; Clark bt Dunkley 11-7; Smart bt Allin 11-0; Ogilvie bt Fleming 11-5

**Semi-finals:** Chance bt Clark 11-6; Ogilvie bt Smart 11-1

**Final:** Ogilvie (Edinburgh Academy) bt Chance (Alleyn's) 15-12

**Plate:** McNaught-Davis (Edinburgh Academy) bt Cameron (Stamford) 11-1

### U16 Doubles

**Quarter-finals:** Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Stamford 2 11-0; Alleyn's 2 bt Stamford 1 11-9; Edinburgh Academy 2 bt Marlborough 11-2; Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy/Eastbourne 11-4

**Semi-finals:** Edinburgh Academy 1 bt Alleyn's 2 11-0; Alleyn's 1 bt Edinburgh Academy 2 11-3

**Final:** Edinburgh Academy (Ogilvie & Smart) bt Alleyn's 1 (Chance & McAllister) 15-1

**Plate:** Edinburgh Academy/Eastbourne (Davidson & Dunkley) bt Marlborough (Allin & Fleming) 12-10

### U14 Singles

**Group A:** 1st A.Bailey (EdAc) 33 pts; 2nd= J.Ho and D.Tiwari (both Alleyn's) 26 pts; 4th E.Wells (Marl) 8 pts

**Group B:** 1st M.Smart (EdAc) 33 pts; 2nd A.McAllister (All) 32 pts; 3rd B.Black (Marl) 25 pts; 4th A.Bellamy (Stam) 21 pts

**Quarter-finals:** Bailey bt Bellamy 11-3; Tiwari bt Black 11-9; Ho bt McAllister 11-8; Smart bt Wells 11-3

**Semi-finals:** Bailey bt Tiwari 11-2; Ho bt Smart 11-1

**Final:** Bailey (Edinburgh Academy) bt Ho (Alleyn's) 15-1

**Plate:** McAllister (Alleyn's) bt Black (Marlborough) 11-10

### U14 Doubles

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

**Final:** Alleyn's (Ho & Tiwari) bt Edinburgh Academy (Bailey & Smart) 15-9

**Plate:** Alleyn's/Stamford (Foo & Wright) bt Marlborough (Black & Wells) 11-5

### U13 Singles

**Group A:** 1st B.Grindal (Stam) 33 pts; 2nd E.Tyler (Stam) 29 pts; 3rd A.Butler (Stam) 21 pts; 4th F.Hebblethwaite (All) 17 pts

**Group B:** 1st T-R Foo (All) 33 pts; 2nd A.Brown (All) 27 pts; 3rd R.Wright (Stam) 26 pts; 4th T.Stevens (Stam) 19pts

**Quarter-finals:** Foo bt Butler 11-0; Hebblethwaite bt Wright 11-10; Tyler bt Brown 11-9; Grindal bt Stevens 11-5

**Semi-finals:** Foo bt Hebblethwaite 11-2; Grindal bt Tyler 11-6

**Final:** Foo (Alleyn's) bt Grindal (Stamford) 11-0

**Plate:** Brown (Alleyn's) bt Tyler (Stamford) 11-9

### U13 Doubles (Round robin)

**Gold medal:** Stamford 1 (Grindal & Stevens) 33pts

**Silver medal:** Stamford 2 (Cavaciuti & Tyler) 28 pts

**Bronze medal and Plate:** Alleyn's 1 (Brown & Hebblethwaite) 24 pts

## The Basque Rugby Fives Doubles Championship

San Ignacio, Spain

13 April 2022

*Egoitz Campo reports:* On 13th April 2022 the Basque Association of Beach Tennis and Minority Sports organised the 1st Basque Rugby Fives Pairs Championship on the squash court at the sports centre in San Ignacio (Bilbao-Basque Country). 6 players participated: Unai, Iñigo, Joseba, Adrian, Daniel and the organiser, Egoitz Campo. We made up 3 pairs and we played all against all.

This event followed a first Singles tournament staged on 10th December 2021 by the same Association. 5 players participated on that occasion: Luis, Aitor, Juanjo, Andi and Egoitz (the organiser).

This time the experience was equally good and we really enjoyed playing Rugby Fives, this new sport that we have started to practise here in the Basque Country. For all the players, except Egoitz, the experience was new since they had never played before, but they said they would repeat.

We started at 7:30 pm and finished an hour later. We played a total of 3 games, of 25 points each game. Egoitz and Daniel formed a powerful pairing, and although they had some problems with Iñigo and Joseba, they were able to win both matches, winning this first Pairs championship.

Our idea is to organise another tournament in August, this time with a different format. We haven't decided on a name for that tournament yet, but the format will be different. We will play both modalities, Individual and Pairs, and the matches will be shorter: half an hour for the Individual mini-tournament and another half-hour for Pairs. The winner will be the one who gets the most points after both modalities. Next stop a trip to the UK!

### **Results:**

Egoitz Campo & Daniel Barrientos beat Iñigo Galda & Joseba Nieto 25-20

Iñigo Galda & Joseba Nieto beat Unai Pérez & Adrian Saenz 25-7

Egoitz Campo & Daniel Barrientos beat Unai Pérez & Adrian Saenz 25-16

### **Placings: Basque Championship of Rugby Fives Doubles**

1st Egoitz Campo & Daniel Barrientos

2nd Iñigo Galda & Joseba Nieto

3rd Unai Pérez & Adrian Saenz

## **The Wood Cup**

St Paul's School and Alleyn's School  
Saturday/Sunday, 23-24 April 2022

Organiser Tom Watkinson reports: After a number of years of reduced entry to the Wood Cup (the National Club Knock-Out) I am delighted to report that this year's entry is the largest I have been able to find a record of. A total of 12 teams descended upon the twin venues of Alleyn's and St Paul's to contest the two-day event, played in the traditional format of both singles and doubles

Before laying out the story of the weekend the organiser would like to extend his sincere thanks to all 12 teams who took part and put up with the sort of glitches that occur only when an event is run by a first-time organiser. Particularly I would like to thank the team captains who were able to field two IVs, who in no particular order were: Ollie Arnold (West of England), Lewis Keates (Derby Moor) and Michael Suddaby (Old Rugby). So, on to the story of the two days ...

### **Day 1 – Group Stage**

Day 1 consisted of the group stages, with the twelve teams split into 3 groups of 4 teams. Group winners and the team with the second most points were to progress to the semi-finals, with the next-best-placed four teams to progress to the Plate semi-finals.

#### **Group 1**

Group 1 included the number 1 seeds and defending champions, the West of England 1st IV – comprising Ollie Arnold (c), Theo Parker, Tom Watkinson and Tom Maconie. With such depth, WoE1 were always likely to be a tough team to take on in the group stages and so it proved, with them winning every set they played, running out with a maximum total of 396 points. That said, with the format allowing the second-best placed team to qualify for the semi-finals there was still left much for the other three teams to play for. The pick of the Group 1 games was Derby Moor 2 vs. Old Rugby 1, which the latter managed to win by the narrowest of margins. Michael Suddaby deserves tremendous credit for fielding two Old Rugby teams, given he is the only regular tournament player from the Old Rugbeians, and it must be said that

Old Rugby 1 played brilliantly despite their lack of match practice. Thus, when all was said and done, West of England 1 went through as group winners (396 points), with the Executioners as group runners-up on 295 points.

## **Group 2**

Group 2 was described by many as the group of death, with three very strong sides in WoE2, Derby Moor 1 and the second seeds, the Old Paulines. The main topic of discussion going into the event was what team the Old Paulines would field at each stage. Constrained by availability (and potentially by the fact a host of their players were playing for different teams), up until Saturday morning it was unclear to all but reigning National Doubles champion and team captain Charlie Brooks who would be taking part. Rumours abounded that Ben Beltrami was flying in from Dubai specially for the weekend, or that Ed Kay had taken his gloves with him on holiday and so would be able to fly into Heathrow and come straight to the courts for the Sunday morning. However, neither proved to be the case and in the end Charlie Brooks lined up alongside three current St Paul's pupils for their first match against Old Rugby 2. All the uncertainty didn't seem to do the Paulines much harm though, and they duly won their first match with relative comfort. As the tournament progressed Charlie would bolster his line-up with journey-man tournament player Sam Russell (currently ranked 11 in the country) and – on Sunday – with reigning National Singles champion and number 1 ranked player in the country, Dan Tristao. As a result Old Paulines lived up to their seeding, winning all their games and progressing to the semi-finals on the Sunday. That just left WoE2 and DM1 to fight it out for second place. In what was one of the closest games of the weekend WoE2 edged it 100 points to 91 and hence cantered in second place in the group. Final standings in the group were 1st Old Paulines, 2nd WoE 2 (295 points), DM1 (224 points) and 4th Old Rugby 2.

## **Group 3**

Due to the size of the entry, group 3 played all their matches at Allyn's in order for the event to take two days only. Unfortunately as organiser I was at St Paul's for the whole of the Saturday and so missed out on all the matches played there, although I have been assured that there were some fantastic games, not least the grudge match between Old Cambridge and Old Oxford, won this year by Old Oxford. With all the scores totted up the 3<sup>rd</sup> seeds, the Jesters Club, won all their games and so progressed to the semi-finals. The Edward Allyn Club (which seemed to consist almost entirely of players under the age of 18), caused the upset of the day by beating the experienced teams from Cambridge and Oxford and hence came in second. However, such was their surprise at this result that they hadn't made contingency plans to be able to play on the Sunday and hence they were unable to feature in either the Plate or the main competition.

Thus, overall the three group winners, along with the Executioners, progressed to the semis, whilst WoE2, DM1, Old Rugby 1 and Old Oxford progressed to the Plate semis.

## **Day 2 – Finals Day**

I am conscious that this write-up is stretching somewhat and so I shall restrict myself to making only brief allusion to events on Sunday. In the first semi-final WoE1 were in ruthless form in beating the very strong Executioners IV, whilst in the second semi the crowds were treated to the match of the tournament: Old Paulines versus Jesters, led by prominent Old Pauline Julian Aquilina. The deciding factor in the contest was perhaps the fact that the Old Paulines were able to call on a fresh Dan Tristao for the Sunday, with the Jesters team quietly admitting that they had "played a lot of fives". Particular mention should go to singles game between Dan and Julian, which was truly epic and had most of the players crowded around the gallery (as opposed to playing ... much to the annoyance of the organiser). Thus, the final was to be WoE1 vs Old Paulines. Much can be said about the final, and doubtless has already been said in much detail at various pubs around the country, and so the organiser (who cannot claim but be somewhat biased) will leave it at this – WoE1 managed to hold strong against the Old Paulines to run out eventual winners and retain their trophy.

The Plate was just as hotly contested: a repeat of one of the group fixtures in the final – DM1 vs. WoE2. The WoE team again proved victorious and thus the West of England Club took home both the Plate and the Cup, cementing its place as the dominant club in the country for 2022.

I would again like to express my gratitude to those who both played and attended over the weekend (including one or two perhaps disgruntled girlfriends/partners). I am looking forward to next year's instalment already and hope to welcome back some of the clubs who were unable to take part this year (to name but a few: Wessex, Manchester Y Club, Exeter, Caledonian Club, City of Durham and more). The aim for next year is very much an entry of at least 16 teams.

## Squads

**Derby Moor 1:** C Blackaby, C Davey, L Keates, V Singh, R Yusuf (5)

**Derby Moor 2:** Tadhg Davey, K Davins, S Kendrick, S Kirby, C Yates (5)

**Edward Alleyn Club:** P Harrison, L Milner, G Nsenga, S Scott, T Vernacchio, G Wiseman (6)

**Executioners:** C Barnett, P Chai, B Hale, O McIntyre (4)

**Jesters:** J Aquilina, H Jefferies, P Hanton, J Tilston (4)

**Old Cambridge University:** A Ahuja, S Leboff, E Thursfield, H Tunks (4)

**Old Oxford University:** A Cranstoun, M Hale, T Owen, C Rogers, J Vanclare, N Whitney (6)

**Old Paulines:** C Brooks, B Harrison, B Roberts, S Roberts, S Russell, D Tristao, A Whitham (7)

**Old Rugbeians 1:** F Evans, R Hunter, G Romain, M Suddaby (4)

**Old Rugbeians 2:** C Blakeley, J Ensor, W Manners, R Warner (4)

**West of England 1:** O Arnold, T Maconie, T Parker, T Watkinson (4)

**West of England 2:** S Dansie, C Low, A McCreath, L Mathias (4)

= 57 players

## Matches

### Group 1

WoE1 bt DM2 132-12; bt Executioners 132-20; bt OR2 132-16

Executioners bt OR2 128-48; bt DM2 132-27

DM2 bt OR2 108-68

### Group 2

OPs bt WoE2 122-63; bt DM1 80-47; bt OR1 132-20

WoE2 bt DM1 100-91; bt OR1 123-60

DM1 bt OR1 86-69

### Group 3

Jesters bt EdAll 126-71; bt OOU 135-22; bt OCU 132-28

EdAll bt OOU 120-69; bt OCU 131-55;

OOU bt OCU 86-57

**Semi-final:** WoE 1 bt Executioners 132-20; OPs bt Jesters 106-93

**Final:** West of England 1 (Arnold, Maconie, Parker, Watkinson) bt Old Paulines (Brooks, S Roberts/Tristao, B Roberts, Russell) 132-50

**Plate final:** West of England 2 (Dansie, Low, Mathias and McCreath) bt Derby Moor 1 (C Davey, T Davey, Keates and V Singh) 86-69

## The RFA Dinner 2022

Queen's Club, London

Saturday 23rd April 2022

48 players and friends came together on Saturday 23rd April at Queen's Club for the first RFA Dinner since 2018. As is the tradition the event was held the same weekend as the Wood Cup, the Club Knock-out competition which has run since 1974. There is a separate report on the **Wood Cup 2022** on the RFA website.

Of the 48 attending, 26 were players in the Wood Cup and 8 were RFA Board Members. The Association welcomed 3 guests who have made important contributions to the Association as donors or facilitators, as well as being pleased to see a number of our senior members, and our current National Doubles champions.

Just the one speech was made, by the outgoing President, David Parlby. In his speech David outlined the idea that has driven his period in office: namely the belief, common to all those present, that Fives is a brilliant game which we would all like to see thrive.

“In many ways fives is in a good place, with a big increase in the number of women playing, well attended competitions, a strong club scene and an innovative and committed Board. There are areas of concern: existing courts need, and will continue to need, expensive refurbishment, too many players stop playing after leaving school, and not enough new players take up the game. We have a strategy to deal with these issues and we are making progress. However, to achieve our aims the RFA needs more members and more money.”

David confessed that the Association has not been great at telling members and non-members about what it does. Hence the attempt to address this weakness by producing a short video to be hosted on the RFA website and displayed at RFA events, giving an overview of the RFA’s activities. Dinner guests were treated to the premiere showing of the video: it shows the restart of fives at Stoke Newington School, where the RFA has spent £10,000 in getting the six courts back into play, funding a coaching programme and provision of gloves and balls; it shows fives being played at Mount Kelly after the RFA’s intervention to get a court back in play; it shows squash fives in action, and fives being played at Loretto, where the roof, walls and floors of the 3 courts have been refurbished to a high standard.

David’s message to all those present: tell everyone you know about fives and encourage them to try the game out. The more you help the RFA, the more we can help you to continue playing fives for a long time to come.

He concluded by announcing the results of the Silent Auction, which realised £2,450 for the RFA.

## Scottish Open Championships

Loretto School, Musselburgh and Fettes College, Edinburgh

Saturday/Sunday, 30 April-1st May 2022

**STOP PRESS** Dan Tristao added to his collection of regional titles by winning the Scottish Singles title for a fourth time, beating Universities champion Andrew Boyd in the final. In the Plate 2021 National U14 champion Ronnie Brown from the Edinburgh Academy beat Daniel Jourdan, formerly of the Edinburgh Academy, in a three-game epic.

In the Doubles 6 combinations chosen by organiser Richie Murby produced several close encounters, not least one of the semi-finals, from which Lewis Keates & Dan Swinbank emerged to contest, unsuccessfully, the final against Enrique Carbonell & Oscar McIntyre. Locals Malcolm Borthwick & Simon Hodgson won the Plate.

Sweating courts at Loretto prompted a switch to Fettes for the majority of the tournament.

### Results

#### Singles

**Preliminary round:** P Marston bt H Brown 11-4, 11-2, X Millar bt J McIntyre 11-0, 11-1; D Swinbank bt C Millar 11-2, 11-4; A Hicks bt L Hawkins 11-4, 11-4

**1st round:** D Tristao bt Marston 11-2, 11-1; J Smith bt D Jourdan 11-5, 11-2; B Jourdan bt Millar 11-5, 11-0; L Keates bt H McFarlane 11-4, 11-2; A Boyd bt Swinbank 11-1, 11-0; S Park v N Groombridge-Westacott 11-8, 11-2; R Murby bt Hicks 11-0, 11-3; O McIntyre bt R Brown 11-5, 1-3

**Quarter-finals:** Tristao bt Smith 11-4, 11-3; B Jourdan bt Keates 12-10, 11-5; Boyd bt Park 11-5, 11-2; Murby bt McIntyre 11-4, 11-3

**Semi-finals:** Tristao bt Jourdan 11-9, 11-1; Boyd bt Murby 11-9, 11-2

**Final:** Tristao bt Boyd 11-3, 12-10

**Plate Final:** R Brown bt D Jourdan 11-6, 1-11, 12-11

#### Doubles

**Group A:** 1st E Carbonell & O McIntyre 60 pts; 2nd L Keates & D Swinbank 45 pts; 3rd M Borthwick & S Hodgson 43 pts

**Group B:** H McFarlane & J Smith 52 pts; A Hicks & J Sinton 49 pts; 3rd B Jourdan & J McIntyre 47 pts

**Semi-finals:** L Keates & D Swinbank bt H McFarlane & J Smith 10-12, 11-7, 12-11; E Carbonell & O McIntyre bt A Hicks & J Sinton 11-2, 11-6

**Final:** E Carbonell & O McIntyre bt L Keates & D Swinbank 12-10, 11-4

**3rd Place:** H McFarlane & J Smith bt A Hicks & J Sinton 11-3

**Plate:** M Borthwick & S Hodgson bt B Jourdan & J McIntyre 15-7

## Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles Championship

Bradfield College

Sunday, 8th May 2022

**STOP PRESS** Louise Mathias & Ollie Arnold successfully defended their Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles title at Bradfield College, defeating organiser Shinan Zhang and her partner Lewis Keates in the final 15-12, 15-8. Eton Fives players Emily Scoones & Abhishek Bhattacharya won the Plate, defeating Maddi Gibbons & Chris Davey. A smaller than usual entry for this traditionally fun and friendly event. We hope to see some regulars back again next year, fit and in practice after the disruption of the past two years.

### Round Robin

1st Louise Mathias & Ollie Arnold: Won 5; 75pts  
2nd Shinan Zhang & Lewis Keates: Won 4; 61pts  
3rd Helena Tunks & Ashwin Ahuja: Won 3; 59 pts  
4th Jo Sumner & Joe Sumner: Won 2; 50 pts  
5th Emily Scoones & Abhishek Bhattacharya: Won 1; 48 pts  
6th Maddi Gibbons & Chris Davey: Won 0; 24 pts

**Semi-finals:** Mathias & Arnold bt Sumner & Sumner 15-4, 15-7; Zhang & Keates bt Tunks & Ahuja 15-2, 15-5

**Final:** Mathias & Arnold bt Zhang & Keates 15-12, 15-8

**Plate:** Scoones & Bhattacharya bt Gibbons & Davey 15-10, 15-10

## The National Vintage Championships

Cambridge University Sports Centre

Sunday, 15th May 2022

**STOP PRESS** Small is beautiful! Just 8 players entered this year, producing an enthralling tournament with close match after close match in Singles and Doubles. Defending Singles champion Ian Jackson had to content himself with the Singles Plate; Morgan Spillane, in his second appearance, this time won Singles Gold along with Doubles Silver. Newcomers Dave Fox and Sam Roberts won Doubles Gold, beating Morgan and his new partner Tony Hamilton in the final, with Dave ending as runner-up in the Singles. Stuart Kirby and Richard Christie won the Doubles Plate to add to their Veterans Plate of a fortnight ago, though Richard had the galling experience of beating both Singles finalists in the Round Robin but coming 4th on points. Put simply, everyone won at least one medal, except the valiant organiser Brian Kirk!

### Singles

#### Round Robin

1st Dave Fox Won 3, 40 points  
2nd Morgan Spillane Won 2, 39 points  
3rd Ian Jackson Won 2, 38 points  
4th Richard Christie Won 2, 34 points  
5th Sam Roberts Won 1, 31 points

**Final:** Spillane bt Fox 15-11

**Plate:** Jackson bt Christie 12-10

### Doubles

#### Group

Fox & Roberts bt Jackson & Kirk 15-8; bt Christie & Kirby 15-14  
Hamilton & Spillane bt Christie & Kirby 15-5; bt Jackson & Kirk 15-5



**Final:** Fox & Roberts bt Hamilton & Spillane 16-14

**Plate:** Christie & Kirby bt Jackson & Kirk 15-13

## End of Season rankings

22nd May 2022

*Rankings Czar Dave Hebden writes:* At last we have a full season of fives to report on, the last being the 2018-19 season. There is plenty of interest to discuss in the Singles and Doubles list, but let me lead with a couple of encouraging observations.

Firstly, there will have been worries about the support for the various events following two severely disrupted years. Yet it turns out that last season there was a record total entry across the 12 rankings Singles events. This was partly due to the inclusion of the Challenger event, held for the second time after being introduced in 2019, but the level of support across all events was impressive. The Doubles also had a solid year, maintaining the levels of entry we have seen in recent years. Congratulations to all our tournament organisers for achieving these levels of entry.

Secondly, we see a healthy number of new names featuring in this season's rankings lists. The Singles and Doubles lists have never been longer. And among the Open Doubles names we find six female players – another record – with Louise Mathias leading the way at #44.

Please note that, for these end-of-season Rankings, the values in the 'Previous' column are set to the positions at start of season, so that changes over the whole year are reflected.

In the Singles rankings, Dan Tristao, Ed Kay, and Will Ellison continue to dominate at the top. None of these players has lost a match to anyone except each other since 2018. In addition to winning the National Singles, Dan also won in Scotland, while Ed had a great season, picking up four trophies. The rest of the spoils went to Will (with two titles), Dave Butler (who won in the South East), and Anthony Goodwin, who won the Challenger event. Who will be the first to break into this top three stronghold? Perhaps U25 champion Ben Beltrami, or University champion Andrew Boyd? Maybe, but there still seems to be quite a gap to bridge.

Elsewhere in the Top 10, Tom Watkinson moves up to #6, and Sam Russell, Ben Jourdan, and Cameron Low make good progress in the Top 20. Joe Sumner moves up to #21, but the highest new entry is Marco Skogh at #22 following his win in the North West Plate. In total there are 24 new entries in the Singles rankings.

In the Doubles, Will Ellison returns to the top after an impressive season, winning five of the seven Open titles on offer with a variety of partners, including the National Doubles and the South West with Charlie Brooks. The other Open titles were shared between Ed Kay (two), Dan Tristao (two), Ollie Arnold (two), and Ben Beltrami (one). Ollie also picked up the U25 title with Ben Beltrami, while the University event was won by Cameron Low & Theo Parker.

Our final 2021-22 winners in the two "draw for partner" events, where fewer points are on offer, are Dave Butler & Bart Callaghan (South East) and Enrique Castillo Carbonell & Oscar McIntyre, who won in Scotland.

All these players make strides up the Doubles Rankings. In addition, Tom Watkinson enters the Top 10 at #10, while Ben Jourdan, Cameron Low, Lewis Keates, and Rob Whitehorn all make good progress in the Top 20.

We have 36 new entries, the most there has ever been in an updated Doubles rankings list. James Toop and Gwydion Wiseman deserve mention as the highest new entries at #27.

A lot of the new entries are young players, an encouraging feature of these latest rankings. Included in these are a clutch of new players from recent highly successful Scottish Championships. Joining the lists are Sam Park (Merchiston), Daniel Jourdan, Ronnie Brown, Xander Millar (Edinburgh Academy past and present), Malcolm Borthwick (Caledonian Club), and Dan Swinbank (City of Durham), as well as the Edinburgh Academy coach Hector McFarlane. And good performances in the National Doubles see Ashwin Ahuja and Adam Hicks rewarded with some ranking points.

Congratulations to all! We look forward to similar successes in the 2022-23 season.

## The top 10 in Singles and Doubles May 2022

'Previous' refers to start of season positions

		SINGLES Top 10					DOUBLES Top 10	
Current	Previous	Name	Points		Current	Previous	Name	Points
1	1	D Tristao	98.7		1	2	W Ellison	103.5
2	2	E Kay	94.7		2	3	E Kay	95.7
3	3	W Ellison	94.0		3	1	D Tristao	88.5
4	4	B Beltrami	71.4		4	5	O Arnold	87.4
5	5	D Butler	54.4		5	8	C Brooks	82.9
6	6	T Watkinson	50.7		6	6	B Beltrami	79.2
7	8	J Aquilina	50.0		7	9	T Parker	72.9
8	9	C Brooks	46.7		8	7	D Butler	63.2
9	10	A Boyd	46.3		9	4	D Grant	59.0
10	11	R Murby	42.1		10	14	T Watkinson	58.8

## New Women's Rankings published

30th May 2022

The RFA is delighted to publish Women's Rankings after completion of all of this season's relevant Rugby Fives tournaments.

We have lost some names of significant players who have not been in action for 3 seasons, but there are now 71 players ranked in Singles, 72 in Doubles. Louise Mathias and Martha Nugent dominate at the top in both, but, in the Singles, between #3 and #16 there is considerable movement, with players from school and university making deserved progress.

The same applies to the Doubles where the top 30 players are now predominantly our best school players and those from university present and recent past. Frequent participation in tournaments is beginning to pay off, as can be seen in the rise of Camille Beattie, Holly Nugent, Helena Tunks, Savanna Leboff, Katie Innes, Holly Brown and Cecily Millar.

We await the results from the delayed Ladies' Winchester Fives Singles and Doubles, which will feed into the end-of-season Rankings kindly compiled by Chris Burrows.

Please see below for the Top 20 in Singles and Doubles. The full rankings can be found at <https://therfa.uk/rankings/>.

## Women's Rankings May 2022

		SINGLES Top 20					DOUBLES Top 20	
<i>Current</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>		<i>Current</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>
1	1	L Mathias	89.0		1	1	L Mathias	87.8
2	4	M Nugent	87.2		2	3	M Nugent	74.1
3	9	C Beattie	76.5		3	2	S Zhang	69.2
4	8	S Zhang	68.2		4	13	C Beattie	60.2
5	6	K Sumner	67.3		5	19	S Leboff	59.5
6	7	I Lee	66.9		6	9	K Sumner	54.9
7	3	M Raynor	64.9		7	11	H Tunks	54.0
8	12	H Nugent	63.8		8=	8	K Bell	51.6
9	14	I Wright	61.4			12	I Lee	51.6
10	33	H Brown	59.1		10	7	M Raynor	51.2

11	14	K Bell	53.1		11	6	A Steel	47.3
12	26	K Innes	52.3		12	21	H Nugent	41.5
13	31	S Leboff	52.2		13	48	J McIntyre	39.6
14	-	H Tunks	51.4		14	10	M Kent	37.3
15	25	L Ware	50.1		15	17	L Hogarth	35.2
16	45	C Millar	49.7		16	-	L Ware	34.8
17	10	A Steel	47.2		17	26	I Wright	32.5
18	11	P Thornhill	46.8		18	27	L Hawkins	32.4
19	12	D Redmond	46.6		19	20	S Breese	32.1
20	21	L Arie	46.2		20	44	C Millar	28.9

## National Ladies Winchester Fives Championships

Malvern College

Sunday, 26th June 2022

**STOP PRESS** The twice delayed Ladies' Winchester Fives Championships experienced a further setback when Louise Mathias suffered a serious wrist injury in the Doubles and had to retire, along with her partner, organiser and defending champion Maddy Raynor. This opened up the draw for new champions to emerge: Shinan Zhang in the Singles and Shinan & Helena Tunks in the Doubles.

Report to come

### Players

Shinan Zhang, Louise Mathias, Maddy Raynor, Helena Tunks, Karen Hird, Rachel Wood, Serin Hartopp, Tilly Stevens, Bea Grindal, Ruby Wright, Ellie Barker

### Doubles

#### Round robin:

Zhang & Tunks bt Hird & Wood 15-10; bt Stevens & Grindal 15-2; bt Wright & Barker 15-0

Hird & Wood bt Stevens & Grindal 15-1; bt Wright & Barker 15-3

Stevens & Grindal bt Wright & Barker 15-6

Mathias & Raynor bt Stevens & Grindal 15-0; bt Wright & Barker 15-0; Mathias & Raynor retired 8-8 against Zhang & Tunks

**Final:** S.Zhang & H.Tunks bt K.Hird & R.Wood 11-5, 11-7

**Plate Final:** T.Stevens & B.Grindal bt R.Wright & E.Barker 11-0, 11-8

### Singles

#### Knockout

**Preliminary round:** Wright bt Stevens 11-8

**Quarter-finals:** Raynor bt Hartopp 15-1; Tunks bt Wood 15-11; Hird bt Grindal 15-8; Zhang bt Wright 15-2

**Semi-finals :** Tunks bt Raynor 15-12; Zhang bt Hird 15-4

**Final:** S. Zhang bt H. Tunks 11-2, 11-9

### Singles Plate

S.Hartopp retired (hospital run)

#### Round Robin:

Wright bt Stevens 11-7

Grindal bt Stevens 11-4; bt Wright 11-1

Wood bt Grindal 11-1; bt Stevens 11-1; bt Wright 11-2

**1<sup>st</sup>** R.Wood 33 Points; **2<sup>nd</sup>** B.Grindal 23 Points; **3<sup>rd</sup>** R.Wright 14 points; **4<sup>th</sup>** T.Stevens 12 points

## Derby Moor Invitation Doubles 2022

Derby Moor Academy  
Sunday, 26th June 2022

**STOP PRESS** As usual Brian Kirk organised a superb full day's Fives, with 6 different competitions played out by the end of the afternoon. With guests in action from Berkhamsted, Durham and Manchester, as well as old friends and several home players, there were new names to be added to the Roll of Honour: Camille Beattie the first female to win the main competition; Vishal Singh making his first final; Dan Swinbank and Adam Hicks from Durham meeting in one plate final; young Val Fikhter from Manchester winning the main plate trophy in his first adult tournament; RFA General Secretary Chris Blakeley marking his first visit to Derby Moor with a win in the seniors contest.

Report to come.

### Main Draw

**1st round:** Burt Cundy & Brian Kirk bt Kristians Davins & Val Fikhter 15-9; Richard Christie & Callum Yates bt Chris Blakeley & Wendy Nicholls 15-1; Adam Hicks & Stuart Kirby bt Maddi Gibbons & Martin Nicholls 15-4; Cody Greaves & Dylan bt Julie McIntyre & Dana Wilson 15-8

**Quarter-finals:** Camille Beattie & Lewis Keates bt Cundy & Kirk 15-4; Christie & Yates bt Chris Davey & Dan Swinbank 15-10; Simon Beattie & Vishal Singh bt Hicks & Kirby 15-8; Bally Singh & Oscar McIntyre bt Greaves & Dylan 15-2

**Semi-finals:** C Beattie & Keates bt Christie & Yates 15-10, 15-9; S Beattie & V Singh bt McIntyre & B Singh 15-11, 11-15, 15-8

**Final:** Camille Beattie & Lewis Keates bt Simon Beattie & Vishal Singh 15-7, 15-12

**3rd Place play-off:** Oscar McIntyre & Bally Singh bt Richard Christie & Callum Yates 15-4, 15-5

**Plate:** Kristians Davins & Val Fikhter bt Maddi Gibbons & Martin Nicholls 11-4, 11-2

**Plate for 1st round losers:** Chris Davey & Dan Swinbank bt Adam Hicks & Stuart Kirby 15-8, 15-8

**Inter-Plate play-off:** Kristians Davins & Val Fikhter bt Burt Cundy & Brian Kirk 11-4, 11-2

**Seniors:** Chris Blakeley & Richard Christie bt Stuart Kirby & Brian Kirk 15-13

## End-of-Season Women's Rankings

July 2022

The Rugby Fives Association is delighted to publish the end-of-season Women's Rankings, as kindly compiled by Chris Burrows. They are based on all ranking events going back to the beginning of 2019 so as to take account of the pandemic. Both Rugby Fives and Winchester Fives events are included in these rankings.

The Big Four of Louise Mathias, Martha Nugent, Shinan Zhang and Camille Beattie remain dominant in both Singles and Doubles. There is just the one big jump, made by Helena Tunks, who comes into the Top Ten at Number 8 in the Singles, reflecting her silver medal in the Ladies Winchester Fives Championships at Malvern College in June.

Listed below are the Top Twenty in Singles and Doubles.

In all there are 77 women ranked in Singles and 78 in Doubles. Full rankings can be viewed on the RFA website at <https://therfa.uk/rankings/>

<b>SINGLES</b>				<b>End-of-season</b>	<b>DOUBLES</b>			
<b>Top 20</b>				<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Top 20</b>			
<i>Current</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>		<i>Current</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Points</i>
1	1	L Mathias	88.0		1	1	L Mathias	87.8
2	2	M Nugent	81.7		2	2	M Nugent	73.1
3	3	C Beattie	75.5		3	3	S Zhang	71.5
4	4	S Zhang	74.7		4	4	C Beattie	59.2
5	7	M Raynor	70.0		5	5	S Leboff	58.1
6	5	K Sumner	66.0		6	7	H Tunks	57.2
7	6	I Lee	65.5		7	6	K Sumner	53.9
8	14	H Tunks	63.6		8	10	M Raynor	53.2
9	8	H Nugent	62.8		9=	8	I Lee	50.6
10	9	I Wright	60.4			8	K Bell	50.6
11	10	H Brown	58.1		11	11	A Steel	46.0
12	11	K Bell	52.1		12	12	H Nugent	40.5
13	12	S Leboff	51.2		13	13	J McIntyre	38.6
14	13	K Innes	50.8		14	14	M Kent	36.3
15	15	L Ware	49.1		15	-	K Hird	34.9
16	16	C Millar	48.6		16	15	L Hogarth	33.9
17	17	A Steel	46.2		17	16	L Ware	33.4
18	18	P Thornhill	45.8		18	18	L Hawkins	31.4
19	19	D Redmond	45.6		19	17	I Wright	31.2
20	20	L Arie	45.2		20	19	S Breese	30.8

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## 2021-22 RESULTS ROUND-UP

### SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: C.Brooks & W.Ellison

### SOUTH EAST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Singles: D.Butler

Doubles: D.Butler & B.Callaghan

### YORKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: O.Arnold & E.Kay

**LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021**

Singles: W.Ellison

Doubles: W.Ellison & D.Tristao

**OWERS TROPHY 2021**

Derby Moor Fives

**THE LADY'S CUP 2021**

Charlotte Fletcher & Alex Smith

**WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021**

Singles: E.Kay

Doubles: W.Ellison & E.Kay

**DURHAM LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Singles: C.Beattie

Doubles: K.Bell & S.Breese

**NATIONAL STUDENTS' (BUSF) CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021**

Singles: A.Boyd (Edinburgh)

Doubles: C.Low & T.Parker (Bristol)

**SCHOOLS WINCHESTER FIVES DOUBLES 2021**

Winchester College (M.Cloke Browne & S.Wu)

**LADIES U23 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021**

Singles: M.Nugent

Doubles: S.Leboff & H.Nugent

**CHALLENGER SINGLES TOURNAMENT 12/2021**

A.Goodwin

**NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2021**

D.Tristao

**RFA PRESIDENT'S CUP 2021**

T.Hebblethwaite & E.Thursfield

**WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

U18 Singles: G.Wiseman (Alleyn's School)

U18 Doubles: Winchester (M.Cloke Browne & S.Wu)

U16 Singles: T.Vernacchio (Alleyn's School)

U16 Doubles: Alleyn's (L.Milner & T.Vernacchio)

**NATIONAL LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

Singles: L.Mathias

Doubles: L.Mathias & S.Zhang

**NATIONAL U25 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

Singles: B. Beltrami  
Doubles: O.Arnold & B.Beltrami

### **NORTHERN SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

U18 Singles: S.Beattie (City of Durham)  
U18 Doubles: S.Beattie & O.McIntyre (City of Durham)  
U16 Singles: O.Griffin (Sedbergh School)  
U16 Doubles: C.Beattie & A.Hogarth (City of Durham)

### **NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

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

### **THE VARSITY MATCH 2022**

Men's: Oxford  
Women's: Cambridge

### **NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

Singles: E.Kay  
Doubles: O.Arnold & B.Beltrami

### **WINCHESTER FIVES OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2022**

W.Ellison & E.Kay

### **COLQUHOUN TROPHY 2022**

U18 Singles: J.Lee (Winchester College)  
U16 Singles: A.Cloke Browne (Winchester College)

### **SCOTTISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

U18 Singles: W.Chan (Fettes College)  
U18 Doubles: Fettes College (T.Chan & W.Chan)  
U16 Doubles: Merchiston Castle (W.Gale & S.Park)

### **NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

U18 Singles: S.Wu (Winchester College)  
U18 Doubles: Winchester College (M.Cloke Browne & S.Wu)  
U16 Singles: S.Park (Merchiston Castle School)  
U16 Doubles: Edinburgh Academy (H.Rintoul & C.Swanson)  
U14 Singles: J.Kennedy (Winchester College)  
U14 Doubles: Winchester College (A.James-Duff & J.Kennedy)  
U13 Singles: J.Fienberg (Berkhamsted School)  
U13 Doubles: Berkhamsted School (L.Faulkner & J.Fienberg)

### **NATIONAL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

U18 Singles: C.Beattie (City of Durham)  
U18 Doubles: City of Durham (C.Beattie & I.Wright)  
U16 Singles: R.Ogilvie (Edinburgh Academy)  
U16 Doubles: Edinburgh Academy (R.Ogilvie & O.Smart)  
U14 Singles: A.Bailey (Edinburgh Academy)  
U14 Doubles: Alleyn's School (J.Ho & D.Tiwara)  
U13 Singles: T-R.Foo (Alleyn's School)

U13 Doubles: Stamford School (B.Grindal & T.Stevens)

**NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

Singles: J.Minta

Doubles: D.Fox & J.Minta

**NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

Singles: M.Spillane

Doubles: D.Fox & S.Roberts

**NATIONAL MASTERS' DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2022**

S.Beal & A.Hamilton

**NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS' DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2022**

B.Boag & M.Wilkinson

**NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2022 (Cyriax Cup)**

C.Brooks & W.Ellison

**RUGBY FIVES MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2022**

C.Beattie & N.Whitney

**NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT 2022 (Wood Cup)**

West of England Club

**SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

Singles: D.Tristao

Doubles: E.Carbonell & O.McIntyre

**WINCHESTER FIVES MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2022**

L.Mathias & O.Arnold

**LADIES WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022**

Singles: S.Zhang

Doubles: H.Tunks & S.Zhang

**DERBY MOOR INVITATION DOUBLES 2022**

Camille Beattie & Lewis Keates

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