

2017 MASTER HOME INTERNATIONAL IRELAND

Event Dates:	Friday 28 th - Saturday 29 th Apr 2017		
Address:	Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Dublin		
England Teams:	Men's O45	Men's O65	Women's O45
	Jonathan Gliddon (Captain) Nick Brown Andrew Cross Andrew Murray Andy Normile Stuart Summers	Ian Graham (Captain) Terry Belshaw Phillip Godfrey John Hithersay Neil Nightingale Peter Smith Aubrey Waddy	Alison Goy (Captain) Sarah Parr Andrea Santamaria Isabelle Tweedle Izzy Tyrell Sue Smith

MENS OVER 45 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		13	17	18	48	1
	6		9	17	32	2
	6	12		9	27	3
	2	5	14		21	4

MENS OVER 45 REPORT

The England Over 45 team arrived at the Fitzwilliam Club in Dublin at different times during the day & before we knew it, we were up against Wales for our first match. Andy Murray was achieving a personal milestone by regaining England selection again following 4 knee operations, resulting in a total knee replacement! (a fantastic comeback). Anyway Muzza (Andy) went on first & recorded a comfortable 3-0 win against Marcus Thomas. Nick Brown then followed, also with a 3-0 win against Ian Fenner-Evans. England Captain Jonathan Gliddon then went on against the Welsh number 1 Nick Dyer. Nick kept the pace slow, hitting accurate drops which unsettled Jon & gave the Welsh captain a 2-0 lead. Jon dug in & eventually came back to win 3-2 & secure the England victory. Andy Normile then went on to win a stylish 3-0 & Andy Cross was his usual clinical self & finish the match off with another 3-0 win for a 5-0 team victory.

Some refreshments at the club followed, with some more "refreshing" in a local refreshment centre with some stories from old days shared.

Scotland were waiting for us on Saturday morning & we're chomping at the bit, following their unexpected great win the night before against the Irish. They were a stronger side this year obviously & the England team had to concentrate hard. To get us going, Andy 'Muzza' Murray went on first against David Linsey & won a tough 3-1. Nick Brown then came through a very tough match against a very accurate shot player Paul Jenkins to win 3-2. An out of sorts Jonathan Gliddon lost 3-2 against Angus Woodward who battled well. Stuart Summers was up next & beat Douglas Emery in a very close 3-0 with a tie-break in each game to secure the win against the Scots. All points were important at this stage & Andy Cross duly delivered in the final match & won a convincing 3-0 against

the experienced Peter Buchan. A great 4-1 win for the English.



So, it was as to be expected that it could all come down to the final match on Saturday afternoon against the Ireland team. However, as Ireland had dropped points against Scotland the day before, the England team were definitely in the driving seat. Muzza was rested for this match after his earlier heroics & started hydrating. So up first on the show court that was being streamed live on the internet was Stuart Summers against David Cassidy. Stuart played an absolute blinder & must have thought David was hungry as Stuart handed him a bagel in the first game before going on to win 3-0 with only a total loss of 7 points! Such as how the points were poised, Nick Brown had the chance of securing the Championship win for England if he could win 3-0 - and so he duly did! Nick won a convincing 3-0 & ordered the champagne to be put on ice. Jonathan Gliddon had the task of coming up against the Irish number 1 Derek Ryan (ex World number 7). The Irishman showed his class & beat the England captain 3-0. Although England had already secured the Home Internationals Championship win, they still wanted to remain unbeaten & get the win against the Irish too. Andy Normile won a close first game against Jonathan Simpson & then showed his class by taking the next 2 games with numerous boast nicks to win 3-0 & delivered the England win against the Irish, to give us the clean sweep. Andy Cross went on last against the very talented Dara O'Flynn & the Englishman only just lost 3-1 in a high-quality match. England finish to beat the Irish 3-2.

So England retained their trophy & remained unbeaten for the weekend. The evening commenced with a private champagne party in 'Crossys' room to celebrate as a team. The rest of the night followed with the presentations & speeches and lots of hydration, which was led by the experienced Muzza. Various forms of dancing followed on the dance floor & the celebrations continued into the early hours.

Great weekend, great result & a great team!



Jonathan Gliddon

MENS OVER 65 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		16	16	15	47	1
	7		3	15	25	3
	8	18		18	44	2
	6	8	5		19	4

MENS OVER 65 REPORT



The order for the weekend after last year's first ever defeat at O65 level was to ensure the trophy came back to England. This was not straightforward as three Scots had made the semi- finals of the British Open and the Irish had David Gotto one of the world's greatest age group players in their side. There is also no doubt that our opponents raise their games on these occasions. We took 7 players to Dublin in case of injuries or exhausting matches and this was to prove a good decision. I believed with this team we would triumph but by a small margin and I was not disappointed. The last match of the weekend needed an England win to draw level on points with Scotland and take the title with the bonus points for the winning team.

England started against Wales on Friday evening. Aubrey Waddy as fifth string raced into a 2-0 lead but eventually lost 2-3 in a very close match. John Hithersay, our third string quickly levelled the match with a 3-0 victory. The captain lost 1-3 at first string leaving us under pressure again. Phil Godfrey steadied the nerves with a convincing 3-0 win but tweaked his achilles and was to play no further part in the weekend. This left our second string, Terry Belshaw, to play and give England overall victory which he did, 3-0, in a commanding performance. We could now enjoy our evening meal with some alcohol for purely medicinal purposes. The Captain banned everybody from the nightclubs which was a blow to Aubrey and a blessing to Phil!

Saturday morning brought on the Scots, last year's winners, but Neil Nightingale stepped up to win 3-0 for a perfect start. Peter Smith came in at third string and promptly put us all back on edge by losing the first game 0-9. However, with his tracksuit bottoms off he quickly showed his opponent a clean pair of knees to win 3-1. The captain was devastating in the first game but not thereafter and Scotland were back in it. Hithersay went 2-1 up at fourth string but was pegged back and sounded tired and dispirited going into the final game. Yet the chance to win his match and secure victory for the team was enough motivation for him to win through and give us all to play for in the afternoon against Ireland. Terry Belshaw went off at great pace against Jim Dougall and was quickly 2-0 up before a purple patch from Jim made it two apiece. Terry maintained his composure to gain victory and the 4-1 margin was to prove crucial in the points tally.



The final game was a banana skin for England last year against the home nation. With Godfrey injured, Hithersay having a hard match in the morning and Gotto looking ominously good, the captain decided to play a third match. Waddy got us off to a flying start 3-0 but Smith came up against a very powerful performer and just lost 2-3. Gotto looked very comfortable against Graham in the first but less so when Graham took the next two from 8-8 and lead 7-3 in the fourth. Then Gotto's superior length and placement secured the win and left England 1-2 down (again!). Nightingale lost the first against a very pumped up








opponent but came back to close it out 3-1 with some very enthusiastic support from his travelling Derby fan club which set up a decider in more ways than one. Belshaw looked completely unconcerned as he took the court and duly recorded another 3-0 to give England the win, the match, the bonus points and the title!!

This was a great weekend with some very tight matches and superb team performances. The evening dinner was a really enjoyable event and most of us settled for a sedate walk back to the hotel rather than join the O45's in the Dublin nightclubs (although I'm not sure about Aubrey).

My apologies for the length of this article but it is my first winners report!

Ian Graham

WOMENS OVER 45 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		18	18	X	36	1
	4		6	X	10	3
	4	16		X	20	2
	X	X	X		X	X

WOMENS OVER 45 REPORT



The first match for the Ladies over 45's team was a friendly against Ireland B (AKA Wales). This was a relatively easy match for all of us, but it gave us time to get used to the courts and to have an extra game overall. Everyone won their matches 3-0 the most points dropped by anyone was 9 by Andrea at number one making a game of her second game. Sarah was less charitable and only dropped 2 points.

The captain was horrified to find that the start time of the Saturday match against Scotland had been brought forwards to 9:30am, as she plays at number 5 it obviously meant she would be on court first, had the Scots paid for this?!? And like every good captain she managed to curtail her drinking until the Saturday evening. Although we won the match 5-0 it was no means an easy victory. Alison managed to win 3-1 despite being on court at stupid o'clock. Next on was Sarah and although she won 3-0 found herself convincingly down in 2 of the games before pulling them both round. Andrea also won 3-0 with two of her games going to 10, she certainly didn't have it her own way and found the refereeing somewhat frustrating at times! Next on was Izzy Tyrrell, she won relatively comfortably 3-1, leaving it up to Isabelle Tweedle to complete the job. She did so but in 5.

Our final match was against Ireland, we knew that this was again going to be tough as they had earlier had a narrow 3-2 loss to Scotland. Once again Alison was on first and struggled to find any sort of consistency in the first game losing it 3-9. Fortunately, she managed to pull it together and took the next 3 games, it doesn't matter if you win ugly, does it?! Sarah was in no mood to let her opponent into the game and won convincingly 3-0. Next on were the number 1's. The Irish number 1 had earlier beaten the Scottish number 1 so Andrea was expecting a tough match, this was not the case and Andrea won easily 3-0. Izzy Tyrrell soon found herself 2-0 down and then somehow managed to get her game going and won the next 3 games. Last on court was Isabelle, the pressure of completing a clean sweep did not affect her even though she did drop a game. The opposition are definitely getting stronger and the England team are definitely acting older, half the team were in bed for 9:30pm on Friday night and most of them wanted a power nap Saturday tea time, guess which half the captain was in! Well played team and thank you to Irish squash.

Alison Goy