



RFA President's Newsletter

November 2022





President's Notes:

Greetings to all! This is my first Newsletter since elected as President at the September '22 AGM, the **first woman** to take on the role. I'm delighted to take over this regular update to Members on our RFA activities and will continue with the quarterly tradition (although I realize the last one was in July).

Firstly, I would like to thank **David Parlby**, who stepped down as both President and from the Board in September, for all his work during the last two years, and his previous years as Treasurer. We will continue to progress the strategic objectives he helped to set up, and keep trying to make Fives more attractive, better known and its qualities understood. I would also like to welcome a fellow Winchester Fives player, **Andy Passey**, as Deputy President and a Board member. We all look forward to working with him.

I must also mention **David Hebden** (#onlyhebdenknows), who after more than 40 years of producing the Rankings, has finally stepped down from that role. David was awarded an Honorary Life membership by the Board in recognition for his long service to Fives, not to mention his distinguished career as a player (as a quick glance at the Champions Archive section of the website will confirm).

This newsletter is to keep you updated on what the Board is doing, and how our initiatives are moving forward.



The Board is open to new ideas and fresh approaches, and we are always looking for anyone willing to take on a task or a project. This is particularly so if the project brings income for the RFA! Please remember **Amazon Smile** – we are a charity, and we can benefit from purchases made through this scheme.

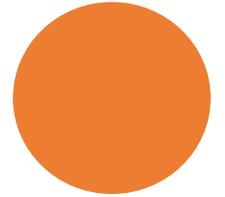
We also feel that the RFA executive should be out meeting players and those in charge of the sport at schools and clubs, so expect to see Andy Passey, Chris Blakeley or myself at major tournaments, and feel free to contact us about any ideas you may have to help with our goals to sustain, nurture and grow our game. As you will read in the report from the last Board meeting there is plenty going on behind the scenes.

Finally, you may have seen on our **social media** channels a little bit of fun that we had up in Durham at Halloween. We have called it “Glow Ball”, and it involved running LEDs around the edges of the playing area, some glow-in-the-dark tape, and playing in semi-darkness with an illuminated ball. Glowsticks on wrists avoid running into one another! All part of making Fives fun for all our players.

If you have any entertaining happenings at your school or club, or Fives stories to tell, then do share them with us by tagging us in on **rfafives** on Instagram or Twitter, or **rfaletsplayfives** on TikTok. You’ll find us on YouTube under **The RFA** where our new “How to play Fives” videos are to be found.

Best wishes,

Julie



A brief overview of the main topics from the last Board Meeting (22 Sept 2022)

Rankings:

Will Ellison has worked with Charlie Brooks and David Hebden to come up with a revised Ranking system for Open tournaments. This is explained in more detail on the website [New updated rankings published – The RFA](#). The new system allows for Rankings to be revised after each major tournament, so will be more fluid. Although women players appear in the Open Rankings, the new system is not currently applied to the Women's Ranking.

Women's Fives:

Louise Mathias has taken on a specific Directorial role for women's' Fives and outlined a number of initiatives designed to promote the women's' game. The objective is to increase both the standard and level of participation in women's Fives in Schools and clubs. Louise proposed that more visible female coaches and role models are required and proposed setting up a team of senior players to run sessions at schools (with an initial trial run at Blundell's). Stoke Newington would also be a target. The RFA board approved a grant to support these initiatives.

Coaching:

A number of requests have been received for coaches and courses. The first target is the **Activator Coach Award**. Instructions are available on the Website, and an online entry and payment facility is being developed. Those completing the Award will receive a certificate and an RFA Activator Coach T shirt. The idea is that these players will then encourage others to try the game, as well as help them with their initial steps. As the National Body for our sport, we believe that we should also be able to run Level 1 and Level 2 coaching courses again, and work is ongoing to determine how and by whom this can be revived.



“How to Play” videos:

Stuart Kirby has produced a series of videos, introducing the basics of the game, which are now on [YouTube](#).

These incorporate the key rules with demonstrations on Rugby, Winchester and Squash Courts.

Stoke Newington:

Matt Hale set up a Community Club at the School, and will be supported by the RFA for a year. (Since the Board meeting we have been able to announce that the Club will play on **Tuesday evenings** between **7-9pm** starting on 8th November.)

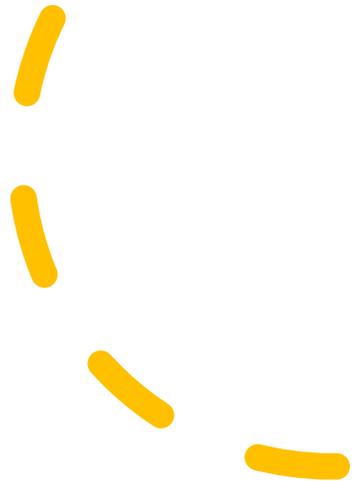
Grant to Eastbourne College:

The Board agreed to contribute £5k to the fund to renovate the 3 courts in use at Eastbourne College. The overall estimated cost of the work is around £42k, and we await confirmation that the remainder can be raised through the College and past alumni.

Other Items:

The **RFA medals** awarded to the winners of our competitions have been revamped, with the current RFA logo and new ribbons. These will start to be awarded once the current medals are used up. A policy specifically aimed at School Leavers is being developed and will be discussed at the next Board meeting (December 15th). The West of England Club is due to discuss the future use of the courts with Clifton College very soon. Also, a study of the economics of Fives courts is underway.

And finally,
we have a
new flyer
to promote
the RFA:





The sport of Fives has a long history in the UK, born out of church walls, now centred in schools, universities and a variety of sports clubs. Its governing body, the RFA, has carefully nurtured, sustained and managed its assets, values and position in the sporting world since 1927. The long-term future of this wonderful sport, full of heritage, is at risk. We cannot rely on others to maintain all the existing courts and encourage the sport.

The RFA is a registered charity whose mission is to support the game and increase opportunities to experience and play Fives. The page opposite details what our main activities are.

These activities need money to provide targeted support. Please join us, or consider a gift.

You can join online on our website:

<https://therfa.uk>

You can also follow us on:

Twitter: @rfafives Instagram: rfafives

The RFA is the Rugby Fives Association, the governing body for the sport. It promotes the provision of coaching and facilities (buildings, equipment, tournaments) for playing Rugby and Winchester Fives. The RFA is a Registered Charity (1136872).

This is what the RFA does:

- **Promote the playing of Rugby and Winchester Fives** at schools, universities and senior levels and throughout the community
- **Support provision of suitable coaching and equipment** to further the game's development across the country
- **Organise club matches and tournaments** throughout the season. We organise National and Regional Championships for adults and schools, in singles and doubles, for male and female players, as well as mixed doubles, and specific age-related tournaments (over 45, 55 and 65 years)
- **Advise on the regeneration of facilities** – and wherever possible support this financially. We are the experts in the design, building, upgrading and repair of Fives Courts
- **Act as a network** to keep Fives players in touch with each other and the places they can play
- **Provide governance for the sport** across all sections of the game
- **Promote the unique character** of the sport, which remains entirely amateur, self-governed, and loyal to the finest traditions of sportsmanship, as well as being one of the few sports to develop hand-eye coordination on both sides of the body.

