

## 2018 MASTER HOME INTERNATIONAL SCOTLAND

<b>Event Dates:</b>	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2018		
<b>Address:</b>	Aberdeen Squash and Racketball Club		
<b>England Teams:</b>	<b>Men's O40</b>	<b>Men's O60</b>	<b>Women's O35/O45</b>
	Jonathan Gallacher (Captain) Mick Biggs Ashley Bowling Tim Burrell Jamie Goodrich Joss Hargrave	Stuart Hardy (Captain) Alan Barwise Ian Bradburn Mark Cowley Simon Evenden Colin Shields Steve Johnson	Keeley Johnson (Captain) Rachel Calver Louisa Dalwood Zöe Shardlow Selina Sinclair Natalie Townsend



## MENS OVER 40 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		18	19	17	54	1
	10		18	18	46	2
	6	7		17	30	3
	5	8	9		22	4

## MENS OVER 40 REPORT



To put into context the task facing the England Over 40 team it is worth glancing over the reports and results from the last few years. In summary, a strong squad of Irish players had won the last three MO40 Home Internationals. Last year's Friday night encounter with Ireland lasted five hours with England coming within a single point of victory in the most dramatic of matches.

With that history, the England Over 40 team of Mick Biggs, Ashley Bowling, Tim Burrell, Jonathan Gallacher (captain), Jamie Goodrich and Joss Hargrave were highly motivated to beat Scotland, Ireland and Wales to become 2018 champions.

A 5.30am departure from Plymouth saw me successfully negotiate the first hurdle of the weekend to make the early morning flight from Bristol to Aberdeen airport. An airport where the number of planes are outnumbered by the offshore bound helicopters. The team arrived at various times during the day to make the photo call at 4.30pm with the match due to start at 5.00pm.

**England v Scotland**  
**Friday 18th May 2018 at 5.00pm**

Scotland were without their 2017 British Over 40 champion Peter O'Hara due to injury. However, they were much stronger than last year with Simon Boughton, Surrey based Stuart Ayton and Keith Simpson coming in to make a formidable top order.

The playing order as always was 5, 3, 1, 4, 2. It was therefore up to Joss Hargrave to kick off the weekend. Once he found his range towards the end of the first game there was no looking back and a commanding performance helped calm all our nerves and got us off to the perfect start.

Ashley Bowling was next on against the clean hitting of Keith Simpson. Ashley, always a classy player, eased away to win the first game but was pegged back in the second losing it narrowly 11/9. The third game can often be crucial and with Simpson gaining confidence it was a very close game with both players fighting for the advantage. It went England's way and Ashley's level of play notably increased in the fourth to take it with ease.

Jamie Goodrich was not at his best all weekend suffering with a cold that had clearly dented his usual high energy levels. Despite this, he still put in a sterling effort against Edinburgh based Simon Boughton who was unbeaten all weekend and won the male player of the tournament award. Jamie won both the first and third games with something to spare but was unable to summon the reserves required in the fifth game.





At 2-1 up we only needed one more match to secure victory over Scotland. England captain Jonathan Gallacher was largely untroubled against Scott Hay and was a comfortable winner to give England the win on the opening night of competition.



Mick Biggs faced Stuart Ayton in a repeat of their close and somewhat tempestuous match in the quarterfinals of the British Championships in February. Although Mick was favourite this was always likely to be an even match. Within two points of going 2-0 behind Mick stepped it up to win the second 13-11. A seesaw encounter saw Mick eventually come through 3-2. A 4-1 victory for England over Scotland.

<b>England</b>	<b>beat</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>4-1 (19-6)</b>
1. Jamie Goodrich	lost	Simon Boughton	11/5, 5/11, 8/11, 11/2, 4/11
2. Mick Biggs	beat	Stuart Ayton	7/11, 13/11, 11/5, 5/11, 11/7
3. Ashley Bowling	beat	Keith Simpson	11/6, 9/11, 13/11, 11/2
4. Jonathan Gallacher	beat	Scott Hay	11/3, 11/6, 11/2
5. Joss Hargrave	beat	Blair McKenzie	11/9, 11/5, 11/2

**England v Ireland**  
**Saturday 19th May 2018 at 10.00am**

Where to start with this match! It was an epic in 2017. In 2018 it was quickly matched and then superseded. Once again it lasted five hours with a movie script worth of twists and turns.

Ireland had a strong team with Nick Staunton (2018 British Over 45 Champion) facing Berkshire's Tim Burrell in the first match at number 5 string. Tim overturned a first game loss to win the second and then closed out a tiebreaker in the third with some fantastic shots to lead 2-1. At 10-8 in the fourth it looked we were on the verge of getting the dream start. Despite positive play by Tim it was not to be with Nick saving those match balls. Some dubious calls early in the fifth did not help Tim's cause and Ireland took the opening match.

Ashley Bowling looked much the stronger player at the start of the match taking the first game against John Hurley. John has lost a stone in weight recently and was covering the court very well. Combined with his variety of shot he was beginning to cause some problems and took the second. This was developing into a nail-biting encounter with great quality from both players and two games later we were into a fifth. Nip and tuck all the way Ashley edged ahead to match ball at 10-9. It was anyone's game but unfortunately it again went Ireland's way.

Match score 2-0 to Ireland! Irish eyes were certainly smiling at this stage. It looked like just in previous years it was going to be a case of close but no cigar.

This is where I need to give immense credit to the attitude and resilience of Tim and Ashley. Obviously both desperately disappointed to lose such close matches. But they quickly shrugged this off and together with Joss were instrumental in what was to follow with their support and between game advice to Jamie, Mick and myself.

As I mentioned earlier, Jamie Goodrich was not feeling well all weekend. He lost the first 11-2 in next to no time. In the second he was 9-5 and 10-8 down to Keith Moran at first string. At 2-0 in games it would probably have been over. Somehow, he recovered to win the second game 12-10 and then forged ahead to win the third and fourth. A performance worthy of the National Champion he is. We were back in it. We had a chance.

Captain Jonathan Gallacher was up against the hero of the 2017 England v Ireland match, Dara O'Flynn. Tactically O'Flynn had not played on Friday evening and was fresh for this match. Perhaps also a little rusty as he went down 11-1 and faced a deficit early in the second. However, the next 20 minutes saw a turnaround as the Irish player won the second and third games to take Ireland within a game of victory. By this time the match was heading into its fourth hour. The MO60 and WO40 matches were done and dusted. The balcony on court 6 was packed to capacity with the whole squad supporting. When you have Mr. Barwise, Mr. Bradburn and Mr. Cowley overhanging the railings in the front row and cheering you on every point you have no option but to up your game! I managed to increase my accuracy to win the fourth and fifth.

England 2 – Ireland 2!

The pressure fell on 2018 British over 40 finalist Mick Biggs to play the deciding match against the tenacious and determined Ireland captain Neil Murphy. Murphy took the first 12-10 but Mick was playing well towards the end of that game and carried that form on to draw level after the second. The third was close with Mick's variety proving crucial in finding the winning points. 11-9. Now it was England's turn to be a game from victory. The drama wasn't over though. In the fourth it was 8-6 to Murphy. Was this

going to a final game thriller? Clear headed and determined Mick found the highest quality to win five of the next six points to win the match.

Five hours. Five extremely close matches. An incredible encounter with our great rivals. Congratulations followed from the Ireland captain Neil Murphy and his team. Thank you to all the England team members for their brilliant support. It made a difference. England 3 Ireland 2!!!

<b>England</b>	<b>beat</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>3-2 (18-10)</b>
1. Jamie Goodrich	beat	Keith Moran	2/11, 12/10, 11/3, 11/6
2. Mick Biggs	beat	Neil Murphy	10/12, 11/7, 11/9, 11/9
3. Ashley Bowling	lost	John Hurley	11/6, 8/11, 11/5, 9/11, 10/12
4. Jonathan Gallacher	beat	Dara O'Flynn	11/1, 7/11, 6/11, 11/7, 11/6
5. Tim Burrell	lost	Nick Staunton	8/11, 11/7, 13/11, 10/12, 4/11

**England v Wales**  
**Saturday 19th May 2018 at 2.00pm**  
**(actual start time nearer 3.00pm)**

The match v Wales actually started shortly before the Ireland match finished. Neither Joss nor Ashley were in any mood for slip ups with convincing 3-0 defeats of their opponents.

Jamie had little left after his heroics from just a couple hours previously and went down to Greg Tippings. We still needed to win one of the final two matches to beat Wales and be certain of the overall win. Tim had the opportunity to take us over the finishing line. Facing Adam Evans he comfortably won the first two games before getting involved in a much closer match. Playing to the crowd the talented Welsh shot maker, who had beaten John Hurley on the previous evening, was starting to make his presence felt. Tim regained control in the fourth and won the final point with a 'leisure centre' boast of England standard quality that left his opponent flat footed. Victory was now assured.

Mick Biggs (Middlesex) in the final match of the weekend wore last year's England shorts. Perhaps his attempt to upstage the glamour of the Royal wedding between the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Matt Crowley provided some stern resistance in the second and third games but once again Mick proved the stronger when it mattered to round off a very successful unbeaten weekend with three wins at second string.

<b>England</b>	<b>beat</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>4-1 (17-5)</b>
1. Jamie Goodrich	lost	Greg Tippings	10/12, 7/11, 3/11
2. Mick Biggs	beat	Matthew Crowley	11/5, 14/16, 13/11, 11/6
3. Ashley Bowling	beat	Paul Barrell	11/9, 11/4, 11/7
4. Tim Burrell	beat	Adam Evans	11/6, 11/6, 11/13, 11/8
5. Joss Hargrave	beat	Eddie Evans	11/1, 11/8, 11/4



The evening function was held back at Aberdeen Squash and Racketball Club. After a superb meal the England team were presented with the championship trophy and the celebrations continued until the club bar closed about 1am.

With the majority of the team having the luxury of not flying home until after midday there was little excuse not to carry on til the wee hours in the centre of Aberdeen. However, with no taxis available, making it there was almost as difficult as taking on Ireland.

Joss had played brilliantly all weekend and was physically unchallenged in his matches. Aided by Mr. Stella and Mr. Haggis Bomb he made a very quick decision that he and his wife Sarah would run the 2.2 miles to the designated nightclub!

Thinking he had simply gone back to the hotel apartments the rest of the team either called it a night or managed to scrounge lifts from the Scottish team to get to the 80's nightclub "Club Tropicana". Incidentally, Wham! got it wrong. Drinks weren't free. They were more like £4.50. Not even the Irn Bru was free!

About an hour after everyone else got there, Joss and Sarah jog in. Surely, the only explanation for why he took so long was because he wasn't sporting his infamous long socks under his suit!

Thanks to Scottish Squash and Aberdeen Squash Club for hosting and making us feel welcome. Tournament director David Ireson and tournament referee George Tierney for making the event run smoothly and providing referees all weekend.

To Jonathan Gliddon, Brian Brock, Alison Goy and everyone on the England Squash Masters committee that run the tournaments and make it possible for us to be selected for the team and pull on an England shirt. It is much appreciated by everyone.

Huge congratulations to my team. You were superb. One we will all remember.

A perfect 13 Home International titles across all age groups for 2018.  
Well done to everyone. I'm very proud to be part of it.

**Jonathan Gallacher**  
**Team Captain**



## MENS OVER 60 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	18	20	58	1
	1		2	8	11	4
	6	20		12	38	2
	2	19	14		35	3

## MENS OVER 60 REPORT



There were a few problems for the England Mens O-60 Team this year, but needless to say, all were confronted and dealt with.

Firstly, Gordon McManus of Kent was selected for his first England cap, but had to withdraw for personal reasons which was unfortunate as he had played very well this season. The Reserve in the

form of Colin (the Geordie Whippet) Shields was called up. Then, the Captain, Stuart Hardy, struggling with a knee injury and awaiting surgery decided cover for him was needed. A more than adequate replacement in the shape of 2017 National Champion Steve Johnson (the Fireman). So, with a team of National Champion Allen Barwise, Mark Cowley a former World Champion, Ian Bradburn - a former National and Open Champion, and Northants Champion Simon Evenden.

More was to follow as Mark (the Bailiff) Cowley broke the news on the plane that he had a serious muscle pull and could not play at all. So the team was down to five and a half fit captain.

We arrived in a sunny Aberdeen and after the usual formalities the Captain announced with a flourish that he had dropped Cowley and himself from the first (and toughest) match against Scotland "to make a better match of it!" The team duly played brilliantly - Shields a tight 3/1 over Keith Gristwood, Evenden 0/2 down but digging in for a 3/2 win against the lively Boyd Kydd, Barwise proving far too good for the talented Robin Ridley and Johnson untroubled against former Scotland Champion Paul Harris. At 4/0 up the only slip was Bradburn, unusually sloppy and going 0/2 down. He took the third but then was edged out of a tight fourth by Scottish no. 2 Peter Shivas. A 4/1 win to England against what we felt was the toughest opposition.

It was here that it could have all gone wrong as The Bailiff appointed himself Social Secretary and took most of the team to Aberdeen. However, apart from a strange episode with a punch ball there was no lasting damage and everyone reported for duty the next morning.

The Captain played the first match against Ireland and going for a getting a lot of winners won 3/0. The rest of the team followed in like style with only Barwise dropping a game to the nippy Bert Cotter at no. 1. 5/0 to England.



Meanwhile, Wales had squeezed home against Scotland 3/2 and the two unbeaten teams played off. Shields once again came through 3/1 while the Fireman was solid at no. 3. "It looks like he's doing routines" someone commented. Barwise at no. 1 got over the shock of losing a game and powered

through 3/0 while matters were wrapped up with Evenden 3/0 and Bradburn 3/1 for an emphatic 5/0 win and victory overall.

With the Women's 35/40 team overwhelming all comers and the Men's 40s avenging three previous losses to Ireland - by the narrowest of margins in a thrilling match, it was three more triumphs for England Masters teams making a finally tally of 13 England teams, 13 winners.

**Stuart Hardy**  
**Team Captain**

## WOMENS OVER 35/40 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	20	20	60	1
	0		1	7	8	4
	0	20		17	37	2
	3	17	7		27	3

## WOMENS OVER 35/40 REPORT

Most of us had to get up at a ridiculous hour this morning to catch early flights to Aberdeen, so as soon as we arrived and checked into the super accommodation, we all had a lovely snooze to catch up on the lack of sleep from the night before. Plus, we all needed to get rid of the black bags under our eyes for the team photo shoot in the afternoon!!





## England versus Scotland 5pm

Our first match was against Scotland and the team was Selina Sinclair, myself, Keeley Johnson, Rachel Calver, Louisa Dalwood and Zoe Shardlow, Natalie Townsend.

Zoe was first to go on against Fiona Morris and got off to a nervous start, nicking the first just 12-10 but after superb coaching and a jelly baby snack, Zoe got into second gear and won the second game 11-1. In the third game it was neck and neck until 6-6, then a sugar rush from jelly baby No 2 kicked in and helped Zoe take the game 11-6. First match to England.



Next on was Rachel Calver versus Susie Lind. Much to my (Keeley) disgust, Rachel was sporting a white tan strap mark. I asked Rachel if she had ever heard of fake tan!!!

Susie was looking strong in the warm up and this had the makings of a very good match. First game was very close, superb rallies played by both players. Rachel managed to nick the game 11-9.

Third on court was No 1 string and with Selina playing her first ever Masters Home Internationals match. Selina and Helen Nicoll had a good first game, both players were very quick around the court but before you knew it, it was 1-0 to England. Selina got off to a great start in the second game and Helen tried to make a comeback but just wasn't good enough, 2-0 England. Selina's variation and quality of shots put Helen under pressure in the third, giving us a 3-0 win.

4<sup>th</sup> on and 4<sup>th</sup> string was Louisa Dalwood against Elaine Inglis. The first game was really exciting, totally nail biting, lots of hard hitting and running. Louisa's nerves contributed to some mistakes on court but she fought well taking the first game 15-13. Coming on to play the second game, Louisa's nerves had calmed and she played much more consistently securing the second 11-3. Nice short court game from Louisa in the last game and good retrieving saw her win the match 3-0. Good game to watch, both players performed well.

Last on was me and first time as team captain, I felt under pressure not to be the only one to lose all weekend!!!! My team told me it was a comfortable first game against Alison Polsworth who I moved around the court from corner to corner. They said I had excellent movement and the hard hitting of the ball put Alison under pressure. I really enjoyed my match and won 3-0. Phew, first match panic over!!!

Friday night was a very quiet night for the ladies team, bit of dinner and early to bed as we were saving ourselves for the Saturday night's 'winners' party!!

## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 England versus Ireland 10am

We love playing Ireland, they are the happiest, smiliest team ever, so cheerful and gracious. Natalie playing her first England match of the weekend was raring to go against Joanna Hussey.

Natalie was on top form dominating the match from the first serve. There were some smashing rallies played throughout the match, but Natalie's lengths were too tight for Joanna to do much with. Joanna kept digging in though, never gave up and continuously smiled all match. Superb performance by Nat, fully in control winning, 11/3, 11/2, 11/3.

Rachel then played Patricia Ryan. Rachel was as cool as a cucumber strolling around the court, playing a very cheerful Patricia. Really lovely game to watch, Patricia hit some really nice shots, but Rachel was just too strong. 11/4, 11/1, 11/6 to Calver.

Selina was next on playing Saoirse O'Sullivan, which was a super friendly game, played in very good spirit. Selina took the first 11/3 but Saoirse was strong in the second taking 7/4 lead, then she made a few errors letting Selina back in the game. Selina upped her performance and played some amazing volley drops, winning the match 3-0.



Louisa suitably dressed for the Royal Wedding, in her full lairy England kit along with bright pink fascinator. With Louisa totally looking the part I'm surprised she didn't get an invite to the actual wedding, she was so patriotic on the day, Harry and Megan would have been proud! Louisa took on Lynda Dunlop who she played in last year's Home International in Nottingham. This was a smashing match with great humour amongst the players. But Louisa upped the pace so she could win as quickly as possible so she could watch the wedding in the bar. Lynda was our most improved player of the year, truly amazed by her progress. Keep up the good work Lynda, but don't get too good and beat us next year!!

Last match of the morning session was me versus Sarah Scanlan. Sarah played really well, great retrieving of the ball but I managed to hit some great serves and controlled lengths, along with effective drops, I took the match 3-0. I'd like to thank my team for their support during my match, the claps and cheers were deafening! Oh sorry, I've just realised the cheers were for the wedding party, not my match. As you can see from the balcony picture below, no supporters were to be seen. The Royal Wedding took priority over watching their Captain play! At one time, no-one was watching at all, even the marker had disappeared. At least me and Sarah were cool about it and saw the funny side. I'm just gutted I missed watching the wedding myself!! Thanks for the game Sarah, it was fun. Nat, thanks for being the only team member to watch. 🤔



## England versus Wales 2pm

With the Ladies Welsh team only having 4 players, they borrowed the Irish No 2 (to play 5<sup>th</sup> string) to make up a team of 5.

Natalie Townsend was first on against Sarah Scanlan (Irish No 2). Although it was a dead rubber, it was good for Natalie to play such a lovely lady. They had some good rallies but Natalie was too fit and fast for Sarah and won 3-0.

Rachel played Jill Griffiths next and was a great game to watch. After being 2-0 up, Rachel went 8/5 down in 3<sup>rd</sup>, fought back to 9/9 but unluckily lost 11/9. The first English lady to lose a game all weekend, it meant a forfeit was in place for the evening. When Rachel heard about the 'haggis bomb' waiting at the bar for her, she went on in the 4<sup>th</sup> dominating the T, hitting strong lines, taking the win 3-1.

2-0 to England, one match to win, then the Championship is ours!!!

Next on was Selina, playing Anna Vaughan-Hawkins. After winning the first comfortably, Selina was faced with a determined opponent who went 6-0 up in the next game. Despite a good fight by Selina to get to 9-8 and to try and win the second game, it just wasn't enough as Anna played so well taking the ball early and ended up snatching the game 11-9 making it 1 each. Selina now the second England lady to be face with a 'haggis bomb' Saturday evening for dropping a game! Faced with the prospect of doing more shoots for any further games lost, Selina went on focused and determined, taking the next 2 games and sealed the match 3-1, thus making England Ladies O35/40, the winners yayyyyyy, let the celebrations begin.

No 4 Zoe was ready and raring to go for her match against Julia Wells. Zoe on the ball early, her talent shone through, attacking so well that Julia said "sh\*t a brick" on court, so amazed by Zoe's superb squash. It didn't take long for Zoe to win 3-zip.

Final match of the weekend for us was me against Helen Barnard. First game was very close but the prospect of having to do a 'shot' gave me the focus to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, but not without having to work hard and battle deep against a tough opponent. In the 3<sup>rd</sup>, I lost a bit of concentration (too busy thinking about cracking open the winners' champagne and not thinking about the match in hand!) I managed to regain composure and take the 4<sup>th</sup> game and match. I thoroughly enjoyed playing Helen, tough match played in great spirit. Look forward to battle another time.

Hi ho hi ho, off to the bar we go!!! Actually, back to mine, Rachel and Natalie's apartment where the fridge is stocked with Champagne, prosecco, wine and gin and the cupboards are stocked with crisps and chocolate to toast yet another winning year for us England Ladies. 🍷 🍷 🍷

Saturday night we had the traditional 'drinking champagne out of the trophy' which was fun, not particularly hygienic but who's thinking about hygiene at that time of night after many bottles of 🍷 🍷 🍷.

Well done team you were superb and such great company. Loved spending the weekend with you.



### Keeley's Congratulations page

Well done to the England O40's Mens team for such an amazing performance against the Irish lads, we are delighted you beat them, such an outstanding performance by you all. I don't ever recall being so nervous, anxious and excited watching my brother play, as I was watching you take victory this weekend. So proud of you all. Amazing strength and determination by you all. Well done once again.

👏👏👏 to the England O60's Mens team who not only won at squash, they won at 'being out the latest' on both Friday and Saturday nights. For me, they also won 'best pre-Home Internationals training regime' consisting of beer, beer and more beer! Very impressive behaviour, I must say.



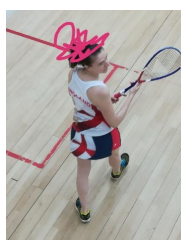
Congratulations to the beautiful Selina who won best female player and most glamorous on court. A thoroughly deserved winner.

Congratulations to Rachel for best suntan marks.

Congratulations to Louisa for being the most patriotic.

Congratulations to Zoe for being the best Meghan Markle look alike.

Congratulations to Natalie for being my most loyal supporter and at one stage my only supporter lol!





Oh, and congratulations to Allen Barwise for winning 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the raffle, winning ticket hand-picked by myself, was there much that us English didn't win that weekend???

Once again well done to ALL the England teams this weekend and well done to ALL the other England Master teams across all the age groups this season for winning their Home Internationals too. A truly marvellous achievement.

**Keeley Johnson**  
**Team Captain**