











2018

MASTER HOME INTERNATIONAL WALES

Event Dates:	Friday 4 th - Saturday 5 th May 2018		
Address:	Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Dublin		
England Teams:	Men's O50	Men's O70	Women's O50
	Steve McLoughlin (Captain) Andrew Cross Steve Dodridge Cliff Martindale Eamonn Price David Youngs	Martin Pearse (Captain) Rodney Boswell Martin Day Barry Featherstone Jack Halford Aubrey Waddy	Rachel Woolford (Captain) Beverley Brockway Kay Fallows Hilary Kenyon Isobel Smith Shelley Walsh

MENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		19	20	20	59	1
	5		9	20	34	2

	4	14		9	27	3
	1	4	14		19	4

MENS OVER 50 REPORT

To Follow



MENS OVER 70 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		19	16	20	55	1
	5		7	19	31	3
	7	18		20	45	2
	1	3	4		8	4

MENS OVER 70 REPORT



The Mens O70 Team eventually arrived in Dublin but not before Rod Boswell, in forgetting his memory tablet he takes daily, went through Immigration and Customs and then remembered what he was actually in Dublin for. He informs me it is quite a struggle to get back inside the airport when you want to collect your forgotten squash bag

rotating aimlessly on Stand 9 ...

So, on a boiling hot day, orders were fixed and then, as usual, moved around – an Irish plea in this case.

Your Captain was first on, 21 years to the day when we played the first ever Over 50 Internationals at my old Club, Squash Leicester. He was up against an artist in the new breed of PAR players, the one-shot rally merchant: one shot, tin or nick, tin or nick. When the one ball does eventually pass the service line, it is usually a winner because by that stage you automatically are yards forward. Harry Cullen, from Belfast, having had game ball, was unlucky to lose the first, 23-25 (is this the record?). He then gained a 2/1 lead easily. In the end MCP did his usual and won 3/2.

Aubrey Waddy, next on, was in no mood for any presents on court and dispatched Frank Fahey 17/15 15/3 15/3 and then Barry Featherstone at 1, sealed the match in similar fashion with Seamus Daly, 3/0, the latter a dab drop expert.

Newcomer Martin Day, seemed unperturbed at the enormity of the occasion, a Yorkshireman playing at the hallowed Fitzwilliam Club, and beat Irish Captain Ciaran Roche, 15/6 16/14 15/12. Rod Boswell, having had to wait hours since his recall into the airport, was winning easily with Jonny Donovan, 2/0 and 8/3 but suddenly hit a brick wall, physically and mentally and went down 12/15 in the fifth, a shock but a very happy one for Mr Donovan.

Next up was Scotland and after one shot Ken aka Ken Reid had stormed into an early lead against Martin Day, the latter cleverly stopped serving hard as every one went straight into the nick. High and low serves changed the dynamic totally, a sea change. 5/10 became 15/10 15/6 15/8.

Amazingly at 3, 82 year old Tom Kana (a cert for the British Open 80+ if he entered it) did exactly the same, serve, nick, nick, serve and took Aubrey Waddy totally unawares winning 15/13. The latter though, writes books about squash and taught himself very quickly to not put the ball on Mr Kane's racket. 3/1 to the Author.

Finally, the match Ian Ross, the Scottish no 1, a very solid performer, had been waiting for. Against his old rival, Barry Featherstone. This years match total was 2-2 and both are travelling to Charlottesville for The World. However, there, the scoring is to 11, a totally different game. Initially Ross won the first and then Featherstone's pace increased as he dialled in his 'hit it harder' switch. But Ross has an unflappable temperament and copes admirably under pressure. So it was that he took the fourth and at 12/12 in the decider, played three winners to secure the win and keep Scotland alive.

Not to be because Jack Halford, yet to make his debut, was too strong for Alistair McMechan from deepest Bromley in Kent. Jack buzzed around the court and never looked like losing. 3/0 to Jack and the match to England 3/1.

Just as well because Rodney Boswell at 2 was completely out of sorts, very unusual against the quick and hard hitting newcomer George Stirrat, brand new to Masters Squash at the age of 70 (how many others are stuck away on a dusty court?)

George sneaked the crucial second 16/14 and powered through the third to make the match score 3/2.

The Welsh decider saw Martin Pearse, Aubrey Waddy and Jack Halford won easily and Barry Featherstone 3/1 with Steve Evans, formerly Cornwall and now Brittany. And Bazzar came back to life with a 15/10 15/10 15/11 win over Duncan Jones England 5/0 and winners yet again.

The after match festivities at Fitzwilliam were lively and Jack Halford's duo on the dance floor with 20 years younger Beverley Brockway, showing amazing balance on 15 inch heels, was a Strictly Come Jiving highlight! Jack wasn't wearing his, so heads were going up and down following the action.....

Ciaran Roche and Patrick Murray, who showcased the event at Fitzwilliam, are to be congratulated, as are all the markers, especially William and Frank.

For 2019 the Irish Squash Federation have moved the Home Internationals to a new venue, Galway Lawn and Tennis & Squash. Having played there many times, it is a superb club with magnificent surroundings, right on the Wild Atlantic Way and will no doubt be a wonderful venue. I suggest anyone expecting to play takes their car as there will be a 3 day package at the hotel after the event for players who wish to stay on and see that wonderful part of Eire, just before, ummm, Brexit ... !!

Martin Pearse
Team Captain

WOMENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	19	16	55	1
	0		0	5	5	4
	7	20		16	43	2
	6	20	6		32	3

WOMENS OVER 50 REPORT



The Ladies o50's team had a slightly different look to it with Kay and Isobel returning to England duty and Bev Brockway making her debut.

Friday started nervously with news from the mainland being that the plane Hils & Shelly were due to fly in on had a technical problem and there was no replacement for the 'faulty part' With the next scheduled flight being fully

booked they would need to wait for a different plane to fly in from Palma - don't worry Ryanair, I'm sure a 5.5hr delay won't cause any angst at all!!

Hils & Shelly did eventually arrive and made a dash directly to the courts. Then courtesy of a less than punctual start by Irish administration, they had time for a quick hit and cup of coffee. Admin complete and play finally started shortly after 6pm. England were dominant and played out a 5-0 victory but not before an unfortunate incident occurred when Joan Gorherly ran into Hils racket catching her eye on route. Unable to continue she conceded and went off to get it checked out. Thankfully there was no serious damage, but significant bruising had appeared by the following morning.

A relatively early night was in order as play was scheduled for 9.30am and our opponents were our auld enemy - the Scots. As always, they provided strong opposition and it's hard to pick the match of the fixture. Hils v Pauline Douglas playing at 3rd string was, as previously, a very tense 5 setter which could have gone either way. It was, however, Pauline's turn on this occasion and she just edged it to keep the Scots in contention. Wins from Isobel, Bev and Rachel won the tie for England before Kay, at 2nd string, stepped on court against the experienced Sue Strachan where another 5-set battle ensued. Sue went 2-1 up but Kay fought hard to draw level at 2 all. At this stage it was anyone's match. Kay, however, had a secret weapon and waited until the 5th before revealing her 'leisure centre boast' - not a shot for the purist and one that Sue definitely did not appreciate! However, she played 3 and won 3 so who are we to criticise! With Kay coming through that battle we rolled out 4-1 winners, making it sound easier than it was!

The afternoon fixture saw us take on a strengthened Welsh team with Helen Barnard coming in at the top of their order. Shelly & Hils had won their matches at 5 & 3 respectively before I took to the court with Helen. Stuck out on the far end court, the walls were dripping with moisture and floorboards were dead, which led to some interesting play for both of us. Numerous times the balls behaved as tho it had burst, boasts became an absolute lottery and when the ball hit a dodgy floorboard it just didn't bounce. Nonetheless we had a humdinger of a match and after taking an early lead in the 5th I felt the match was there for the taking. Silly me, I really should know better! I played a couple of sloppy shots which Helen took full advantage to not only equal the score line, but to push ahead and bring home a win for Wales. A great battle Helen and I'm sure we'll have many more! Aware that Kay was up against an inform Sian, the pressure was on Isobel at 4th string to win the tie. She dug deep and duly obliged to give us an unassailable lead. Kay and Sian played out their fixture but unfortunately Kay tweaked a muscle that limited her movement and the experienced Sian quickly picked up on this and fully exploited the situation. With Sian winning her match 3-0, the final score line against the Welsh team was 3-2. The trophy will make its way back to Lancashire in the custody of Kay.



This just left us the Sat evening celebrations and a challenging initiation ritual for Bev, who deserves 100% credit for seeing the it through - not sure many would have even attempted it. Well done Bev!

With presentations and speeches complete we danced the night away celebrating another highly enjoyable and successful weekend. Many thanks to everyone involved; administrators, team Captains, referees, all the players but most especially to my team who I feel honoured to have Captained.

Rachel Woolford
Team Captain