

2016 MASTERS HOME INTERNATIONAL IRELAND

Event Dates:	Friday 29 th - Saturday 30 th Apr 2016		
Address:	Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Dublin		
England Teams:	Men's O40	Men's O60	Women's O35/O45
	Jonathan Gliddon (Captain) Paul Boyle Ashley Bowling Jamie Goodrich Joss Hargrave Matthew Stephenson	Stuart Hardy (Captain) Duleep Adhihetty Peter Alexander Mark Cowley Simon Evenden Ian Holmes	Rachel Calver (Captain) Kate Bradshaw Krissy Burkin Sam Mueller Zoë Shardlow Natalie Townsend

MENS OVER 40 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		9	18	18	45	2
	16		15	18	49	1
	2	5		18	25	3
	0	2	5		7	4

MENS OVER 40 REPORT

About a week before the Home Internationals weekend, Jamie Goodrich casually let the captain know that his new passport hadn't arrived yet!! He needed a new one as his previous one was worn out due to all the travelling he has been doing, fulfilling his role as an international Bradley Wiggins lookalike. A couple of days before, Bradley.... I mean Jamie, had received his new passport, but then received an email from his airline to inform him that his flight had been cancelled!!! The captain stayed calm & did his impression of a travel agent & helped Jamie to book another flight - stress over!

Everyone arrived safely, except for the captain (Jonathan Gliddon) who's flight was delayed from sleepy Devon. He eventually arrived just in time for the first match but decided to rest himself to let the rest of the boys get us off to a good start.

The good start was duly delivered with Matty Stephenson starting by dishing out a comfortable 3-0 win at number 5, only losing 6 points in total. This obviously annoyed his opponent Dave Robertson somewhat though, as Matty received a forehand crosscourt directly into the calf! Boo-hoo! Paul (Bulldog) Boyle at number 3 enjoyed a 3-0 win against Clive Morgan with no trouble, as did Jamie (Bradley) Goodrich against Matt (Growler) Crowley at number 1. At number 4, Joss Hargrave decided not to wear his recently acquired mankini & wore his bright pink leggings instead! After a close first game, Joss settled down & completed a 3-0 victory. Last on court was the stag, Pashley Bowling at number 2 against the European Masters tour regular - Paul (Prince Albert) Johnson. Putting his stag weekend aside, Pash played his Egyptian style (back to front squash) well & came through comfortably 3-0 to complete a 5-0 win for England.



In the afternoon match against Scotland, Joss took a rest as the Captain Jonathan Gliddon came in at number 4. Matty Stephenson commenced the match at number 5 & won 3-1 against Mark James. Paul Boyle at number 3 gave a typical bulldog display & beat Douglas Emery comfortably 3-0. Up next at number 1 was Jamie Goodrich against a formidable opponent, Simon Boughton. Jamie started the match tapping the ball around a bit too softly, as if he felt sorry for the ball! After losing the first game, he started to put a bit more pace on the ball & came through with a good 3-1 win. Captain Jonathan Gliddon was unleashed at number 4 & won convincingly 3-0 in a stylish manner against John Kynoch. Last on court was Pashley Bowling who played like a real stag against Angus Woodward & won 3-0. This completed another 5-0 victory for England.

So as expected, it was all set up for the afternoon's deciding match against Ireland who had also won both of their matches too. They were obviously worried as Ireland drafted in ex touring pro & ex world number 69 Graeme Stewart at number one for our match only. You could feel the tension before the match started & all the England camp were feeling determined & up to the challenge to avenge last years defeat. England donned their "Glen Ragou" tribute England shirts for this match to pay respect & to remember the effort that Glen always gave on court..... always smiling!

Proceedings started on the show court with all matches being streamed & commented on live on the net with Joss Hargrave at number 5 against an improved John Hurley. Joss came out firing & won the first game but then John started to find his range well & won the next two convincingly. Staring defeat in the face, Joss pulled his socks up even higher & dug deep inside his soul to win the next two games 11-9 11-9 to record a very gutsy 3-2 win. This was the excellent start that England needed & we could feel the positive vibes. Up next was Paul Boyle at number 3 against a very talented & local celebrity Dara O'Flynn. Unfortunately, Paul couldn't knock Dara out of his stride & lost 3-0. At number 1, Ireland flew in their maverick Graeme Stewart who used all his "experience" to beat Jamie 3-1 in a very messy match, full of decisions. This result didn't go the way we expected & left us at 2-1 down. The tension returned & meant that England had to win their final 2 matches to win the Home Internationals. Jonathan Gliddon was next & was determined to give a captains effort against the talented Neal Murphy - no pressure!! The skipper came out swinging & played some great squash to win a close first game 11-9. However, the tide started to turn with Neal playing some accurate & gutsy skills to give win the next 2 games 11-4 11-9. After the 3rd game, the England skipper was given some perfect advice from Bulldog Boyle, who reminded him of the feeling before his final round of boxing that the Gladiator had recently taken part in & the England player came out in the 4th like a man possessed. With increased intensity & highly accurate shots, the Gladiator won 11-1 to set up a mouth watering 5th & final deciding game. Flowing backwards & forwards, the players went point for point & at 9-9, Jonathan looked like he had worn Murphy out & was looking good for the win. However, as Neal Murphy wasn't able to run any more, he closed his eyes & hit an outrageous return of serve into the front left for a winner. Then at 10-9 match ball for Murphy, a desperate boast wrong footed the England skipper to hand the Home Internationals O40's crown to Ireland. Billed as the match of the weekend, the players embraced until they got to the bar for well earned refreshment. Although the tie & the match was already won by Ireland, the number 2's still had to play. Pash Bowling played extremely well to go 2-0 up against ex Devon Junior David Ayerst, only for David to change into another padded t-shirt & come out to win the next 2 games. The 5th & final game was very tight & the stag pulled through 15-13 to record an England win & his 3rd win of the weekend. Thus the match finished 3-2 to Ireland



Congratulations to Ireland for winning an extremely close Home Internationals. Thanks for the hospitality that didn't finish until the early hours. Good fun, great squash & lots of excitement. Couldn't have been any closer!

Jonathan Gliddon (Captain)

MENS OVER 60 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		18	18	18	54	1
	1		17	17	35	2
	2	9		16	27	3
	0	5	7		12	4

MENS OVER 60 REPORT

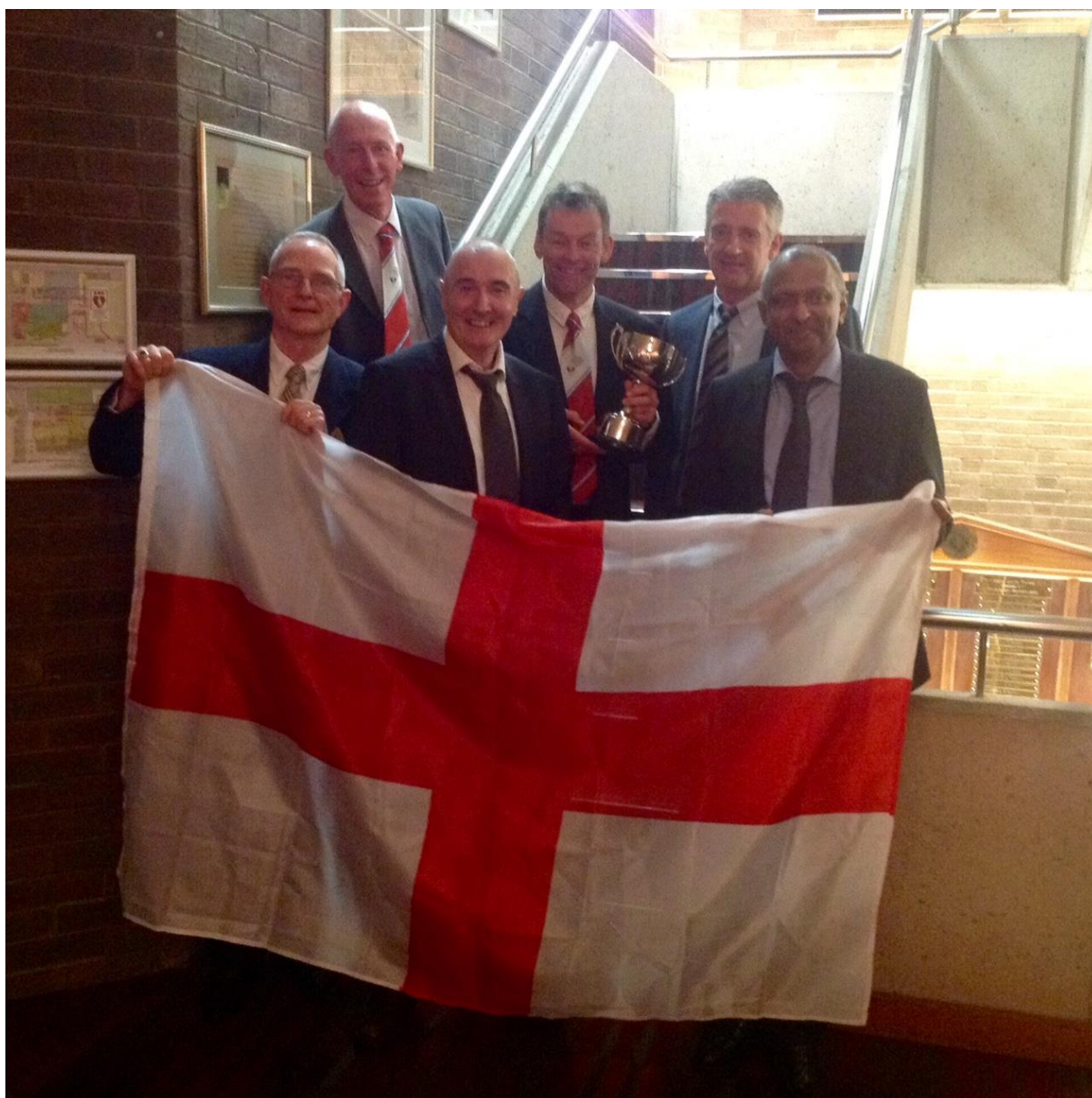


The Men's O-60 England Squash Team full of the usual suspects arrived in Dublin from various airports and congregated at the splendid new hotel, Double Tree by Hilton. After the usual pleadings from various players we arrived at a team order which no one could argue about. 1. Mark Cowley, 2. Peter Alexander. 3. Duleep Adhihetty. 4. Stuart Hardy. (Captain). 5. Simon Evenden. 6. Ian Holmes. That done, the captain only had two tasks for the weekend. To ensure that there was not too much imbibing on Friday night and win all three International matches. Chalk up one out of two on that score.

First up was Wales and the top five took to the stage and the ever impressive Fitzwilliam Club after the Team Meeting and Photographs. There was little drama, really, as the England players put in a very professional performance and recorded five 3/0 wins without any undue problems.

The next morning it was Scotland. More demanding as they had two of the victorious 65 team from the previous weekend in a talented team. Eyebrows were raised over the team order as the over 65 no. 1 was at five and the no.2 was at two. However, unperturbed we started the match only to find one of the Scottish players was AWOL so a quick rejig from them. Ian Holmes came in at five and with his usual calm and control despatched John Charles in straight games. With Duleep rested the captain followed on against David Taylor at no. 3 and managed to lose five game points in the first and the game. A 9/0. 9/2. pair of games followed for England then another dog fight which Hardy scraped through for a 3/1 win. A bleary eyed Cowley (led astray by Duleep, apparently) still had too much for Scottish Champion Paul Harris and bludgeoned his way to a 3/0 win to ensure the match. Simon Evenden followed against the talented Jim Dougall at no. 4 who had beaten the England 65 no. 1 the previous week. Simon played well and his athleticism saw him negate some of Jim's shot play to win in four. The ever reliable Peter Alexander (nine British Opens and a World Open - at no. 2!) finished off with a 3/0 win over John Rae who gamely pushed Peter in the third. 5/0 to England.

Meanwhile, the hosts Ireland had recorded a stunning win over Scotland in their first match and then despatched Wales to set up the Championship decider with the two unbeaten teams.



Holmes at 5 was first on against the impressive debutant Herbert Cotter. As unflustered as ever, and never bleary eyed Ian efficiently mopped him up 3/0. Duleep returned at no.3 and was increasingly frustrating Frank Donnelly with his wonderful touch play. At 2/0 up and in the process of playing another drop winner, Frank collided with Duleep's calf forcing him off court. Unable to put weight on it the referee awarded him the match. An unfortunate and unintentional collision, but 2/0 to England. Cowley at 1 for England the Open and National Champion took on Martin McDonnell, who battled well but was eventually overpowered in four games to give England the title. Captain Hardy at no. 4 was next on and in spite of the hundreds of stairs climbed between games, managed a 3/0 win over Michael Conlon. Alexander then wrapped up proceedings against Kyran Hurley, also 3/0 to give England a clean sweep of three 5/0 victories and the Home International Championship. One of the few never lost by England.

Meanwhile, all the excitement and drama was taking place in the Men's o-40 match which went on for two further hours after the 60s win. And with the Women's 35/40s also winning the Men's 40s had some good (if minority) support.

Thanks to Irish Squash for organising an excellent weekend. The dinner was late and went on even later and the celebrations continued for some time.

Stuart Hardy (Captain)

WOMENS OVER 35/40 RESULTS SUMMARY

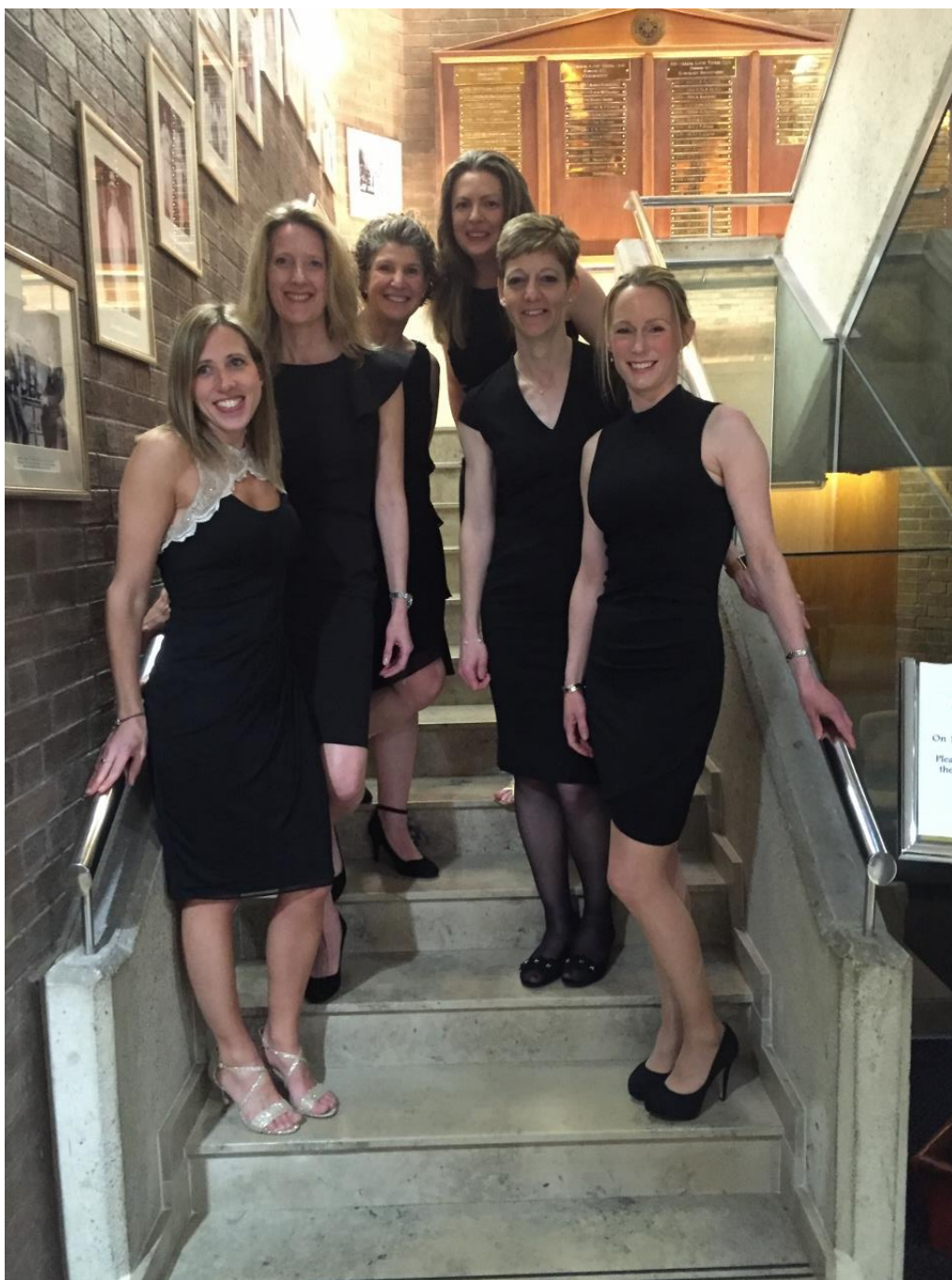
Team					Total	Position
		18	13	18	49	1
	1		10	15	26	3
	6	13		8	27	2
	0	7	12		19	4

WOMENS OVER 35/40 REPORT

On Friday the 29th of April, six of us departed various airports heading for Dublin for the 2016 Home Internationals. Despite flight delays the whole team was very excited and hopeful of retaining the Women's O35/40 title, held by England for the past 18 years. Team spirit was high owing to some prolific pre event banter.



We headed to the very welcoming Fitzwilliam Club to get the squash underway. England's first opponents were Wales. With four members of the England squad making their debut it was going to be a nervy start. Natalie Townsend was first on court at no.5. Despite her nerves she started strong winning the first game 9-1 and continued to control the games taking the next two 9-7, 9-0 for a 3-0 win. Kate Bradshaw also had a great start and managed her nerves well. She also proved too strong for her opponent winning 3-0 (9-3, 9-3, 9-2) in her debut match. Krissy Birkin playing at no.3 took control of her game early on despite her opponents willingness to chase everything she also took a 3-0 victory (9-3, 9-1, 9-5). Zoe Shardlow took to the court against a very experienced Lynne Davies who has caused many upsets over the years. Zoe however, managed to keep Lynne under pressure and took another 3-0 victory (9-2, 9-0, 9-1) and a team lead of 4-0 with one to play. England completed a 5-0 team victory with Rachel Calver winning 3-0 over Helen Barnard (9-6, 9-3, 9-2), who still managed to make it a competitive match despite being injured.



Saturday morning saw England take on Scotland who unfortunately had a late withdrawal from their team and travelled with four players. Scotland have historically given England tough matches in the past and despite only having 4 players this year was no exception. Krissy was first on playing at number 3. Her opponent was another runner who happily chased everything down. Once again Krissy maintained control of the game winning 3-0 (9-6,

9-5, 9-0). Next on against Helen Nicol for Scotland was Rachel Calver, a repeat of last years match. Despite the score being tight early on in the first 2 games and the referee being a bit busier, the result was the same as last year. Helen took the match 3-0 (9-6, 9-6, 9-1) making it 2-1 to England in the overall match score...Game on! Next on was Sam Mueller playing her first match of the weekend at no.4. With no messing around she set out to secure the team win and confidently won 3-0 (9-1, 9-1, 9-1). With the match in the bag Zoe Shardlow looked to increase England's points total by winning her match. She was however up against Fiona Maclean another very experienced player who had played well for the Scottish Women's O45's the previous weekend. Whilst Zoe took the first game 9-4, Fiona played some amazing shots and in a close second game (9-7) Fiona levelled it at 1-1. In the third game Fiona made it very difficult for Zoe winning 9-1. With some fantastic rallies in all of the games Fiona took the fourth game too (9-4), giving Scotland the game but a 3-2 overall win for England.

With less than an hour before the afternoon session started we knew that 7 points against Ireland would retain the trophy and title for another 12 months. Ireland had, had a close match Scotland on the Friday night but seemed to be even stronger for their final match against us. Kate Bradshaw started the match off with a great 3-0 victory winning 9-1, 9-3, 9-0. Kate played great squash all weekend with a very solid team performance. Krissy again had another feisty player resulting in some great rallies but again she maintained control winning 9-4, 9-3, 9-2. At no.1 Rachel played a very experienced and ex-Irish professional Orla O'Doherty. Luckily Orla had, had a very tight match in the morning enabling Rachel to take a 3-0 win (9-1, 9-5, 9-1), giving England the team win and much more than the 7 points required. Despite the team score Sam went on court with an Irish opponent who was not going to concede lightly. With some close rallies Sam took the first game 9-3. The second game was much closer in score with Sam taking it 9-7, she was able to maintain her focus and completed the 3-0 win (9-3). Finally, Zoe completed the team order, still feeling the effects of her morning match she was again up against another tough and determined Irish opponent in Olivia French. The first game went to Ireland 9-6, the second game was also going Ireland's way with Olivia being 8-0 up when she injured her ankle and was forced to retire. Whilst this was devastating for Olivia unknowingly it was also going to be devastating to the team. Ireland finished third overall behind Scotland with a one point difference.

Phew! Job done, another great weekend and an England victory. A huge thanks to Irish squash for their great hospitality and entertaining evening. Thanks also to our travelling supporters who probably played just as many rallies from the balcony as we did on court.

- Top accessory of the weekend, a selfie stick. Must get one for next year
- Surprise of the weekend was Ashley Bowling's stag du, glad you survived.
- Whilst it was an honour to carry the trophy home, I observed a genius moment of delegation by Stuart Hardy. I hope Simon managed to carry the Men's O60's trophy home safely too!
- Result of the weekend was the Team win and Leicester City winning the Premier League (please print that bit).

Thank you also to a great team, for all the laughs off court and dedication on the court. Overall there was nothing 'Pants' about this weekend.

Rachel Calver (Captain)