

## 2019 MASTER HOME INTERNATIONAL ENGLAND

<b>Event Dates:</b>	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> - Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2019		
<b>Address:</b>	The Park, Nottingham, England		
<b>England Teams:</b>	<b>Men's O50</b>	<b>Men's O70</b>	<b>Women's O50</b>
	Andrew Murray (Captain) Andrew Cross Duane Harrison Stephen McLoughlin Phil Yerby David Youngs	Larry Grover (Captain) Howard Cherlin Martin Day Barry Featherstone Dave Hardern Aubrey Waddy	Kay Fallows (Captain) Nikki Fowler Julie Palmer Andrea Santamaria Bev Vatcher Rachel Woolford



## MENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	20	18	58	1
	3		19	6	28	3
	1	4		8	13	4
	5	20	17		42	2

## MENS OVER 50 REPORT



The England team this year included the regular faces of Dave Youngs, Stephen McLoughlin, Andy Murray, Andy Cross and Duane Harrison, with Phil Yerby a welcome addition to the team. Phil's debut for England, after an amazing season, also meant he was leading the team at number 1. That's a large honour and some pressure to deliver!

As captain I soon realised managing a group of 50-year-old men, and sorting the logistics, was more challenging than herding a group of children around a theme park!

After setting up a WhatsApp group, so we could all communicate professionally, I can only reward my team for ordering their kit so late, sending me photos of their beer most nights, and repeatedly asking me which hotel we were in. Youngsy continued to excel himself, his speed around the court not mirrored in his administration, managing to pay for his hotel the day before the event, because, in his own words, "I don't do internet banking."

So, after a ragtag build up to the weekend, we managed to get 4 of the 6 players together for a quick team selection meeting, over coffee on the Friday afternoon; which turned out to be the only sensible drink we had from that moment on.

So, to the squash...

On Friday night we faced Wales with some familiar faces. First out was Duane against the awkward Nick Jones. Quick out of the block, Duane asserted his aggression with his normal fierce power, dropping just 1 point in the first game. However, Nick is a tricky player and gathered ground in the second to steal the game from 8-8 to 11-8. Suddenly, Duane had a fight on his hands, and despite taking the battle to Nick, Nick's unorthodox style of play and excellent reach meant he came through strong to win the match, 3-1. Duane clearly disappointed, took it well and after grabbing a beer rallied around to support his team. Next up Youngsy against Steve Evans. Steve back on the scene after a break for children could well be a tough adversary. However, Youngsy in his unique way, disarmed Steve in a manner we've all come to experience. After a barrage of drops, lobs and rolling nicks, Steve came away grimacing at a 3-0 loss, to an exquisite Youngsy performance. So, at 1-1 in matches the newbie Phil Yerby stepped on court. Phil clearly nervous, and facing Jon Evans, known for his touch play, started a little hesitant from his normal game. However, after a few early errors Phil soon got to grips and gathered momentum, winning the first game 11/5. Following up with some consistent play in the second and third Phil came through at 11/9 and 15/13 to win 3-0. Next up myself against Ian Fenner-Evans. I'd played Ian before so knew he was a runner. After winning the first two games, then dropping the third, pulled through with a win of 3/1. England now already 3-1 up in matches and looking good. Finally, Steve McLoughlin steps up for the final match against Richard Murphy. After a reasonably tough start with 1-1 each in games, Steve's agility and error free squash pulled through with a 3-1 win and the end of a great first round of matches.

As it was Phil's first cap for England it was decided we should all celebrate with a small bar crawl around Nottingham. This seemed like a good plan, until at close to midnight someone mentioned "shots." Nevertheless 4 out of the 6 players made the sensible decision around 1am to head for the "safe zone" of the hotel. Unfortunately succumbing to the evocative beat of drums from a nearby African bar, myself and Dave decided that the night was still "Youngsy." Needless to say, after sampling copious amounts of the local "Um Bongo," things weren't looking too good for both Dave and I for a strong Saturday performance.

So next up Saturday morning was Scotland. Leading the charge and keen to get going, Andy Cross took on Mark James. Andy dropped just 11 points with a convincing win. Youngsy potentially in trouble playing Colin McMullan after his night of excess, astonished everyone with a tremendous 3-0 win. Phil then took on Mike Ramsay. After a tight first 2 games Phil took the third at 11/4 with a 3-0 win. Duane up next against David Lindsay. Keen to wipe out the memories of Friday night's loss Duane powered through with a 3-0 win. Steve next against Craig Michell. Steve loves a long match as we know, but after dropping the second game, lost just 9 points in the next 2 games, a 3-1 win for Steve and the match result 5-0 England.



A slight respite before facing Ireland.

First up was Crossy versus Tom Crowe. Maybe a little more ragged from the night before than the Crossy we know, nevertheless a 3-1 win. Youngsy next against Jonathan Simpson. Looking jaded from his night on the tiles, but still with a slight spring in his step, Dave extended the match to a lengthy 3-1 win. Phil then took on Michael Cowie. Ruthless throughout and clearly keen to finish his England debut on a high a 3-0 win for Phil. Next up the captain Muzza against Michael McKee. Fuelled by an afternoon of water and consistent team heckling, I managed a 3-1 win. To finish the weekend squash Steve took to the court against Andre Maur. Suffering from jet lag Andre looked like he'd rather be anywhere else but on court with Steve. Steve, grinning throughout, took it easy on Andre, before finally deciding it was time for a beer finishing the final game 11/4 and a 3-0 win.

So, a great weekend of squash and a fantastic England win.

What followed was a superb evening of celebrations. Phil had been told that all new caps had to dance alone to the first song. A massive well done on his dance moves and in fact to everyone who embraced his particular dance style and decided to join him! A great mix of players from all 4 nations partied on long into the night, a perfect end to a great weekend.

A big thank you to my team, an honour to be your Captain, and a massive thank you to Alison and Brian for a great Home International.

**Andy Murray**  
Team Captain



## MENS OVER 70 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		17	20	20	57	1
	3		16	9	28	2*
	3	9		16	28	3
	2	15	10		27	4

\* Ireland 2<sup>nd</sup> as they beat Scotland

## MENS OVER 70 REPORT



The team arrived fit and well as could be expected for an arranged pre-match meeting at the hotel - minus Howard who had already gone to the club! Dave Hardern played the first match against Wales demonstrating his superior racket skills to beat Paul Ogeden 3-0. He was followed by Larry Grover who beat Leighton Jenkins 3-0 the latter coming back to squash after some injury problems. Howard played at number 1 and had a very tough but enjoyable match against the dogged Mike Mooney with Howard coming through 15/12 in the fifth. Aubrey was always in control in his match against Chris Leach and had a comfortable 3-0 win. Barry completed the clean sweep against an opponent, Steve Evans, who got

progressively better but still lost 3-0. The team had made a very good start but as Ireland had beaten Scotland it was agreed that we should field our strongest team the following day in both matches. Dave appreciated this decision and showed what a great bloke he is by offering to mark the Ladies Matches instead - a real team player and gent!!

Playing at 9:30 in the morning is never easy and Martin Day took a game to digest his all-day breakfast before coming home 3-1 against Warren Cameron of Scotland. Alec Sinclair has done really well to recover from his ailments and get fit again to play a high standard of squash - if he had won the first game things might have been different, but Larry won 3-0. There was some controversy in the next match between Howard and Ian Ross which added to the drama of the occasion - but nothing malicious occurred. The question was raised during the match about how many times a player could bounce the ball before serving and are foot faults going un-penalised? Those matters were troubling Howard so much he forgot to concentrate on winning at a 3-0 rate and proceeded to lose the first two games! After being reminded by Aubrey that his purpose was to win the match, he duly obliged but only after coming from 10/6 down in the fifth playing his best squash of the weekend. Aubrey once again played commanding squash against Ken Reid remaining determined throughout the match winning 3-0. Barry played some tight squash against George Stirrat not giving anything away to come home 3-0.

With Ireland surprisingly losing to Wales we only needed Martin to win the first match against them 3-0 to be champions and he came up with the goods against Harry Cullen, though Harry made a good fight of it. Larry had an enjoyable match with his old chum Seamus Daly coming out a 3-0 winner. Howard had to play David Gotto re-living matches they had played many moons ago. David demonstrated why he is such a class act beating Howard 3-0. Aubrey played a well fought match against Frank Fahey but was too strong in all departments of the game to win 3-0. Barry wasted little time and effort in winning the final match against Johnny Donovan with a comprehensive victory.

We had a very enjoyable evening together celebrating our victory at the reception. From a personal point of view it was a real pleasure to captain this group of players. Many thanks to our two supporters Roz and Kym and to Alison and Brian for their organisational excellence. To those of us who were there it will always be remembered as 'Bouncey-Foot Gate' a matter to be discussed and resolved by the great and the good!!

**Larry Grover**  
**Team Captain**





## WOMENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		17	19	17	53	1
	3		5	7	15	4
	4	20		17	41	2
	3	17	5		25	3

## WOMENS OVER 50 REPORT



First of all I'd like to say how proud I was to be picked as the England Captain, also to Captain such a great team of ladies.

As a responsible Captain I arrived very early on Friday just after lunch and promptly bought myself a small lager and lime just to settle the nerves. By 4pm the teams had arrived. This year's team consisted of two old favourites, myself and Rachel, two young favourites, Andrea and Nikki on her return to England duties. And last but not least two new favourites to the team Julie and Bev.

After a team warm up we were ready to take on the Welsh ladies. First up was our new girl Julie against Welsh Jenny. Although Julie looked calm, I could tell she was very nervous and who can blame her. First on and new to the team. A good battle from Julie which she can be very proud of, unfortunately Jenny proved too strong. Next up was Rachel who proved just too strong for Lynne at number 3. Our pocket rocket Andrea at number 1 then played a slightly out of sorts Helen and took a pretty straight forward win 3-0. Next up the proud captain(me) to play the Welsh pocket rocket and my fellow Game of Thrones fan Wendy. After three close games I managed to emerge victorious. Phew...first one out of the way. Last but not least our own Cheshire housewife Nikki up against Sian who had us all in fits of laughter with her facial expressions every time she missed a shot. Nikki showed her class and proved too strong for her Welsh opponent winning 3-0.

Squash over for the evening we all retired for some food at the club and then a couple of drinks (non-alcoholic obviously) back at the hotel fraternising with the opposition. As captain it was my job to make sure the team were tucked up in bed by 11.30pm as breakfast was for 7.30am.

The match against Scotland started at 9.30 and again one of the new girls, Bev was up first against Helen. With Bev taking the first game narrowly 15/11 the next two went to tie breaks leaving Bev 2-1 ahead. She then pushed on to take the fourth game to win her first match for England. Rachel was up next against an experienced Sue. This was an epic battle with some great rallies. Rachel went 2-1 up with Sue managing to claw the match back 2-2 in a tie break. Sue came out the victor this time which meant the Scotland pulled level 1-1. Andrea then proved far too strong for Fiona to put England back in front 2-1. Captain Kay(ve)man as named by Nikki was next against Eunice. Having never played Eunice before I wasn't sure what to expect but I decided my game plan would be, hit the ball hard and run. With some well-timed boasts I managed to win 3-0. This meant we had already won when Nikki played against Ashley. Nikki very focused, is quite a tough act to beat. With the added knowledge that we'd already won she was also very relaxed and powered through to win 3-0

With a well-earned lunch break the team were ready to do battle one more time.

Julie was again up first playing her second ever match for England. With the support from her proud team she fought to the very end. Unfortunately, the Irish lady Anne was just too strong. If there were points for effort Julie would have won hands down. After the first match we powered through the last four matches 3-0. Which meant we retained the title and trophy.

We had a mini celebration at the club with two bottles of fizz and then it was time to go back to the hotel to glam up and get ready to party the evening away.

Before the speeches and presentations saw Brian Brock receive a well-deserved England tie as a thank you for all he does for England Masters Squash. A sentiment I'm sure all the players on the circuit would like to echo.

All that was left was to dance the night away.

**Kay Fallows**  
**Team Captain**

