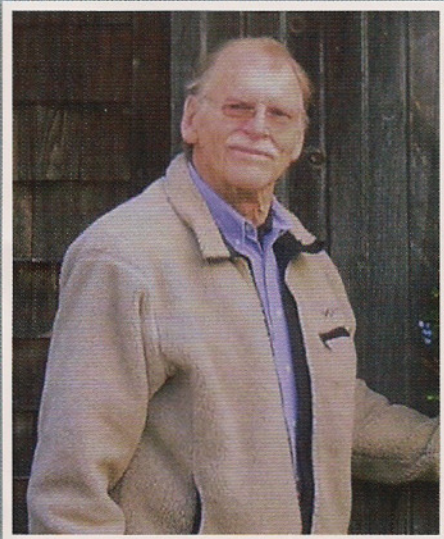


John Carey (1920-2012)

John Carey, the first President of the USA Rugby Fives Association, as well as a Vice-President and generous benefactor of the RFA, died on Friday May 4th 2012 at the age of 91.

Many Fives players will remember John as the leader of American touring



Carey: a great friend of British Fives in the USA

teams during the 1980s. He and his wife Eve struck up a great friendship with British players and offered UK teams much hospitality in the USA.

John and Eve taught for 35 years at St. Mark's School, Southborough, Massachusetts, where Rugby Fives courts had existed, as at Groton School not far to the north, since the late 19th Century. The doubles courts were much wider than modern ones, the singles courts much narrower.

After Robin Mouldale, an expert Eton Fives player, taught at St. Mark's in the late 1970s, John was put in touch with Tom and Joan Wood, and the first American team arrived in the UK in 1979. They played at 10 venues in as many days, and, amazingly, some came back for more the next year!

The first British Fives team to visit the USA arrived in April 1982 and the centrepiece of a memorable tour was a match between the two nations at St. Mark's for the Carey-Wood Trophy, a majolica vase specially made by Eve.

And so it went on for the next decade, with reciprocal visits. Two of the most memorable were 'Joan's Jesters', who visited the USA in 1987, and the return visit in 1988 by John Carey's team, who were entertained at the Wax Chandlers' Hall in London.

The Careys retired in 1987 to Cape Cod, and exchanges with St. Mark's lessened. Nevertheless, John kept in contact with his English friends and remained interested in UK Fives.

Eve died in 2005, but John, sustained by his family and his faith, lived bravely on. He had both knees replaced and, as his daughter Rachel recounts, continued to live life in his own way, 'enjoying family and friends, playing bridge, crossword puzzles, poetry, and going out to dinner or the theatre'.

A couple of years ago, John kindly sent all his Fives documentation (including a specially recorded tape) to the RFA Archives for anyone interested in the story of Fives in the USA.

David Barnes