

Annual Report 2007-2008

Club Captain: Cameron Grant

Junior Captain: Sam Bonnerman

Girls' Captain: Abigail Shamah

Half Colours: None awarded

Club Ties: Jamie Collins, Daniel Yardley, Sam Bonnerman, Max Potter

Under 18s

The senior boys have found results hard to come by this year, not least because there has been less activity time to practise this year. However, it is creditable that the boys have continued to represent the club and school enthusiastically. The A pair of Cameron Grant and Adam Williams found it difficult to get any form and did not look at their best in the few matches they played together this year. While they beat the top Mill Hill pair, they could only manage a frustrating draw with the QE Barnet pair and lost out to Berkhamsted and Highgate (although an injury to Williams curtailed this match). Individually there was some success for the two boys; in the inaugural ladder competition at Aldenham, Williams won the overall event beating players from Bryanston, Stowe and QE Barnet. Meanwhile, in the Turnbull Trophy, Grant partnered OA Josh Rose to the quarter-finals before being eliminated by the eventual winners, Berkhamsted.

In the other pairs, Ben Weinberg and Tom Pettet played some determined and skilful Fives this year and perhaps were the pick of the seniors this year as they remained unbeaten in school matches, and it was a shame that they were unable to represent the club at the Nationals. Gareth Thomas and Jamie Collins continued to improve this year, and Upper Sixth players, Matt Wallace, Toby Bryan, James Charnley and Hamoun Jamali, played their part in several school matches. From Year 11, George Mizel and Carl Rennie were unbeaten in matches against QE Barnet, Harrow and Mill Hill losing only to Berkhamsted. While the other pair in this age group, Dan Jacobs and Dan Yardley, persevered and improved as the year progressed scoring some encouraging victories. The club was also represented by Will Leach and Akshey Shah in some matches.

Under 15s

The junior boys have played with much enthusiasm this year and they have certainly enlivened the atmosphere at the Fives courts through their positive attitude. Junior captain was Sam Bonnerman, who along with partner Max Potter, made up the B pair for the U15s and where they played together they won 3 of their 4 matches. The A pair was made up of Ben Boothby and Chris Roach, who lacked time on court and never quite managed to match their clear potential in their 3 matches, of which they managed one win. There were several occasions when it was not possible to field our first choice pairs and the club is grateful to Richard Hall, Max Raby, Stephen Kemp and Alex Blackman for stepping in to ensure fixtures were fulfilled.

In the U14 age group several boys worked hard to improve their skill levels this year and they made encouraging progress. The A pair was made up of Nirav and Darshan Patel, the B pair Stephen Wright and Josh Carr and the C pair Joe Stoll and Jonathan Yardley.

Nationals at Shrewsbury

Three groups made the long trip to Shrewsbury this year to attend the National Championships. On the Saturday, Sam Bonnerman and Max Potter played in the U15 competition, where they progressed to the second round before succumbing to a stronger Shrewsbury pair. On Monday the Seniors represented the club. In a relatively disappointing showing, only Cameron Grant and Adam Williams made it through the competitive pools stage, but were eliminated in the second round by a pair from St Olaves.

In the beginners' competition on Wednesday, 4 pairs played in a large entry and made good progress. The first pair of Nirav and Darshan Patel won their pool and made it to the fourth round, beating two Shrewsbury pairs on the way, before losing against a strong QE Barnet pair. The second pair of Stephen Wright and Josh Carr, also made excellent progress to the fourth round before meeting one of the eventual finalists, Shrewsbury 2,

who were far too strong. The third pair of Joe Stoll and Jonathan Yardley progressed from their pool but lost in the second round. While the fourth pair, playing a year above their age group, of Jack Tolley and Michael Stovall made impressive progress to the third round before losing to Shrewsbury 3.

Under 13s

This year saw the first ever Martineau's matches, with triangular fixtures against Orley Farm and Belmont and a match against Berkhamsted. Our A pair was Luke Robertson and Jordan Campbell, the other pairs were Andrew Rennie and Jamie Burchill, Jack Gibbins and Toby Milful, Tilk Malhotra and Dominic Coleman and, Jack Tolley and Michael Stovall. The matches were always keenly contested and at times the Fives was quite absorbing, but often our inexperience was evident and certainly in some matches our boys were outclassed by more experienced players. However, the club will certainly have benefited from the introduction of competitive Fives at this age group and signs for the future are encouraging.

The Prep Schools' Championships at Harrow, which took place at the end of the Lent term was a super way to round off the year for the Martineau's players. It was a shame that Jordan Campbell and Andrew Rennie could not play, but this gave opportunities to some of the Year 7s. Our A pair of Luke Robertson and Jack Tolley played terrific Fives, and despite winning all but one match, did not progress from their pool. In the Plate competition they won three more matches before being eliminated, narrowly, by a Cranleigh pair. The other pairs of Jamie Burchill and Michael Stovall, Jack Gibbins and Toby Milful and, Tilk Malhotra and Dominic Coleman, lost a majority of their matches but benefited from the experience of playing in the competition.

Girls

Aldenham girls have represented the school on the Fives courts for the first time this year, mainly due to the pioneering efforts of sixth-former, and girls' captain, Abigail Shamah. The results of two matches against Highgate, unfortunately, did not reflect the enthusiasm shown by the girls. However, in spite of the gulf in standard between the Highgate players and our girls, there was success in the junior match where Amy Flood and Isabella Crack won 2-0.

House Competitions

In the house competitions Leemans pairs dominated the senior section, with Cameron Grant and Adam Williams winning the A pair tournament and James Charnley and Matt Wallace victorious in the B pair tournament. The Junior contest was also dominated by a day house, as Ridings pairs won the A Tournament, with Max Potter and Nirav Patel, and the B Tournament, with Josh Carr and Joe Stoll. In Martineau's, Neale's pair of Andrew Rennie and Greg Sheen won the A tournament, while Mason's pair of Jack Gibbins and Elliott Worsley won the B tournament.