



Dale Vargas

Dale Vargas was educated at Harrow and Jesus College, Cambridge. At Harrow he was an Entrance Scholar, Head of School and played for the School at cricket, football, rugby and fives. At Cambridge he played Eton fives for the University in 1961 and captained his college and the Crusaders cricket clubs. He is a member of the Hawk's Club.

After Cambridge he taught mathematics at Malvern and Bradfield, being master-in-charge of Winchester fives at both schools and master-in-charge of cricket at Bradfield. In 1970 he returned to Harrow where he ran the Eton fives from 1974-81, and was later a House Master and Second Master.

Dale Vargas was Chairman of the Eton Fives Association from 1986 to 1990 and President 2001-06, and has been a Trustee of the Eton Fives Charitable Trust since its foundation.



Dr Peter Knowles

Peter Knowles was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham and Magdalen College, Oxford, where he obtained a doctorate in chemistry. After two years teaching at Shrewsbury, he moved to Highgate: during his thirty-one years there he was a Housemaster, Head of Chemistry and Chairman of the Common Room. He has coached many schoolboys over the years including Schools Championship winners at both senior and junior levels. Though considering himself very much a "third pair player", he has appeared in a Barber Cup Semi-final, a County Final and a Veterans Final.

Peter Knowles has been a director of the EFA and organiser of the Schools Championships, and is currently the EFA Archivist and Secretary of the Eton Fives Charitable Trust. He now lives in Dorset where his interests include botany, cricket and West Bromwich Albion.



Eton College Chapel steps

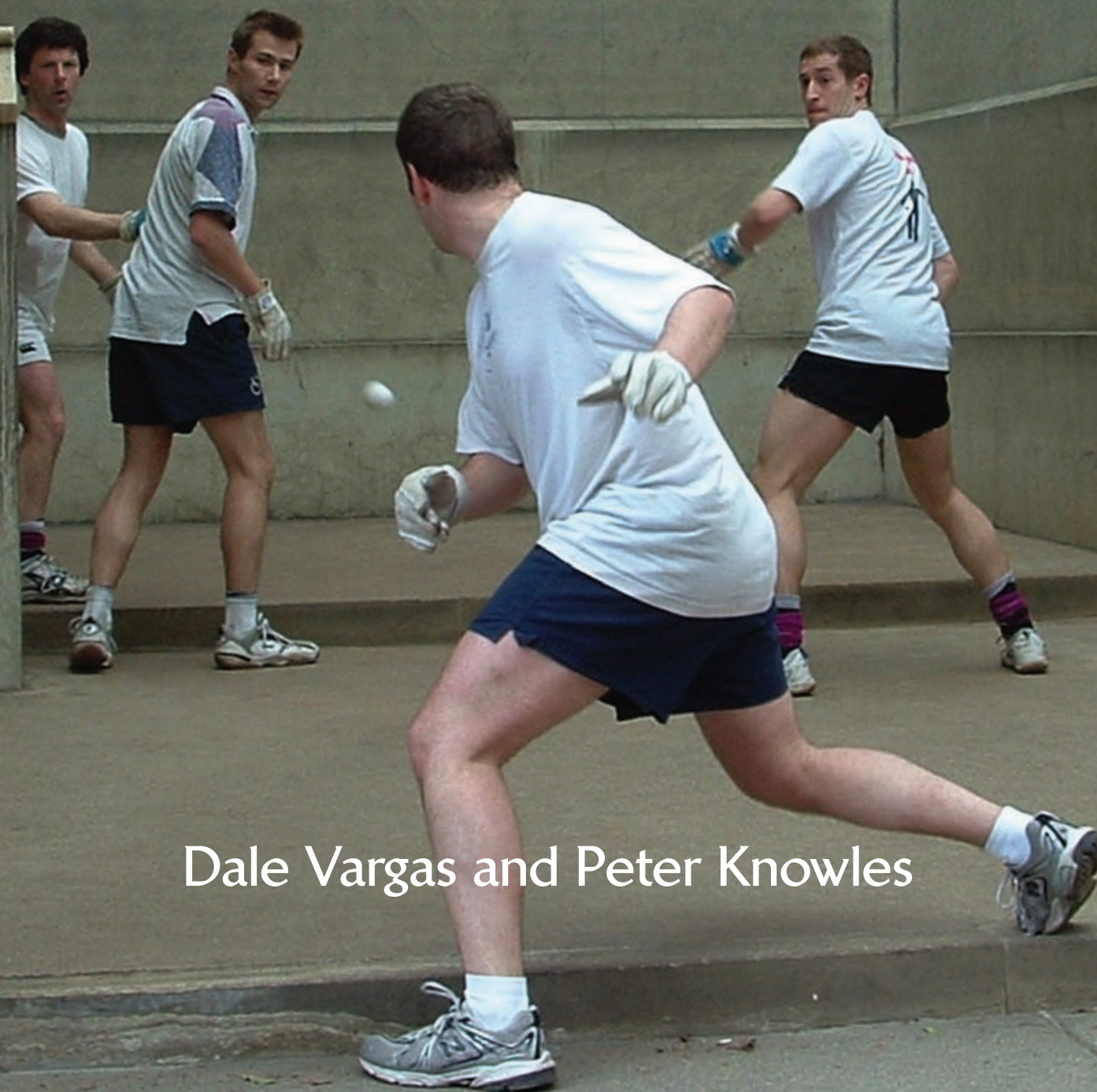


A History of Eton Fives

Dale Vargas
and
Peter Knowles



A History of Eton Fives



Dale Vargas and Peter Knowles



William Hazlitt described the game of fives in 1820 as the best court game in the world and then fifty years later a master at Eton claimed their version of fives was the most valuable contribution ever made by the school to the well-being of mankind! In 1960 the chairman of the Eton Fives Association could only marvel at the unexpected elements of the game, which he described as a mirror of life itself.

As Richard Barber, current EFA President, puts it in his foreword, a game with such extravagant claims more than deserves its own history. Eton Fives has thrived since its formalisation nearly 200 years ago and it seems to have an exciting future. New courts are being built, many women now play, and the game has spread to many parts of the world.

Dale Vargas and Peter Knowles give all the details as part of the social history of sport with over 100 illustrations, profiles of key champions of the game and lists of the leading characters in the appendixes. An extraordinary array of well-known names features in the story – six England cricket captains, Roald Dahl, J.R. Tolkien and Sir Alex Douglas-Home... All is woven into a light but informative text.

This is a quality history which will stand the test of time. The only book on the subject, it should certainly be compulsory reading for all players, followers and admirers of the game of Eton fives.

£25
in UK only