

## 2015 MASTER HOME INTERNATIONAL DUBLIN

<b>Event Dates:</b>	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> - Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2015		
<b>Address:</b>	Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Dublin		
<b>England Teams:</b>	<b>Men's O35</b>	<b>Men's O55</b>	<b>Men's O75</b>
	Tim Burrell (Captain) James Bowden Darren Lewis Gareth Lumsdon Matt Marshall Tim Richards	Dermot Hurford (Captain) Ian Bradburn Tom Burton Jeremy Goulding Neil Harrison Mark Taylor	Lance Kinder (Captain) Pat Kirton John Woodliffe Malcolm Gilham
	<b>Women's O55</b>		
	Jill Campion (Captain) Helen Gould Sue Pynegar Lesley Sturgess Jan Ellis		

### MENS OVER 35 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		18	15	18	51	1
	6		12	13	31	2
	4	8		13	25	3
	1	9	7		17	4

### MENS OVER 35 REPORT

On the 1st May the England over 35s team travelled to Dublin to try and win back the Home Internationals trophy. England had assembled a strong squad of:

Darren Lewis  
Gareth Lumsdon  
James Bowden  
Matt Marshall  
Tim Richards  
Tim Burrell (c)

First up were the holders, Ireland. England lost a tight match 3-2 in 2014 and were looking for revenge. On court first was Tim Richards. He narrowly lost the first and with things looking even in the 2nd he managed to put together a string of winners to take the second and even up the match. From then on the result didn't look in doubt as Tim took control and the match 3-1. Next up was Darren against former World number 7 Derek Ryan. A brutal match was played from the first rally. With Derek taking the first 2 very tight games, Darren fought hard to

even things up at 2-2. In the 5th Darren took an early lead but Derek fought back leading to an exciting final few rallies. Darren managed to just about keep his opponent at bay to win 3-2. James then took to the court knowing that a victory would seal the win for England. He started nervously and against a very determined opponent lost the first game. He evened things up but his opponent came back strongly to take the 3rd and a 2-1 lead. James dug deep and just managed to wear his opponent down to take the 4th and 5th – his relief evident to all those watching. With the win secured Matt (3-1) and Gareth (3-0) made the result look more convincing that it was and wrap up a 5-0 win for England.



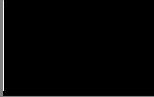
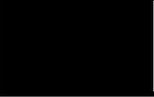
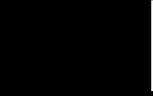
Next morning England played Wales. A 5-0 win was secured with wins from Tim B (3-0), James won a very tight 3-0 saving match balls in 1st and 2nd games, Tim R (3-0), Gareth (3-0) and Darren, feeling the effects of his match the previous evening (3-1).

Last up were Scotland, with England knowing that a victory would secure the overall trophy. Tim B set the team on its way with a 3-0 victory. Next up was Darren against the Scots number 1. Another brutal, competitive game was hard fought. This time Darren couldn't quite get over the line and went down 3-0. With England needing to get back on track this was followed up by a solid 3-0 win by James, again winning games on the tie-break and letting everyone know his relief at winning the match. It was left to Matt to tie up the victory and secure the trophy. He did this with a tidy 3-0 win. It was only left to Gareth to complete the weekend with another hard fought victory against a very competitive Scottish side, eventually winning 3-1.

The team were hosted and well looked after by the Fitzwilliam Club and Irish squash. We thank all those involved for their great hospitality – the organisers, the markers and the players.

**Tim Burrell (Captain)**

## MENS OVER 55 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		18	18	18	54	1
	3		2	16	21	3
	5	18		18	41	2
	3	9	1		13	4

## MENS OVER 55 REPORT



The liquid delights of Dublin ensured sharp competition for places in this England team which boasted a mix of new caps, fierce competitors and experienced campaigners, an envious balance to fight for the 30th retention ( in a row!) of the Edinburgh Quaich. “Don’t come back without it” was muttered by several previous winners.

### **Match 1 v Ireland**

After receiving a smart Irish Squash badge with pennant and a miniature bottle of Powers Whiskey, battle commenced with serial England player Ian Bradburn securing the first point 3/0 against James McSweeney followed by Neil Harrison dropping a tight 3rd game before closing out Dave Lalour in four. Skipper Dermot Hurford took care of Martin McDonnel in 3 before new cap Tom Burton showed no International nerves in dispatching Michael Conlon 9/0, 9/1, 9/5. The match well decided, Jeremy Goulding, in the lucky/unlucky no.2 position wasn't long on court winning 3/0 against Donal Goughlan. New cap Mark Taylor was rested and spent the time in support to the team as well as his entire family from both England and Canada! So a 18-1 points win and an early retirement to the member's bar at the wonderful Fitzwilliam Club.

### **Match 2 v Wales**

Wales disappointed by missing a few players at the top end but played with vigour and were generous in their gift of a Welsh flag flannel which we all put to good use. New cap mark Taylor dropped only 5 points against Chris Owen, Neil 7 against Graham Jones, Dermot 10 points to Mark Johnson, Jeremy only 3 to Paul Brennan and reliable Tom spilt only 8 points to Charlie Graddon. This time it was 18 points to 0 and England were in pole position with the Scots to come.

### **Match 3 v Scotland**

This was always going to be our hardest oppo with plenty of experience and Scotland's most capped squash player (160+) Alan Thomson playing at No.2. Senior pro Ian B took to the court and raced out of the blocks taking the first 2 games with the loss of only 2 points, playing the most sublime boasts that the over 35's on the next door court would not have reached. His opponent, Norman Paterson, then decided to hit some short winners himself and stole the third 9/5 however normal service was soon restored and Bradders raced to 9/2 to secure the win. This set up Neil to continue the form which he duly did hitting his trademark drops and short kills with such speed and accuracy that David McAleese couldn't match. 3-0 to Neil and the finish line was in sight. That inspired the skipper who had already ripped up speech no. 2 (the losing one) and he powered ahead winning 3-0 against Simon Gogolin. With the tie, the cup and the Guinness waiting you might be forgiven to think the last two matches were friendlies....far from it. Mark Taylor battled hard against Scotland's new player for the tournament Peter Shivas but roared on by his entire family and his team mates he showed his stamina to win 3/9, 8/10, 9/5, 10/9, 9/4 saving numerous match balls in the process. To the last match Alan Thomson v Jeremy Goulding with both looking to put down a marker for the Open in a couple of weeks. The court was deteriorating as well, with a wet front wall leading to numerous lets as the skid boasts landed in all sorts of places. Combined with the normal number of lets the marker did a fine job keeping the game going. Alan won the first two 9/3, 10/8, before Jeremy fought back to take the 3rd 9/5 where upon a tight 4th ensued. Alan raised his arms aloft thinking he had captured the match when match ball up but, alas, the ref judged it a let and Jeremy was allowed to battle onwards to win the game 10/8. At 2 games all and into the second hour both players were running on fumes however Jeremy must have filled up with premium as he was the stronger, winning the last game 9/4 just as the audience reached for their 3rd pint of the black stuff.

Overall, a dominant victory with England not dropping a rubber all weekend. Our thanks to Patrick Murray and Ciaran Roache for their organization over the weekend and also to our friends at The Fitzwilliam Club.

We partied long and hard.....for an edited version of what happened there please contact the skipper.....

### **Dermot Hurford (Captain)**

## MENS OVER 75 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		11	9	9	29	1
	3		3	5	11	4
	3	9		9	21	2
	3	9	5		17	3

## MENS OVER 75 REPORT

With a combined age of 315 the England Over 75 team were certainly 'Senior' players in this event.

Friday 1st. Session 1 England v Ireland 2 -1

Patrick Kirton (1) was first on court against his old adversary Mossie Collins. A repeat of the 2014 battle with a win for Kirton. 2015 was reversed with a lengthy battle, Collins edging it 9/5 8/10 6/9 10/9 3/9.

Malcolm Gilham (2) met Alex Richardson. Gilham, the victor, 9/3 9/1 9/7. The score suggests an easy victory but Richardson made Gilham work for the 3rd game.

Lance Kinder (3) matched against Derek Patterson. No mobility problems here! The movement around the court, by both players, belied their mature age. Kinder won, 9/3 9/3 9/0

Saturday 2nd Session 2 England v Wales 2 -1

Patrick Kirton (1) met an in form Brian Phillips, having just come into this age group. The first game was very tight. Phillips went on to win. 9/10 2/9 7/9.

Malcolm Gilham (2) against Gary Williams. Gilham, the most senior member of the team, was in form from the 1st session with a 9/3 9/2 9/3 win.

John Woodliffe (3) had an easy match against Paul Leonard. Woodliffe, relentless at keeping the ball away from Leonard to win 9/3 9/0 9/0.

Saturday 3rd Session 3 England v Scotland 2-1

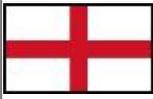
First up was Patrick Kirton (1) against Vinnie Taylor. Although Taylor is based in Canada he organised the Scottish team. The consensus was that if Kirton had pulled back the second game, as he nearly did, the match could have had a different outcome. Taylor the winner. 5/9 7/9 2/9

Second match saw John Woodliffe (2) match up with Andrew Rugg. This match was closely contended. Woodliffe's accuracy and persistent returning won the match. 9/7 9/3 9/7.

Final match of the 075's for Lance Kinder (3) and his opponent Brian McNally. McNally, one of the organisers of the event, stepped in at the last minute due to pull outs in the Scotland team. Kinder confused McNally with his drop shots and mobility. Kinder won 9/3 9/2 9/0.

Overall, a victory for the England O75 team. Our thanks to Patrick Murray and his team for the organization over the weekend and also to everyone at The Fitzwilliam Club. Thanks also to Ciaran Roache, Irish Squash, for hosting the 2015 Home Internationals.

## WOMENS OVER 55 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		12	5	12	29	2
	1		0	4	5	4
	9	12		12	33	1
	1	12	3		16	3

## WOMENS OVER 55 REPORT



With Wales unable to raise a team of five, it was agreed that this would be a three string event. However, Ireland and Scotland were keen to field five players, and we agreed to play “friendly” matches at 4 and 5. Needless to say, they were competitively contested, even though the results didn’t count towards the Home International event.

Winning with a three string team was always going to be a tough call for the English “girls”. The first match, against hosts, Ireland, started in Friday evening at 9pm. Jill Champion at 1, Lesley Sturgess at 2 and Sue Pynegar at 3 all looked sharp and won their matches convincingly, as did Helen Gould and Jan Ellis playing friendly games at 4

and 5 respectively. When we turned up for supper at around 10.30pm we were relieved to find that food was still plentiful.

Our second match was against Wales on Saturday morning. Sue Pynegar at 3 controlled her match throughout, preventing Wendy Norris from playing her winning shots, winning with a very convincing 3-0. Jill Campion then went on against the highly experienced Sian Johnson. The first game was neck and neck, but Jill took it thanks to a few lucky nicks at crucial times. She then gained confidence and played text-book squash to win the next two games and the match comfortably. Helen Gould, short of competitive match play, made a slow start against Lynn Davies at third string, losing the first game. However, she came back with her usual determination, out-hitting her opponent with tight, confident drives to win 3-1. Lesley and Jan won their friendly matches (against Irish ladies who were honorary Welsh for the day) comfortably.

That left Scotland. Lesley Sturgess, at 3, did well to take the first game against the improved Moira Atkinson. The second and third were a different story, with Moira proving to be too adept at retrieving Lesley's lobs and drops. Two one down, Lesley rallied in the fourth, winning it with good reading of the game and shot selection. However, Moira found her consistency again and won the fifth. Jill Campion struggled to settle against Pauline Douglas, who was fast and efficient, reading Jill's game like a book. Jill was unable to regain the confidence and accuracy of her earlier match and, despite finding form briefly in the second, lost 3-0. Despite knowing that England could only come second overall, Helen was sharp and accurate against Eunice Bond, an experienced shot player at two, and won 3-0. Sue had no problem beating the Scottish number 4 in their friendly match.

Thanks to the organisers and the Fitzwilliam Club for their hospitality for putting on a fun 'do' on the Saturday evening. Also, thanks to all our opponents - we've been playing each other for years, play good (sometimes) competitive (always) squash on court and then enjoy catching up and socialising off court.

**Jill Campion (Captain)**