



# Past and Present Nr. 22

**Next year's Past v. Present: Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2014.  
Put it in your diary!**

---

Regrettably and with copious apologies, this newsletter has finally seen the light of day in February 2014. I cannot think what your editor has been doing in the meantime!

\*\*\*

As ever, we begin with the Past versus Present played at Oundle on Saturday February 16th, 2013. This was a historic (an historic? – I have never understood the difference!) occasion, in that it was the last time that this fixture would be played at Oundle, whether on the old courts or the new.

Such a momentous event attracted a distinguished side of Sparrows to seek to wrest the Trapnell Tankard from the very strong Cambridge side. The lads from CURFC meanwhile saw this match as very much a preparation for a hoped-for third win in a row over the old enemy the following weekend.

The match got off to a flying start for the Present as Ed Kay defeated Charlie Brooks 15-6, giving encouragement to Jacob Brubert, Jack Malde and James Lane to beat Andy Pringle, Fred Kelly and Jon Abecassis respectively. The Past found themselves behind 26-60 and, what's more, they didn't have Martin Robinson in the fourth pair to rescue them. Grim times ahead!

As the undergraduates sat on the balcony and forked their pasta – which seems to be the preferred fare of Fives players these days – there was already talk among them of revenge for the previous year's defeat. With Kay & Brubert already the British Universities Doubles champions and Kay twice the U25s National Champion it seemed there were points to be had at the top of the contest – and indeed there were. An out-of-practice Brian Elfick joined Charlie Brooks in an attempt to revive memories of glorious times gone by, but to no avail – another 18 points to the Present. Worse befell an even more out-of-practice Chris Jones when he paired up with an aching Fred Kelly: another 25 points leaked to Jack Malde & James Lane.

How often have the Past relied on the third and fourth pairs to rescue them! Could the ever-youthful Ian Jackson and new boy Hamish Stoddart pull some points out of the fire? No, too much to ask of Hamish, who had not played a serious game of Fives for many a year, but at least only 17 points more went down the drain in their match against Peter Judge & Jacob Ader. Lo and behold though, next door Martin Wilkinson and David Hebden (a bit too good for 4<sup>th</sup> pair if the truth be told!) duly pulled back 7 points in the course of giving a master class to Rob Mathias & Will Sloper.

It was time to bring in Joe Gribble. If anyone could show the Past how to lose graciously and gracefully it's Joe. Teamed up with Martin Wilkinson he garnered an elegant 3 points for the Past – that's how it's done, chaps! Inspired, Elfick and Abecassis won a game and nearly came out ahead – but not quite. Only Ian J. and Hamish were able to finish with a flourish: 15-8, 15-9 against Mathias & Sloper.

So it was that Ed Kay led his Present VIII to a 25th victory in the 63<sup>rd</sup> match of its kind by 275-185 and claimed the Trapnell Tankard.

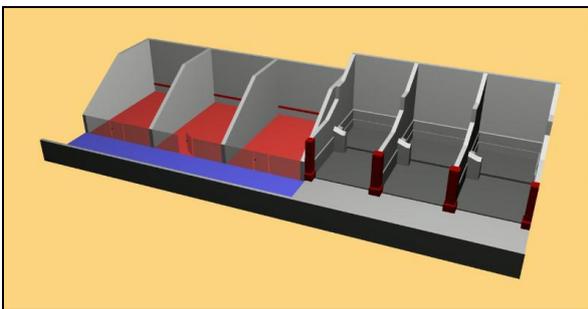
## The Rugby Fives Courts in the University Sports Centre: “New Portugal Place”



**The design**



**The finished article**



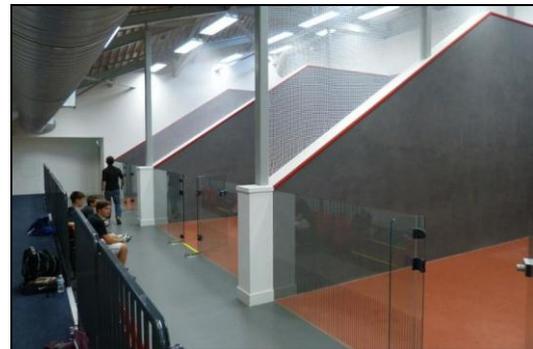
**The dream**



**The first floor space**



**Nearly there!**



**Complete with glass back walls**



**The players' view**



**The spectators' view**

**These courts are dedicated to the memory of Jock Burnet, President of CURFC 1949-1989**

## **The Varsity Match: Umpire's Report on the 83<sup>rd</sup> Varsity Match, February 2013:**

Sadly our long-standing and highly respected umpire, David Barnes, was indisposed, so his role was taken by the President of the 'home side', Cambridge. In a match conducted by all concerned with the customary good spirit there was little more for him to do than take down scores delivered with alacrity and hand out the jelly babies and trophies at the end. Oxford, attired in their Neptune-sponsored 'stash', took the award for sartorial elegance; Cambridge took the Jock Burnet trophy and the 'Fist of Iron'. It was Cambridge's first hat-trick in the Varsity Match for twenty years. For the Sparrows it was the first time they had retained the 'Fist of Iron' since its inception a decade ago.

In the main match Cambridge had too much fire-power at the top, with Ed Kay and Jacob Brubert winning every one of their games with room to spare, while in the bottom half Chase, Sloper, Judge and Ader had more than enough experience to overwhelm their opponents.

In a topsy-turvy contest between the Sparrows and the Beavers Mathias and Chipping were also rather too match-hardened for their opponents, but Oxford's left-handed Eton Fives player Birkett caught the eye.

Both captains are to be congratulated on raising twelve players each to make the day's contest an engaging spectacle for the large number of parents and supporters. Our thanks go to the latter for creating a lively atmosphere in the gallery. The players' thanks go to Pol Roger for sponsoring the event with a dozen bottles of champagne, which Ed Kay had much pleasure in distributing – for the most part – to his victorious team.

RLD

**Other Cambridge Successes: Ed Kay & Jacob Brubert** won the BUCS Doubles in November 2012; Ed was runner-up in the Singles. **Ed Kay** successfully defended his title in the National U25s Doubles, playing with Dan Tristao, to whom Ed was runner-up in the Singles for the second year in a row. **Charlie Brooks** won the London Open Doubles with Tom Dean and then the Cyriax Cup for National Doubles with his partner Will Ellison in April 2013, having been runner-up the previous year with Tom Dean. **Andy Pringle** won the Winchester Mixed Doubles at Bradfield in 2013 with Alexandra Steel. **Martin Wilkinson** won the Masters (over 65) Doubles title for the second year with John East.

**Valete: JAK Leslie (Cheltenham & Clare, played 1939).** John Leslie was an outstanding sportsman who spent the war years working in the Colonial Service in Aden, and thereafter in Tanganyika. On his return to Britain in the 1960s he worked for a Conservative government minister and later in the jewellery-making industry. John played Real Tennis until he was 90. **DRW Evans (Winchester & Clare, played 1953).** David Evans farmed throughout his life. He was High Sheriff of Essex in 1985. In retirement he worked with Essex Water and various charities. **DF Ellwood (Merchant Taylors' & Christ's, played 1967)** After Cambridge and the London School of Business Don worked for, set up and ran various light engineering companies in the Midlands. In 1966 Don and Bob Dolby were the first Cambridge pair to win the British Universities Doubles title, while Don was runner-up in the Singles. **BMW Trapnell (UCS & St. John's)** Various a university don, an independent schools headmaster (Denstone and Oundle) and a business man, Barry was at Cambridge during the war, when no Varsity Match took place. He was National Singles champion in 1949, won the Doubles with fellow Cantabrian Ted Isaacs the same year and was Doubles champion once more in 1953 with an Oxford partner. Barry was President of CURFC from 1989 to 2004 in succession to Jock Burnet.

**Correspondence welcome: Bob Dolby, 26 Waverley Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1HZ (Tel.: 0115 925 2845). Also e-mail: [bobdolby5@btinternet.com](mailto:bobdolby5@btinternet.com)**

**And once more: Next year's Past versus Present  
Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2014  
Put it in your diary!!**

**83<sup>rd</sup> Varsity Match**  
**CAMBRIDGE v. OXFORD 2013**  
 Saturday, February 26th at St. Paul's School

**Cambridge**

**Oxford**

*Singles*

EI Kay ( <i>Captain</i> ) (St. Paul's & Emmanuel)	beat HKE Jefferies ( <i>Hon. Sec.</i> ) (St. Paul's & Oriel)	15-4
JB Brubert (Alley's & Queens')	beat FR Thomas (St. Paul's & BNC)	15-6
JK Malde ( <i>Hon. Sec.</i> ) (St Paul's & Clare)	lost to GWJ Barnes ( <i>Captain</i> ) (St. Paul's & LMH)	14-16
JN Lane (Winchester & St. Catharine's)	beat CLY Waller (Clifton & New)	15-13

**59-39**

*Doubles*

Kay and Brubert	v. Thomas and Waller	15-6 15-12
	v. Jefferies and Barnes	15-5 15-1
Malde & Lane	v. Jefferies and Barnes	0-15 10-15
	v. Thomas and Waller	10-15 15-9
	v. CDH McKelvie (St. Paul's & Trinity) and AD Esin (St. Paul's & Pembroke)	16-14 15-8
PRH Judge (Merchant Taylors' & Robinson) and JS Ader (St. Paul's & Pembroke)	v. H Wilman & Whitney	15-1 15-2
	v. HR Wilman (Giggleswick & Hertford) and NA Whitney (Tonbridge & Magdalen)	15-1 15-3
	v. McKelvie and Esin	9-15 11-15

**206-137**

**Cambridge won by 265-176**

Cambridge now counts 53 wins against 30 by Oxford.

In the **Sparrows versus Beavers** match Cambridge won by **131-96**.

**Singles:** RM Mathias (Christ's Hospital & Fitzwilliam) [*Captain*] bt. AJW Mullan (Clifton & Balliol) [*Captain*] 15-1; MA Chipping (Tonbridge & Queens') bt. OA Even (St. Paul's & New) 15-5; WCK Lau (Tonbridge & Trinity) lost to EM Birkett (Charterhouse & Trinity) 4-15; BSI Quarry (St. Paul's & Selwyn) bt. S Glynne-Jones (St. Paul's & St. Anne's) 15-1 [=49-22]

**Doubles:** Mathias & Chipping bt. Mullan & Even 15-5, 15-6; bt. Birkett & Glynne-Jones 15-2, 15-1. Lau & Quarry lost to Birkett & Glynne-Jones 11-15, 11-15; lost to Mullan & Even 0-15, 0-15 [=82-74]