

2016 MASTERS HOME INTERNATIONAL WALES

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|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| Event Dates: | Friday 22 nd - Saturday 24 th Apr 2016 | | |
| Address: | Sport Wales National Centre (SWNC), Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, and Cardiff Squash Rackets Club, Ryder Street, Cardiff | | |
| England Teams: | Men's O45 | Men's O65 | Women's O45 |
| | David Youngs (Captain) Nick Brown Steve McLoughlin Andy Normile Lee Scott Stuart Summers | Ian Graham (Captain) Alan Hendry John Hithersay Terry Norman Peter Smith | Alison Goy (Captain) Kay Fallows Sue Smith Isabelle Tweedle Izzy Tyrell Amanda Warren |

MENS OVER 45 RESULTS SUMMARY

| Team |  |  |  |  | Total | Position |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------|----------|
|  | | 20 | 20 | 20 | 60 | 1 |
|  | 0 | | 6 | 7 | 13 | 4 |
|  | 1 | 19 | | 8 | 28 | 3 |
|  | 0 | 20 | 17 | | 37 | 2 |

MENS OVER 45 REPORT

After a slightly tricky team selection for our weekend trip to Cardiff the six players that made it were David Youngs, Lee Scott, Andy Normile, Steve McLoughlin, Stuart Summers and Nick Brown. Supporters included were Nick's wife Vicki, Nicks Auntie who we only knew as Auntie as she was never introduced properly, Nicks Mum and Dad and if he'd have been allowed I think the pets would have come too!!! Chris Langford, Alison McLoughlin and the very dangerous Andy Murray!!!! I say dangerous as drinking in the evenings with Andy can sometimes get a little out of control!!

Our first match was against Ireland. McLoughlin was left out of the side as for the second year running he failed to listen to the captain's instructions and turned up late. Normile was first on court and after a nervous start won his match comfortably 3-0. Youngs was next up. After driving 300 miles to get to Cardiff what are the chances of my opponent being Steve Mooney from the same club as me in Norwich!! This was Mooney's first time representing his Country and as hard as he tried he was a little overawed by the occasion allowing Youngs to dominate and earn England's second 3-0 of the match. Scott making his debut for us is the Current British champion and the way he played all weekend proved he was a class above everyone else with a very tidy 3-0 win, this was our third victory of the night and meant the match was already secure after the first three games. If Stuart Summers ever gives up squash he can be assured of another career in Photography as wherever we went his camera wasn't far behind. This was Summers third appearance in the home Internationals and he saw off his Irish opponent with the minimum of fuss to put us 4-0 up and still no games dropped. Not much room on the balcony for our final match as most of Brown's family were in place for his first appearance in an England shirt. He didn't disappoint either as he completed the clean sweep of 3-0 victories to leave us 5-0 winners of our opening encounter.



The Team (Guess who missed the team photo call! Good Photoshop skills from Stuart.)

Back to the hotel for an evening with the ladies over 45's and of course Nicks family, I believe the over 65's were staying there too but most of them had disappeared off to bed. I gave up trying to keep pace with Muzza (Andy Murray) at 1.15am as he was probably on 10th pint by then!! Summers however went the full distance and matched the 14 pints Muzza drunk through the evening, the difference between the two was Summers had to get up the next morning and represent his Country. First down for breakfast was Summers, a remarkable effort after what he'd drunk the night before, the rest of the team made it at some point but no sightings of Murray.

Second match saw McLoughlin come in for Youngs. Opening up was Normile who looked a little worse for wear but somehow managed to win 3-0, at times the sweat pouring out of him appeared to be alcoholic beads of Sam Miguel. If you ever need a player to rely on Steve McLoughlin wouldn't be my first choice, with every match played so far resulting in a 3-0 win you could almost bet the first player to drop a game would be him. This he did with ease as his opponent comfortably won the second game 11-5. McLoughlin did pull himself together after he'd received a good talking to from Summers and won the next two games to complete his 3-1 victory. Scott continued where he'd left off the night before and soon had his opponent Peter Buchann on the back foot as he cruised to another 3-0 victory.

Another team victory completed as Summers entered the arena following his 14 pints the night before!! He was ridiculous and put up one of his best ever performances I've ever seen as he played squash to a level that even he probably hasn't reached before. I will just add at this point there was still no sighting of Muzza. Once again we were 4-0 up and at this point it was time for the Brown family to turn up again, and on mass they once again filled the balcony. He again didn't disappoint as another straight game victory followed much to the delight of his travelling supporters.

Our final match was against Wales who had won both of their previous matches as well, so all to play for then. Youngs returned to the side as Normile's intake of San Miguel had finally caught up with him and was unable to play. Summers continued where he'd left off with another 3-0 victory and headed straight to the bar for a reunion with Muzza who had finally managed to leave the hotel after the previous night's antics. Youngs up next playing Welsh number three Mark Jones, this perhaps (I know I'm writing this) was the most entertaining match of the

weekend and also included the shot of the weekend from Youngs. Not quite sure how to describe it but it was a backward corkscrew that Jones and the referee had no idea where it had gone, where it finished was in the nick at the back of the court and after a long joke with referee he agreed to let me have the point. Scott, Mccloughlin and Brown all won their matches 3-0 and left England champions once again.

Back to the Copthorne Hotel for evening dinner and presentation and of course more drinking, the only thing missing was the Brown family who had now disappeared to Swindon. The meal was fantastic and thanks must go to all the staff at the hotel who made our stay very enjoyable. Also to both squash clubs who hosted the weekend and to Lynne Davies and her team of helpers that made the weekend run really smoothly.

- Match of the weekend over 45's
 - Match of the weekend ladies
 - Match of the weekend over 65's
 - Shot of the weekend
 - Drinker of the weekend
 - Best Support
- Stuart Summers performance after 14 pints!!
 - Amanda Warren's 3-2 victory after being 2-0 down!!
 - Ian Grahams 3-2 victory over John Rae of Scotland in the deciding leg of their match.
 - David Youngs – The ridiculous corkscrew shot.
 - Stuart Summers, 2nd place Andy Murray!!!
 - Brown family by a mile.



We had a great weekend but in the back of my mind and one or two others this is the first weekend I've played since our sad loss of Glen Ragou. He was always part of this team and over the years the fun we had together at various venues will never be forgotten.

David Youngs (Captain)

MENS OVER 65 RESULTS SUMMARY

| Team |  |  |  |  | Total | Position |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------|----------|
|  |  | 20 | 15 | 11 | 46 | 2 |
|  | 1 |  | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
|  | 8 | 20 |  | 20 | 48 | 1 |
|  | 15 | 20 | 1 |  | 36 | 3 |

MENS OVER 65 REPORT

Not the easiest year to captain the O65 team I thought as first Derek Collins and then Barry Featherstone withdrew injured. I suspected something may definitely go wrong when Larry Grover failed to fly out of Guernsey due to fog and we were down to 5 players.



Matters got no easier when our No5 Terry Norman lost 0-3 in the first game against Ireland. John Hithersay at No3 looked very solid winning 3-0 to square the match. Our No 1, Peter Smith quickly established a 2-0 lead before losing the third and pulling through 10-9 in the fourth, leaving us 2-1 up. Alan Hendry and the captain both won 3-0 for a solid 4-1 victory. All going to plan then as I slept, blissfully unaware of what Saturday would bring.

The crux of the weekend was to be our game with Scotland on Saturday morning. I always thought it would be 3-2 and close but there were notable surprises. Terry played beautifully in the first match and won 3-0. John found the very warm court a trial and after winning the first came unstuck in the heat to lose 1-3. Peter had beaten Jim Dougall in the Nationals but the heat on the court got to him too and he lost 0-3 leaving Alan to salvage a win so the captain could play a meaningful last string. He did it in style to tie the match at 2-2. I had a close game with John Rae earlier in the season and this was no different, but after 58 mins grasped the win. I thought that might be the most crucial game of the weekend. How horribly wrong could I be!!

We moved to the Institute of Sport for our final match against Wales. They had lost 0-5 to Scotland and were without their No 1. Terry got off to a great start and was 2-0 and cruising before a back spasm saw him lose movement and the match 2-3. John was clearly feeling the effects of the weekend and lost 1-3 to leave us with our backs to the wall. Peter fared little better until 0-2 and 5-8 before a bit of class and determination allowed him a way back in and eventually a 3-2 victory. Over to Alan for the win that would give me the chance of another a decider. It was not to be. Alan went 2-1 up but the accuracy and drops of his opponent just never ceased and it went to Wales 3-2. The match lost, I finished my game as soon as possible.

In summary, the Irish were unlucky not to have their No 1+2 and it would have been even more interesting with them. The English were short of form in some crucial matches which cost us dearly. The Welsh played brilliantly against England. Congratulations to Scotland for playing at a consistently high level all weekend. They really deserved to win the title.

But next year.....

Ian Graham (Captain)

WOMENS OVER 45 RESULTS SUMMARY

| Team |  |  |  |  | Total | Position |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------|----------|
|  |  | 20 | 20 | 17 | 57 | 1 |
|  | 0 |  | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
|  | 4 | 20 |  | 19 | 43 | 2 |
|  | 5 | 17 | 1 |  | 23 | 3 |

WOMENS OVER 45 REPORT



Our first match of the evening was against Ireland and I was amazed that the two Isabelle's turned up on time for the photo shoot, having received text messages from both of them during the afternoon. One from Tyrrell at 2pm checking that it was Cardiff squash club she needed to be at and one from an unknown number that later turned out to be Tweedle stating that she would arrive for 3:30, then advising in a later text it would be closer to 4pm. As for the Irish team how they ever thought that arriving at Bristol airport for 3pm would see them arrive at Cardiff for 4pm, only they will know. So we started the match at 5pm with the two Northern Irish ladies having to play in their own kit as the official Irish kit was with the ladies travelling from Dublin! The captain decided to leave Kay Fallows the number 4 out of the team for the first match meaning that Sue Smith was first on court at number 5.

She made a good start for England winning her match 3-0. Next on court was Isabelle Tyrrell another 3-0 dropping just 4 points on the way to victory. Next on court was the reigning National champion Isabelle Tweedle she was in no mood to hang about and easily won 3-0. Next up was yours truly I too won 3-0 but tried my hardest to be the first to drop a game having been 8-6 down in the third only to take the game and match 10-8. Last on court was Many Warren and just like Ms Tyrrell she dropped just 4 points winning comfortably 3-0.

So back to the hotel it was to totally re-arrange the hotel furniture in the bar so that the whole of the England over 45 squad men and ladies could sit in a big circle. Worryingly our 10am Saturday opponents Scotland were nowhere to be seen. At midnight the ladies team started to disappear. I was left with the chilling words from one Isabelle Tweedle, "Alison be a sensible captain". What did she mean? So two bottles of Peroni and 1.5 hours later I retired to bed thinking how sensible I'd been.

Scotland looked on paper to be very tough opponents although the actual match score does not reflect how close it was. Captain Sensible decided to play the strongest team, which meant she was first on court at 10am. And although I say this myself I played very well managing to win in 3. Next on was Isabelle Tyrrell anyone would have thought it had been her in the bar drinking Peroni until 1:30 as she quickly went 8-0 down. I know her too well to write her off and sure enough she took the first game 10-8. Then took the next two to win 3-0. Next on were the number one's, Isabelle Tweedle took the first 9-0, only for her opponent to fight back in the next taking it 9-4, this was the first game we had dropped. Isabelle was in no mood to drop anymore and took the next two games winning the match 3-1. Kay was next on court, she cruised to a 2-0 lead and then seemed to ease off slightly and subsequently lost the third 8-10. She pulled it together in the fourth to win the match 3-1. Last on was Mandy she went 2-0 down and looked like she was struggling. Coach Tweedle was sent down to have a few words and Mandy changed her game and took the third. Coach Tweedle was summoned downstairs once again to assist Mandy with her game plan. Bingo Mandy pulled it level. The fifth game could have gone either way but Mandy kept her nerve and took it 9-7. Another 5-0 win for England.



The last match was against the home team Wales and for this we moved to the institute of sport, not before the captain managed a hair of the dog at the squash club. She had decided to leave herself out of the final match!

First on was Sue Smith, she was playing the wily Lynne “Ringer” Davies who had been brought in last minute due to illness and 50th birthday celebrations. Unfortunately, she proved too tricky for Sue and took the match 3-0. Next on was the ever reliable Isabelle Tyrrell, once again winning 3-0. Isabelle Tweedle was next on knowing that we only needed to win 2 more games to be champions. The first game was quite close points wise, the second and third weren’t this didn’t reflect the tough match she was given by her opponent. Isabelle was victorious again 3-0. Although we had already won both Kay and Mandy were instructed to go for it as we wanted to win the match outright. Kay took this to heart and only dropped 5 points in her match. Mandy however decided she would get her monies worth and play another 5 setter, once again she came out on top taking the fifth 9-2. A 4-1 victory to England.

A good weekend was had and I’d like to thank the team for being easy to organize. A big thank you goes to Bev Vatcher for her support to the team throughout the weekend. Well done to Lynne Davies and all at Welsh squash and Cardiff squash club for hosting a fab weekend.

Alison Goy (Captain)