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**SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS Preview**  
**Blundell's School, Tiverton, 12/13th July 2014**

Bob Dolby writes: I believe it is the custom for football managers to write 'programme notes' ahead of a match. In keeping with this departure Wayne Enstone has now done the same for this weekend's 30th South West Open at Blundell's.

"This is officially the 30th tournament; however, there will be another 30th for me as organiser in two years' time. This is because I had a couple of years off, one for our daughter's birth in '85 when a very efficient and good friend Geoff Sherratt stepped in and then for my re-hip replacement in 2012 when messrs Lewis, Watson and Rew boldly filled in for me and kept the show on the road.

It was in 1983 that the Exeter Fives Club, after several refreshing drinks in the White Hart Hotel in Exeter, agreed to the tournament being played on their courts at Exeter University. Leaders of the club then were Cedric Clapp and Peter Lewis with able assistants in Phil Maud and Malcolm Bramley. Tim Lewis was in those days assistant to the assistants! How did we ever manage to finish the tournament with just two courts, especially as I think our best entry was 42? My thanks must also go to two of my best friends and mentors in many aspects of life – Fred Beswick, who responded to the concept of a tournament with "What a great idea!", and Danny McGregor, whose company sponsored the buying of the trophies.

Some last words of historical thanks go to Stuart Watson whose company sponsored the tournament for many years; to Douglas Rice for his time given to Fives at Blundell's School and who enabled a seamless transition to their courts when we lost the University ones, to Paul Rivett who took over from Douglas and more recently Bertie Matthew and Chris Hedley-Dent ; and from a sponsorship point of view in more recent times to Nigel Gordon for his support in providing the G6 balls that give us all so much enjoyment."

What Wayne modestly omits to mention is that he won both the Singles and the Doubles in the inaugural year (and 15 times more thereafter). By all accounts this is one of the most enjoyable events of the year, reckoned by some to be the first tournament of the season and by others the last (though the new South East Championship in August will now take on that mantle). Wayne deserves all our warmest thanks for master-minding this tournament, which grew from the Exeter Fives Week, a coaching course he ran previously, and for doing so for so many years.

PS Closer examination of the records revealed that it will in fact be the 31st! Even more impressive.

Previous winners

Year	Singles	Doubles
1984	G.W.Enstone	T.M.Cobb & G.W.Enstone
1985	A.R.Wynn	B.S.Ashton & A.R.Wynn
1986	G.W.Enstone	D.J.Hebden & G.P.Sherratt
1987	G.W.Enstone	D.S.Parlby & J.S.Schroeter
1988	G.W.Enstone	G.C.Reed & N.H.Roberts
1989	G.W.Enstone	G.C.Reed & N.H.Roberts
1990	G.W.Enstone	J.G.Beswick & G.W.Enstone
1991	G.W.Enstone	J.G.Beswick & G.W.Enstone
1992	G.W.Enstone	J.G.Beswick & G.W.Enstone
1993	G.W.Enstone	R.A.Carr & N.H.Roberts

1994	G.W.Enstone	R.A.Carr & N.H.Roberts
1995	G.W.Enstone	P.D.d' Ancona & G.W.Enstone
1996	G.W.Enstone	P.D.d' Ancona & D.J.Hebden
1997	N.H.Roberts	N.H.Roberts & A.G.Wilson
1998	N.H.Roberts	N.H.Roberts & A.G.Wilson
1999	H.Buchanan	H.Buchanan & R.A.Perry
2000	N.H.Roberts	H.Buchanan & R.A.Perry
2001	P.D.d' Ancona	H.Buchanan & D.J.Hebden
2002	H.Buchanan	J.G.Beswick & P.D.d' Ancona
2003	P.D.d' Ancona	H.Buchanan & R.A.Perry
2004	M.T.Cavanagh	H.Buchanan & D.J.Hebden
2005	H.Buchanan	H.Buchanan & D.J.Hebden
2006	M.T.Cavanagh	P.W.Bishop & J.F.Minta
2007	J.P.Toop	J.F.Minta & J.P.Toop
2008	H.Buchanan	H.Buchanan & C.E.M.Jones
2009	H.Buchanan	H.Buchanan & B.Taberner
2010	W.A.Ellison	M.S.Bate & W.A.Ellison
2011	W.A.Ellison	M.S.Bate & W.A.Ellison
2012	D.C.Tristao	G.D.Price & D.C.Tristao
2013	W.A.Ellison	W.A.Ellison & D.J.Grant

## **SOUTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **Blundell's, 12/13th July 2014**

STOP PRESS: Double for Will Ellison and Stuart Kirby. Will Ellison retained his Singles title, beating Dan Grant 7-11, 11-7, 11-2 in the final. Will and Dan then went on to win the Doubles once again by defeating Hamish Buchanan & Chris Burrows. In the Plate competitions Stuart Kirby won the Singles, beating 15 year-old John Halligan in the final, then teamed up with Anthony Goodwin to beat Alexandra Steel & Daniel Hill in the Doubles. On the Sunday Ben Beltrami & Maddy Raynor paired up to win the American Doubles against Alexandra Steel & Jez Sinton. [Full Reports below]

Wayne Enstone writes: Thirty years on and the tournament was still extremely well supported by a good entry and mix of 31 players from colts to vintage age, both male and female, contesting the treasured titles. In the Singles the seeded players won through to the quarter finals. Dave Butler had a hard-fought match against John Beswick whilst Sam Russell pushed Ed Kay in their first game. Equally James Tilston put in a fine performance before losing to Hamish Buchanan.

In the quarters, Will Ellison overcame a determined Chris Burrows by hitting a series of wonderful winners to conclude their match. The seeding was upset when an impressive Ed Kay beat 4th seed Hamish in two games, and Dan Grant was forced into an excellent three-gamer with Ben Beltrami

(this year's National Schools Champion) – what a prospect! John Minta had to work very hard to subdue and eventually beat an ever-improving Dave Butler. In the semi's the 1st and 2nd seeds eventually won through after the spectators had been treated to many exciting shots and rallies.

The Doubles began after the second round of Singles and the new partnership of Minta & Tilston upset the seeding in the quarters by beating Beswick & Enstone who were overpowered by Tilston's hitting. The semi's concluded the day at 7.30pm with Buchanan & Burrows beating a rather tired pair of Beltrami & Kay in a three-game cliffhanger. Ellison & Grant, the holders, indicated that they definitely wanted to retain the title, winning in two.

At same time, the plate finals were both contested by players from Derby Moor Club. In the Singles John Halligan (Colt) played very well; however, Stuart Kirby (Vintage), one of John's coaches, showed that experience does count. Stuart then partnered Anthony Goodwin (RFA youngest Level 2 Coach) to beat James Milnes (ex-Blundell's School) and John Halligan in the semi and Daniel Hill & Alexandra Steel in the final. Thanks go to Bob Dolby (President RFA) who ran the plates and was totally impartial throughout the finals as they were mostly 'his boys'!

On Saturday evening, 31 players and partners retired to the local Butterleigh Inn for excellent drinks and food to revive and prepare worn out players and spectators for the Sunday morning finals and American Doubles tournament.

Thanks go to Alexandra Steel (ex-Blundell's) who very nobly volunteered to organise Sunday's American Doubles, between eight revitalised players. At the end of the round robin, Ben Beltrami & Maddy Raynor (ex-Blundell's) had won the same games and points as Alexandra & Jez Sinton, so it was agreed to have a play-off game, which Ben and Maddy went onto win, an epic mini-tournament.

### **South West Open American Doubles 2014**

Alexandra Steel reports: The American Doubles was a fun affair this year, with a group of eight players participating. The players were: Beltrami and Raynor, Whitehead and Kay, Steel and Sinton, Warner and Dyke. Great fun was had by all, especially in trying to work out who was going to be in charge of keeping score (due to American scoring being a point each rally). We each had our own version of the rules but all managed to ensure a fair game was played. In the end the results were Kay & Whitehead 50 points, Warner & Dyke 57 points, with Beltrami & Raynor and Steel & Sinton joint first on 62 points each. It was then decided – with a little help from Wayne Enstone – that there would and should be a play-off for the winner, albeit some of us thinking that we should flip a coin as the fatigue from the previous day's play was beginning to set in and all players were hobbling around the courts.

The final was then played with Beltrami showing great determination to win, which he and Raynor did. Congratulations to them; it was a successful and highly enjoyable American Doubles mini-tournament. We're now all looking forward to next year.

### **Singles**

First Round: W Enstone bt A Steel 11-3, 11-7; C Burrows bt N Geere 11-2, 11-5; D. Hill bt J Milnes 11-1, 11-1; E Kay bt R Warner 11-1, 11-7; S Russell bt M Raynor 11-0, 11-0; J Tilston bt J Halligan 11-1, 11-7; D Butler bt K Kennerley 11-2, 11-7; B Beltrami bt A Smith 11-0, 11-7; A Goodwin bt J Sinton 11-6, 11-5; R Dyke bt S Watson 11-7, 11-7

Second Round: W.Ellison bt Enstone 11-3, 11-0; Burrows bt Hill 11-4, 11-0; Kay bt Russell 11-9, 11-5; H Buchanan bt Tilston 11-8, 11-4; J Minta bt S Kirby 11-2, 11-1; Butler bt J Beswick 12-10, 11-6; Beltrami bt Goodwin 11-4, 11-5; D Grant bt Dyke 11-7, 11-5

Quarter-finals: Ellison bt Burrows 11-5, 11-2; Kay bt Buchanan 11-3, 11-3; Minta bt Butler 11-7, 11-8; Grant bt Beltrami 5-11, 11-1, 11-4

Semi-finals: Ellison bt Kay 11-4, 11-4; Grant bt Minta 11-3, 11-5  
Final: Ellison bt Grant 7-11, 11-7, 11-2  
Plate: Kirby bt Halligan 15-5

### **Doubles**

First Round: Ellison & Grant bt Halligan & Milnes 11-3, 11-1; Dyke & Sinton bt Steel & Minta 12-11, 11-9; Minta & Tilston bt Goodwin & Kirby 11-5, 11-6; Beswick & Enstone bt Geere & Webber 11-1, 11-4; Beltrami & Kay bt Kennerley & Kirk 11-2, 11-1; Warner & Smith bt Steel & Hill 11-5, 11-9; Butler & Russell bt T Lewis & Watson 11-0, 11-9; Buchanan & Burrows bt Raynor & M Whitehead 11-0, 11-8  
Quarter-finals: Ellison & Grant bt Dyke & Sinton 11-5, 11-4; Minta & Tilston bt Beswick & Enstone 11-3, 11-8; Beltrami & Kay bt Warner & Smith 11-3, 11-2; Buchanan & Burrows bt Butler & Russell 11-0, 11-8  
Semi-finals: Ellison & Grant bt Minta & Tilston 11-6, 11-6; Buchanan & Burrows bt Beltrami & Kay 6-11, 11-8, 11-8  
Final: Ellison & Grant bt Buchanan & Burrows 11-5, 11-8  
Plate: Kirby & Goodwin bt Steel & Hill 15-3  
American Doubles : Beltrami & Raynor bt Steel & Sinton

### **DAVE PARLBY DOES SPONSORED RIDE IN MEMORY OF JEREMY SCHROETER**

RFA member Dave Parlby rode the London 100 Race on 10 August in honour and memory of his great friend and Fives partner (and former RFA Deputy President) Jeremy Schroeter, who tragically died of bowel cancer last year at the very young age of 60.

Dave secured a place on the Beating Bowel Cancer team led by Matt Dawson and asked friends and Fives player to make a donation of whatever size to this very worthy cause by going to [justgiving.com/David-Parlby](http://justgiving.com/David-Parlby).

By the end of the day, on which bad weather forced a shortening of the ride to 86 miles, Dave had raised £2571.43. [By September 10th the total stood at £2,926.43 ]

### **SOUTH EAST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Success for young players at the inaugural event  
25th August 2014

Stop Press: The first ever South East Championships – organised by Ed Hatton – were enjoyed by a good turn-out of 13 players in the Singles and seven pairs in the Doubles . These included a crop of young players and several faces new to the tournament circuit.

It was some of the young players who scored notable successes: Ed Kay beat David Butler (2010 and 2012 National Schools' Singles champions, respectively) to win his first senior Singles title, while Ben Beltrami and Ben Chua (both school-leavers this year) were paired in the President's Cup-style Doubles and went on to take the title with a comprehensive win over Ed Kay and local lad Morgane Spillane, originally a handball player from Ireland. The one exception was the evergreen Tony Hamilton – the oldest player in the tournament – who used all his experience to take the Singles plate, while the Doubles plate was won by seasoned campaigners Tom Kiggell and Nick Woolfenden.

Ed Hatton writes: The inaugural South East Championships attracted thirteen competitors in the Singles and seven pairs in the Doubles . The top seed and Cambridge no.1 Ed Kay made faultless progress through the group stages, and the other top-four seeds of Butler, Murby and Hatton were also comfortable, despite a strong challenge to Murby by Ben Beltrami. Tom Kiggell provided the impressive result of the quarter-finals to defeat Ed Hatton in three, although Theo Parker pushed

Richie Murby hard in the first and produced a storming second game win; however he could not sustain the level and Murby closed the match out efficiently.

The story repeated itself in the semis as Murby could not quite sustain a strong challenge to Dave Butler; then the super-fit man from Durham himself did not quite have enough left in the tank as Kay (a comfortable semi-final winner) came through as a dominant winner in the final. Tony Hamilton battled through a taxing Plate competition to win a group whose combined age was not much beyond his own.

In the Doubles, a gigantic round-robin allowed six guaranteed games for all and a President's Cup-style draw made for some very competitive pairs and games. Unsurprisingly, Kay made strong early progress, ably assisted on the left by Morgane Spillane, only two days clear of laser eye surgery! Beltrami continued his excellent recent form and was well complemented by a reinvigorated Ben Chua, making a successful transition from the Winchester code. In the end they were too much in a final game for the tiring Kay & Spillane and ran out as worthy winners, and possibly one of the youngest pairs ever to win an open tournament. Meanwhile Kiggell and Nick Woolfenden justified their experience with a win in the Plate.

### **Singles**

Group stages:

Kay bt Kiggell 11-0, bt Tickle 11-0; Kiggell bt Tickle 11-1

Butler bt Kent 11-2, bt Parker 11-6; Parker bt Kent 11-1

Murby bt Beltrami 11-6, bt Hamilton 11-2, bt Chua 11-3; Beltrami bt Hamilton 11-5, bt Chua 11-2;  
Hamilton bt Chua 11-3

Hatton bt Waller 11-6, bt Wylde 11-0; Waller bt Wylde 11-5

Quarter-finals: Kay bt Waller 11-8, 11-1; Kiggell bt Hatton 11-9, 6-11, 11-5; Butler bt Beltrami 11-5, 11-3;

Murby bt Parker 11-8, 2-11, 11-0

Semi-finals: Kay beat Kiggell 11-4, 11-1; Butler beat Murby 11-8, 2-11, 11-3

Final: Kay beat Butler 11-2, 11-3

Plate: Hamilton

### **Doubles**

Round-robin stage:

Beltrami & Chua bt Kay & Spillane 15-7, bt Bate & Tickle 15-10, bt Hatton & Bridge 15-8, bt Murby & Kent 15-7, bt Pringle & Hamilton 15-3, bt Kiggell & Woolfenden 15-6

Kay & Spillane bt Bate & Tickle 15-5, bt Hatton & Bridge 15-2, bt Murby & Kent 16-14, bt Pringle & Hamilton 15-5, bt Kiggell & Woolfenden 15-6

Kiggell & Woolfenden bt Bate & Tickle 15-5, bt Hatton & Bridge 15-12, bt Murby & Kent 16-15, bt Pringle & Hamilton 15-7

Murby & Kent bt Hatton & Bridge 15-10, bt Pringle & Hamilton 15-4

Bate & Tickle bt Hatton & Bridge 15-13, bt Murby & Kent 15-7

Pringle & Hamilton bt Hatton & Bridge 15-9, bt Bate & Tickle 15-13

Final: Beltrami & Chua bt Kay & Spillane 15-5

Plate: Kiggell & Woolfenden bt Murby & Kent 15-11

### **JOAN WOOD 1926-2014**

29th August 2014

The RFA is sad to announce the death of Joan Wood. In the words of her son Reeve "Joan passed away peacefully on Sunday 17 August 2014 and is now gardening and galling, jam making and junketing and looking for more interesting quiz questions elsewhere. We hope the bush telegraph is working and Tom and Freddie get prepared for high jinks on the horizon."

David Barnes writes: 1947 was a special year. It was the year in which Joan Inge married Tom Wood, and by happy coincidence it was also the year of the foundation of the Rugby Fives Association Club, whose first AGM, held on September 15th that year, Tom attended and in whose fortunes he and Joan were later to play such an important role.

Joan was, as she liked to point out, one of five children and the mother of five more, so it was no surprise that Fives played a considerable part in her life. And that it certainly did, especially in the 1970s and '80s, when Tom took on the Secretaryship of the RFA Club and set about running it in his own inimitable way. The two of them went on safari to almost every known Fives court – and to some previously unknown ones as well – in those twenty years, and for many people they became the representatives of the game itself. Later, Tom would say “I couldn't have done it without Joan, you know” – and he meant it!

One of Joan's major contributions was in the culinary department. Her catering at various Fives events from the early 1970s onwards was legendary, and Wax Chandlers Hall became the venue for many a happy occasion, welcoming AGMs of both the RFA and particularly the RFA Club with gargantuan spreads, and entertaining John Carey's USA touring teams in royal fashion. Joan also provided copious sustenance for players and spectators at the President's Cup for many years, as well as for early editions of the Winchester Doubles tournament.

The Woods were generous donors of trophies: the Wood Cup for the Inter-Club Knockout, the 'Barnes Bridge' scale model, and the subsidiary trophies for the President's Cup – the 'T' Pot, the Love Mug and Joan's own special Mate's Plate – all bear their stamp. They will always be associated with these competitions, and of course with the RFA Club, which they animated for those two decades of joyous activity, involving unbelievably over 100 fixtures in 1984! They didn't quite attend them all – that would have been impossible, even for them – but they travelled the length and breadth of the kingdom and beyond, even to the extent of organising three enjoyable visits to New England. The 1987 touring team, led by Joan as non-playing manager, were christened 'Joan's Jesters', and a special badge was commissioned for them to wear.



It was typical of Joan that after Tom's death in 1994 she always made the effort to come to Merchant Taylors' for the President's Cup, even when the journey from Epping Green (and back again) on a December Sunday became a real challenge to her. She did it for Tom, and for the pleasure of seeing old friends and new young players taking part in the competition which meant so much to them both. When she finally left Essex to move to Nottinghamshire, the journey became too demanding, but she was still there in spirit, and the Mate's Plate (when available) stood in for her!

Joan was made an Honorary Life Member of the RFA Club and of the Association for her unique contribution to Fives, and she will be remembered with huge affection by all who knew her.



Joan and Tom in the USA in 1987

Those interested to read David Barnes' obituary of Tom Wood should go to <http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/1994-Tom-Wood-1920-1994.pdf>

#### **RFA WEBSITE**

Derby/France, 31st August 2014

The RFA is delighted to announce that its new website – [rugbyfivesassociation.net](http://rugbyfivesassociation.net) – is now live. It will become the online showcase for all things Rugby Fives and, although the two sites will exist in tandem for some time, the new site will eventually replace this one, which has served the Association so well.

The development of the new site has been spearheaded by President Bob Dolby and carried out by Nottingham-based Bubble IT, who also developed the Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club site. The RFA's new site will eventually carry all the news and information that this site has done, but it gives the association more flexibility in terms of what it can publish, as well as giving it a much more 21st-century online face.

As you will see, the new site incorporates more photography than the old site, as well as giving the association the opportunity to embed video and incorporate the new Twitter feed, which will keep everyone up to date with the very latest news in Rugby Fives. For the moment, this site will continue, acting as an Archive, but in time, all the information will be transferred to the new site.

The new site, like the old one, will be overseen by Andy Pringle, and both he and Bob Dolby would welcome any feedback on the website, by clicking on the link below.



## **MATERIALS FOR AGM September 9<sup>th</sup> 2014**

### **THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2014**

#### **General Secretary's Report**

In my report last year I wrote that “we keenly await the first ball to be struck” at the new Cambridge courts. I am delighted to report that many balls have been struck there and those members who have been privileged enough to play there will, I am sure, agree that the University now has a wonderful facility at its disposal. A Cambridge City Club is also currently being developed. Both were given good publicity in May when Jacob Brubert, the current University Captain, appeared on Radio Cambridgeshire for a 15-minute discussion about the game in general and at Cambridge in particular.

Much work has been done, by Stuart Kirby in particular, in monitoring the quality of other courts and advising schools on improvements. Thanks to the generosity of Bruce and Angus Hanton, Alleyn's now have new floors modelled on those at Cambridge and it is hoped that other schools will follow suit. Rossall have two new back walls, St. Paul's will have new lighting, the Derby courts are being enclosed and Stuart has been closely involved in advising on all these. He has also made visits to a number of other schools as well as pursuing the possibility of low cost courts through the use of significantly cheaper materials. The Board is greatly indebted to Stuart for all his time and expertise in handling all these issues. We are concerned about some other venues, UCS and Clifton in particular, and we are proactive in reviewing these situations on a regular basis.

The number of new members has grown significantly over the season thanks to the perseverance of your President in persuading individuals to complete their application forms! With the new Direct Debit system and tiered subscription rates we now have a much firmer base on which to move forward.

We have been delighted by the level of entries into our Championships and in particular by the numbers of young players now continuing to play the game. The British Universities, organised by David Gardner for the 54th time, had one of the best entry levels yet and the South West, run by Wayne Enstone for the 31st time, also had record entries. A resume of the season will appear in the Annual Review so I won't repeat the content here but I would like to record the Board's appreciation to ALL our hard working organisers for their efforts, without which we wouldn't be reporting such excellent entry levels. It is also appropriate at this point to record again our thanks to the Jesters for the grant made available to us to support students and younger members to attend Championships which goes a long way to retaining their interest and involvement with the game.

Apart from our work on the quality of courts, we also monitor closely the health of the game at Schools and overall are pleased with the numbers playing. The South East and Midlands Regional Championships are now firmly established and well supported and it was disappointing that, due to freak weather conditions, the National Schools had to be curtailed to being held over a weekend, with the Under 14's event having to be moved to the beginning of November this year. Given the importance of schools to our game, it was decided that each Board member should have specific responsibility for a number of schools. The aim is to be proactive in maintaining close contact with each school so that we can provide support wherever necessary and deal with any potential problems at an early stage.

Ladies Fives continues to grow well and we now have a very good nucleus of young players. The School Girls' Championships this year was a great success and next season there will a 'Lady's Cup' competition, to be run along the same lines as the President's Cup, which we hope will encourage players of all ages and abilities to take part. Denise Hall-Wilton has decided to stand down from running the Ladies Winchester Fives tournament after running the event since its inception. We are greatly indebted to Denise for all her untiring work and dedication which has laid the foundation for

the today's strength in the Ladies game.

As mentioned in my Financial report, the Board has decided, after considerable research and feedback, that the current RFA website and the Fives Online site do not meet the needs of Members. A new website has been commissioned which will be available from September and we believe that this more flexible and modern site, which is far easier to maintain and to keep up to date, will provide a fresh and dynamic look for members to enjoy.

The Fives Coaching Qualification has continued to develop. We now have nine qualified coaches at Level 2 and seven at level 1. Courses will continue to be held at regular intervals and we are hugely indebted to Wayne Enstone for his boundless energy and enthusiasm in not just running the courses but in his overall input to the coaching structure. We hope that the coaches will be able to use their qualification in opening up new avenues for people to play Fives. The Board will continue to subsidise deserving cases and criteria for grants have now been published. In addition to his involvement in the coaching courses, Wayne ran three masterclasses at Durham, Cambridge and Oxford Universities which the students found hugely inspirational and again our gratitude to Wayne for his time and effort in organising these special days.

Through the 100 Club we have given grants this year to both Edinburgh Academy and Loretto School to assist with the costs of the provision of a coach

As you will see from their report, the Club section continues successfully and the list of fixtures grows each year. Our thanks go to Hamish Buchanan and Ed Hatton for making the fixtures 'happen' and to the Match managers for raising their teams. Next season we want to use the School matches as an opportunity to recruit even more school leavers as we feel that many are still lost to the game when they move on.

Other points to mention are that during the year, all our Equity policies have been reviewed and re-published. David Barnes has been travelling the length and breadth of the country building up our Archives and together with Dave Hebden is working on a 'Census' of Fives courts worldwide. A short insight into their work will appear in the Annual Review which makes fascinating reading.

Throughout all spheres of the Rugby Fives we are so fortunate in having such a large number of willing volunteers who give up their free time for the benefit of the game. Without them we would not be in the strong position that we currently enjoy and we are forever grateful for the work they undertake.

Ian Fuller, General Secretary  
August 2014

THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION  
COMPANY NO:04837244  
BALANCE SHEET  
As at 31st July 2014

GENERAL FUND	2014 £	2013 £
Opening balance	29,232	27,214
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	(1,933)	2,018
Closing balance	27,299	29,232
100 CLUB FUND		
Opening balance	1,505	1,660
(Loss) for the year	(124)	(155)
Closing balance	1,381	1,505
TRAVEL FUND		
Opening and closing balance	869	869
TROPHY FUND		
Opening and closing balance	500	500
JESTERS FUND		
Opening balance	2,521	4,005
Disbursements	796	1,484
Closing balance	1,725	2,521
TOTAL FUNDS VALUE	31,774	34,627
REPRESENTED BY		
Cash at bank		
General Fund	30,393	33,122
100 Club Fund	1,381	1,505
TOTAL	31,774	34,627

For the year ended 31st July 2014 the company was entitled to exemption under section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

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R.Dolby - President  
F W P de Winton - Hon.Examiner

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I Fuller -  
Gen. Secretary

## **RFA Club 2013-14. Report for the RFA AGM: September 2014**

A solid twenty-five matches were completed this season, with sixteen wins and eight losses. With five of these defeats against schoolboy teams this must surely bode well for the future.

Age was a common theme in many match managers' reports, with Tony Hamilton's team against Tonbridge laying claim to be the oldest ever IV assembled for a Club match: it had a mean age of 65 and a half and, with a winning score of 116-81, a fairly mean disposition to boot! In Bedford the OBM's, led by the indomitable Phil Atkinson, had failed to book changing facilities for their RFA visitors. With true Fives determination and ingenuity an alternative facility was provided, namely, the 'old people's home' owned by teammate Chris Ryan. It is not clear whether any of the players involved felt the need to take up residence in said 'home' after the match.

The very popular Winchester VIII fixture involves eight Rugby Fives players taking on eight Winchester specialists on their home courts. The last two years have seen the RFA apparently 'trashed' by 29 points and 'pasted' by 31. This year with a winning score of 237-217 the Club surely 'roasted' the opposition and all enjoyed the wonderful hospitality laid on by the Wessex Club at their local hostelry 'The Queen'.

Many thanks must go to Club stalwarts Peter de Winton and Peter Ross who, after many years' service' are stepping down from match managing to let some youngsters have a go.

The President's Cup was won by first-timers Oli Quarry and James Tilston. Meanwhile another Cup fledgling, Tim Widdop, was taking the 'T' Pot with old hand Jay Gravatt and the evergreen Mark Kiteley completed a Love Mug double. Our gratitude to Gareth Price for his invaluable organisation and to Merchant Taylors' School for the use of their facilities.

Full teams and results will appear in the Annual Review

Hamish Buchanan

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## THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 6.45 pm at the offices of Ashursts, 5 Appold Street, London EC2.

Present: B. Atkinson (Deputy President), D. Barnes, B. Hanton, D. Gardner, J. East, C. Niven, D. Hebden, R. Warner, F. Akerman, A. Smith, and I. Fuller (General Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence had been received from R. Dolby, G. Sherratt, D. Hall-Wilton, A. Steel, P. King, C. Brooks, A. Hamilton, A. Pringle, C. Horrocks, N. Keess, D. Tristao, T. Kiggell, M. Beaman, D. Hebblethwaite, P. d'Ancona, P. Dunscombe, N. Arnott, H. Buchanan and A. Owers.

Before continuing with the next Agenda item the Deputy President read the following message from the President:

“Bonjour, tout le monde!

Please accept my apologies for absence and for prolonging the Meeting by some 90 seconds with this message, brought to you by the Deputy President.

I would firstly like to urge you all to support the various resolutions before you this evening; and secondly I wish to express my warmest thanks to a whole host of people.

Firstly, to those of you attending – for doing better than me;

Secondly, to all those match managers and tournament organizers, present and absent, without whom our competitions would not take place;

Thirdly, to all members of the Board for the various responsibilities they take on out of the goodness of their hearts and without which the RFA would simply not function. That includes, of course, our Honorary Archivist, who answers our every historical query with alacrity and exactitude, and our Honorary Auditor, who keeps us on the straight and financial narrow.

I would like to thank two people by name:

Andy Pringle for the enormous patience with which he has treated my endless questions about the new website. We are very fortunate to have in Andy someone who both understands the technology and can write with such flair.

Then Ian Fuller for the prodigious amount of work which he does for us as General Secretary and as Treasurer. His tasks are rather like the iceberg: some seven-eighths unseen. Working with him this past year has been a tremendous pleasure.

I can assure you that, once returned to the UK, I will continue to thrust membership forms and a pen into every empty hand I spy; I will attend as many of the tournaments – and even matches – as I can manage, and – my new campaign – I will try to back Hamish and Ed up in encouraging match managers to actually get the requisite number of players on court at the appointed time.

I wish you all a swift and smooth meeting.

Bob D.”

2. Minutes of the 87th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were agreed and signed by the Deputy President.

3. Matters arising. There were no matters arising from the above minutes.

4. The General Secretary's report had been previously circulated. There being no questions, the report was accepted.

5. Presentation of the accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014

The Hon.Treasurer's Financial Report and Accounts had already been circulated. J.East recommended that ways should be looked into of reducing postage costs and suggested that the AGM papers could be sent by e-mail in future. IF said that the Memorandum and Articles of Association stated that the AGM notice must be sent in paper form. JE said that they should be revised to accommodate such a change. IF said that the matter would be referred to the Board.

IF reported that the Gift Aid claim referred to in his report had now been received from HMRC.

The accounts were adopted by the meeting.

6. Election of Board members

Resolution 1: "It is proposed that the following Board members be re-elected : C.Brooks, H.Buchanan, P.d'Ancona, I.Fuller, D.Gardner, P.King, S.Kirby, A.Pringle, A.Smith, D.Tristao, R.Warner and Miss A.Steel."

Proposed by D.Barnes, seconded by F.Akerman and approved unanimously by the meeting.

7. Election of Hon. Accounts Examiner and Hon. Archivist.

Resolutions 2 & 3: "It is proposed that F.W.P de Winton be re-elected as Hon. Accounts Examiner." and "It is proposed that D. Barnes be re-elected as Hon. Archivist."

Proposed by D.Hebden, seconded by B.Hanton and approved unanimously by the meeting

8. Any Other Business

D.Gardner informed the meeting that that a notice was being posted on the website today regarding the changes to the BUCS championships and he gave a brief resume of the reasons behind these changes.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.53 pm.

Signed: ..... (President)

Date: .....

## **LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

St. Paul's School, Barnes, 13/14th September 2014

After a successful inaugural South East Open last month, the Big Guns returned to the fray at the London Open, and it turned up some great matches, as well as some very interesting results.

In the Singles, the upsets came as early as the Round of 16, with Theo Parker's good, attacking Fives earning him a three-game victory over fifth seed Hamish Buchanan. Theo then went on to face another former national champ, Matt Cavanagh, in the quarter-finals; and although he started well, he ultimately ran out of steam, so Matt went on to reach the semi-finals.

Here, he was joined by three top seeds, Dan Tristao, Will Ellison and James Toop. Will had made light work of his progress thus far, but Dan had had to overcome a tough challenge from David Butler, while James took three games to dispose of South East champ Ed Kay, with Ed ultimately struggling to cope with James's pace of play.

In the semis, Dan and Will came through, but only after long battles. James, in particular, looked strong in his match with Will, but lost after making more mistakes in very hot conditions. Will's solid form continued into the final, and he took the first game, only for his concentration to lapse in the second, allowing Dan to level the match at one game all.

Dan then took a commanding lead in the third – at one stage up 9-4 – but this time it was Will's turn to 'do a Tristao' on Dan Tristao, coming back to level the third game and, as Dan tired, win it 11-9 to secure the title he last won in 2010.

Sunday's Doubles event may have a low-ish number of entries, but it was an event full of quality. The top four pairs made it through to the semi-finals, but Ben Beltrami & Theo Parker were made to work very hard for their win over Ed Hatton & Oliver Arnold – so it was no surprise that the latter pair went on to win the Plate.

Sadly for Ben and Theo, their prize was a semi against the defending champions, Will Ellison and Dan Tristao, who safely won through to the final. Here they faced Ed Kay & James Tilston, whose strong play (and outstanding serving) had scored them a notable semi-final win over the 2013 runners-up, Hamish Buchanan & Robin Perry.

Ed & James posed a real threat to Dan & Will, but although they started well, they were never able to score a real run of points to really test the defending champs, who went on to retain their title with relative ease.

However, according to our sources, they weren't the most entertaining players on court at St Paul's. No, that honour goes to Seb Woollard, whose 'mad volleys, dropshots and commentary during rallies' provided endless enjoyment for the spectators.

### **Singles**

Round of 32: O Arnold bt J Smith 11-6, 11-5; J Tilston bt D Cloake 11-0,11-0; J Gravatt bt B Chua 11-4, 11-9; J Malde w/o S Woollard

Round of 16: D Tristao bt O Arnold 11-7, 11-2; D Butler bt R Murby 11-5, 11-4; T Parker bt H Buchanan 9-11, 11-6, 11-2; M Cavanagh bt J Tilston 11-2, 11-1; J Toop bt J Gravatt 11-5,11-3; E Kay bt B Beltrami 11-2, 11-3; T Maconie bt E Hatton 11-2, 11-6; W Ellison bt J Malde 11-4, 11-1

Quarter-finals: D Tristao bt D Butler 11-7, 11-7; M Cavanagh bt T Parker 11-9, 11-0; J Toop bt E Kay 4-11, 11-7, 11-8; W Ellison bt T Maconie 11-3, 11-2

Semi-finals: D Tristao bt M Cavanagh 11-7, 11-7; W Ellison bt J Toop 11-9, 11-6

Final: W Ellison bt D Tristao 11-6, 2-11, 11-9

Plate: Beltrami

## **Doubles**

Round of 16: S Woollard & B Ashraf bt J Smith & B Chua 9-11, 11-6, 11-6

Quarter-finals: W Ellison & D Tristao bt Woollard & Ashraf 11-2, 11-2; B Beltrami & T Parker bt E Hatton & O Arnold 11-8, 12-10; E Kay & J Tilston bt D Butler & O Quarry 11-1, 11-6; H Buchanan & R Perry bt J Malde & N Edmonds 11-2, 11-6

Semi-finals: Eliison & Tristao bt Beltrami & Parker 11-6, 11-1; Kay & Tilston bt Buchanan & Perry 11-6, 11-4

Final: Ellison & Tristao bt Kay & Tilston 11-4, 11-7

Plate: Hatton & Arnold

## **OWERS TROPHY**

St Paul's School, Barnes, September 27<sup>th</sup>

The Old Paulines reconfirmed their position as the top club in Rugby Fives, successfully defending the Owers Trophy in emphatic fashion.

Sadly, some last-minute withdrawals meant that just four teams contested the event – the Paulines, the Old Eastbournians, the Old Wykehamists and the Alleyn Old Boys – but arguably they would have been the semi-finalists had the tournament had a bigger entry. All that was different was that this year's competition was decided on a round-robin basis.

Right from the off, though, it was clear that the Old Paulines were a class apart: they demolished the Old Eastbournians (the runners-up just two years ago) in their first match and went on to win all three matches comfortably. In the end, they took the title at a canter, even in the absence of some of their top players.

Instead, the real competition was for the runners-up spot, and it was a mighty close call between all three teams, with all three winning one match each. There was precious little consistency between the results, and much depended on the teams' substitutions, while the order in which the matches were played also had some bearing, as players tired, took more risks or just took things less seriously; but, with the outcome decided on points scored, it was the Alleyn Old Boys who finished as runners-up for the second consecutive year.

The Wykehamists took the Plate after finishing in third place, but thanks to the vagaries of the event, the Eastbournians – who ended up in fourth position – had the consolation of knowing that their one win was against the team who finished second!

## **Scores**

Round-robin: Old Paulines bt Alleyn Old Boys 60-33, bt Old Eastbournians 60-9, bt Old Wykehamists 47-23; Alleyn Old Boys lost to Old Eastbournians 42-49, bt Old Wykehamists 47-42; Old Eastbournians lost to Old Wykehamists 36-44

Champions Old Paulines P3 W3 167 points (Players Ben Beltrami, Tom Dean, Sam Roberts, Sam Russell, Matt Shaw, Dan Tristao)

Runners-up Alleyn Old Boys P3 W1 122 points (Players Jacob Brubert, Hamish Buchanan, Ed Carr, Rocco Sulkin)

Plate Old Wykehamists P3 W1 114 points (Players Will Ellison, Ben Hale, Matt Hale, Tom Watkinson)

4th Old Eastbournians P3 W1 94 points (Players Marcus Bate, Charles Compton, Andrew Meek, Andy Pringle, Joe Tickle)



## **LATEST RANKINGS 6th October 2014**

Ellison and Tristao top latest rankings

Dan Tristao and Will Ellison confirmed their positions at the top of the game in the latest rankings, prepared for the RFA by Dave Hebden. Dan remained at the top of the Singles rankings, while Will kept his top spot in the Doubles rankings.

These rankings take into account results at the South West, South East and London Open Championships, and see Will close on Dan at the top of the Singles rankings after winning both the London and South West Open titles. Meanwhile, South East champion Ed Kay moves up to seventh spot, and David Butler and Richie Murby enter the Top 10 for the first time. The biggest riser was Ben Beltrami, jumping 31 places to 15th, while his fellow Old Pauline Theo Parker climbed 10 places to make the Top 20 for the first time.

In the Doubles rankings, Will maintained his clear top spot, but his South West-winning partner Dan Grant climbed up to second ahead of Dan Tristao and Charlie Brooks. Just outside the Top 10, Ben Beltrami, Chris Burrows and James Tilston all made big jumps, but perhaps the biggest news in the rankings came a little down – in 69th place, in fact, where Alex Steel (a plate finalist in the South West Open) became the first woman to earn a place in the rankings.

## **YORKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Giggleswick, October 11/12t

### **STOP PRESS**

Hamish Buchanan and Will Ellison retained their Doubles title in a repeat of last year's final, resisting a comeback from Dan Tristao and Gareth Price at the end of the third game, winning 16-14 15-16 15-13 in an epic.

Dan Tristao won the Singles, reversing a 15-9 round robin Singles result against Dan Grant to win the final 1-11, 11-6, 11-5.

Neil Roberts beat Maddy Raynor in the plate final, 11-5, 11-6.

### **Doubles**

Preliminary Round: Harrison & Sandie bt Hodgetts & Raynor 15-0 15-0

Quarter Finals: Buchanan & Ellison bt Christie & Halligan 15-2, 15-4, Beswick & Roberts bt Hawke & Robinson 15-3, 15-1, Butler & Grant bt Harrison & Sandie 15-2, 15-2, Tristao & Price bt Baxter & Taylor 15-3, 15-3

Semi Finals: Buchanan & Ellison bt Beswick & Roberts 15-8, 15-12; Tristao & Price bt Butler & Grant 11-15, 15-10, 15-13

Final: Buchanan & Ellison bt Tristao & Price 16-14, 15-16, 15-13

Plate Christie & Halligan 2nd Plate Harrison & Sandie

### **Singles**

The Singles was run as two round-robins of three, then the winner of group A played the runner up of group B, and the winner of group B played the runner up of group A in the semi finals. The bottom player in each group contested the plate competition.

#### **Group A**

Winner Grant (bt Tristao 15-9, Raynor 15-2)

Runner up Tristao (bt Raynor 15-3)

3rd place Raynor

## Group B

Winner Ellison (bt Buchanan 15-3, bt Roberts 15-1)

Runner up Buchanan (bt Roberts 15-9)

3rd place Roberts

Semi Finals: Tristao bt Ellison 11-4, 11-3, Grant bt Buchanan 11-5, 11-7

Final: Tristao bt Grant 11-11, 11-6, 11-5

Plate: Roberts bt Raynor 11-5, 11-6

## **THE LADY'S CUP The inaugural event** Cambridge, October 18th 2014

Ten pairs contested the inaugural Lady's Cup, played on the courts at 'New Portugal Place', i.e. the Sports Centre at Cambridge University. There were four ladies who had never played before, and one player of each sex who had set foot on court just the once, a few days before. At the other end of the spectrum were Kathleen Briedenhann, the National Ladies Singles and Doubles champion, Jacob Ader, the Honorary Secretary of CURFC, Board member Alex Smith and his former pupil Tessa Mills, four-times National Girls' champion, and Dick Warner, multiple silverware winner. Trevor White brought 5 players from Rugby School and also played himself. There were three young players from DerbyMoorFives. And two younger sisters joined in!

At the end of matches in the three pools, contestants were assigned to three different competitions: one for the Lady's Cup, one for the Lady's Plate and one for the Lady's Mug (and Bowl).

In the Mug (and Bowl) Jacob Ader and his partner from Pembroke College, Sienna Tompkins, prevailed over Alex Smith & Bee Richards. Bee and Sienna had never played before. The mugs and bowls came from an artisan potter in southern Burgundy.

In the Plate Kathleen and partner Robyn Schnuir reached the final by beating Trevor White & Georgia Martin (another débutante), while Lewis Keates & Emily O'Malley from DerbyMoorFives beat Tessa Mills and Rachel Snow from Cambridge University. In the final Lewis and Emily (a convert from EF, now studying at Nottingham University) amassed a 7-0 lead, only to see the more experienced Kathleen Briedenhann peg them back progressively and take the spoils, a silver salver and a plate each with a goat on (don't ask!). Emily and Lewis each got an 'I Love Paris' plate.

In the main competition George Romain & Kate Broad from Rugby beat DMF youngster Hasan Rehman and his beginner partner from the University in one semi-final, while next door Rugby's Kirsty Martin & Freddie Evans lost the best match of the day so far against Rugby's top girl Millie Richards playing with Dick Warner. Then, in an all Rugbeian final, Millie and Dick won an even better game with George & Kate, carrying off the silver Lady's Cup and all finalists receiving an egg cup crafted by another Burgundian potter. The match was a fitting conclusion to this event designed, above all, to encourage girls and young ladies to play the game and try their hand in tournaments. Everyone won, and deserved, a prize.

## **Scores**

### **Lady's Cup:**

Semi-finals: Kate Broad & George Romain bt Cameron Jenkins & Hasan Rehman 15-5; Millie Richards & Dick Warner bt Kirsty Martin & Freddie Evans 15-10.

Final: Richards & Warner bt Broad & Romain 15-10

### **Lady's Plate:**

Semi-finals: Kathleen Briedenhann & Robyn Schnuir bt Trevor White & Georgia Martin 15-8; Emily O'Malley & Lewis Keates bt Tessa Mills & Rachel Snow 15-2

Final: Briedenhann & Schnuir bt O'Malley & Keates 15-8

### **Lady's Mug (and Bowl)**

Final: Sienna Tompkins and Jacob Ader bt. Bee Richards and Alex Smith 15-10

## **WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Clifton College, Bristol, 25/26th October 2014

On a long and gruelling weekend 18 players contested the West of England Singles and 17 pairs the Doubles at Clifton College. The weather was kind, the courts were clear and traffic conditions on the relevant motorways relatively benign. The early rounds of the Singles produced one upset and one close match. Jacob Brubert, leading a four-man Cambridge squad, knocked out seventh seed Chris Burrows in the first round, only to fall to the experienced Matt Cavanagh in the next, while Matt Shaw, now up at Cambridge after a year out, got the better of Tom Dean over the course of three games. The quarter-finals went according to seeding, but Dan Tristao had to extend himself to keep Ben Beltrami at bay. Will Ellison had a comfortable semi-final victory over four-times winner James Toop, but Dan T. had once more to fight to defeat Dan Grant over three draining games. Perhaps there was then no surprise on the Sunday morning when the final went to three games once more and defending champion Dan succumbed to Will Ellison 11-6 in the third. These two have now won the title alternately over the past five years. Next up the National Singles where Will will be hoping to complete the 'Winter Slam' (London, WoE and the Nationals) while Dan will be aiming to claim his second Jesters Club Cup.

The draw for the Doubles was swelled by the arrival of 6 players from each of DerbyMoorFives and Oxford University, four from the Deep West and Hamish Buchanan and Jez Sinton from points east. No surprises in the early rounds but Brubert & George's win over Derby youngsters Goodwin & Whitehorn was not easy, nor was Tim Lewis & Stuart Watson's match against the lone Marcus Bate (who then teamed up with Jez Sinton for the Plate once the ex-President had decided enough was enough!). In the quarter-finals Bristol University's new pairing of Arnold & Parker pushed the defending champions Grant & Tristao hard. Both semi-finals went to three games, with an eye-catching performance from Beltrami & Shaw against Grant & Tristao and a devastating 11-0 from Buchanan & Ellison to put Dean & Kay in their place! By 7pm when the Doubles final began Dan Tristao had played 17 games over two days, several of them very demanding. The four people watching wondered whether he could maintain the necessary standard to hold on to the title. The final almost inevitably went to three games and if there was a deciding factor enabling the defending champions to hang on it was Dan Grant's devastating serving and relentless volleying. Alongside all the fireworks on the main courts the Plate competitions went their stately way. Both were contested as 7-man round robins, thus guaranteeing everyone value for money as is now traditional. Ben Beltrami and Theo Parker emerged from the pack to contest the Singles final, where Ben was able to add to his growing collection of existent and non-existent plates, while in the Doubles Anthony Goodwin & 17 year-old Robert Whitehorn could not find enough winners to get past the highly experienced Marcus Bate & Jez Sinton.

### **Singles**

1st Round: O Arnold bt N Geere 11-3, 11-2; J Brubert bt C Burrows 11-8, 11-7; A George bt R Warner 11-4, 11-6

2nd Round: D Tristao bt Arnold 11-3, 11-0; B Beltrami bt I Ackland w/o; D Grant bt G Price 11-6, 11-3; M Cavanagh bt Brubert 11-4, 11-1; W Ellison bt George 11-1, 11-3; M Shaw bt T Dean 7-11; 11-5, 11-5; J Toop bt M Bate 11-3, 11-0; E Kay bt T Parker 11-2, 11-5

Quarter-final: Tristao bt Beltrami 11-7, 11-9; Grant bt Cavanagh 11-0, 11-1; Ellison bt Shaw 11-0, 11-0; Toop bt Kay 11-3, 12-10

Semi-final: Tristao bt Grant 12-10, 10-12, 11-8; Ellison bt Toop 11-1, 11-7

Final: Ellison bt Tristao 11-8, 11-12, 11-6

Plate: Beltrami bt Parker 11-7

## **Doubles**

1st Round: T Hoskins & A Mills bt J Singh & L Taylor 12-11, 12-11

2nd Round: D Grant & D Tristao bt Hoskins & Mills 11-3, 11-4; O Arnold & T Parker bt J Sinton & R Warner 11-2, 11-7; C Burrows & G Price bt R Christie & B Singh 11-5, 11-9; B Beltrami & M Shaw bt D Hill & K Kennerley 11-1, 11-2; H Buchanan & W Ellison bt A Petrenco & O Sales 11-0, 11-1; J Brubert & A George bt A Goodwin & R Whitehorn 11-5, 11-6; T Dean & E Kay bt M Hale & N Whitney 11-1, 11-0; T Lewis & S Watson bt M Bate (no partner) 4-11, 11-4, 11-3

Quarter-final: Grant & Tristao bt Arnold & Parker 12-10, 11-6; Beltrami & Shaw bt Price & Burrows 11-4, 11-4; Buchanan & Ellison bt Brubert & George 11-5, 11-3; Dean & Kay bt Lewis & Watson 11-4, 11-5

Semi-final: Grant & Tristao bt Beltrami & Shaw 9-11, 11-9, 11-6; Buchanan & Ellison bt Dean & Kay 8-11, 11-0, 11-4

Final: Grant & Tristao bt Buchanan & Ellison 11-8, 8-11, 11-6

Plate: Bate & Sinton bt Goodwin & Whitehorn 15-10

## **LATEST RANKINGS: 30th October 2014**

Significant change at the top!

The latest rankings for Singles and Doubles, compiled by Dave Hebden after the West of England Open Championships, show a significant change at the top of the Singles rankings: with his victory at that tournament Will Ellison has overtaken Dan Tristao and now heads both the Singles and the Doubles rankings.

Dan Grant has also overtaken James Toop to go third in the Singles rankings.

Other movers are Ben Beltrami and Matt Shaw, Cambridge freshmen, who have progressed into the top 20 of both sets of rankings, with Ben entering the top 10 for Doubles for the first time. Theo Parker of Bristol University continues to make progress in the Singles as does David Butler in the Doubles.

Hamish Buchanan has moved up to number 4 in the Doubles ranking at the expense of National Doubles champion Charlie Brooks. Charlie is currently recovering from knee surgery.

There are three new entries in the Doubles list: Wayne Harrison, Chayton Kent and 16 year-old John Halligan from the Derby Moor club.

## **NATIONAL U14 CHAMPIONSHIPS [postponed from April 2014]**

St. Paul's, Saturday and Sunday November 1st and 2nd 2014

At the National U14 Championships postponed from April boys from Winchester College won both the Singles and the Doubles titles. In the Plate competitions there were successes for Alleyn's, Whitgift and St. Olave's.

43 players contested the U14 Singles. From the pools 14 players emerged to contest the main knock-out competition, among them last year's U13 champion from St. Olave's, Kameron Swanson. He was joined in the semi-finals by fellow Olavian Charlie Stocks and, from Winchester Tom Kidner and Seb Byers. It was the Wykehamists who won through to the final, where they fought out a high quality three-game match in which Byers finally showed the greater consistency and steadiness.

In the First Plate Cameron Low from Whitgift beat a fellow Whitgiftian convincingly, while in the Second Plate it was Olavian Sohayl Ujoodia who came through against Harry Chapman from Alleyn's.

In the Doubles , played on Sunday, pairs from Winchester, Whitgift and St. Olave's won their way through to the semi-finals. St. Olave's I there recorded a three-game victory over Whitgift I, while Winchester I likewise took three games to defeat the second pair from St. Olave's. The final proved to be one of the best we have seen in this competition: the greater physical and mental maturity brought by the 6 extra months showed in another tough match where the two boys from Winchester who had fought out the Singles final the previous day finally overcame the Olavians.

In the Plate Alleyn's I won a nail-biting final against St. Paul's I 16-14.

### **Singles**

Pool A: 1st S.Byers (Winchester); 2nd W.Hanley (Tonbridge); 3rd M.Cheveley (St Paul's); 4<sup>th</sup> A.Aoki-Seymour (Christ's Hospital)

Pool B: 1st M.Lane (St Olave's); 2nd H.Bunn (Marlborough); 3rd T.Liu (St Paul's)

Pool C: 1st F.Saeger (Winchester); 2nd S.Oliver (Bradfield); 3rd H.Chapman (Alleyn's)

Pool D: 1st K.Mackison (Winchester); 2nd D.Lister (St Paul's); 3rd F.Moore (Bradfield)

Pool E: 1st A.Chai (Blundell's); 2nd S.Prakash (Whitgift); 3rd W.Vickery (Winchester)

Pool F: 1st O.Colbert (Bedford Modern); 2nd S.Marsh (Christ's Hospital); 3rd T.McGowan (St Paul's)

Pool G: 1st C.Stocks (St Olave's); 2nd O.Rista-Brettler (Alleyn's); 3rd S.Mohanathan (Whitgift)

Pool H: K.Swanson (St Olave's) 2nd J.Kim (St Paul's); 3rd J.McLaurin (Blundell's)

Pool I: 1<sup>st</sup> L.Dautlich (Alleyn's); 2nd J.Woodman (Winchester)

Pool J: 1st V.Amin (Winchester); 2nd F.Walter (St Paul's); 3rd R.Etwaroo (Whitgift)

Pool K: 1st J.Sumner (Bedford Modern); 2nd R.Jackson (St Paul's); 3rd W.Hirth (Alleyn's)

Pool L: 1st T.McCleery (Winchester); 2nd A.Cochrane (Alleyn's); 3<sup>rd</sup> B.Lederman (Marlborough)

Pool M: 1st H.Grainger (St Paul's); 2<sup>nd</sup> C.Hughes (Tonbridge); 3rd M.Ward-Perkins (Christ's Hospital)

Pool N: 1st T.Kidner (Winchester); 2nd C.Low (Whitgift); 3rd S.Ujoodia (St Olave's); 4<sup>th</sup> M.McDowall (St Paul's)

1st round: Saeger beat Lane 11-5; Mackison beat Chai 11-7; Stocks beat Colbert 11-0; Swanson beat Dautlich 11-1; Sumner beat Amin 11-3; McCleery beat Grainger 11-6

Quarter-finals: Byers beat Saeger 15-3; Stocks beat Mackison 15-4; Swanson beat Sumner 15-11; Kidner beat McCleery 15-4

Semi-finals: Byers beat Stocks 15-6; Kidner beat Swanson 15-1

Final: Byers beat Kidner 4-11, 11-3, 11-8

First plate: Low

Second plate: Ujoodia

### **Doubles**

1st round: St Paul's IV beat Alleyn's II 16-15; Blundell's beat Winchester IV 15-0; Tonbridge beat St Paul's III 15-8. 2nd round: Winchester I beat St Paul's IV 15-0; Whitgift II beat Marlborough 15-8; Blundell's beat St Paul's II 15-11; St Olave's II beat Christ's Hospital 15-0; Bedford Modern beat St Paul's I 15-9; Whitgift I beat Winchester III 15-4; Winchester II beat Alleyn's I 15-7; St Olave's I beat Tonbridge 15-3.

Quarter-finals: Winchester I beat Whitgift II 11-1, 11-1; St Olave's II beat Blundell's 11-6, 11-1; Whitgift I beat Bedford Modern 11-3, 11-7; St Olave's I beat Winchester II 12-10, 10-12, 11-3.

Semi-finals: Winchester I beat St Olave's II 8-11, 11-6, 11-7; St Olave's I beat Whitgift I 11-12, 11-7, 11-7

Final: Winchester I (Byers/Kidner) beat St Olave's I (Stocks/Walton) 11-2, 11-8

Plate: Alleyn's I (Chapman/Rista-Brettler)

**RFA v. WFA – Victory for the RFA**  
Winchester College, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014

Harry Akerman reports: We had a cracking match at Winchester today between the RFA and the WFA. Last year we lost by 20 points and although this time we lost by 27 points there were many many good games. Only in four of the 20 matches did the losing pair not get at least 8 points and can be seen from the attached scores no one pair let themselves down. Thanks very much to those who came a long way for this match: David Butler from Durham, Stephen Coffey from Malvern, Ben Beltrami and Ed Kay from Cambridge and most of the rest from London. It is an excellent fixture and, of course, next year the WFA team will be leaner and fitter, looking for revenge!

**Scores (WFA names first):**

W. Ellison & W. Akerman beat S. Roberts & H. Buchanan 15-6, 10-15; lost to E. Kay & B. Beltrami 8-15; beat M. Cavanagh & G. Price 15-12; beat J. Tilston & C. Burrows 15-10 (63-58)

D. Butler & E. Hawke lost to Kay & Beltrami 11-15, 13-15; lost to Cavanagh & Price 8-15; beat Tilston & Burrows 15-9; lost to Roberts & Buchanan 10-15 (57-69)

M. Mohammed & H. Akerman lost to Cavanagh & Price 15-9, 6-15; beat Tilston & Burrows 16-14; lost to Roberts & Buchanan 10-15; lost to Kay & Beltrami 10-15 (57-68)

J. Pearce-Smith & S. Coffey beat Tilston & Burrows 15-10, 15-8; lost to Roberts & Buchanan 4-15; lost to Kay & Beltrami 6-15; lost to Cavanagh & Price 13-15 (53-63)

RFA win 258 – 230

**BUSF CHAMPIONSHIPS - preview**  
Sherborne School, 21st/23rd November

The organisers of the British Universities & Student Fives (BUSF) Championships – as previously announced, the first such event to be held for some time without the support of BUCS – which will be held at Sherborne School have great pleasure in publishing full details of the tournament, including the draws for both the Singles and Doubles championships.

In the Singles, the seedings predict a repeat of last year's final – eventual champion Dan Grant of UCL against Cambridge's Ed Kay. However, there is a very talented crop of players in the event, with seasoned campaigners like David Butler (Durham), Jacob Brubert (Cambridge) and Chris Burrows (Imperial) joined by freshmen Matt Shaw and Ben Beltrami (both Cambridge) and Theo Parker of Bristol.

In the Doubles, meanwhile, the top seeded pairs are both from Cambridge: defending champions Kay & Brubert and newcomers Beltrami and Shaw, who already ranked inside the national Top 20. Their biggest challenges look set to come from Butler & Russell (Durham), Grant & Chase (UCL) and Bristol's Parker & Arnold.

**RFA SCHOOLS WINCHESTER FIVES – Doubles title for Derby Moor**  
Winchester College, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014

David Barnes reports: Six schools entered pairs for this year's competition, including welcome newcomers to the event from Bedford Modern School. The first round contained some good matches, the outstanding one being the three-game battle of the second pairs from Winchester and Derby Moor, eventually won by the Midlanders.

The closest match of the day came in the quarter-finals, as St. Paul's 3 squeezed past a good Malvern pair by 16-14 in the third game. Winchester 1, having disposed of St. Paul's 2 in the quarter-finals,

were unfortunate in that their best player was recovering from illness and was consequently short of practice and fitness, spoiling what might have been a classic semi-final between them and the very competent top Derby Moor pair. In the other semi, St. Paul's 1 were strongly challenged by their third pair but came home slightly unconvincingly in two close games.

The final was a good one, if not a classic. Derby started nervously but then put together a solid run of points to win the first game comfortably. In the second game they built up a good lead but were then pegged back in typical fashion by the Paulines, who fought as hard as many of their distinguished predecessors but just failed to maintain the pressure, the Derby boys managing to keep it together and take the game 15-13, and with it the match. This was Derby Moor's first win in this competition, indeed their first success in an National U18 competition, and it bodes well for them in the Rugby Fives events later in the season.

St. Paul's and Derby also contested the Plate final, with a repeat of the first round match between their respective second and third pairs. The result was rather a good game, with the same outcome as before but the score a lot closer!

Many thanks to Winchester College and Giles Munn in particular for hosting the event, and congratulations to all competitors – many of them comparatively inexperienced – on their enthusiasm and the excellent spirit in which their matches were conducted.

### **Scores**

1st Round: Winchester III bt Bedford Modern 15-9, 15-11; St. Paul's II bt Derby Moor III 15-6, 15-3; Derby Moor II bt Winchester II 15-6, 11-15, 15-9; St. Paul's III bt Marlborough 15-10, 15-6.

Quarter-finals: Derby Moor I bt Winchester III 15-8, 15-2; Winchester I bt St. Paul's II 15-9, 15-9; St. Paul's I bt Derby Moor II 15-4, 15-7; St. Paul's III bt Malvern 16-15, 13-15, 16-14.

Semi-finals: Derby Moor I bt Winchester I 15-9, 15-5; St. Paul's I bt St. Paul's III 16-14, 15-10.

Final: Derby Moor I (R Whitehorn & J Halligan) bt St. Paul's I (Z Jopling & M Nunes) 15-6, 15-13.

Plate final: St. Paul's II (H Mahajan & S Bhushan) bt Derby Moor III (M Blunden & B Singh) 15-13.

### **BUSF CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Sherborne School, 21st/23rd November

The 55th championships were the first to be held totally under the auspices of the RFA, writes David Gardner, since BUCS recently adopted a policy of getting rid of minority sports which could not command a large entry, in order to concentrate on major-participation events.

Such a move has involved an enormous amount of work for the organisers, but, in the end, another highly successful event has been completed. Entries were down a bit, as anticipated, and for various reasons, the number of Universities was smaller. We hope that this number will rise again next year.

37 entered the Singles and 19 pairs were in the Doubles, representing seven institutions. The major players on the scene were Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and UCL as always, but it was pleasing to see enthusiasm continuing to rise in Bristol and further representation from Imperial and Bath.

Missing sadly this year were Birmingham and Edinburgh but we hope they will be back! We do need to keep trying to trace schoolboys that go to the smaller universities and encourage them to keep playing. Everyone can help with this, so please let me know names if you have details.

In the Singles, Dan Grant of UCL was in a class of his own and conceded few points throughout the event in winning a hat trick of titles and his fourth in five years. In the Plate event Theo Parker from Bristol had an equally comfortable victory.

The Doubles was far less predictable and there were four or five extremely strong pairs in contention for the title. Quite often a pair has one strong and one medium player. Not so this year where Cambridge, UCL, Bristol and Durham all had quality pairs.

The top four seeds met in the semi-finals where the Holders, looking for their third title in a row, were narrowly defeated by UCL, represented by Dan Grant & Tom Chase. In the other half the 'Young Pretenders' to the throne, Ben Beltrami & Matt Shaw, were quietly, but forcefully, wending their way through the field and finally emerged victorious in the final after a gripping match which gave them the title in their first year at Cambridge.

The Plate final was an all Oxford affair, but it was no walk-over. Matt Hale & Oliver Sale finally emerged the winners in a long three-game match.

Our thanks are due to all the Organisers who give so freely of their time; to Sherborne School for hosting the event, for the eleventh occasion; to Messrs Barnes & Gardner for adding to the silverware by giving new Plates; and to President Dolby for giving them all away!

For a colourful account of much of the three days' play see the RFA Twitter feed.

For 212 photos (!) of the event go to <https://www.facebook.com/rugbyfives>. See also a smaller selection on our Gallery ('Season 2014-2015') at <http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/gallery/>, as well as a dedicated gallery '2014 November BUSF' at <http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/gallery/>. Our thanks to photographers Dan Grant and David Barnes.

Videos of the Singles and Doubles finals are now posted. See <http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/videos/>.

## **Results**

### **Singles**

Round 1: S Esin (Imperial) bt J Tugwell (UCL) 15-12, 15-9; O Arnold (Bristol) bt O ) 15-5, 15-0; T Hoskins (Oxford) bt D Taylor (Bristol) 14-16, 15-7, 15-9.

Round 2: D Grant (UCL) bt A Horsewood (Oxford) 15-3, 15-5; J Ader (Cambridge) bt S Woollard (Durham) 15-10, 16-15; J Malde (Cambridge) bt T McCahon (Durham) 15-11, 15-9; C Burrows (Imperial) bt T Nixey (UCL) 15-0, 15-0; M Shaw (Cambridge) bt D Bateson (Durham) 15-2, 15-0; Arnold bt Esin 15-1, 15-4; T Chase (UCL) bt D Robson (Durham) 15-2, 15-0; B Beltrami (Cambridge) bt O Even (Oxford) 15-1, 15-1; D Butler (Durham) bt B Mills (Oxford) 15-3, 15-4; R Law (Cambridge) bt Hoskins 15-3, 15-6; O Quarry (Durham) bt Taylor 15-4, 15-2; J Brubert (Cambridge) bt W Yates (Oxford) 15-0, 15-0; T Parker (Bristol) bt T Bury (Cambridge) 15-5, 15-7; S Russell (Durham) bt N Whitney (Oxford) 15-5, 15-3; B Ashraf (Durham) bt E Griffiths (Bath) 15-0, 15-0; E Kay (Cambridge) bt M Hale (Oxford) 15-2, 15-0.



Round 3: Grant bt Ader 15-7, 15-4; Burrows bt Malde 16-15, 15-0; Shaw bt Arnold 15-6, 15-8; Beltrami bt Chase 15-4, 15-2; Butler bt Law 15-2, 15-0; Brubert bt Quarry 15-10, 15-5; Russell bt Parker 11-15, 16-15, 15-6; Kay bt Ashraf 15-4, 15-2.

Quarter-Finals: Grant bt Burrows 15-7, 15-9; Beltrami bt Shaw 15-13, 15-5; Butler bt Brubert 15-13, 15-2; Kay bt Russell 15-12, 15-3.

Semi-Finals: Grant bt Beltrami 15-3, 15-7; Kay bt Butler 5-15, 15-9, 15-7.

Final: D Grant (UCL) bt E Kay (Cambridge) 15-1, 15-1.

Singles Plate Final: T Parker (Bristol) bt B Ashraf (Durham) 15-2, 15-1

## **Doubles**

Round 1: Davies & George-Carey (Bristol) bt Chandra & Nixey (UCL) 15-3, 15-3; Hoskins & Horsewood (Oxford) bt Ibbetsen & Tugwell (UCL) 15-8, 15-10; Even & Yates (Oxford) bt Robson & Bateson (Durham) 15-10, 15-8.

Round 2: Kay & Brubert (Cambridge) bt Davies & G-Carey 15-11, 15-7; Quarry & Ashraf (Durham) bt Hale & Sale (Oxford) 15-6, 15-0; Butler & Russell (Durham) bt Whitney & Mills (Oxford) 15-0, 15-5; Grant & Chase (UCL) bt Bury & Law (Cambridge) 15-6, 16-14; Parker & Arnold (Bristol) bt Woollard & McCahon (Durham) 15-1, 15-0; Malde & Ader (Cambridge) bt Hoskins & Horsewood 15-1, 15-7; Burrows & Esin (Imperial) bt Even & Yates 15-1, 15-6; Beltrami & Shaw (Cambridge) bt Griffiths & Taylor (WoE) 15-0, 15-0.

Quarter-Finals: Kay & Brubert bt Quarry & Ashraf 15-2, 15-6; Grant & Chase bt Butler & Russell 16-14, 15-4; Parker & Arnold bt Malde & Ader 15-8, 15-7; Beltrami & Shaw bt Burrows & Esin 15-1, 15-8. Semi-Finals: Grant & Chase bt Kay & Brubert 15-16, 15-10, 15-10; Beltrami & Shaw bt Parker & Arnold 15-8, 15-12.

Final: B Beltrami & M Shaw (Cambridge) bt D Grant & T Chase (UCL) 15-4, 15-12.

Doubles Plate Final: M Hale & O Sale (Oxford) bt T Hoskins & A Horsewood (Oxford) 3-15, 15-13, 15-13.

## **NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP Draw published for last 16**

December 6/7th, Manchester Y Club

The draw for the National Singles Finals has now been made, and it promises to be a fantastic weekend. They will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> in Manchester, with players from five regions joining the four automatic entrants.

The regional winners (Ollie Arnold – West, Dave Butler – North, Richie Murby – Scotland, Gareth Price – London, Anthony Goodwin – East) and the other qualifiers will be joined by Matt Cavanagh, Dan Grant, defending champion Dan Tristao and number one seed Will Ellison. The finals of the main competition and plate will be held on Sunday at 10.00.

There are some tasty line-ups to look forward to, right from Round 1. Can Dan defend his title? Does Will's No. 1 seeding give him an extra edge this year? Where will the upsets be?

There will also be a promotional video being filmed throughout the weekend, to show off how brilliant Fives is. This will include a Fives clinic after the finals for anyone, especially some local youngsters, to give the game a go – any volunteers to help out and get involved are more than welcome.

The tournament itself will form a large part of the video, but there will also be some interviews with players and spectators to explain the game! The RFA would strongly encourage anyone who's around in Manchester to come along and get involved!

Finally, we'll also be reporting on the tournament live. As always you can follow our Twitter and Facebook coverage (@rugbyfives) but this year we'll also be doing live updates of all completed games this website. Stay tuned!

### **NATIONAL SINGLES : Ellison's title – how it happened...**

Manchester 6<sup>th</sup>-7th December 2014

#### **12:36. Final – Ellison bts Grant 10-15 15-10 15-3**

Daniel Grant comes out all guns blazing, capitalising on a slightly nervous start from Will. A flurry of volleys and nicks lead him to a 13-2 lead. Will then found a bit of form and slowly clawed back, but Grant closed it out 15-10.

The second game started off very close with neither player building any real lead. Both players neck and neck until 8-8. The crowd had a feeling the next points could be decisive and it was Will who registered a lead, then closing out the game 15-10.

Will picked up the third game where he left off, noticeably keeping the rallies long as he saw Dan beginning to tire and cramp. But then Big Will himself also succumbed to cramp, but by this stage the lead was already insurmountable and Will closed it out, sealing his first national Singles title (out of 5 attempts) much to the delight of the crowd, his fiancée and his father.

Congratulations to both players but in particular Will – the first Old Wykhemist to ever hold the accolade.

#### **Plate round-up**

It was a plate of great quality this year. 8 fantastic players went at it hammer and tongs.

In the quarter finals it was Goodwin, Bate, Parker and Arnold who prevailed over Price, George, Russell and Aquilina respectively.

The semis featured one easy-ish game for Marcus Plate and a real epic for Bristol pair Arnold and Parker. It went right down to the wire but it was Theo who won 15-13.

The final was another three game classic and plate fans will be pleased to hear we filmed it all. Marcus took the first game and looked the man of the hour, but Theo played out of his skin, took the

second and then, with his powerful right, the third as well. No doubt this will be a huge rankings boost for him. Sadly the national plate still eludes the plate king.

20:13. Semi-Final – Grant bts Tristao 13-15 15-10 15-8

In the far closer semi-final the bottom half of the draw saw Dan T face Dan G.: No.2 vs No.3. Grant had decided to clunk it into 5th this time, but it wasn't enough at the beginning of game 1 as DT took a heavily early lead with some great nicks. But Grant rallied and dug deep and pulled it back to 13-13. Then, at a crucial moment, Tristao pulled off one of the most outrageous drop shots we've ever seen to get back on the receiving end where he managed to close out to 13.

The second game was a strange affair. Grant came out strong and managed to exploit a bruise that DT had been nursing all season. Half-way through the game the pain became too much and Tristao began to serve left-handed. He lobbed everything up with his right hand and this tactic almost worked. He claws it back from 9-0 down to 10-9 up. But then Grant stopped trying to hit it right, played his normal game and closed out.

Game 3 was also odd. Dan T had now padded up but still didn't have the feel. Both players were visibly tired and a lethargic performance of grinding the other down saw Grant nudge to victory with slightly more energy and two good hands. He makes his first national final where he'll play Ellison tomorrow morning. [Only the second OMT to do so, since Paul Smith in 1956. Ed]

17:21. Semi-Final – Ellison bts Minta 15-1 15-2

Ellison continues his world no.1 dominant form. There's not much to say really, Will smashed him. John screamed twice though and there were definitely a few decent back and forths. Sadly the Mancunian crowd didn't have an effect, we'l, maybe 3 points of effect.

Meanwhile in the audience legend and past champion Phil Bishop makes a welcome appearance after excruciating back pain absence.

Filming for the promos continues. We have crane shots and track shots – we think it's gonna look half decent!

16:43. Quarter-Final – Grant bts Butler 15-13 15-12

Once again Butler proves his worth by retrieving impressively. His tasty little drop shot also works a treat. But as a below par Grant goes down again, he clunks it into 4th, makes a comeback and takes first game.

The second is a similar state of affairs and as the last ball struck Grant bee-lines his towel and Butler collapses into recovery mode. Grant now plays Tristao I'm the semi. Hopefully it'll be a better match than when they played the semi last year.

16:01. Quarter-Final – Tristao bts Murby 15-6 15-7

Into the lower half of the draw, and defending champion Dan Tristao has Richie Murby (winner of the Scottish qualifier) as his next opponent. Straight away, there are cracking rallies with superb retrieving from all over the court. Scotland's finest initially manages to stick with Dan, but only for the first half of the game, as the reigning champ gradually increases the pressure to force more errors. The second game follows a similar pattern with both players coming up with fantastic shots at the end of huge rallies, but Dan has enough in the tank to come through to 6 & 7.

13:10. Quarter-Final – Minta bts Cavanagh 4-15 15-9 15-5

Over on court 2, John Minta and Matt Cavanagh, seeded 5 and 4 respectively, had another epic battle. The 'veterans' of the tournament have played each other at this stage for the last few years, and, true

to form, there was little to choose between them as John levelled the match at one game all. The home court advantage, and local support were clearly proving an inspiration. He came out firing in the third and Matt couldn't stay with him; last year's result was reversed and John goes on to face Will in the semis.

14:45. Quarter-Final – Ellison bts Buchanan 15-1 15-2

In the first quarter final, number one seed Will Ellison took on multiple former champion Hamish. An increasingly partisan crowd couldn't prevent Will from dominating from the start and putting Hamish and his injured knee under immense pressure. Onlookers remarked that he was looking "ominously good", but a long way to go yet. Will duly closed out the match 15-1, 15-2 to storm into the semi-finals where he meets the winner of Minta and Cavanagh...

13:54. Round 1 – Murby bts Price 15-1 11-15 15-5

Price reports, "The first game was just horrible. Murby must have been thinking, "who is this jerk?" The second was a real crowd pleaser, from a long way down Gareth rallied hard, made Scot tired and came through nicely. The third was close for 5 minutes, then Gareth's legs packed in as only they can do. Murby progresses to the quarter where he'll play Tristao. He'll need to play stronger off his left hand though and maybe tone down the beach wear.

13:08. Round 1 – Buchanan bts Parker 10-15 15-3 16-15

What a game! Theo on fire in game 1 and powers the stalwart Buchanan off the court. Parker has some remarkable shots but is famously fragile when it comes to a winning mentality. He capitulates in the second.

The third game has the whole crowd on edge and cheering in excitement. Parker gets the first 2 match points, but Hamish saves them – once with width and once on an agonising Parker blunder. Hamish takes no prisoners on his match point and Parker dumps one under the bar. Cracking game, long and exciting!

12:08. Round 1 – Cavanagh bts Arnold 15-3 15-3

It's a case of age over beauty here, which is immediately debatable. Oli confesses he never really got into the game and his right hand was back to it's old self. If you don't know Oli, that means his right hand is rubbish.

Matt brought it out of him though, clever play and good retrieval off the power left saw Cav progress to the quarters.

11:46. Round 1 – Grant bts George 16-14 15-5

Well, this one looked like an upset! Grant certainly not up to recent form was making errors and being outplayed by George, who had really upped his game. Great retrieval from Adam resulted in several costly unforced errors for Grant. But at 14-9 down Grant dug his heels in, clunked it into third and closed out the next 7 points.

The second game was more in line with the seeding and Grant closed it out easily enough, surely George is a great contender for the plate now.

11:21. Round 1 – Tristao bts Goodwin 15-7 15-4

A good win for Tristao. Good win. GOOD WIN. Geddit?! The Derby Moor lefty played his game but sadly was against Dan, who forced too many errors from our National Final debutant. Anthony has great power on his left hand but couldn't quite find the right width today – the result – too many set-ups for Danny T.

Anthony joins Sam and Jules in the plate.

10:30. Round 1 – Minta vs Aquilina 15-9 15-5

Julian made the fatal error of having heavy eggs on toast this morning and it showed. He got off to a slow start compared to John, who had already been in the gym for half hour.

There were good rallies, especially in the first game, but John was too strong. Good to see the tattooed beast back on formidable form

10:15. Round 1 – Ellison vs Russell 15-2 15-1

Sam was steady out the blocks and played okay, but lessons learnt against Ellison who dominated the court with aggression and consistency. Ellison had prepared for this finals weekend impressively. He had been playing lots, running with a PT and wounding as many players possible along way.

Prospects look good.

Russell can take pride by both not being injured Will and making his first finals. The first of many we hope. We'll see him again in the plate later on.

## **LADIES' NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

St. Paul's School, Barnes, 7th December 2014

### **Claire Knowles wins record 12th Ladies Singles title**

The Ladies Nationals was a very successful event this year, writes organiser Alex Steel, with many new and returning faces. As usual, it was an excellent day for the ladies and, with the improving standard, I only expect to see more ladies entering more competitions throughout the year.

As usual, the participants spanned the country: Kathleen Briedenhann and Tessa Mills from Eastbourne; Alexandra Steel, Sarah Greasley and Katarina Valieva from London; Maddy Raynor from Devon; Louisa Hotson from Oxford; Millie Richards, Kate Broad, Kirsty Martin and Lottie Harbottle from Rugby; and Claire Knowles from Manchester. I was especially impressed that the girls from Rugby still came to the competition despite an impending Carol Concert the same evening.

The day started off with the Doubles and it was a round-robin, as we only had five pairs. Each game was to 15 and all were of excellent standard. Sarah and Louisa, newly paired, worked well together and enjoyed their matches, getting used to each other's play within only a few games. Both Sarah and newcomer Louisa showed great potential, skill and love for the game, and we hope to see them at more competitions.

The standard of all the Rugby School girls was very impressive indeed. Their ability to move around the court and return fast, hard balls has improved greatly in a year. I feel that, if they continue to train under the watchful eye of Trevor White (currently) and then hopefully afterwards, they will quickly become major players in the Ladies circuit. The final of the Doubles was between Alexandra & Maddy and Kathleen & Tessa. It was two games of absolute blood, sweat and tears, with fantastic rallies, skilled shots and power! Kathleen and Tessa, an experienced pair, put their known strengths to

good use against first-time partners Alexandra and Maddy, who used their experience of training in Devon together effectively.

The match was fought extremely hard by both pairs and was a lot of fun, with Kathleen and Tessa finally winning 15-6, 16-15. Although the second game was valiantly fought by Alexandra and Maddy, who were not willing to give up, and the game included about 10 match points on both sides, it was won by a little drop shot return by Tessa. Well done, girls.

The Singles started during the final of the Doubles , as a few ladies had to get home. It was as exciting as the Doubles with all ladies showing a high standard of Fives. The Singles was a knock-out round with all girls playing 1 game to 15. Big News this year was the return of Claire Knowles, playing in the Singles only but hopefully returning to Doubles soon, too. Claire has been out of the game (competition-wise) for a few years through injury, but has been working slowly on getting back on court and it does not look like she has been out of action at all.

Claire beat Lottie Harbottle to make it through into the semi-finals, where she then faced Number 1 seed Kathleen. It was an exhausting match to ref, let alone play, and although Kathleen tried valiantly to defend her title, she was exhausted from the Doubles final and Claire capitalised with clever, hard shots, winning by 15-5 and moving her to her first final since 2011.

At the other end of the draw, Millie Richards (Rugby) beat Kirsty Martin (Rugby), and went on to face Tessa Mills. Tessa then won her way through to the semis in untroubled fashion after Alexandra Steel (second seed) dropped out due to illness. Here Tessa faced Maddy in a match that was great to watch, won in the end by Tessa 15-5. That meant the final was between Claire and Tessa, and it was an excellent match to watch as both girls tried to bring their different experience to the game to win the points. With Claire's power and fast shot and Tessa's whip-cracking right arm, the spectators were guaranteed a great match.

Tessa battled with great purpose and tried to make it hard for Claire to return her shots but Claire's experience allowed her to anticipate Tessa's moves and be in place ready to return them. Claire was relentless and eventually won 15-3, 15-1, but as many of the spectators and players said, the scores do not reflect the effort by both girls during the match. Well done and welcome back, Claire! Especially as this win means that she has finally surpassed Paula Smith's record 11 victories in the ladies' Singles . I have organised this competition for a few years now and one of the things I have noticed is that the standard of the players coming up – and particularly the ladies from Rugby School – is truly wonderful. I hope to see you all in other competitions and look forward to seeing your progress in the future.

Well done, Ladies! A truly enjoyable day of Fives.

## **Scores**

### **Singles**

Semi-finals: Knowles bt Briedenhann 15-5 ; Mills bt Raynor 15-5

Final: Knowles bt Mills 15-3, 15-1

### **Doubles**

Final: Briedenhann & Mills bt Raynor & Steel 15-6, 16-15

## **RFA CLUB PRESIDENT'S CUP**

Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, 14th December 2014

Andy Pringle reports: The 2014 President's Cup was a classic President's Cup, full of close matches, played in a great spirit and with some very worthy winners of all ages.

Sadly, though, it also must go down as the first President's Cup to be held since the death of Joan Wood in August this year. However, her absence was marked in proper President's Cup style – by the unveiling of a tribute cake, which brought pretty much the only break in play in some 11 hours of fierce competition.

At the end of that play, the worthy winners were Bruce Hanton and Matt Cavanagh, who many had picked out as favourites as soon as the draw was published. Indeed, through their march to the title, no pair managed to get more than eight points off them in one game.

That's not to say theirs was a comfortable win, though, and the final was packed with high-quality Fives. Remarkably, Matt and Bruce's opponents in the final included one of the youngest players in the tournament – 17 year-old Rob Whitehorn from Derby, who was partnered by the experienced Tom Maconie. In the end, Matt and Bruce had too much firepower and resilience, but Rob was utterly unfazed by playing in such company, and wise men will now be shuffling off to place bets on him to win this season's National Schoolboy championship.

Elsewhere in the event, there was the traditional mix of experience, youth and all levels of ability – all managed superbly by Gareth Price to produce many very closely matched pairs. Indeed, three of the eight first-round matches went to three games and ensured that we would again have that President's Cup tradition – a late finish.

As the day wore on, many players were worn out, but the competitive spirit drove them onwards, seemingly desperate to get some reward for their efforts. However, only three other pairs could come away with prizes...

In fact, only two were able to actually leave Merchant Taylors' with their trophies. So, Jay Gravatt, if you're reading this, please can the RFA Club have its T-Pot back. The RFA Deputy President wants it...

That Deputy President is the evergreen Bernard Atkinson, comfortably the oldest player in the event at 70+ years, yet belying his age with a performance full of experience: allowing his younger partner (David Butler) to dominate in earlier rounds, thereby saving his best for when it mattered – the final! In the absence of the T-Pot, David and Bernard were duly awarded the next best thing – the stainless steel kettle that been in service for almost the entire day.

The two remaining trophies – the Mate's Plate and Love Mug – went to Will Ellison & Mark Kiteley and Ben Chua & Robin Perry, respectively. The RFA's statisticians have been sent scurrying to the Archives to find out if this means we have the widest-ever spread of ages among the winners – your correspondent thinks there must be at least 50 years between Messrs Butler and Atkinson...

Finally, our thanks go to Gareth Price for not only organising what must be one of the calendar's most complicated events, but also supplying the buffet that kept the players and spectators going through the day.

## RESULTS

1st round: Buchanan & Bridge bt Quarry & Webster 15-13, 10-15, 15-7; Cavanagh & Hanton bt Burrows & Kennerley 15-3, 15-1; Atkinson B & Butler bt Chua & Perry 10-15, 16-15, 16-14; Ellison & Kiteley bt Esin & Hatton 15-6, 15-13; Goodwin & Passey bt Baral & Price 15-6, 11-15, 15-9; Dean & Smith bt Pringle & Taylor 15-8, 15-7; Maconie & Whitehorn bt Christie & Hawke 15-7, 15-6; Atkinson P & George bt Parker & Stubbs 15-8, 15-8

2nd round: Cavanagh & Hanton bt Buchanan & Bridge 15-3, 15-6; Ellison & Kiteley bt Atkinson B & Butler 16-14, 15-11; Goodwin & Passey bt Dean & Smith 11-15, 15-10, 15-4; Maconie & Whitehorn bt Atkinson P & George 15-13, 15-12

Semi-finals: Cavanagh & Hanton bt Ellison & Kiteley 15-6, 15-8; Maconie & Whitehorn bt Goodwin & Passey 15-7, 15-6

Final: Cavanagh & Hanton bt Maconie & Whitehorn 15-7, 15-3

Love Mug: Chua & Perry

Mate's Plate: Ellison & Kiteley

T-Pot: Atkinson & Butler

See also: A Brief History of the President's Cup by David Barnes and The Roll of Honour 1958-2014 on the RFA website

## YMCA American Doubles - Christmas Fives comes to Manchester!

Manchester, December 13th 2014

Kevin Henry reports: Following on from the success of the first American Doubles in October, the YMCA Rugby Fives Club's second American Doubles and Christmas bash was a resounding success. 20 players old & new, ladies & gents, took part at the YMCA on Saturday 13th December, with lots of Fives and many quips from the 40-odd spectators who bobbed down to watch during the afternoon. With players such as John Minta and Matt Bowness, as well as John Beswick in the draw, everyone had the unenviable task of playing against some of the best fives players in the country.

The format was two pools of 5 pairs, American scoring a point per rally up to 21 to get everyone in the swing, the results of which seeded a formal Rugby Fives tournament best to eleven. It was extremely closely fought, with pool one pairs separated by only 10 points, with the top three scoring 88, 85 and 84 points.

Clearly the main event was going to be tight, and so it proved to be. Tight games all round, and in the semi-finals John Yeoman & Matt Bowness might have expected to get the better of Billy Yeoman & Wayne Harrison but just fell short, and in the other, Simon Wood and Adam Ferguson carried on where they left off in October but ran out of legs against the athleticism of Richard Ingham and the volleying winners of Ashley Lumbar, one of the Y Club's new lady players. Special mention should also go to Y Club staff terrier Greg Walker, for having a go after playing for less than two weeks and already with a good left hand! One to watch.

The final proved a step too far though for Richard & Ashley, who found in Billy & Wayne a deadly combination of immovable object and irresistible force securing the final in some style.

Following on from the Fives, everyone retired to the bar for the Christmas bash, with athletic nutrition kindly organised and expertly laid on by Ged Darlington, before the hard core ventured out into the chilly Mancunian night, ending up enjoying a splendid spread courtesy of the local Spanish tapas bar and some fabulous red wine expertly chosen by the Y Club's resident oenophile Mark Roberts.



Everyone is now looking forward with anticipation to the North West Open on 17th/18th January, followed on the 24th January by the first Singles Handicap. Keep those gloves handy....

## **NEW YEAR RANKINGS!**

By David Hebden on 28th December 2014

Updated rankings have been produced by Dave Hebden following the University Singles & Doubles held in November, and the recently held National Singles finals with its five regional qualifying competitions.

National Singles champion Will Ellison strengthens his lead at the top of the Singles, whilst runner-up Dan Grant closes the gap on No. 2 Dan Tristao. John Minta also closes on Matt Cavanagh at No. 5, but there are no major changes in the order of the top 10. Gareth Price moves into the top 20 following his win in a strong London Qualifying event, while further down the rankings Adam George (29), Sam Russell (33), and Ollie Arnold (39) all make significant progress. Cambridge qualifier winner Anthony Goodwin and University Plate runner-up Ben Ashraf are new entries in the rankings at Nos. 36 and 52 respectively.

There is little change at the top of the Doubles; this to be expected there being no senior events since the last update. However, Ben Beltrami and Matt Shaw's impressive win in the University Doubles sees them rise to Nos 10 and 11 respectively. Ollie Arnold (33), Tom Chase (37), Sam Russell (43), Jack Malde (58) and Jacob Ader (62) all make good upward progress. while Ben Ashraf, Alexander Esin, Matthew Hale and Oliver Sale are all new entries.

For further details, go to <http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/rankings/>

## **WEST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Sherborne, 3rd/4th January 2015

These Championships were again held at Sherborne School, writes organiser Lionel Lawson, and there were eight schools involved, with an overall entry of 52 competitors. Although the entry was slightly lower than in previous years, there was a high standard of play and plenty to keep the packed galleries on their toes.

The weekend was, in particular, a triumph for the squad from Winchester College, with wins in the Senior and Colts Singles, as well as in the Colts Doubles and Colts Doubles Plate.

There were no surprises in the first round of the Senior Singles, but in the second round, Dan Hutt from Tonbridge asked several questions of Rob Whitehorn, the No 1 seed from Derby Moor. Hutt was serving particularly well and moving the ball around at pace, but gradually Whitehorn asserted control to take the game 15-11. There was also a fine match between Tristan McFarlane and his St Paul's team-mate, Harveer Mahajan, who was last year's Colts winner – Mahajan keeping his cool to take the game 16-14.

In the quarter-finals, Mahajan was again involved in a very close encounter with a team-mate – Zac Jopling – but this time succumbed narrowly. There was also a nail-biting affair between Sid Bhushan and Matthew Nunes of St Paul's, with No. 3 seed Bhushan coming through narrowly in the third. In the meantime the top two seeds, Whitehorn from Derby Moor and Tom Watkinson from Winchester,

were making serene progress into the semis – and this continued for both of them in the semi-finals, with Jopling and Bhushan being disposed of with relative ease.

The final was of high quality, but Watkinson was able to keep in control with a degree of greater variety to his game, which took him to a fine win over the top seed. In the Colts Singles, the semi-finals were in line with the seeding, although the second seed, Dan Whitham from St Paul's, needed three games to get past Andrew Tudor from Malvern. The No. 1 seed, Nico Hughes from St Paul's, was also pushed hard by Lucas Nelson from Malvern in the first quarter-final.

There were then two excellent and hard fought semi-finals between Albert Song from Winchester (fourth seed) & Nico Hughes and Pete Kullivanijaya (third seed) & Dan Whitham. Song prevailed over Hughes in the first semi-final over three games, and Whitham just squeezed past Kullavanijaya in the second.

The final saw two very tired boys battling it out, with Albert Song prevailing in a battle of stamina.

The Senior Doubles quarter-finals saw a good win for Tom Watkinson and Bertie Robertson of Winchester over the hard-hitting St Paul's third pair of Tristan McFarlane and Archie Taylor – and the Derby Moor fourth pair gave St Paul's 1 a fright, being pushed to 12-10 in the second game.

The semi-finals went according to seeding, setting up an excellent contest between Derby Moor (Rob Whitehorn and John Halligan) and St Paul's 1 (Zac Jopling and Matthew Nunes) in the final. The St Paul's pair looked like they were heading in the right direction after taking the first game to 8, but the Derby Moor pair then started to exert control with a fine display of controlled and effective hitting, which took them through to a deserved and convincing win in the third.

The Winchester pair of Song and Kullavanijaya took their good form in the Singles into the Colts Doubles competition, although they were given a run for their money by St Paul's II (Whitham and Monty Evans) in the semi-final. In the final, the Winchester pair just had enough control and poise to keep them ahead of the St Paul's first pair of Nico Hughes and Dorn Shaw.

Although there was a small entry of only nine pairs in the Colts Doubles, the standard of play throughout was a credit to all the boys involved and bodes well for the future.

The Senior Singles Plate was won by Archie Taylor of St Paul's, and the Colts Singles Plate by Monty Evans, also of St Paul's, while the Senior Doubles Plate went to Craig Baxter and Matt Blunden of Derby Moor and the Colts Doubles Plate to Tom Kidner and Seb Byers of Winchester.

This competition is always a fine start to the New Year and our grateful thanks go to Sherborne School for their hospitality and the use of their excellent facilities.

## **Scores**

### **Senior Singles**

1st round: Hutt (Tonbridge) bt Timney (Derby Moor) 15-0; Blunden (Derby Moor) bt Guy (Malvern) 15-5; Singh J (Derby Moor) bt Taylor (St. Paul's) 15-13; Jopling (St. Paul's) bt Keates (Derby Moor) 15-2; Robertson (Winchester) bt Singh B (Derby Moor) 15-10; McFarlane (St. Paul's) bt Johnson (Derby Moor) 15-1; Mahajan (St. Paul's) bt Muscat (Tonbridge) 15-3; Byford (Tonbridge) bt Luk (Malvern) 15-6; Taylor (Derby Moor) bt Jessell (Alley'n's) 15-4; Nunes (St. Paul's) bt Williams (Malvern) 15-12; Halligan (Derby Moor) bt Tims (Sherborne) 15-0; Segun (Tonbridge) bt Jagger (Alley'n's) 15-1; Baxter (Derby Moor) bt Summers (St. Paul's) 15-4

2nd round: Whitehorn (Derby Moor) bt Hutt 15-11; Singh bt Blunden 15-5; Jopling bt Robertson 15-1; Mahajan (St. Paul's) bt McFarlane 16-14; Bhushan (St. Paul's) bt Byford 15-2; Nunes bt Taylor 15-12; Halligan bt Segun 15-9; Watkinson (Winchester) bt Baxter 15-3  
Quarter-finals: Whitehorn bt Singh 11-0, 11-7; Jopling bt Mahajan 12-10, 11-9; Bhushan bt Nunes 11-0, 1-11, 11-8; Watkinson bt Halligan 11-2, 11-2  
Semi-finals: Whitehorn bt Jopling 11-0, 11-3; Watkinson bt Bhushan 11-5, 11-1  
Final: Watkinson (Winchester) bt Whitehorn (Derby Moor) 11-6, 11-4  
Plate: Taylor (St. Paul's)

### **Senior Doubles**

1st round: Derby Moor III bt Tonbridge II 15-1; St. Paul's III bt Malvern II 15-0; Winchester bt Derby Moor II 15-7; St. Paul's II bt Sherborne 15-0; Tonbridge I bt Derby Moor V 15-5; Derby Moor IV bt Malvern I 15-4  
Quarter-finals: Derby Moor I bt Derby Moor III 11-2, 11-5; Winchester bt St. Paul's III 11-8, 11-9, St. Paul's II bt Tonbridge I 11-4, 11-3; St. Paul's I bt Derby Moor IV 11-2, 12-10  
Semi-finals: Derby Moor I bt Winchester 11-3, 11-1; St. Paul's I bt St. Paul's II 11-6, 11-8  
Final: Derby Moor I (Halligan & Whitehorn) bt St. Paul's I (Jopling & Nunes) 8-11, 11-4, 11-1  
Plate: Derby Moor II (Baxter & Blunden)

### **Colts Singles**

1st round: Francis (Blundell's) bt Vass (St. Paul's) 15-7; Byers (Winchester) bt McLaurin (Blundell's) 15-3; Hanton (Alley's) bt Ali (Derby Moor) 15-1; Kirwan (Alley's) bt Buchanan (Malvern) 15-3; Kidner (Winchester) bt Lockwood (Blundell's) 15-3; Rehman (Derby Moor) bt Wells (St. Paul's) 15-12  
2nd round: Hughes (St. Paul's) bt Lawler (Blundell's) 15-2; Nelson (Malvern) bt Francis 15-7; Shaw (St. Paul's) bt Byers 15-10; Song (Winchester) bt Hanton 15-5; Kullavanijaya (Winchester) bt Kirwan 15-11; Kidner bt Evans (St. Paul's) 15-11; Tudor (Malvern) bt Rehman 15-4; Whitham (St. Paul's) bt Chai (Blundell's) 15-0  
Quarter-finals: Hughes bt Nelson 11-9, 11-6; Song bt Shaw 11-1, 11-1; Kullavanijaya bt Kidner 11-7, 11-6; Whitham bt Tudor 10-12, 11-0, 11-5  
Semi-finals: Song bt Hughes 11-0, 10-12, 11-3; Whitham bt Kullavanijaya 12-10, 11-9  
Final: Song (Winchester) bt Whitham (St. Paul's) 11-3, 11-4  
Plate: Evans (St. Paul's)

### **Colts Doubles**

1st round: Derby Moor bt St. Paul's III 11-1, 8-11, 11-9  
Quarter-finals: St. Paul's I bt Blundell's II 11-5, 11-0; Malvern bt Winchester II 11-7, 11-8; St. Paul's II bt Blundell's I 11-4, 11-0; Winchester I bt Derby Moor 11-0, 11-7  
Semi-finals: St. Paul's I bt Malvern 11-6, 11-6; Winchester I bt St. Paul's II 11-3, 8-11, 11-4  
Final: Winchester I (Kullavanijaya & Song) bt St. Paul's I (Hughes & Shaw) 11-9, 11-8  
Plate: Winchester II (Byers & Kidner)

## **NORTH WEST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Manchester, 17/18th January 2015

Organiser John Beswick writes: This year's tournament was held in memory of a co-founder of the event, Ernest Livesey, who passed away in December after a full life.

Anyway, on with the Fives...

As ever, the Singles started very early on Saturday morning, with the schoolboys from Sedbergh battling it out in the first round. Other matches worth mentioning were Ben Beltrami beating Ed Kay in two, and David Butler beating Julian Aquilina in two, both great encounters.

In the Roman days, Gladiators would battle to the death, and the eventual final between Will Ellison and Dan Tristao was as close to that as it comes: outstanding Fives, with both players giving their all, and both playing exceptional Fives. In the end, Tristao won in three games – a great final.

The Singles plate was won by Jacob Brubert, who beat Anthony Goodwin, after both players had seen off the old men of Exeter Fives – Alex Rew and Jim Hughes – in the semis!

Sunday morning brought the Doubles, and Tim Lewis – legend of the game and all-round crowd favourite – played some outstanding fives for an odd rally or two. The oldest player always deserves a mention.

In the semis, Beltrami & Dean – with Ben looking very smart in his newly laundered top (thank you, Mrs Beswick) – gave Kay & Tristao a close game, but as in the Singles the match went to the seeds.

So that led to a final of Ellison & Minta v Kay & Tristao. After a close first game, Kay & Tristao won convincingly in two: they were clinical and maybe a certain Mr Minta was feeling his age!

Well played to Dan for doing the double for the first time.

The Doubles plate was won by Goodwin and Whitehorn, who retained their title.

Thanks to all, and for those planning ahead, next year's event will be on 16/17th January 2016.

### **RESULTS**

#### **Singles**

1st round: O.Arnold bt A.Goodwin 11-2, 11-9; A.George bt H.T-Green 11-0, 11-0; J.Aquilina bt J.Hughes 11-3, 11-3; D.Fox bt J.Lidiard 11-7, 11-3; M.Bate bt G.Wainwright 11-2, 11-3; J.Beswick bt G.Bentley 11-2, 11-0; S.Russell bt A.Rew 11-6, 11-5

2nd round: W.Ellison bt Arnold 11-1, 11-1; T.Parker bt J.Brubert 11-4, 11-2; R.Murby bt George 11-4, 11-1; D.Butler bt Aquilina 12-10, 11-3; E.Kay bt Fox 11-0, 11-3; B.Beltrami bt Bate 8-11, 11-4, 11-0; T.Dean bt Beswick 11-3, 11-1; D.Tristao bt Russell 11-6, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Ellison bt Parker 11-3, 11-1; Butler bt Murby 11-3, 11-2; Beltrami bt Kay 11-4, 11-6; Tristao bt Dean 11-2, 11-4

Semi-finals: Ellison bt Butler 11-8, 11-1; Tristao bt Beltrami 11-2, 11-1

Final: Tristao bt Ellison 4-11, 11-8, 11-8

Plate: Brubert

## **Doubles**

1st round: Bate & Murby bt Hughes & Rew 11-3, 11-1; Beswick & Roberts bt Christie & Lewis 11-3, 11-3; Aquilina & Parker bt Lidiard & Bentley 11-2, 11-3; Beltrami & Dean bt Goodwin & Whitehorn 11-7, 11-0; Arnold & George bt Singh & Taylor 11-4, 11-0; Butler & Russell bt T-Green & Wainwright 11-0, 11-1

Quarter-finals: Ellison & Minta bt Bate & Murby score unknown; Aquilina & Parker bt Beswick & Roberts 11-7, 11-8; Beltrami & Dean bt Arnold & George 4-11, 11-4, 11-4; Kay & Tristao bt Butler & Russell 11-9, 11-6

Semi-finals: Ellison & Minta bt Aquilina & Parker 11-0, 11-6; Kay & Tristao bt Beltrami & Dean 11-5, 12-10

Final: Kay & Tristao bt Ellison & Minta 11-7, 11-3

Plate: Goodwin & Whitehorn

## **NATIONAL UNDER 25s CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Oundle, 7/8th February 2015

Players from Cambridge University dominated proceedings at the Under 25s Championships, with Ed Kay winning the Singles title (after finishing runner-up for the last two years) before teaming up with his fellow Light Blue Matt Shaw to win the Doubles . Runner-up in the Singles was Ben Beltrami (also of Cambridge), while Jacob Brubert and Chris Burrows (of Cambridge and Imperial, respectively) took the silver medals in the Doubles . James Pinder of Cambridge took the Singles plate from Light Blue Tom Bury, but Jack Malde & Richard Law had to defer to Oxford's Tom Hoskins and his Winchester College partner Tom Watkinson in the Doubles plate final

## **RESULTS**

### **Singles**

1st round: T. Watkinson bt N. Whitney 15-2, 15-4; J. Aquilina bt J. Pinder 15-3, 15-3; C. Waller bt J. Halligan 15-4, 15-3; T. Parker bt T. Bury 15-10, 15-6; J. Tilston bt R. Law 15-4, 15-4; A. Goodwin bt W. Lau 15-3, 15-3; M. Shaw bt A. Mills 15-0, 15-3; B. Beltrami bt J. Singh 15-0, 15-0; O. Arnold bt O. Even 15-1, 15-0; S. Russell bt T. Barlow 15-4, 15-3; J. Brubert bt T. McCahon 15-0, 15-1; C. Burrows bt B. Singh 15-1, 15-0; A. George bt J. Godding 15-2, 15-1; T. Hoskins bt J Manger 15-5, 15-4

2nd round: E. Kay bt Watkinson 15-4, 15-4; Aquilina bt Waller 15-11, 15-9; Tilston bt Parker 15-9, 13-15, 15-12; Shaw bt Goodwin 15-3, 15-3; Beltrami bt Arnold 15-4, 15-1; Russell bt Brubert 15-12, 15-13; George bt Burrows 13-15, 15-12, 15-8; D. Butler bt Hoskins 15-4, 15-0

Quarter-finals: Kay bt Aquilina 15-1, 15-8; Shaw bt Tilston 15-8, 15-5; Beltrami bt Russell 16-14, 15-8; Butler bt George 15-2, 15-3

Semi-finals: Kay bt Shaw 15-1, 15-0; Beltrami bt Butler 15-11, 15-10

Final: Kay bt Beltrami 15-6, 15-1

Plate: Pinder

### **Doubles**

1st round: Shaw & Kay bt D. Bateson & McCahon 15-2,15-5; Halligan & R. Whitehorn bt Law & J. Malde 15-5, 15-12; Parker & Butler bt Bury & Lau 15-3, 15-0; Beltrami & Arnold bt Even & Godding 15-1, 15-1; Aquilina & Tilston bt Singh & Singh 15-2, 15-1; Russell & George bt Manger & Barlow 15-5, 15-3; Goodwin & J. Gravatt bt Watkinson & Hoskins 15-8, 15-4; Burrows & Brubert bt Whitney & Mills 15-2, 15-5

Quarter-finals: Shaw & Kay bt Halligan & Whitehorn 15-3, 15-9; Beltrami & Arnold bt Parker & Butler 15-13, 15-10; Aquilina & Tilston bt Russell & George 16-15, 15-8; Burrows & Brubert bt Goodwin & Gravatt 15-9, 15-5

Semi-finals: Shaw & Kay bt Beltrami & Arnold 15-9, 15-11; Burrows & Brubert bt Aquilina & Tilston 15-6, 15-4  
Final: Kay & Shaw bt Burrows & Brubert 15-11, 15-9  
Plate: Watkinson & Hoskins

## **SOUTH EAST SCHOOLS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Tonbridge School, 7th February

The fourth playing of this regional event saw 32 players from Christ's Hospital, Eastbourne, St. Dunstan's, Tonbridge and Whitgift play for the Singles and Doubles trophies in both U16 and Senior age groups, writes Ian Jackson.

The Senior Singles was dominated by Tonbridge with three of the four semi-finalists. The top two seeds made the final where the hard hitting Dan Hutt (Tonbridge) saw off the dogged defence from Charlie Mabbutt (Whitgift). In the first plate Tom Owen (St. Dunstan's) came through relatively easily beating Higginson (Christ's Hospital) in the final. The second plate final was an all Whitgift affair and the improving Ollie Horner saw off his Doubles partner, Abbas.

As Tonbridge dominated the Seniors, Whitgift dominated the under sixteens with three semi-finalists. Again the top two seeds made the final but Cameron Low (Whitgift) was too consistent for Greg Mellor (Christ's Hospital). He became the first under fifteen to win the under sixteen title and looks a useful prospect. In the first plate the Whitgift number four Kofi Addei showed their strength in depth by winning a hard fought final. The second plate was an all Christ's Hospital affair with Albert Burgess coming through to win a well-matched competition.

Tonbridge's dominance continued in the Senior Doubles where Tonbridge 1 played Tonbridge 2 in the final. The latter had had a tough route to the final beating both Whitgift 1 and St. Dunstan's 1 in close games to get there. Dan Hutt partnered by Mide Segun were too strong for the Tonbridge 2 and deservedly took the Doubles title. In the plate Whitgift 1 were comfortable winners over Christ's Hospital 1.

Whitgift were not quite as dominant in the under sixteen Doubles as their second pair were narrowly beaten by Tonbridge 1 in the first round who were then narrowly defeated by Christ's Hospital 1 in the semi-final. However Christ's Hospital were no match for Whitgift 1 in the final who took the Doubles relatively comfortably in the end. Whitgift 2 managed to win the plate but only after an excellent battle against Christ's Hospital 2.

The day was enjoyed by all the players, who had enjoyed plenty of good standard fives, and the spectators who not only appreciated the play but also the day being not quite as cold as had been forecast. Next year the regionals move on the Christ's Hospital and it seems that Whitgift will be very much the school to beat.

### **RESULTS**

#### **Senior Singles**

Semi-finals: Hutt bt Segun 15-7; Mabbutt bt Muscat 15-5

Final: Hutt bt Mabbu 11-0, 11-6

Plate: Owen

#### **Senior Doubles**

Semi-finals: Tonbridge 1 bt Whitgift 2 11-1, 11-3; Tonbridge 2 bt St Dunstan's 1 11-7, 11-1

Final: Tonbridge 1 bt Tonbridge 2 11-4, 11-5

Plate: Whitgift 1

### **Under 16 Singles**

Semi-finals: Low bt Burton 15-8; Mellor bt Prakash 15-9

Final: Low bt Mellor 11-2, 11-5

Plate: Addei

### **Under 16 Doubles**

Semi-finals: Whitgift 1 bt Tonbridge 2 11-0, 11-3; Christ's Hospital 1 bt Tonbridge 1 11-9, 12-10

Final: Whitgift 1 bt Christ's Hospital 1 11-8, 11-1

Plate: Whitgift 2

### **Manchester: YMCA Handicap Singles**

January 2015-03-11

The first handicap Singles event of the year took place on 24th January with eight players (nice and simple for the organiser, who needed simple that day!), writes organiser Kevin Henry. The draw included YMCA staff member Greg Walker together with couple of regular new players and Paul, a new member who hadn't played for nine years, together with YMCA stalwarts Billy and John Yeoman, Gin Diazcuk, and the organiser.

The tournament started with a single game of American scoring to 21 to keep the momentum going. Most matches ended up very close, with four going to 22-21 despite the complaints about the handicaps given by the organiser. The winner was Paul, with Billy Yeoman holding the leaderboard up as befits a strong wrestler.

The American tournament provided the seedings for a subsequent President's Cup-style tournament played to 11, Rugby Fives scoring. Again some very close matches were had, with Greg seeing off Paul in the semi's and the organiser proving too experienced for John Yeoman.

In the final, Greg did everything he could and played some great rallies. Already with a good left hand and natural speed around the court, he won several rallies, but was just not able to get the two consecutive points to win, and the old organiser proved that there is still life in Fives-over-50.

The next tournament is the YMCA Fives Club American Doubles Trophy Tournament which will now be on Saturday 28th February rather than existing scheduled date. Dust down those gloves, because there's a Trophy to be had!

## **SPRING RANKINGS!**

David Hebden on 13th February 2015

Updated rankings have been produced by Dave Hebden following the North West Singles & Doubles held in January and the recently held U25 championships.

There's not too much change in the top Singles places, although after his win in the NW, Dan Tristao closes on Will Ellison at the very top. Ben Beltrami enters the top 10 for the first time following strong performances in both the NW and U25s. Julian Aquilina, James Tilston, Adam George, and Anthony Goodwin make good upward progress, all having reached the U25 QFs. We have one new entry, James Pinder, who won the Plate in the U25s.

In the Doubles, Dan Tristao moves up to 2 and Ed Kay to 5 after their win in the NW. Matt Shaw moves into the top 10 after his win with Ed Kay in the U25s. Julian Aquilina and Jacob Brubert enter the top 20. Other high risers are Anthony Goodwin and Rob Whitehorn (Plate winners in Manchester), Sam Russell and Richie Murby. Tom Hoskins and Tom Watkinson are new entries after their win in the U25 Plate.

For further details, go to <http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/rankings/>

We get questions from time to time about how the rankings are calculated. For those interested you can read a brief summary of the process on the RFA website at ...

2015 The Fives Ranking System by Dave Hebden

### **Philip Atkinson appointed General Secretary of the RFA**

19 February 2015

*Bob Dolby writes:* The RFA is delighted to announce the appointment of Phil Atkinson as General Secretary of the Rugby Fives Association with effect from April 1st 2015. Ian Fuller will continue in his role as Treasurer of the RFA.

Phil learned his Fives as a boy at Bedford Modern School. He has been a stalwart of the Old Bedford Modernians since those days and is probably best known to Fives players for his annual participation in the President's Cup which he has won twice, most recently in 2007 with Jon Abecassis. Phil is one of only five players to have won all 4 trophies on offer at the competition, the others being Hamish Buchanan, Bruce Hanton, David Barnes and Paul Reeder. Only Hamish and Jeremy Schroeter have won more trophies at the event. Phil will doubtless be competing in the up-coming National Vintage championships at Cambridge where he and Ian will effect the handover of roles.

Phil will bring to the role of General Secretary a wide experience of administration and management in both the private and public sectors, as well as a familiarity with the work of various local clubs and councils. He has specialised knowledge of employment law and business restructuring and says he is "well used to organising meetings and supporting associated activities in a timely and efficient manner".

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have secured Phil's services and look forward to working with him over the coming seasons.



## **The 85th Varsity Match**

St. Paul's School, Saturday February 21st, 2015

They say that records are made to be beaten, and a powerful Cambridge side duly set themselves the target of exceeding the margin of Oxford's 300-38 victory in the 2010 Varsity Match. This they managed to do, allowing Oxford just 23 points, not only by virtue of a superb performance by their top four players, conceding a mere eight points in the whole match, but also by solid back-up from their third and fourth pairs.

After the Singles, Cambridge's four stars, Kay, Beltrami, Shaw and Brubert, all of them ranked in the top 20 nationally, had established a lead of 56 points, and this pattern continued relentlessly in the Doubles. Great credit goes to all the Oxford players for never giving up in the face of this battering; the scores do not reflect the effort they put in. They were well led by Whitney and had prepared seriously for the match, but the sheer quality of the opposition's play was too much for them.

The members of Cambridge's third and fourth pairs (Ader & Malde and Bury & Pinder) had experience from last year, and it showed. They were particularly severe on Oxford 4, while allowing Oxford 3 (Hale & Sale) to win 11 points off them – rich pickings in the context of this match! Incidentally, Sale and Mills, both selected for Oxford, are the first Old Boys of their respective schools, Eton and Highgate, to play in the Rugby Fives Varsity Match since its inception in 1925.

The reserves match was closer but Cambridge's first pair, Law and Lau, had too much experience for their opponents to cope with, and that made the difference as they won all their games comfortably. The newcomers on both sides, hailing from a wide variety of schools and with very little competitive fives under their belt, improved visibly as the match went on. A seasoned observer of Beavers v Sparrows matches made Lau 'Man of the Match' – a tribute to the effort he has put into his fives.

In a day of firsts, another noteworthy innovation was the inaugural Ladies' Rugby Fives Varsity Match. Here, the Oxford pair were much too experienced for the Cambridge newcomers to the game and provided something for Oxford to cheer; but in this case the event itself was of greater importance than the result. If two pairs appear for each side next year, a well-known lady fives player of the past has promised to present a trophy!

Lastly, our thanks go again to St. Paul's School for hosting these matches. The courts are now in very good condition again, and the gallery was full of supporters to witness a day of excellent sport and sportsmanship.

See at the end of this post for some statistics regarding the fixture

### **Scores**

#### **Oxford v Cambridge**

Singles (Oxford names first): AM Horsewood (Winchester & Harris Manchester) lost to EI Kay (St. Paul's & Emmanuel) 2-15; TM Hoskins (Oundle & LMH) (Hon. Sec.) lost to BMJ Beltrami (St. Paul's & Selwyn) 2-15; NA Whitney (Tonbridge & Magdalen) (Captain) lost to MJR Shaw (St. Paul's & Homerton) 0-15; MW Hale (Winchester & St. Hilda's) lost to JB Brubert (Alley's & Queens') (Captain) 0-15.

Doubles : Horsewood & Hoskins lost to Brubert & Kay 1-15, 1-15; lost to Beltrami & Shaw 0-15, 0-15. AN Mills (Highgate & St. Edmund Hall) & Whitney lost to Beltrami & Shaw 1-15, 0-15; lost to

Brubert & Kay 1-15, 0-15. Hale & OED Sale (Eton & Wadham) lost to JS Ader (St. Paul's & Pembroke) (Hon. Sec.) & JK Malde (St. Paul's & Clare) 4-15, 0-15; lost to TM Bury (Kelly & Queens') & JW Pinder (Winchester & Robinson) 2-15, 5-15. OA Even (St. Paul's & New) & JSW Godding (Marlborough & St. Peter's) lost to Bury & Pinder 1-15, 2-15; lost to Ader & Malde 0-15, 1-15.

Result: Cambridge bt Oxford 300-23.

### **Oxford Beavers v Cambridge Sparrows**

Singles (Oxford names first): WJ Yates (St. Paul's & Regent's Park) lost to RB Law (St. Paul's & Pembroke) 3-15; AO Petrenco (Westminster & LMH) lost to WCK Lau (Tonbridge & Trinity) 1-15; H Petin (Christ's Hospital & Corpus Christi) lost to JR Tennison (Trinity House & Trinity) 11-15; PJ Corden (Adams' GS & Oriol) bt CR Jenkins (Gower College & Churchill) 15-7.

Doubles : Petrenco & Yates lost to Law & Lau 3-15, 1-15; bt Jenkins & Tennison 15-3, 15-6. Corden & Petin lost to Jenkins & Tennison 11-15, 8-15; lost to Law & Lau 1-15, 2-15.

Result: Cambridge bt Oxford 151-86.

### **Oxford Ladies v Cambridge Ladies**

Singles (Oxford names first): LKA Hotson (Oundle, Durham Univ. & Corpus Christi) bt SE Noll (Pomona College & Pembroke) 15-0. CL Jamison (Parkstone GS & BNC) bt QA Pusey (James Allen's Girls' School & Pembroke) 15-1.

Doubles : Hotson & Jamison bt Noll & Pusey 15-0, 15-1.

Result: Oxford bt Cambridge 60-2.

## **NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Durham, Feb 28th/March 1st

Following a couple of mid-week changes to the draws, *writes organiser Julian Aquilina*, it was with great anticipation that 21 players descended on the courts at Durham to battle it out in the Singles . To kick things off, Beswick, George, Russell and Tilston all came through the first round against their younger counterparts. Goodwin put in a strong performance, and Sinton took a walkover.

Affairs in the last 16 largely went according to seedings – Dean and Buchanan both prevailing in three against Tilston and George, respectively, with Hamish coming back from match ball down. However, it was Waller who spoiled the party by taking out the mercurial Price – just as well for Chris, as he only came up for the Singles !

The top four seeds made it through to the semis with relative ease, though not without a typical 12-11 game going Tristao's way. Ellison looked to be in formidable form, dropping just one point in an albeit lengthy encounter with Bate, backing it up with a strong win against Murby. In the second semi Butler stormed out of the blocks, surprising Tristao by taking the first to 1. Dan quickly turned it around though, closing out the match against his Doubles partner.

So it was to be another Will vs Dan clash – the first in Durham since the 2012 final, where Will took his first Singles title at the North to fend off Dan’s attempt at a third. Tristao kept his momentum from the semis as he ran away with the first game, but the second was a much closer affair. Still, the match wasn’t to go the distance – Dan wrapping it up 11-1, 12-10.

In the plate, it was Edinburgh Academy schoolboy Andrew Boyd who came through the top half, stunning top 20-ranked Price on the way. But, in the final he came up short against organiser Aquilina, who claimed a visor from the notorious Klute as his ‘silverware’ with a 15-6 win.

On to the Doubles, two experienced pairs came through their first-round encounters, with Hale & Sinton doing well to fend off the impressive Boyd & Jourdan. In the quarters, Bate & Murby beat Aquilina & a one-gloved Tilston in three, while Buchanan, partnering Price, once again edged George (with Russell).

Just as in the Singles, though, no one could stop the top two seeds from progressing to the final – Ellison & Dean going for their fourth in a row, up against the new combination of Tristao & Butler. With players hitting their form at different moments, the match quickly went to a decider.

In a magnificent game full of enduring rallies, powerful hitting and quick scrambling, both teams were pushed to saving match points. With a burst of energy, Tristao & Butler finally seized control, and the final score was 11-2, 0-11, 12-10: for Dave, his first open title; and, for Dan, a second double at the North, and his second of 2015.

Meanwhile, in the plate, the EA boys were getting better with each match, and using the strength of their left-right pairing they battled through two very tight games to win the trophy – a huge achievement, and at just 17 years of age!

Congratulations to all the players for putting on a fantastic display of Fives, and thank you to all the supporters who came along. Next open tournament – the National Doubles at Alleyn’s.

## **RESULTS**

### **Singles**

1st round: J.Beswick bt S.Woollard 11-1, 11-0; A.George bt B.Jourdan 11-6, 11-4; S.Russell bt A.Boyd 11-5, 12-10; A.Goodwin bt B.Hale 11-3, 11-0; J.Tilston bt T.McCahon 11-0, 11-0  
2nd round: W.Ellison bt Beswick 11-3, 11-1; M.Bate bt J.Aquilina 11-8, 11-1; H.Buchanan bt George 8-11, 12-10, 11-2; R.Murby bt Russell 11-8 11-5, D.Butler bt Goodwin 11-6, 11-4; T.Dean bt Tilston 12-10, 7-11, 11-8; C.Waller bt G. Price 11-9, 11-7; D.Tristao bt J.Sinton 11-2, 11-1  
Quarter-finals: Ellison bt Bate 11-0, 11-1; Murby bt Buchanan 11-8, 11-3; Butler bt Dean 11-0, 11-4; Tristao bt Waller 12-11, 11-5  
Semi-finals: Ellison bt Murby 11-0, 11-4; Tristao bt Butler 1-11, 11-5, 11-1  
Final: Tristao bt Ellison 11-1, 12-10  
Plate: Aquilina

### **Doubles**

1st round: Beswick & Roberts bt McCahon & Woollard 11-3, 11-7; Hale & Sinton bt Boyd & Jourdan 12-10, 11-9  
Quarter-finals: Ellison & Dean bt Beswick & Roberts 11-2, 11-4; Bate & Murby bt Aquilina & Tilston 11-6, 8-11, 11-4; Buchanan & Price bt George & Russell 10-12, 11-8, 11-7; Tristao & Butler bt Hale & Sinton 11-7, 11-2  
Semi-finals: Ellison & Dean bt Bate & Murby 11-1, 12-10; Tristao & Butler bt Buchanan & Price 11-7, 11-8  
Final: Tristao & Butler bt Ellison & Dean 11-2, 0-11, 12-10  
Plate: Boyd & Jourdan

## LADIES WINCHESTER FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Winchester, March 8th 2015

STOP PRESS: Tessa Mills achieved the Double at the Ladies Winchester Fives championships, winning the Bradfield Bowl with Kathleen Briedenhann, and then going on to beat her partner in “one helluva final” by 7-15, 16-14, 16-15 to win the Crayke Cup. It is Tessa’s first senior Singles title. For a flavour of the day’s events go to the Twitterfeed. (*Full report and scores below*)

*Meanwhile Bernard Atkinson writes:* We live in an age when marketing hyperbole seeks to make us believe that the ordinary is extraordinary. The culmination of the Ladies Winchester Fives tournament soared above hyperbole, it was simply very special.

This does not mean that the whole day of fives was not memorable, for it was. The group of four youngsters from Christ’s Hospital, in training for the National School Girls’ Championships, and the young Russian entrant from Clifton who won a silver medal in the Doubles final, all played their hearts out. They all showed a determination to justify why they were there and a psychological strength beyond their years. If the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, what future struggles will have been won on the fives courts at Winchester?

Denise Hall-Wilton could have been in no doubt that she has handed over the running of this tournament to a very worthy successor in Maddy Raynor. Maddy ensured that everything ran like clockwork in an atmosphere of harmony – and even I understood how the scoring of the round robin plate competition worked, a first for me, I confess – and she it was who took a major part in that thrilling culmination.

Just when we thought it could get no better, Tessa Mills and Maddy Raynor came on court for the second Singles semi-final; we watched enthralled as Tessa took the first game and looked set to clinch the second, until, facing an uncomfortable deficit, Maddy began the process of reining in her opponent point by point. This terrier looked like worrying Tessa into a third game until, with the deficit almost gone, Tessa pulled out the last blast to take the match.

Surely, after such a gruelling semi, the final against Kathleen Briedenhann would be an anti-climax? So it seemed when, despite Tessa having taken an early lead, she seemed to succumb to tiredness and made errors which allowed Kathleen to take control and secure the first game. At this stage the outcome looked obvious and perhaps close at hand, but not to Tessa; she dug in and slowly climbed back, having found that the buttress could be an ally to raw power, and emerged victor in game 2 at 16-14.

No lip-reading expertise was needed in the gallery to read Tessa’s thoughts about yet another game ..... but neither of these exceptional players was in a mood to concede. It must be said that with both players now tired, their determination seemed only to increase as another game of fine skill and athleticism got under way. One could only watch with awe how these players could still smile together at odd incidents as the points inched forward: no one dared to predict the outcome. But Tessa seemed to grow in confidence, even producing a couple of controlled drop shots amidst all the power play to secure the match at 16-15. By now everyone was mentally exhausted, but there was a clear winner in addition to the very deserving Tessa – that was the game of fives itself!

I came away thinking: This was not the ‘Ladies’ Game’, this was quite simply ‘The Game’.

Now Maddy's Raynor's report:

*Maddy Raynor reports:* With a few last-minute changes due to injury and illness, it was with great anticipation that ten players took to the courts. We had some returning faces as well as a few new faces this year, with players travelling from across the country: Kathleen Briedenhann and Tessa Mills from Eastbourne, Wendy Carling from London, Melanie Whitehead and Maddy Raynor from Devon. There was also a good entry of schoolgirls with Beatrix Crinnon, Phoebe Thornhill, Stella Saunt-Hills and Angelina Green all entering from Christ's Hospital and Ekaterina Shilina from Clifton. The schoolgirls used this competition to gain experience in their preparation for the schoolgirls' nationals in April.

The competition kicked off with the Doubles tournament. The first match saw the two Christ's Hospital pairs take each other on; this was a very good match which allowed all four players to get used to the courts and the butress. Crinnon & Thornhill, being the more experienced pair, beat Saunt-Hills and Green comfortably 15-3. They then went on to face Briedenhann & Mills in the semi-finals, where they put up an impressive fight and managed to consistently hit the butress. This was not enough, though, and Briedenhann & Mills went on to win 15-1, 15-2. Shilina & Raynor faced Whitehead and Carling in the other semi-final. This was a close contest with both pairs playing well, but it was Shilina & Raynor who eventually won 15-3, 15-4. Shilina & Raynor put up a big fight in the final, Shilina's first. Both pairs demonstrated some great fives, but Briedenhann & Mills proved too strong and went on to win comfortably 15-1, 15-2. While this match was going on Crinnon & Thornhill, Saunt-Hills & Green, also Whitehead & Carling were battling it out in the Plate competition. There were some close and very competitive games, but it was Crinnon & Thornhill who came out victorious.

After the Doubles came the Singles competition. The first round saw Shilina and Thornhill play against each other; this was a close contest with both showing determination, however it was Thornhill who managed to secure the win 15-8 to then go on and face Whitehead, where Thornhill's winning ways continued. The other matches saw Crinnion beat Saunt-Hills 15-4. Crinnion then faced Raynor in a match where Crinnion played some very good shots and showed good awareness and tactics, but fell short as Raynor went on to win 15-5.

Jess Whitehead from Blundell's School, Tiverton kindly stepped in at the last minute to ensure the numbers worked for the Singles competition. She faced Green, who helped Jess find her feet on the courts. Green won this match and then went on to face Mills. Green played some very good shots, but could not match the experience of Mills, who went to win 15-3.

The Singles Plate competition was being played at the same time as the semi-finals; It was a round robin with Shilina, J. Whitehead, Crinnion, Green and M. Whitehead all battling it out, and it was Shillina who was victorious, winning all her matches.

The semi-finals of the main competition saw Thornhill face Briedenhann and Mills face Raynor. Mills and Raynor took to the courts first, but with the score refusing to move amidst a battle of serves it was looking to be a long match. Thornhill and Briedenhann hoping to watch some of the other semi-final soon took to the courts to start their semi-final, where Briedenhann dominated to win 15-0, 15-1. The Mills v. Raynor semi-final saw the first game go to Mills 15-5; the second game looked like it was going to go the same way, but then Raynor, refusing to give up, started to claw the score back. Both players showed grit and determination, the match seemed never-ending. After an hour of play Mills eventually took the win 15-13. The spectators themselves looked exhausted and one was heard to say "I've not seen a match like that since Ellison versus Grant". However, there was still one more battle for Briedenhann and Mills. How could the final live up to the previous semi-final? But it did, and much more. Briedenhann took the first game 15-7, with Mills playing well, but Briedenhann was looking fresh and rested, where Mills had had a hard semi-final under her belt. In the second game

Briedenhann took the lead, but Mills, digging deep, started to rein her opponent back in. Mills managed to use the buttress to her favour, catching Briedenhann out, to take the game 16-14. So it was all to play for in the third and final game, the spectators were on edge, with both players demonstrating true sportsmanship and impressive ability. Mills took the lead and went 8-3 up, and it was Briedenhann's turn to reel her opponent in to take the lead 13-8. Mills then managed to get the score even at 14-14. Everyone was mesmerised by this contest, not even daring to breathe. The score then got to 15-15 with Briedenhann on match point. With both Ladies playing out of their skin, you would have thought Briedenhann had just managed to scrape through, but no, Mills managed to pull one out of the bag, a fantastic shot into the bottom of the buttress; all you could hear was the cry escape Briedenhann "Ohh, Tessa!". It was wonderful to witness such sportsmanship, with each player complimenting the other when a very good shot was played. An hour and a quarter after Mills and Briedenhann had first stepped onto the court, the final point was eventually won by Mills, who thus claimed her first senior Singles title. It was truly an unbelievable final to witness and one that I will never forget. Congratulations, Tessa!

Thank you to all the players who participated. It was truly a very enjoyable day of fives and it was lovely to see the young players improving so much throughout the tournament. I look forward to next year's competition at Sedbergh School.

## **Results**

### *Singles*

**1<sup>st</sup> Round:** P. Thornhill bt E. Shilina 15-8; A. Green bt J. Whitehead 15-0; B. Crinnion bt S. Saunt-Hills 15-4

**2<sup>nd</sup> Round:** P. Thornhill bt M. Whitehead 15-9; T. Mills bt A. Green 15-3; M. Raynor bt B. Crinnion 15-5

**Semi-Finals:** K. Briedenhann bt P. Thornhill 15-0, 15-1; T. Mills bt M. Raynor 15-5, 15-13

**Finals:** T. Mills bt K. Briedenhann 7-15, 16-14, 16-15

**Plate:** E. Shilina

### *Doubles*

**1<sup>st</sup> Round:** Crinnion & Thornhill bt Green & Saunt-Hills 15-3

**Semi-Finals:** Briedenhann & Mills bt Crinnion & Thornhill 15-1, 15-2; Raynor & Shilina bt Whithead & Carling 15-3, 15-4

**Finals:** Briedenhann & Mills bt Raynor & Shilina 15-1, 15-2

**Plate:** Crinnion & Thornhill

## **MIDLANDS SCHOOLS REGIONAL FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Bedford, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015

*Bob Dolby reports:* This year's U18 competition, played at Bedford Modern School with a field of 26 players from 5 schools, produced a clean sweep of both Cups and both Plates for the Derby Moor squad.

Robert Whitehorn completed a hat-trick of wins in the Singles and, likewise, in the Doubles, this year partnered by Jai Singh. John Halligan of Derby Moor had the unfortunate experience of being runner-up in both, though he and Bally Singh gave their year-older rivals a hard fight in the Doubles final and will be the pair to beat next year.

Jai Singh won the U18 Singles Plate for losing semi-finalists, while Sam Johnson and Hasan Rehman, playing as Derby Moor IV, won the Doubles Plate for first-match losers.

All the Derby Moor players were pushed hard by Romain, Musiani and Suddaby of Rugby. We can expect the rivalry between these two schools to continue next year.

The U15 the competition, which comprised 19 players from 5 schools, was dominated by the squad from Bedford Modern, though again players from Rugby got themselves in the mix. In the Singles Joe Sumner benefited from his experience of playing last year to defeat the strong physical challenge of Alex Carter from Rugby in the semi and then the rackets-playing Will Hardman from the same school in the final.

In the morning we had seen three pairs from Bedford Modern reach the semi-finals of the Doubles. There Sumner had teamed up with Oliver Colbert, with whom he had won the Plate last year, to beat first Rugby II, then Bedford Modern II. As all these young players move up next year into the U18 category, joined by some promising players from Oundle, we are going to see some fine Fives played. We hope to be joined then by players from Bloxham where Fives is undergoing a renaissance.

### **U18 Singles**

**Quarter-finals:** R Whitehorn (Derby Moor) bt G. Romain (Rugby) 15-8; L Musiani (Rugby) bt M Suddaby (Rugby) 15-7; J Halligan (Derby Moor) bt J. Attwood (Bedford Modern) 15-1; J Singh (Derby Moor) bt L Taylor (Derby Moor) 15-8

**Semi-finals:** Whitehorn bt Musiani 15-0; Halligan bt Singh 16-14

**Final:** Whitehorn bt Halligan 15-5

**Plate** (for losing semi-finalists): Singh

### **U18 Doubles**

**1<sup>st</sup> round:** Bedford II bt Rugby III 15-12; Rugby IV bt Bedford Modern 15-11; Derby Moor II bt Oundle II 15-1; Rugby II bt Derby Moor IV 15-0; Derby Moor III bt Bedford I 15-1

**Quarter-finals:** Derby Moor I bt Bedford II 15-0; Oundle I bt Rugby IV 15-2; Derby Moor II bt Rugby II 15-10; Rugby I bt Derby Moor III 15-11

**Semi-finals:** Derby Moor I bt Oundle I 15-2; Derby Moor II bt Rugby I 15-12

**Final:** Derby Moor I (J Singh & R Whitehorn) bt Derby Moor II (J Halligan & B Singh) 15-10

**Plate** (for first-match losers): Derby Moor IV (S Johnson & H Rehman)

### **U15 Singles**

**Quarter-finals:** J Sumner (Bedford Modern) bt J Clayton (Oundle) 11-1; A Carter (Rugby) bt C Clark (Bedford Modern) 11-9; W Hardman (Rugby) bt T Farren (Rugby) 11-2; G Larrington (Bedford Modern) bt O Colbert (Bedford Modern) 11-2

**Semi-finals:** Sumner bt Carter 11-8; Hardman bt Larrington 11-4

**Final:** Sumner bt Hardman 11-4

**Plate** (for losing semi-finalists): Carter

### **U15 Doubles**

**First round:** Bedford Modern III bt Derby Moor 15-2. **Quarter-finals:** Bedford Modern I bt Rugby III 15-4; Rugby II bt Oundle II 15-5; Bedford Modern II bt Rugby I 15-7; Bedford Modern III bt Oundle I 15-6

**Semi-finals:** Bedford Modern I bt Rugby II 15-2; Bedford Modern II bt Bedford Modern III 15-6

**Final:** Bedford Modern I (O Colbert & J Sumner) bt Bedford Modern II (C Clark & G Larrington) 15-1

**Plate** (for first-match losers): Rugby I (A Carter & H Maddocks)

### **RFA v BUSF REPRESENTATIVE MATCH**

Cambridge University Sports Centre, 8th March 2015

*David Barnes writes:* A British Universities team weakened by the unavailability of three top players was well beaten by a strong RFA VI in the annual Representative Match, held for the second year running at the Cambridge Sports Centre.

In the Singles, National Champion Will Ellison only allowed David Butler of Durham a meagre couple of points, while his close rival Dan Tristao, ranked at two in the country, beat Ben Beltrami of Cambridge by the same margin. Matt Shaw (Cambridge) and Sam Russell (Durham) restored some of the arrears by winning their Singles matches, but the RFA went further ahead as a result of the bottom two encounters, Gareth Price and Chris Burrows proving too strong respectively for Ollie Arnold (Bristol) and Jack Malde (Cambridge).

It never looked as if the students would be able to recover in the Doubles from a 30-point Singles deficit, and so it proved. The RFA side won nine of the twelve Doubles games, and it might have been more had it not been for a hand injury to Tom Dean, a member of the third RFA pair.



Some of the play in this match was of the very highest class, proving that winners can be played on the very true Cambridge courts; but it takes clean and accurate striking, combined with a modicum of inventiveness, to make the openings. Change of pace and the judicious use of the drop-shot are valuable weapons here. After all, the court is longer than it is wide!

The record books show that the RFA, with its much greater pool of players to choose from, usually prevails in this match. But it was a pity that the Universities didn't have their strongest side out for this one, for the match could have been a classic.

## **RESULTS**

**Singles :** W Ellison (RFA) bt D Butler (Durham) 15-2; D Tristao (RFA) bt B Beltrami (Cambridge) 15-2; H Buchanan (RFA) lost to M Shaw (Cambridge) 7-15; T Dean (RFA) lost to S Russell (Durham) 8-15; G Price (RFA) bt O Arnold (Bristol) 15-6; C Burrows (RFA) bt J Malde (Cambridge) 15-5

**Doubles :** Ellison & Price bt Beltrami & Shaw 15-8, 15-0; bt Butler & Russell 15-6; bt Arnold & Malde 15-8. Buchanan & Tristao bt Butler & Russell 15-13, 15-5; bt Arnold & Malde 15-7; bt Beltrami & Shaw 15-6. Burrows & Dean lost to Arnold & Malde 3-15, 7-15; lost to Beltrami & Shaw 14-16; bt Butler & Russell 16-14

**RESULT: RFA bt BUSF 235 – 158**

## **WINCHESTER FIVES OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

Winchester College, March 15<sup>th</sup>

*Harry Akerman reports:* It took just under 12 hours at this year's Barnes Bridge for Dan Grant and Dan Tristao to emerge as first-time winners, and in doing so, become the first players to beat Will Ellison and Hal Mohammed in the tournament since 2008. This year's event was held in Winchester, with 25 pairs entering, and there was a noticeable first-round victory for Zac Jopling and Matt Nunes from St Paul's over the experienced Winchester Fives pair of Jules Pearce-Smith and Stephen Coffey. The Winchester College colts Alec Younger and Tom Kidner also had a fine victory over Dick Warner and Matt Blunden.

The second round saw (slightly surprisingly from the organiser's point of view, given the strength of the draw) the top eight seeds all go through to the quarter-finals, but not without a scare for a couple of them. James Pinder and Adam George took a game off Mario Mohammed and Harry Akerman, while James Marshall and Ed Hawke were 13-11 up in the second game having won the first before Sam Roberts and Matt Shaw came back to win in three.

The quarter-finals saw easy passages into the semi-finals for the top three seeds, but Dave Fox and Matt Cavanagh sneaked past Hamish Buchanan and John Minta in three games (perhaps John was feeling it in the legs a little, having warmed up for the Barnes Bridge by doing a 32-mile hill run the day before!).

It seems that the quarter-final had also taken a lot out of Dave and Matt, who were easily beaten by Hal and Will in the first semi-final. The other semi saw Ben Beltrami and Oliver Arnold play some excellent, powerful fives before they were finally outdone by the Dans in two very close games. Their day in the Barnes Bridge will come, and sooner rather than later, on this showing.

And so to the final, where the Dans were soon 8-1 up and it looked as if Hal (who currently lives in Trinidad and for the last three years has flown over for this tournament to play his only Fives of the season) was going to struggle with the pace of the game, as Will and the Dans were smashing it around the front of the court.

Hal stuck in there, though, and by the end of the first game he was holding his own and so, despite the first game being 15-9 to the Dans, it was still not obvious which way the match would go. It was even less clear 20 minutes later when Hal and Will won the second game 15-4 to level the match, but Dan and Dan came out strongly in the third game.

They applied plenty of pressure to Hal in the left-hand corner who hit shot after shot back down the left-hand wall. Each time the Dans went ahead by a few points and it looked like they might run away with it, back came Will and Hal. But, in the end and after some phenomenal play around the front of the court by Will in particular, Dan and Dan proved just too strong.

A very high-quality Plate saw 16 pairs enter, and in the end, Tom Watkinson and Rob Whitehorn beat the exhausted Ed Hawke and James Marshall 16-14 in the final.

Thanks to all those who entered – especially Jon Lidiard, who brought his team down from Sedbergh, and Bob Dolby who brought down the players from Derby, although probably all of our travelling miles added together did not match the trip made by Hal! Next year Sedbergh...

## RESULTS

**First round:** A. Song & P. Kullavanijaya bt J. Lidiard & H. Thompson-Green 15-1, 15-4. G. Munn & J. McManus bt A. Goodwin & J. Halligan 15-3, 15-3. D. Butler & T. Parker bt M. Catton & D. Spiegel 15-0, 15-2. Z. Jopling & M. Nunes bt J. Pearce-Smith & S. Coffey 7-15, 15-11, 15-10. T. Watkinson & R. Whitehorn bt B. Hale & M. Hale 15-11, 15-9. A. Younger & T. Kidner bt D. Warner & M. Blunden 15-10, 16-14. A. George & J. Pindar bt F. Kelly & T. Robinson 15-7, 15-6. J. Marshall & E. Hawke bt J. Sinton & R. Dyke 15-5, 15-3. G. Wainwright & G. Hollings bt M. Patterson & M. Patterson 15-2, 15-4

**Second Round:** W. Ellison & H. Mohammed bt A. Song & P. Kullavanijaya 15-3, 15-2. D. Butler & T. Parker bt G. Munn & J. McManus 15-11, 15-11. D. Fox & M. Cavanagh bt Z. Jopling & M. Nunes 15-8, 15-8. H. Buchanan & J. Minta bt T. Watkinson & R. Whitehorn 15-3, 15-8. O. Arnold & B. Beltrami bt A. Younger & T. Kidner 15-1, 15-4. M. Mohammed & H. Akerman bt A. George & J. Pindar 13-15, 15-6, 15-8. S. Roberts & M. Shaw bt J. Marshall & E. Hawke 6-15, 15-13, 15-11. D. Tristao & D. Grant bt G. Wainwright & G. Hollings 15-1, 15-3

**Quarter-finals:** W. Ellison & H. Mohammed bt D. Butler & T. Parker 15-12, 15-1. D. Fox & M. Cavanagh bt H. Buchanan & J. Minta 15-3, 15-8. O. Arnold & B. Beltrami bt M. Mohammed & H. Akerman 15-4, 15-9. D. Tristao & D. Grant bt S. Roberts & M. Shaw 15-7, 15-3

**Semi-finals:** W. Ellison & H. Mohammed bt D. Fox & M. Cavanagh 15-1, 15-2. D. Tristao & D. Grant bt O. Arnold & B. Beltrami 15-12, 15-13

**Final:** Tristao & Grant bt Ellison & Mohammed 15-9, 4-15, 15-12

**Plate:** Watkinson & Whitehorn

And for a press report, in the Southampton Daily Echo, go to [http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/sport/11867466.Get\\_Active\\_\\_Why\\_Winchester\\_Fives\\_is\\_better\\_than\\_sq\\_uash/](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/sport/11867466.Get_Active__Why_Winchester_Fives_is_better_than_sq_uash/)

## NATIONAL UNDER 13s CHAMPIONSHIPS

St Paul's School, Barnes, March 15th

*Organiser Peter de Winton writes:* With 36 competitors from six schools, it was a healthy field of players, with all the usual competitive spirit and enthusiasm. We missed having boys from Rossall and Derby Moor, but once again welcomed Shrewsbury House School, who in spite of not having their own four-walled courts, show great enthusiasm for the game. It is also encouraging that various schools are sending boys from Year Six onwards to take part and that they are not cowed by their older competitors.

In the pool stage of the Singles, the six Pilgrims' boys showed their strength and all progressed into the last 16 and the knockout stage. Gibbs of Blundell's, who had competed in 2014, showed no mercy to his opponents and lost only eight points, thereby becoming top seed.

Meanwhile, Ellington of Pilgrims', the second seed, worked his way through the draw with consistency and patience, but had a tough semi-final with the third-seeded Wiseman from Alleyn's Junior, who took him to three games. Gibbs, however, made easier progress to the final, losing 12 points in three rounds, so setting up an intriguing match that went to three tight games: Ellington drew on all his reserves of fitness, but could not quite match Gibbs' firepower, and it was the Blundell's boy who finished as winner. No Singles Plate or third/fourth playoff was staged in the interest of sustaining boys' energy for the Doubles .

With no pools, we went straight into the knockout stage after a lunch break, with the first-round losers going into the Plate. However, the Singles finalists were tired after their endeavours, and this affected the outcome of the Doubles . We will need to change how the event runs in 2016 to prevent this happening, as the Doubles tournament deserves equal billing and importance.

This year Pilgrims' once again showed their strength in depth, beating a succession of Alleyn's Junior and Senior School opponents on their way to winning the Doubles Cup. However, they only did so after meeting strong opposition in their semi-final against the Alleyn's Senior first pair, coming through by just one point. Indeed, we must commiserate with the Alleyn's teams, who occupied three out of the four semi-final places! In the end, though, all the Doubles prizes went to Pilgrims', after their third pair won the Plate, beating Merchant Taylors' in the final.

My thanks to St.Paul's for allowing us the use of the courts, to the coaches for their enthusiasm and flexibility, to all the parents who turn up to support, feed and nurture their charges, and to Frank Akerman for his tireless support and PR activity. It is still my wish that one day we can grow the entry to include the many schools who have players of this age and run the championships over a weekend. To get the best out of the present format, we shall need to shorten the final stages of the Singles, and perhaps start half an hour earlier. But I look forward to next year's championships with confidence, knowing that it is going to be as enjoyable as always to organise, and is likely to include some additional schools who have indicated their interest this year.

### Scores

#### Singles

**Ist round:** Gibbs (Blundell's) bt Matthews (Merchant Taylors') 15-0; Krone (Pilgrims') bt Shah (Merchant Taylors') 15-8; McCleery (Pilgrims') bt Mahendran (Alleyn's) 15-13; Meredith (Alleyn's) bt Beardmore-Gray (Pilgrims') 15-4; Wiseman (Alleyn's Junior) bt Tier (Alleyn's) 15-1; Martin

(Pilgrims') bt Harvey (Pilgrims') 15-2; Watson-Gandy (Alleyn's) bt Mangat (Merchant Taylors') 15-5; Ellington (Pilgrims') bt Casanova (Alleyn's) 15-0

**Quarter-finals:** Gibbs bt Krone 15-10; McCleery bt Meredith 15-8; Wiseman bt Martin 15-5; Ellington bt Watson-Gandy 15-6

**Semi-finals:** Gibbs bt McCleery 11-0, 11-2; Ellington bt Wiseman 11-9, 2-11, 11-3

**Final:** Gibbs (Blundell's) bt Ellington (Pilgrims') 11-8, 5-11, 11-6

**Plate:** not played

## Doubles

**1<sup>st</sup> round:** Alleyn's I bt Pilgrims' III 11-8

**2<sup>nd</sup> round:** Pilgrims' I bt Merchant Taylors' III 11-2; Alleyn's Junior I bt Blundell's II 11-0; Alleyn's I bt Merchant Taylors' I 11-8; Blundell's III bt Alleyn's Junior III 11-8; Alleyn's III bt Pilgrims' II w/o; Alleyn's Junior II bt Shrewsbury House 11-10; Alleyn's Junior IV bt Alleyn's II 11-2; Blundell's I bt Merchant Taylors' II 11-8

**Quarter-finals:** Pilgrims' I bt Alleyn's Junior I 11-1; Alleyn's I bt Blundell's III 11-0; Alleyn's III bt Alleyn's Junior II 11-8; Alleyn's Junior IV bt Blundell's I 11-8

**Semi-finals:** Pilgrims' I bt Alleyn's I 11-10; Alleyn's Junior IV bt Alleyn's III 11-6

**Final:** Pilgrims' I (F.J.H.Krone & J.H.Martin) bt Alleyn's Junior IV 11-3

**Plate:** Pilgrims' III (J.W.Beardmore-Gray & M.C.Harvey) bt Merchant Taylors' I 11-8

## NATIONAL VINTAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cambridge, 22nd March 2015

### **Ian Fuller defends his Vintage Singles title and wins the Doubles for the fourth time, this year with David Hebden.**

*Bob Dolby reports:* In a Vintage Singles competition notable by the absence of Wayne Enstone (hip), Bob Sandie (Knee) and Phil Atkinson (hamstring) it was Ian Fuller who asserted his dominance of the Over 55 category by beating Tony Hamilton 15-0 in the final. Ian had previously enjoyed comparatively easy wins in Pool A over new boy Peter Westwood and organiser Brian Kirk (“Peter was filling in for Bob; I was filling in for Phil”), while Tony took the hard route in Pool B, beating first Dick Warner 15-13, then Stuart Kirby by the same score. Not surprisingly Tony found Ian’s leg-sapping cross-court shots and nagging length a challenge too far in the final.

In the Plate Brian triumphed over Peter to win his first silverware in a Singles competition – the third Derby Moor player to win the John Hawke Plate in the ten years of its existence.

The Doubles competition was swelled by the arrival of Grem McIntyre, John Hawke, Mark Kiteley, Dave Hebden, Andy Passey and Bernard Atkinson. From the two pools Ian & Dave emerged to play Bernard & Andy in one semi-final while Stuart & Tony took on Dick & Brian. The outcome was the expected contest between Ian & Dave and Stuart & Tony, which progressed slowly to 8-all before Ian & Dave tightened the screw as so many times before and came out winners 15-8. It was their first final since the Cyriax in 2004 when they had experienced a bit of difficulty with Hamish Buchanan & Robin Perry!

While the main final was being played over one game Mark Kiteley & Peter Westwood took on Grem McIntyre & John Hawke in a three-games-to-15 Plate final (“Well, it is a national event after all – and we want to get our money’s worth.”) Once Mark and Peter had sorted out who was going for which balls they managed to keep their noses ahead and win in two straight games, 15-12, 15-13.

As is nigh on traditional in this event there was only one boule to award to Mark and Peter, so by common agreement it went to Peter on the basis that, though he was not a member of the RFA, he was at least in the RAF and Mark still had one in the trophy cupboard from the Derby Moor Doubles .

Ian meanwhile did get the correct silverware.

And one of our competitors was moved to verse:

#### VINTAGEODE

*by Tony Hamilton – the White Ball’s Milton*

Brian Kirk did all the work,  
The Hon. Pres. was there in res.,  
Dolby Bob controlled the mob,  
Phil Atkinson got business done,  
Ian Fuller did us muller,  
All strength ebbed on playing Dave Hebden,  
Stuart Kirby made proud Derby,  
The Dep. President on experience lent  
With Andy Passey – nifty chassis –  
Whilst Dick Warner shunned the corner,  
John Hawke gave a Veteran talk,

Young Mark Kiteley started brightly,  
Grem McIntyre went to the wire  
And Peter Westwood thought it good.

### **Scores**

### **Singles**

Final: Fuller bt Hamilton 15-0

Plate: Kirk

### **Doubles**

Semi-finals: Fuller & Hebden bt Atkinson & Passey; Hamilton & Kirby bt Kirk & Warner

Final: Fuller & Hebden bt Hamilton & Kirby 15-8

Plate: Kiteley & Westwood

## **NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

St Paul's School, Barnes, March 26/29th

*Peter King writes:* This year's tournament was back to its normal format of four days and three age groups; twenty schools were represented, with over 130 competitors in all, the Colts being especially keen with 50, and although Winchester were the dominant force across the three competitions there were winners from a further seven establishments. There was a very high standard of play, and customary camaraderie and sportsmanship were very much in evidence. Most notable were the semi-finals and final of the Colts' Doubles, which featured some of the hardest hitting and most determined retrieving ever seen at this level.

The Open Singles tournament went largely with the seeding and produced a final which was a repeat of the West of England tournament and also of the Colts' 2013 event. So it was the decider in a series of three, and it went to three games, with Tom Watkinson of Winchester just prevailing in a match which featured intelligent play by both him and Rob Whitehorn (Derby Moor). Only a couple of other games in the Singles went to three games, although mention should be made of the epic quarter-final between Edinburgh newcomer Andrew Boyd and the more familiar Zack Jopling (SPS) – over two hours of attritional fives, and next day the two met again in a three-game Doubles semi-final, with Edinburgh again just edging it.

The plate final was won by Harveer Mahajan of St Paul's, Colts' champion in 2014 and unfortunate to meet Whitehorn in his group, against Ben Jourdan (Edinburgh Academy) while the second plate went to Bally Singh of Derby Moor. In the Doubles an unlikely Winchester pairing of U18 Singles champion with the 2014 U14 Singles winner Tom Kidner upset SPS II in a lengthy three-gamer to reach the semi-final but neither they nor Edinburgh Academy could match the fire-power of Derby Moor as Whitehorn and John Halligan won every match in straight games, the final going their way 11-9, 11-8.

The Colts' Singles contained few surprises, with both Winchester and St Paul's fielding strong top fours: only Taberham (Merchant Taylors' – plate Doubles winner) and Nwuba (the Olavian U14

Singles winner from 2013) from elsewhere made it to the quarter-finals; and in the semi-finals Winchester prevailed in both matches, Albert Song defeating Dan Whitham and Pete Kullavanijaya accounting for Monty Evans, both 11-4,11-2. In an excellent final Song's consistent stroke-play and severity of shot gave him the edge in two games. But perhaps it all took too much out of the pair, as a magnificent Doubles final in the afternoon unravelled in a long and energy-sapping encounter, and the Malvern pair of Andrew Tudor and Lucas Nelson (conquerors of SPS I) soaked up all the pressure from the Wykehamist pair and gave as good as they got to win in three. SPS II (Dominic Shaw and Nico Hughes) had come close to a similar remarkable result against the Winchester pair in the semi, but were just eased out in three very tight games

It was good to have the U14 tournament back where it belongs, busily filling every spare spot on the third day and continuing to buzz with enthusiasm on the final day. It is undoubtedly important that these younger players have the chance to see the older boys playing at the same venue and know what they can aspire to. Some quite experienced players were on show, together with a number of extremely talented beginners-in-their-first-year-at-senior-school. The eventual winner was Taylor McGuire (Sedbergh) who was top seed on the strength of his success as runner-up in the previous year's U13, but he was pushed all the way by Alex Poyntz of Winchester, who took the middle game after losing the first 12-10. In his case, though, he was not to be deprived in the afternoon, as he and Ben Kullavanijaya won the Doubles with a strong performance both in the semi-final against SPS I and against an experienced Alleyn's pair in the final.

Many thanks to all involved in organisation and support, especially Ian Jackson, Giles Munn and Jamie McManus who shouldered the burden of managing the U14 events, to parents, fanclubs, and some extremely devoted staff without whom the school players would not be developing such an obvious love of the game and skilful enjoyment.

## **RESULTS**

### **OPEN SINGLES**

**Pool A:** 1st T.Watkinson (Winchester); 2nd J.K.Hunt (St Paul's); 3rd G.Wainwright (Sedbergh)

**Pool B:** 1st M.Nunes (St Paul's); 2nd T.Aziz (Whitgift); 3rd H.Andrews (Rossall)

**Pool C:** 1st J.Halligan (Derby Moor); 2nd J.Sellar (Edinburgh Academy); 3rd M.McKay (Rugby)

**Pool D:** 1st C.Mabbutt (Whitgift), 2nd C.Baxter (Derby Moor); 3rd C.Kengeter (St Paul's)

**Pool E:** 1st G.Muscat (Tonbridge); 2nd B.Jourdan (Edinburgh Academy); 3rd S.Reed (Sherborne)

**Pool F:** 1st H.Fry (Marlborough); 2nd L.Heidrich (St Paul's); 3rd S.Johnson (Derby Moor)

**Pool G:** 1st S.Bhushan (St Paul's); 2nd H.Rehman (Derby Moor); 3rd T-J.Roberts (Christ's Hospital)

**Pool H:** 1st A.Boyd (Edinburgh Academy); 2nd A.Taylor (St Paul's); 3rd B.Gosling (Rossall)

**Pool I:** 1st D.Hutt (Tonbridge); 2nd M.Blunden (Derby Moor); 3rd D.Buyanovsky (St Paul's)

**Pool J:** J.Singh (Derby Moor); 2nd G.Tims (Sherborne); 3rd M.Baldwin (Rossall)

**Pool K:** 1st Z.Jopling (St Paul's); 2nd J.Grut (Whitgift); 3rd L.Keates (Derby Moor)

**Pool L:** 1st T.McFarlane (St Paul's); 2nd S.Drennan (Edinburgh Academy); 3rd B.Singh (Derby Moor)

**Pool M:** 1st E.Tebboth (Merchant Taylors'); 2nd M.Segun (Tonbridge); 3rd J.Lee (Rossall)

**Pool N:** 1st S.R.Whitehorn (Derby Moor); 2nd H.Mahajan (St Paul's); 3rd C.Rogers (Oundle)

**Round 1:** Halligan beat Nunes 11-7, 11-2; Mabbutt beat Muscat 11-6, 11-5; Bhushan beat Fry 11-1, 11-1; Boyd beat Hutt 11-1, 11-4; Jopling beat Singh 11-4, 11-5; Tebboth beat McFarlane 11-3, 5-11, 11-6

**Quarter-finals:** Watkinson beat Halligan 11-1, 11-6; Bhushan beat Mabbutt 11-7, 11-5; Boyd beat Jopling 11-9, 7-11, 11-6; Whitehorn beat Tebboth 11-3, 11-6

**Semi-finals:** Watkinson beat Bhushan 11-3, 11-4; Whitehorn beat Boyd 11-8, 11-5

**Final:** Watkinson beat Whitehorn 11-2, 5-11, 11-3

**First plate:** Mahajan (St Paul's)

**Second plate:** B Singh (Derby Moor)

## OPEN DOUBLES

**Preliminary round:** Edinburgh Academy II beat Rossall II 11-0, 11-0; Derby Moor IV beat Sherborne 11-9, 11-1; St Paul's IV beat Rossall I 11-2, 11-1

**1st round:** Derby Moor I beat Edinburgh Academy II 11-0, 11-2; St Paul's III beat Tonbridge 11-2, 11-7; Winchester beat Derby Moor III 11-3, 11-6; St Paul's II beat Derby Moor V 11-1, 11-0; St Paul's I beat Derby Moor IV 11-1, 11-9; Whitgift I beat Sedbergh 4-11, 11-8, 11-5; Derby Moor II beat St Paul's V 11-0, 11-3; Edinburgh Academy I beat St Paul's IV 11-0, 11-7

**Quarter-finals:** Derby Moor I beat St Paul's III 11-5, 11-2; Winchester beat St Paul's II 6-11, 11-9, 11-5; St Paul's I beat Whitgift I 11-5, 11-5; Edinburgh Academy I beat Derby Moor II 11-8, 11-3

**Semi-finals:** Derby Moor I beat Winchester 11-2, 11-5; Edinburgh Academy I beat St Paul's I 5-11, 11-2, 11-4

**Final:** Derby Moor I (Whitehorn/Halligan) beat Edinburgh Academy I (Boyd/Jourdan) 11-9, 11-8

**Plate:** Derby Moor III (J Singh/ B Singh)

## COLTS SINGLES

**Pool A:** 1st A.Song (Winchester); 2nd T.Gallagher (St Olave's); 3rd D.Burton (Whitgift); 4th S.Garella (Merchant Taylors')

**Pool B:** 1st J.Hanton (Alleyn's); 2nd H.Rehman (Derby Moor); 3rd Q.Gueroult (St Paul's)

**Pool C:** 1st E.Taberham (Merchant Taylors'); 2nd C.Maclaurin (Blundell's); 3rd M.Fasoli (Winchester)

**Pool D:** 1st D.Shaw (St Paul's); 2nd G.Barnard (Alleyn's); 3rd F.Norris (Christ's Hospital)

**Pool E:** 1st A.Tudor (Malvern); 2nd A.Ahuja (St Paul's); 3rd B.Rentoul (Alleyn's)

**Pool F:** 1st T.Kidner (Winchester); 2nd A.McCreath (Fettes); 3rd H.Russell (Whitgift)

**Pool G:** 1st T.Francis (Blundell's); 2nd S.Patel (Tonbridge); 3rd A.Naumenko (Alleyn's)

**Pool H:** 1st D.Whitham (St Paul's); 2nd Stevens (Bradfield); 3rd T.Davies (Merchant Taylors')

**Pool I:** 1st P.Kullavanijaya (Winchester); 2nd Holden (Bradfield); 3rd P.Fernandes (St Paul's)

**Pool J:** 1st L.Nelson (Malvern); 2nd B.Kirwan (Alleyn's); 3rd Z.Pernebayev (Tonbridge)

**Pool K:** 1st M.Suddaby (Rugby); 2nd S.Prakash (Whitgift); 3rd M.Pugh (St Olave's)

**Pool L:** 1st N.Hughes (St Paul's); 2nd B.Clarke (Blundell's); 3rd A.Burgess (Christ's Hospital)

**Pool M:** 1st K.Nwuba (St Olave's); 2nd B.Yass (St Paul's); 3rd W.Hanley (Tonbridge)

**Pool N:** 1st S.Yang (Alleyn's); 2nd C.Low (Whitgift); 3rd T.Beal (Rugby)

**Pool O:** 1st G.Hollings (Sedbergh); 2nd F.Saeger (Winchester); 3rd Lemon (Bradfield)

**Pool P:** 1st M.Evans (St Paul's); 2nd M.Mishra (Merchant Taylors'); 3rd C.Hughes (Tonbridge); 4th B.Gosling (Rossall)

**Round 1:** Song beat Hanton 11-1, 11-7; Taberham beat Shaw 11-7, 11-5; Kidner beat Tudor 11-8, 11-1; Whitham beat Francis 11-3, 11-6; Kullavanijaya beat Nelson 11-0, 11-6; Hughes beat Suddaby 11-2, 11-1, Nwuba beat Yang 11-6, 11-7; Evans beat Hollings 11-0, 11-2.

**Quarter-finals:** Song beat Taberham 11-4, 11-0; Whitham beat Kidner 11-9, 12-11; Kullavanijaya beat Hughes 10-12, 11-7, 11-4; Evans beat Nwuba 11-1, 11-4

**Semi-finals:** Song beat Whitham 11-4, 11-2; Kullavanijaya beat Evans 11-4, 11-2

**Final:** Song beat Kullavanijaya 11-1, 11-7

**First plate:** Kirwan (Alleyn's)

**Second plate:** Fernandes (St Paul's)

## COLTS DOUBLES

**1st round:** St Paul's IV beat Tonbridge II 6-11, 11-1, 11-6; Whitgift II beat Christ's Hospital 11-8, 11-1; Alleyn's II beat Merchant Taylors' II 12-10, 11-5; Malvern beat St Paul's III 11-5, 11-2; Bradfield beat Alleyn's III 11-4, 11-6.

**2nd Round:** Winchester I beat : St Paul's IV 11-2, 11-0; St Olave's beat Merchant Taylors' I 11-6, 11-4; Alleyn's I beat Whitgift II 11-2, 11-1; St Paul's II beat Alleyn's II 11-2, 11-3; Malvern beat Winchester II 11-2, 11-3; Blundell's beat Tonbridge I 11-2, 11-2; Rugby beat Whitgift I 6-11, 11-8, 11-8; St Paul's I beat Bradfield 11-5, 11-9.

**Quarter-finals:** Winchester I beat St Olave's 11-2, 11-9; St Paul's II beat Alleyn's I 11-6, 8-11, 11-7;



Malvern beat Blundell's I 11-4, 11-4; St Paul's I beat Rugby 11-1, 11-7.

**Semi-finals:** Winchester I beat St Paul's II 11-8, 9-11, 11-8; Malvern beat St Paul's I 11-6, 2-11, 11-5

**Final:** Malvern (Nelson/Tudor) beat Winchester I (Kullavanijaya/Song) 9-11, 11-5, 11-5

**Plate:** Merchant Taylors' I (Taberham/Davies)

#### **UNDER 14 SINGLES**

**Pool A:** 1st T.McGuire (Sedbergh); 2nd H.Powell (Marlborough); 3rd K.Hudson (Winchester); 4th E.Driesen (Tonbridge)

**Pool B:** 1st N.Jerome (Whitgift); 2nd J.Zealley (St Paul's); 3rd L.Quinn (Alleyn's)

**Pool C:** 1st F.Kernot (Winchester); 2nd W.Awdry (Christ's Hospital); 3rd A.Chaudhry (Merchant Taylors')

**Pool D:** 1st W.Hirth (Alleyn's); 2nd M.Henry (Winchester); 3rd K.Maclean (St Paul's)

**Pool E:** 1st T.Carlton (St Paul's); 2nd Toalster (Tonbridge); 3rd D.Ahmed (Whitgift)

**Pool F:** 1st B.Kullavanijaya (Winchester); 2nd O.Waters (Marlborough); 3rd P.Lam (Whitgift); 4th K.Parsapour (St Paul's)

**Pool G:** 1st A.Cochrane (Alleyn's); 2nd W.Kim (St Paul's); 3rd W.Kernot (Winchester)

**Pool H:** B.Howman (Winchester); 2nd B.Patchett (Sedbergh); 3rd S.Kendrick (Whitgift)

**Pool I:** 1st J.Abbott (St Paul's); 2nd Choo-Choy (Tonbridge); 3rd A.McQueen (Christ's Hospital)

**Pool J:** 1st Burrows (Tonbridge); 2nd S.McCrea (Whitgift); 3rd M.Gill (Alleyn's)

**Pool K:** 1st A.Yu (St Paul's); 2nd O.Watson (Winchester); 3rd E.Townshend (Merchant Taylors')

**Pool L:** 1st A.Poyntz (Winchester); 2nd J.Magee (Sedbergh); 3rd F.Khan (St Paul's); 4th O.Timpson (Whitgift)

**1st round:** Jerome beat F.Kernot 11-7; Hirth beat Carlton 11-5; Abbott beat Howman 11-5; Yu beat Burrows 11-6.

**Quarter-finals:** McGuire beat Jerome 15-8; Hirth beat Kullavanijaya 15-1; Cochrane beat Abbott 15-7; Poyntz beat Yu 15-3

**Semi-finals:** McGuire beat Hirth 15-9; Poyntz beat Cochrane 15-5

**Final:** McGuire beat Poyntz 12-10, 6-11, 11-3

**First plate:** Henry (Winchester)

**Second plate:** Khan (St. Paul's)

#### **UNDER 14 DOUBLES**

**1st round:** Winchester IV beat St Paul's III 15-6; St Paul's II beat Marlborough 15-13

**2nd round:** Winchester I beat Tonbridge II 15-0; Christ's Hospital beat Merchant Taylors' 15-5; St Paul's I beat Whitgift II 15-8; Winchester II beat Alleyn's II 15-7; Alleyn's I beat Winchester IV 15-4; Tonbridge I beat Whitgift III 15-3; Winchester III beat Whitgift I 15-6; Sedbergh I beat St Paul's II 15-5.

**Quarter-finals:** Winchester I beat Christ's Hospital 15-0; St Paul's I beat Winchester II 15-13; Alleyn's I beat Tonbridge I 15-5; Sedbergh I beat Winchester III 15-8.

**Semi-finals:** Winchester I beat St Paul's I 15-10; Alleyn's I beat Sedbergh I 15-8.

**Final:** Winchester I (Kullavanijaya/Poyntz) beat Alleyn's I (Cochrane/Hirth) 11-8, 11-5

**Plate:** Marlborough (Powell/Waters)

#### **NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

Alleyn's School, Dulwich, April 11/12<sup>th</sup>

Will Ellison and Dan Trisato lived up their top seeding by winning their first National Doubles Championship as a pair – although it was neither's first national Doubles title, Will having won for the last two years with Charlie Brooks, while Dan partnered Dan Grant to the title in 2012.

Their win this year came at the expense of Tom Dean and Ed Kay, who pushed them hard in the final. In fact, they were in the lead no less than three times in the first game of the final before the eventual champions took it to 11. The second game then followed the same pattern, with plenty of see-saw rallies before Will and Dan sealed the title with a 15-10 win.

## **RESULTS**

**First round:** Bate/Murby bt Cavanagh/Hatton 15-7,7-15,15-9; Aquilina/Waller bt Carr/Sulkin 15-3,15-6

**Quarter-finals:** Ellison/Tristao bt Bate/Murby 15-7,15-10; Arnold/Beltrami bt Parker/Russell 15-7,15-10; Buchanan/Perry bt Butler /Hawke 15-4,15-11; Dean/Kay bt Aquilina/Waller 15-4,15-7

**Semi-finals:** Ellison/Tristao bt Arnold/Beltrami 15-10,15-3; Dean/Kay bt Buchanan/Perry 15-11,15-12

**Final:** Ellison/Tristao bt Dean/Kay 15-11,15-10

**Plate:** Parker/Russell

## **NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

St. Paul's School, Barnes, Sat/Sun April 18/19<sup>th</sup>

The Wessex Club scored a notable first, upsetting the seedings and ending the Old Paulines' four-year winning run by winning the National Club Championship.

With a team comprised of National Singles and Doubles champion Will Ellison, David Butler, Harry Akerman and Giles Munn, they ended up scoring a clear win over the defending champions (represented by Dan Tristao, Sam Russell, Julian Aquilina and Tom Dean in the final), 115 points to 84.

Mind you, that result didn't look on the cards after the Singles, where the four games were shared, and only David's comprehensive win allowed Wessex a meagre six-point lead. However, the Doubles was a very different story, with Wessex winning six of the eight games to press home their advantage and win the title.

## **RESULTS**

**Quarter-finals:** Old Paulines bt Old Blues (Christ's Hospital); Alleyn Old Boys bt Executioners; Wessex bt Derby Moor; Cambridge bt West of England

**Semi-finals:** Old Paulines bt Alleyn Old Boys; Wessex bt Cambridge

**Final:** Wessex bt Old Paulines 115-84

## **NATIONAL GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Marlborough, April 19th 2015

### **Titles for Christ's Hospital, Rugby, Malvern and Bedford Modern**

Girls from Christ's Hospital won the U18 Singles, the U14 Singles and Doubles, and the U13 Singles, while Malvern picked up the U16 Singles and Doubles. There was one title each for Rugby (the U18 Doubles) and for Bedford Modern School in their first appearance at these championships: their pair won the U13 Doubles.

\*

In the senior section there was a small entry. Louise Mathias of Christ's Hospital maintained her dominance of the age-group by adding the U18 Singles title to the U16, U14 and U13 won in previous years. Her opponent in the final, Milly Richards from Rugby, had the consolation of winning the Doubles with Kate Broad.

In the U16s there was a pleasingly high standard, but from the start it was clear that Amelia Law and Cassie Bedford of Malvern were the ones to beat, and so it proved in the Doubles. In the Singles Lottie Harbottle from Rugby gave Amelia a decent game in the final and picked up the Plate in the Doubles with her partner Nush Mehta.

The U14s proved a happy hunting ground for Christ's Hospital, with last year's U13 champion Angelina Green winning the Singles and picking up the Doubles with a new partner, Jordanna Joseph. Marlborough took silver in both events.

The U13s proved a difficult area for organiser Alex Smith to complete in the time allotted as left hands were generally weak and the service dominated heavily. It may be that next year we might make some changes in this part of the draw, starting with the Doubles so as to give all competitors a chance to get an early feel for the courts and the ball. As it was, the Singles section this year produced a worthy winner in the powerful Aisha Alli from Christ's Hospital and then there was a thrilling Doubles final in which the surprise pairing of Maddie Kent and Katie Sumner from Bedford Modern pipped Aisha and her partner Matilda Reynolds.

This year, for various reasons mostly connected with the calendar, there were no players from Sedbergh, Oundle, Rossall or Eastbourne. If next year these schools were to be represented it would be an even finer festival of Girls' Fives.

## **RESULTS**

### **U18 Singles**

#### **Group stages:**

Group A: 1. L. Mathias (Christ's Hospital) 2. K. Broad (Rugby) 3. K. Martin (Rugby) 4. K. Rolls (Marlborough)

Group B: 1. M. Richards (Rugby) 2. A. Flood (Aldenham) 3. J. Jones (Marlborough) 4. D. Treloar (Christ's Hospital)

#### **Knockout rounds:**

**Semi Finals:** Mathias bt Flood 15-4, Richards bt Broad 15-9,

**Final:** Mathias bt Richards 15-3

**Plate:** Broad bt Flood 15-8

## U18 Doubles

### Group stage:

1. Rugby bt Aldenham, 2. Christ's Hospital bt Aldenham, 3. Rugby bt Christ's Hospital  
Winners: Rugby

## U18 Trophies

	Singles	Doubles
U18	Paula Smith Cup	Simon Eckert Memorial Trophy
Gold	Louise Mathias (Christ's Hospital)	Rugby (Broad & Richards)
Silver	Milly Richards (Rugby)	Christ's Hospital (Mathias & Treloar)
Bronze	Kate Broad (Rugby)	Aldenham School (Flood & Patel)

## U16 Singles

### Group stages:

Group A: 1. Maisie Harte (Rugby) 2. Phoebe Thornhill (Christ's Hospital) 3. Cosi Bugel (Marlborough)

Group B: 1. Lottie Harbottle (Marlborough) 2. Ynys Barnard-Masterson (CH) 3. Anna Laakonen (Marlborough) 4. Reshmi Patel (Aldenham)

Group C: 1. Amelia Law (Malvern) 2. Beatrix Crinnion (CH) 3. Kirti Mehta (Rugby)

Group D: 1. Cassie Bedford (Malvern) 2. Izzy Lee (Rugby) 3. Anastasia de Clermont (Rugby) 4. Stella Saunt-Hills (CH)

### Knock-out rounds:

**Semi-Finals:** Law bt Thornhill, Harbottle bt Lee

**Final:** Amelia Law (Malvern) bt Lottie Harbottle (Rugby) 15-5

**Plate:** Thornhill bt Lee 15-3

## U16 Doubles

### Group Stages

Group A: 1. Malvern 2. Rugby II 3. Christ's Hospital II

Group B: 1. Christ's Hospital I 2. Rugby I, 3. Marlborough

### Knock-out rounds

**Final:** Malvern (Law & Bedford) bt Christ's Hospital I (Thornhill & Crinnion) 15-11

**Plate:** Rugby I (Harbottle & Mehta) bt Rugby II (Lee & de Clermont)

## U16 Trophies

	Singles	Doubles
U16	Melanie Whitehead Cup	Denise Hall-Wilton Trophy
Gold	Amelia Law (Malvern)	Malvern (Law & Bedford)
Silver	Lottie Harbottle (Rugby)	Christ's Hospital I (Thornhill & Crinnion)

Bronze	Phoebe Thornhill (CH)	Rugby I (Harbottle & Mehta)
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### U14 Singles

#### Group rounds:

Group A: 1. E. Conway (Aldenham) S. Odusote (CH) P. Miles (Marlborough)

Group B: 1. M. Jevons (Marlborough) 2. R. Lewis (CH) 3. D. Okeowo (Aldenham)

Group C: 1. A. Green (CH) 2. L. Beckett (Marlborough) 3. I. Shuker (Marlborough)

Group D: 1. J. Joseph (CH) 2. L. Wollocombe (Marlborough) 3. A. Thomas (Marlborough)

#### Knock-out rounds:

Quarter-finals: Conway bt Lewis 11-0, Jevons bt Odusote 11-3, Joseph bt Beckett 11-2, Green bt Wollacombe 11-0

Semi-finals: Jevons bt Conway 11-3, Green bt Joseph 11-3

**Final:** Angelina Green (Christ's Hospital) bt Maya Jevons (Marlborough)

**Plate:** Jordanna Joseph (Christ's Hospital) bt Emma Conway (Aldenham)

### U14 Doubles

#### Group rounds:

Group A: 1. Marlborough I 2. Aldenham 3. Christ's Hospital II

Group B: 1. Christ's Hospital 2. Marlborough II 3. Marlborough/Malvern

Knock-out rounds

**Semi-finals:** Christ's Hospital I bt Aldenham 11-1, Marlborough I bt Marlborough II 11-0

**Final:** Christ's Hospital (Green &) bt Marlborough I (Jevons & Miles)

**Plate:** Aldenham bt Marlborough II 11-7

### U14 Trophies

	Singles	Doubles
U14	Gardner Cup	Beaman Cup
Gold	Angelina Green (Christ's Hospital)	Christ's Hospital (Green & Joseph)
Silver	Maya Jevons (Marlborough)	Marlborough I (Jevons & Miles)
Bronze	Jordanna Joseph (Christ's Hospital)	Aldenham (Conway & Okeowo)

### U13 Singles

#### Group rounds:

Group A: 1. K. Sumner (Bedford Modern) 2. O. Bruce (Rugby) 3. Z. Freedman (Aldenham)

Group B: 1. A. Day (Rugby) 2. M. Kent (Bedford Modern) 3. Z. Brown (Aldenham)

Group C: 1. A. Alli (CH), 2. M. Rees (Aldenham), 3. E. Gillespie (Aldenham)

Group D: 1. M. Reynolds (CH) J. Whitehead (Blundell's) 3. S. McMahon (Aldenham) 4. I. Simpson (Aldenham)

#### Knock-out rounds:

**Quarter-finals:** Sumner bt Whitehead 11-0, Alli bt Kent 11-4, Day bt Freedman 11-4, Reynolds bt Bruce 11-4

**Semi-finals:** Aisha Alli (Christ's Hospital) bt Katie Sumner (Bedford Modern) 11-7, Alice Day (Rugby) bt Matilda Reynolds 12-10

**Final:** Aisha Alli (Christ's Hospital) bt Alice Day (Rugby) 11-4

**Plate:** Maddie Kent (Bedford Modern) bt Zoe Freedman (Aldenham) 12-11

### U13 Doubles

**Knock-out rounds:** not recorded

**Semi-finals:** Bedford Modern bt Rugby 11-6, Christ's Hospital bt Aldenham I 11-7

**Final:** Bedford Modern bt Christ's Hospital 11-7

**Plate:** Aldenham I bt Rugby

### U13 Trophies

	Singles	Doubles
U13	Cambridge Cup	Oxford Cup
Gold	Aisha Alli (Christ's Hospital)	Bedford Modern (Sumner & Kent)
Silver	Alice Day (Rugby)	Christ's Hospital (Alli & Reynolds)
Bronze	Maddie Kent (Bedford Modern)	Aldenham I (Freedman & Brown)

## THE NATIONAL MASTERS

Marlborough April 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 - **Hebden and Wilkinson are the Masters!**

Les grands seigneurs du Fives lined up once more at Marlborough College for the Masters' Championships, tightly marshalled by the Admiral and gently ministered unto by the Good Doctor Akerman. In fact, however, there was no need of medical care with these sprightly young men: it was Mark Kiteley in the Veterans' competition who dislocated a finger, but more of that elsewhere.....

In the absence of his customary partner John East, defending champion Martin Wilkinson elected to pair up with fellow Cantabrian (or is that Cantabrigian?) David Hebden. Well, he doesn't have too bad a record in this Doubles lark, after all. David wasn't the only newcomer to this event, however, as a new record was set this year: 5 pairs contesting the Admiral's Cup.

The round-robin was the Admiral Bawtree's preference; all deemed this an entirely appropriate format, guaranteeing as it did long periods of rest for the majority. It also gave next year's President ample opportunity for networking and assessing his co-players' willingness to aid in him in his quest to stabilise the RFA after the shambles of his two predecessors' tenure of office.

As for the fives: Bev Boag & Frank Akerman and John Hawke & Giles Stimson shared the Mars bar; Neil Arnott & Alan Maltby took the non-existent bronze medal; and Graham Gardner & Bernard Atkinson the equally fictitious silver. Which accorded the outgoing President the particular pleasure of awarding the gold medals and the trophy to the Light Blues: Martin (his 4th in a row) and David (his first).

Which, for those of an archival bent (yes, David Barnes was there too) means that David Hebden has now won every National Open title in the book: National Singles (x1) and National Doubles (x10); Veterans Singles (x5) and Veterans Doubles (x4), Vintage Singles (x2) and Vintage Doubles (x4); and now the Masters Doubles. Were there a Masters Singles, who'd bet against him?

And next year? Well, there is talk of 10 pairs. One thing is certain: turn up the volume – Mr Warner comes of age!

## NATIONAL VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Marlborough College, April 25/26<sup>th</sup>

It was a case of history repeating itself at the 2015 National Veterans' (over 45s) Championships, as the 2014 champions successfully defended their titles. John Minta took his second successive singles title, with a win over former champion Hamish Buchanan in the final, before Hamish teamed up with Bruce Hanton to win their fifth successive doubles title with a win over former National Doubles Champions John Beswick and Neil Roberts in the final.

In the Singles there was a good turn-out, with the south west well represented. New boy Tom Kiggell made his mark immediately by reaching the semi-final with a victory over former National champion Neil Roberts; in the semi, however, he had no answer to John Minta's constant pressure. The other semi-final was a real classic, with John Beswick rolling back the years to take Hamish all the way. Amazingly Hamish had enough in reserve to give John Minta a serious test in the final.

The Doubles competition was marred by a 1st round accident to Mark Kiteley who had to be taken to Gloucester A& E by his partner John Hawke for relocation of his dislocated finger! The quarter-finals went according to seeding, though both Hamilton & Warner and Christie & Kirby were pushed hard and were no match for Buchanan & Hanton and Beswick & Roberts respectively in the semis. The final was another classic, a three-gamer that drew great applause for the level of skill and consistency shown by both pairs.

### RESULTS

#### Singles

**Preliminary Round:** Minta bt Davison 15-2

**First Round:** Minta bt Grant 15-4, Bury bt Stubbs 15-3, Roberts bt Kennerley 15-3, Kiggell bt Harrison 15-6, Beswick bt Geere 15-0, Watson bt Hamilton 15-12, Warner bt Nithsdale 15-4, Buchanan bt Lewis 15-1

**Quarter-finals:** Minta bt Bury 11-5 11-1, Kiggell bt Roberts 11-2 11-9, Beswick bt Watson 11-0 11-0, Buchanan bt Warner 11-0 11-0

**Semi-finals:** Minta bt Kiggell 11-1 11-3, Buchanan bt Beswick 6-11 11-7 11-8

**Final:** Minta bt Buchanan 15-8, 15-9

#### Singles Plate:

**Preliminary Round:** Hamilton bt Stubbs 15-4

**Quarter-finals:** Hamilton bt Kennerley 15-7, Nithsdale bye, Grant bt Geere 15-12, Harrison bt Davison 15-3

**Semi-finals:** Hamilton bt Nithsdale 15-6, Harrison bt Grant 15-1

**Final:** Harrison bt Hamilton 15-4 15-0

**Singles Bottle of Beer:** Nithsdale

#### Doubles

**Preliminary Round:** Buchanan & B Hanton bt Somerville & Thompson 15-4

**First Round:** Buchanan & B Hanton bt Bethwaite & Clark 15-4, Harrison & Nithsdale bt Atkinson & Gunion 15-7, A Hanton & Stubbs bt Lewis & Watson 15-7, Hamilton & Warner bt Kiteley & Hawke (retired to A&E), Christie & Kirby bt Hillman & Sanders 15-3, Butterfield & Walter bt Davison & Kiggell 15-11, Kennerley & Kirk bt Bury & Grant 15-13, Beswick & Roberts bt Jenkinson & Sharp

15-2

**Quarter-finals:** Buchanan & B Hanton bt Harrison & Nithsdale 11-2 11-4, Hamilton & Warner bt A Hanton & Stubbs 12-10 11-9, Christie & Kirby bt Butterfield & Walter 11-9 11-9, Beswick & Roberts bt Kennerley & Kirk 11-6 11-2

**Semi-finals:** Buchanan & B Hanton bt Hamilton & Warner 11-4 11-1, Beswick & Roberts bt Christie & Kirby 11-7 11-4

**Final:** Buchanan & B Hanton bt Beswick & Roberts 12-15 15-5 15-4

#### **Doubles Plate**

**Quarter Finals:** Kirk & Kennerley bt Bethwaite & Clark 15-13, Atkinson & Gunyon bt Sanders & Hillman 15-9, Bury & Grant bt Somerville & Thompson 15-4, Davison & Kiggell bt Jenkinson & Sharp 15-2

**Semi Finals:** Kennerley & Kirk bt Atkinson & Gunyon 15-10, Davison & Kiggell bt Bury & Grant 15-11

**Final:** Davison & Kiggell bt Kennerley & Kirk 11-6 11-3

**Doubles Bottle of Beer:** Harrison & Nithsdale

## **SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Loretto School, Musselburgh, May 2nd/3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Tristao successfully defends Scottish Open singles title**

*Neil Roberts reports:* This year the Scottish Open had to compete with the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight for the distinction of being the weekend's most talked about sporting event. I'm sure that all the spectators who braved the cold weather at Loretto will have marvelled at the quality of the competition, not just the established talents of defending champion Dan Tristao, Dave Butler and local favourite Richie Murby, but also the emerging stars of the future including Andrew Boyd of Edinburgh Academy, Gary Lemmon of Loretto, and Archie McCreath and Grant Sperling from Fettes College.

Eventually, after a hard day's Fives, the top two seeds made it through to the final, Dan Tristao defeating Dave Butler in two hard-fought games.

On the Sunday morning, the skill of the organiser in selecting doubles pairings of matching abilities proved as good as ever (which is more than can be said of his Fives), as several of the group matches went to deciding third games.

Eventually, Caledonian club stalwart Mike Kemp, partnering schoolboy sensation Andrew Boyd, made it through to the final to defeat defending doubles champion Ed Hatton and Loretto's rising star Gary Lemmon. In the plate final, Simon Hodgson and Jez (winner of the best beard competition) Sinton defeated Neil Roberts and Grant Sperling.

As always, the organiser is very grateful to Loretto school and to Roger Whait in particular for allowing us to use their courts for this prestigious tournament.

## **RESULTS**

### **Singles**

**1st round:** N Roberts bt Gary Lemmon (Loretto) 15-11, 16-14; A George bt Grant Sperling (Fettes) 15-3, 15-3; Andrew Boyd (Edinburgh Academy) bt J Sinton 15-3, 15-3; M Kemp bt Archie McCreath (Fettes) 15-4, 15-7



**2nd round:** Tristao bt Roberts 15-4, 15-2; George bt Hatton 15-3, 15-8; Murby bt Boyd 15-3, 15-3; Butler bt Kemp 15-4, 15-7

**Semi-finals:** Tristao bt George 15-10, 15-1; Butler bt Murby 15-6, 15-6

**Final:** Tristao bt Butler 15-4, 15-5

**Plate:** Hatton

### **Doubles**

#### **Pool A**

Sinton/Hodgson bt Murby/ Patrín Maddison (Loretto) 7-11,11-2, 11-3

Hatton/Lemmon bt Murby/Maddison 11-7,11-4

Hatton/Lemmon bt Sinton/Hodgson 12-10,6-11,11-9

#### **Pool B**

Roberts/Sperling bt George/ Matthew Sinclair (Loretto) 11-2, 12-10

Kemp/Boyd bt George/Sinclair 11-4, 11-0

Kemp/Boyd bt Roberts/Sperling 11-0, 11-2

**Final:** Boyd/Kemp bt Hatton/Lemmon 15-7, 15-5

**Plate:** Hodgson/Sinton

## **NATIONAL WINCHESTER MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

Bradfield College, Sunday May 10th, 2015

### **Steel and Pringle win record-breaking third mixed doubles title**

Alex Steel and Andy Pringle wrote their names into the record books by winning the 2015 Winchester Fives Mixed Doubles Championship. Having successfully defended their title for the second time, it means they have become the first pair to win the title three times.

It's an achievement all the more remarkable when you consider that Alex is still suffering from the after-effects of a car accident earlier this year (in which, we might add, she was entirely blameless) which left her with a very badly damaged right shoulder. Plus, this was arguably the strongest field assembled in recent times for this championship, including reigning national champions in Rugby, Eton and Winchester Fives.

It was a recipe for fierce competition, and so it proved right from the off, with Eastbourne's Beal Snr and Jnr (Spencer and Simon, partnering Kathleen Briedenhann and Tessa Mills, respectively) scoring hard-fought wins in the first round of round-robin matches. It was fascinating to watch the various styles of play, as everyone became accustomed to the unfamiliar demands of the buttress game. For example, the Eton Fives pair of Gareth Hoskins and Karen Hird provided stern opposition, with their willingness to head to the front of the court and volley. They improved throughout the day, but in the end the Rugby Fives players proved too strong, and Karen and Gareth were left with the wooden spoon – and big smiles on their faces!

The second round of matches brought the defending champions into action and they opened with a decisive win over Beal Jnr/Mills, while Beal Snr/Briedenhann secured a tough win over Marlborough's Jim Hughes and Melissa Cole, who were making their first appearance in this event.

Two further wins in the subsequent rounds gave Andy and Alex a 100% record with one game still to play, and seemed to make them a near-certainty to reach the final. But, in the meantime, Simon Beal and Tessa recovered from their opening loss to win their next three games, including an epic 16-14 win over Spencer and Kathleen. The long and short of it was that, with one game left to play – Andy/Alex v Spencer/Kathleen – the top three places were yet to be decided.

Then disaster struck: a power cut hit the entire school (and much of the local area, apparently) and plunged the courts into darkness for 90 minutes.

It gave the four players in that final game something of a rest, so it was perhaps no surprise that, when it came, it was another epic encounter. The first few points were shared, and although Andy & Alex worked up a decent lead, they were pegged back to 13-13, making for a very nervy end to the game. By this stage, Andy & Alex had enough points to guarantee a place in the final, but Spencer & Kathleen knew a win for them would put them into final at the expense of Simon and Tessa.

Eventually, though, Andy and Alex held their nerve – much helped by Andy finding the buttress with his serve at many crucial points towards the end – and they eked out a 15-13 win.

It was a tough result for Spencer and Kathleen, as they had scored at least 13 points in all of their four games, but only won two of them. Still, at least they had the consolation of going on to win the plate with a second victory over Jim and Melissa.

If Simon and Tessa had wondered if that last round-robin game would leave Andy and Alex shattered for the final, they soon found out the answer was an emphatic no. Although the match started evenly, as the first game wore on, the defending champions gradually began to assert their authority, finding more winners, forcing more errors and defending as if their lives depended on it. It was another hard-fought match, but in the end, the defending champions won to 7 and 5, and ensured the trophy would stay in South West London for another 12 months.

## **RESULTS**

### **Round-robin:**

Alex Steel & Andy Pringle bt Melissa Cole & Jim Hughes 15-7; bt Tessa Mills and Simon Beal 15-3; bt Kathleen Briedenhann and Spencer Beal 15-13; bt Karen Hird and Gareth Hoskins 15-6  
Cole & Hughes lost to Mills & Beal 6-15; lost to Briedenhann & Beal 6-15; bt Hird & Hoskins 15-13  
Mills & Beal bt Briedenhann & Beal 16-14; bt Hird & Hoskins 15-10  
Briedenhann & Beal bt Hird & Hoskins 15-5

**Final:** Steel & Pringle bt Mills & Beal 15-7, 15-5

**Plate:** Briedenhann & Beal

## **CAMBRIDGE FIVES CLUB**

### **Cambridge, June 26th 2015**

The new Fives courts and club at Cambridge University have been featured in a news report by ITV, and several members of the University Rugby Fives Club performed starring roles.

Led by current captain Jacob Brubert, the four students demonstrated both Eton and Rugby Fives for the cameras. We believe this makes them the first people to be seen playing Fives on TV since Jack Calf was shown playing Rugby Fives in an episode of BBC's 'New Tricks' a few years ago.

You can watch ITV's film (which was due to be broadcast in the east of the Anglia region on June 26th) and read the accompanying article by clicking on the link below; and, while aficionados of the games may be able to point to several, err, 'inaccuracies' in the story, it's great publicity for Fives, and will surely help to promote the games, both within Cambridge and in the wider area.

## **DERBY MOOR INVITATION DOUBLES**

Derby Moor, June 28<sup>th</sup> 2015-07-23

### **Derby Moor Doubles win for Goodwin & Davey**

Anthony Goodwin won the 12th Derby Moor Invitation Doubles for the third time, partnered this year by Chris Davey, ex-Bedford and currently Birmingham University. On the way to victory Anthony & Chris had a tight quarter-final match against Derby Moor schoolboys Jai Singh & Lawrence Taylor; then an even tighter three-gamer in the semi-final against two-times winner Tim Widdop and his partner John Halligan, bidding to win this event for the first time. Stuart Kirby & Bob Sandie had an equally arduous semi-final against Ashley Hill and James Milnes (ex-Blundell's, now playing regularly at Derby Moor). Perhaps it was no surprise that young guns Goodwin & Davey then had the better of the final.

With such long games going on the latter stages of the Plate have had to be postponed till Club Night. It's looking like an internal battle: Kirk & Rehman versus Singh & Taylor.

### **Scores:**

**1st round:** Brian Kirk & Hasan Rehman bt. John Hawke & Lewis Keates 15-7, 15-7

**Quarter-finals:** Anthony Goodwin & Chris Davey bt. Jai Singh & Lawrence Taylor 15-10, 15-10; Tim Widdop & John Halligan bt. Richard Christie & Mark Kiteley 15-1, 15-0; Stuart Kirby & Bob Sandie bt. Matt Orr & Rob Christie 15-9, 15-7; Ashley Hill & James Milnes bt. Kirk & Rehman 15-7, 15-10

**Semi-finals:** Goodwin & Davey bt. Widdop & Halligan 15-16, 16-14, 15-12; Kirby & Sandie bt. Hill & Milnes 13-15, 15-13, 15-8

**Final:** Goodwin & Davey bt. Kirby & Sandie 15-12, 15-11

**Plate:** to be confirmed (see above)