

2016 MASTERS HOME INTERNATIONAL ENGLAND

Event Dates:	Friday 6 th - Saturday 7 th May 2016		
Address:	Nottingham Squash Rackets Club, Tattershall Drive, Nottingham		
England Teams:	Men's O35	Men's O55	Women's O55
	Chris Gillespie (Captain) Ben Ford Nick Hargreaves Marcus Hayes Darren Lewis Tom May	Mark Woodliffe (Captain) Ian Bradburn Tom Burton Neil Harrison Grant Miller Mark Taylor	Jill Campion (Captain) Tamsin Bennett Sarah Howlett Karen Hume Lesley Sturgess
	Men's O75		
	Lance Kinder (Captain) Andrew Beeston Pat Kirton John Woodliffe		

MEN'S OVER 35 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		19	16	20	55	1
	5		20	18	43	2
	6	1		17	24	3
	1	3	5		9	4

MEN'S OVER 35 REPORT

England were made to work hard for their victories, ably supported by a lively crowd behind show court 10.

Against Ireland, after a good start by Marcus Hayes 3-0, team captain Chris Gillespie ended the marking career of Park manager Nick Hargreaves before it begun, battling back for what seemed like hours from 2 games down to level the match, 2-2----- before fading in the 5th against Neil Staunton!!

Ben Ford was superb at No1, playing brilliant squash all weekend. He was pushed all the way by Nigel Peyton but won the important points for a 3-0 win,

quickly followed by well worked 3-1 wins from Tom May and Darren Lewis. Against the battling Scots things were even tougher, after a good start from a 'well rested' Nick Hargreaves, scores were levelled when Tom May lost 3-1, but Ben Ford stopped the rot, overcoming the previously unbeaten, in 8 Home Internationals, Peter O'Hara 3-0, with some of the best squash ever seen at the club. The tough Scots levelled the match at 2-2 with our captain going down 3-1 to Mike Black at 3rd string. Fortunately, the ever reliable Darren Lewis was on hand to clinch the match with a comfortable 3-0 win.



The final match against Wales was tough at the top. After another good win from Nick, Chris registered his first win against Matt Lloyd-Lewis 3-0.

Then sandwiched between hard fought 3-0 victories for Ben and Darren, another win by Marcus saw the team home 5-0, giving the side a deserved championship.

Chris Gillespie (Captain)

MEN'S OVER 55 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	19	20	59	1
	0		7	0	7	4
	3	17		8	28	3
	6	20	17		43	2

MEN'S OVER 55 REPORT

With England having a very strong team, the highlight of this age group was watching No 1 Mark Woodliffe glide round the court like a player half his age, his movement on court is amazing to watch. The opening match against Ireland was straight forward with only Ian Bradburn, a late replacement for the injured skipper Dermot Hurford, stretched before comprehensive 3-0 wins.

Against the Scots this trend continued before Neil Harrison was taken to a 5th set by Chris Holt and eventually succumbed 6-9. The rest of the team registering 3-0 wins.

The deciding match with Wales went to the wire and featured two hard fought 3-2 victories for Mark Taylor and Tom Burton, a couple of close 3-1 wins for Bradburn and Harrison and the usual 3-0 from captain Mark Woodliffe.



The real strength of our team was a wonderful team spirit, highlighting just what it means to represent England. This showed itself when matches were tight - when we played Wales in the deciding match the result might easily

have been different but to a man we fought through to register a remarkable 5-0 victory and retain the famous 'Edinburgh Quaich'.

A big thank you must go to Dave Hardern and Adrian Wright whose hard work ensured the entire weekend ran like a well-oiled machine.

Mark Woodliffe (Captain)

MEN'S OVER 75 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		13	1	3	17	3
	3		3	3	9	4
	14	14		5	33	2
	14	12	11		37	1

MEN'S OVER 75 REPORT

"FHB" might have seemed the England O75 motto as hosts this year even if our brother and sister England hosts (Men O35 and O55 and Women O55) were more ruthless in pursuit of victory.



Friday p.m. v Ireland started well with Lance Kinder at 3 opening the proceedings by securing his 70 somethingth consecutive H-I win (despite an alarming tendency to serve out, mitigated thankfully by the HIHO scoring which enabled him encouragingly often to regain service without a point to his opponent). Pat Kirton at 1 found a resolute Irishman who, after losing the first game to Pat's skill, unleashed a dastardly fast and low cross court drive which gave him games 2 and 3 and then managed to get home 10-8 in the 4th. Happily Andrew Beeston at 2, despite not realising that his opponent had a gammy knee, succeeded in winning 3-0, so the team finished Friday with a 2-1 victory and only needed 2 more similar wins on Saturday to remain O75 champions (? were England in fact champions last year....?).

Alas - no, dammit, how refreshing for the competition ...! - it was not to be. On Saturday a.m. v Scotland Lance Kinder at 3 played first again, and again found a wayward ball which insisted on going out on his usually lethal service (and indeed in one rally disappeared completely - how can one lose a ball in an empty enclosure like a squash court...? The answer, eventually, was in a gap between the ASB moveable side wall and the tin - be warned!). Anyway, after losing the first 2 games, Lance's experience reasserted itself in the 3rd and he came tantalisingly close in the 4th, going down 9-10. Pat at 1 then suffered the wiles of Vinnie Taylor - who had noted what happened in Pat's Friday match, and John Woodliffe at 2 found a quick-starting opponent but came much closer in games 2 and 3 albeit not quite there, so that the match result was 0-3.

The p.m. v Wales was beset by uncertainty as who would turn out for the Welsh team: would Mike Thurgur come or not? (shades of would Lord Stanley support Richard 111 at Bosworth?) and, if he was going to come, would he come in time? The answer to both proved to be "yes" which, since he came into the team at no.1 might strengthen Wales considerably - but would it be enough? - and again the answer proved to be "yes": John Woodliffe, this time at 3 for England, came much closer than in the morning but, despite taking the 2nd, just lost the 3rd game 8-10 and then the 4th, so first tie to Wales. Pat Kirton v Mike Thurgur at 1 got into his stride in the 2nd but also had an 8-10 in the 3rd and lost the 4th. Andrew Beeston at 2 (to the Welsh no. 1 of the 2 previous matches) lost games 1 and 2, took the 3rd, then also lost the 4th, so another 1-3d - and an 0-3 match result.

Memo for next year: must try harder? But all credit to the opposing players who beat us and the enduring fascination of trying, sometimes successfully, other times not, remains!

Our thanks should be recorded to Nottingham Club and to Dave Hardern and Adrian Wright for their organisation.

PS It should be noted that the O35 match between Chris Gillespie (England) and Neil Staunton (Ireland) included one rally which, if it had been recorded and could be circulated to the IOC, would have got squash into the Olympic Games without any further ado - athleticism, speed, agility, breath taking shots : the quintessence of what squash is about. If only.....

Lance Kinder (Captain)

WOMEN'S OVER 55 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		17	16	16	49	1
	1		1	1	3	4
	3	17		17	37	2
	5	17	4		26	3

WOMEN'S OVER 55 REPORT



Scotland have dominated the W055 competition, which started in 2010, winning in 2010, 2011 and 2012. England then won in 2013 and 2014, with Scotland taking the title yet again last year. This year the usual team of three was expanded to four this year and with strong team – Jill Campion, Karen Hume (only available for the last match), Lesley Sturgess, Sarah Howlett and Tammy Bennett – we were determined to win back the trophy.

We opened our campaign with a resounding victory 4-0 over Ireland, with me the only player to lose a game to the canny Dympna Reardon. Having encouraged the team to get an early night before our match on Scotland the following morning, I left Lesley and Tammy in the bar.....

I needn't have worried. Everyone was up and having breakfast well ahead of our somewhat leisurely start on Saturday at close to 12 noon, after the men's O75s. We were expecting the defending champions Scotland to be our most difficult match and were delighted when things got off to a good start with Sarah Howlett going 2-0 up against Moira Atkinson conceding only one point thanks to pin point accurate lobs and drops. However, Moira is a fighter, got her eye in, found her length and pulled back to win a closely-fought 3-2. So not such a good start after all but with every game counting, the two games Sarah won could prove to be very useful. Apparently I was "very determined" in my match against the ever-composed Pauline Douglas – all I can remember is that I just about managed to impose my game enough to win 3-0, with the first two games too tight for me to settle. One match all – things were looking better. Next up Tammy, who played good, strong squash to beat Christine Graham 3-0. Lesley needed to be sharp and keep the ball tight squash to beat Eunice Bond, and she did, preventing Eunice from playing her trademark volleys and drops and winning in three closely contested games.

A victory over Wales would wrest back the trophy, but this match could have gone either way, even though we were strengthened by Karen, who looked surprisingly bright the day after her son's wedding. Lesley Sturgess got us off to a good start, winning comfortably 3-0. I went 2-0 up relatively comfortably against Sian "the come-back kid" Johnson, before Sian got her eye in and started mixing it up and pulled the match back to 2-2. I raced ahead in the fifth but Sian pulled out all the stops and triumphed 9/6. Sarah played a solid match against Wendy Norris, playing textbook squash to win 3-0. So it was down to Karen Hume against the always tricky (that's a compliment) Lynne Davies. Karen won the first two games by playing strong, confident squash, but then Lynne used low boasts to good effect to level the match at 2-2. The fifth game was neck and neck, but Karen wasn't coming all this way for one match to lose and, having been match ball down, played tight widths and lengths to win the next three point and a very well deserved victory 10-8 in the fifth.

It was great to be playing "at home", with support and advice from Alison Goy and Rachel Woolford. Special thanks to Sue Pynegar, who was on standby in case one of us broke a leg and who supported and advised us throughout the weekend and ended up marking numerous matches, all with her usual good humor despite having to deal with some contentious situations and queries (not from us I hasten to add).