

2022 MASTER HOME INTERNATIONAL SCOTLAND

Event Dates:	Friday 6 th - Saturday 7 th May 2022		
Address:	Edinburgh Sports Club		
England Teams:	Men's O50	Men's O70	Women's O50
	Andy Murray (Captain) Tim Clark Sam Hanbury Stuart Hargreaves John Simpson David Youngs	Terry Belshaw (Captain) Martin Day Barry Featherstone Ian Graham Neil Nightingale Peter Smith	Sarah Parr (Captain) Izzy Bramhall Alison Goy Jillian Lilico Linda Pritchard

MENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		15	16	20	51	1
	8		7	14	29	3
	10	14		20	44	2
	3	6	2		11	4

MENS OVER 50 REPORT



With Andy Cross initially captaining the team none of us had any concerns. However sadly Andy had to pull out a few days before the event because his father was due an operation. So, the captancy fell to Andy Murray (Muzza) to pick up where Crossy had left off. His second crack at captancy and determined to do a better job this time around and make the Saturday morning match on time! Sam Hanbury, who'd had a great season and very narrowly missed the selection stepped up to join the team with utter delight and got his first cap. Alongside Sam there were 3 other newly capped players in Tim Clark, John Simpson and Stuart Hargreaves. Only Muzza and Dave Youngs had trodden the boards before so there was a lot of anticipation, excitement and nervousness leading up to the event.

The weekend started with the traditional captains meeting in the hotel reception with 5 out of the 6 players. Tim Clark had decided the penthouse suite he ordered at the Britannia wasn't up to scratch for him and his wife, so was walking the length of the royal mile to find a room

with a sea view. Youngsy then declared his hip was bad, so he wanted to play number five. A very noble gesture from Dave bearing in mind he has spent many Home Internationals playing at number one.

Up first was our match against Scotland. The match result which eventually was the ultimate decider. Sam Hanbury led the England advance against Douglas Emery. Sam's first cap and the tension showed in the first game with Sam uncharacteristically hitting poor length and width to let Douglas take advantage and win the first game 11/7. A swift talking to by the team and Sam came back fully charged and more settled to win 11/4, 11/4. A tough fourth game with a lot of unsettling let calls and Douglas took it 14/12. As first man on and first time wearing the England shirt at 2 games each you could sense the pressure on Sam's shoulders, unfortunately losing 11/4 in the fifth.



Next up was Tim Clarke versus Angus Woodward. Tim started strong and consistent as always taking the first game 11/7. A close second gave the win to Angus 11/9. Tim steadied the ship taking the next 2 games 11/4 and a 3/1 win. The number 1's followed with Stuart Hargreaves playing the resident Edinburgh Sports Club coach Simon Boughton. A formidable and talented player Simon, on home courts and with the crowd behind him this was a tough call for Stuart. Starting a little nervous Stuart soon gathered his normal momentum and took the fight to Simon. Despite a gallant effort Simon's hold and delay was too big a task to overcome and Stuart went down 3/0. England now 2/1 down to Scotland and 2 matches to go. Number 4's up next with Andy Murray taking on Malcolm Kerr. These guys had played before in Home Internationals with Malcolm taking the victory last time. A proper cat and mouse match with both opponents winning big points then losing their lead. After a battle of wills and at 2 games each and 7-7 in the 5th the balcony was getting loud from both sides. Two points won by Muzza with boasts that brushed the dust off the top of the tin but stayed in and the win came in at 11/8 for England. So, 2 matches each and John Simpson at number 2 up against Adrian Richmond for the decider. John again with his first cap looked edgy, and Adrian got a strong lead in the first. John regrouped and got his normal calmness back and was catching Adrian, but just a little too late as Adrian finished with a 11/9 win. The second game started well for John however after a frantic rally with very close play John unfortunately hit Adrian on the through swing and split Adrian's forehead open. Now John is a surgeon so who better to take a look at the injury. One swift assessment and Adrian is off to A and E for stitches and John is back on court practicing his drops! After a lot of consideration and a lot of concern about where the fault lied, the referee did the only fair thing and suggested they continue to play the match the following morning at 9am. Probably a godsend for the England team who wanted to watch the early morning match, as for once in history we were in bed on the Friday night early to ensure we made it. So back on at 9am Saturday morning with a less nervous John starting 1/0 down. Coming out from the first point with the aggressive fast pace that John is renowned for he looked keen to stamp his mark, and 3 games later at 11/8, 11/5, 11/7 John brings home the win at 3/1 and overall an England 3/2 win over Scotland.

Wales next up. Sam Hanbury to start against Simon Lau. Sam keen to get a win for England and very focused took control from the start and won 3/0, a happy Hanbury. Tim Clark following suit against Mark Jones, with a 3/0 win and dropping just 9 points. Stuart Hargreaves against Ian Fenner-Evans matching Sam and Tim with a 3/0 win. Dave Youngs up against Paul Thomas, with Dave clearly not his usual speedy self. Dave winning the first but then finding himself 2/1 down and match ball against him in the fourth is not something we are familiar with. However, we are familiar with Dave's ability to disarm his opponents with both his flair and his humour. Paul falling foul of both at a critical point and before we know it Youngsy is off court with a 3/2 win. This just left John

Simpson to bring in a win against Liam Corrigan for a 5/0 victory. John started strong with his usual fast pace but in a replica of the previous match, clearly on a win bonus and keen to keep his fellow NHS staff busy, chopped Liam on the forehead. Another visit to A and E! Thankfully the hospital stitched Liam up almost within injury time and the match continued. John the axe composing himself to win 3-1....
So, England 5 Wales 0.

The final match against Ireland then loomed. Youngsy first up against Brian Lalor. Still feeling it from the morning match Dave was struggling to turn and despite a great effort his trickery couldn't be coupled with his usual speed and went down 3/1. Tim Clark against Adrian Leeson started point for point in the first with a 11/8 win for Tim. Tim then took command of the match concluding it 3/0. Stuart Hargreaves versus David Ayerst followed and the match of the event. The ability of these two players is unquestionable and with a packed gallery, and the two of them played at a ferocious pace, it was an honour to watch. Played in great spirit it came down to the fifth game and with David 9/7 up it looked like an Ireland win. However, Stuart is not one to give up lightly and with some ridiculous retrieving, reminiscent of a 20-year-old, he won the big points with great counter attacking. Four points later and 11/9 to Stuart. A fantastic win. Andy Murray next against David Cassidy. A fun game against an awkward player but a 3/0 win to Muzza. Final match of the weekend and John Simpson versus Dara O'Flynn. Dara is one of the most competitive players on the squash circuit and with John playing with a similar ferocity this was always going to be a battle.

With the luck of the Irish Dara managed to stay away from A and E and with some great squash took the win 3/0. A close weekend but England coming through with a win against some great competition. A big well done to all the team and for a great comradery over the event.

Many thanks to Scottish Squash for such a well-run event, to the markers who controlled matters in the spirit of masters squash and for Edinburgh Sports Club for great hosting.

Andy Murray
Team Captain



MENS OVER 70 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	20	20	60	1
	0		4	5	9	4
	7	20		20	47	2
	2	19	1		22	3

MENS OVER 70 REPORT



Scotland vs England

Neil Nightingale vs Alex Allan

Neil started England's campaign against a very focused Allan, and soon found himself a game down. Allan's service game was causing Neil problems, but Neil stuck to his task with typical determination and levelled the score. Neil started the third as he'd finished the previous game and his game was starting to flow, and he won the third. 2 games to one, England. At the start of the fourth it was obvious that Allan was not about to roll over and he stormed back to win a tight game 10/12. Into the fifth set and the game became a cliff hanger, each man taking the lead and

being pegged back until the referee declared "2 clear points." Neil was not to be outdone and took the final set 10/12. Elation for England and first disappointment of the evening for Scotland.

Barry Featherstone vs Alex Sinclair

Barry took to the court with his typical steely determination, leaving the Captain in no doubt as to the final result! Alex Sinclair is a very experienced player, but he met Mr Featherstone at the top of his game and found himself covering every inch of the court as Barry powered his way through to take the first set. There was no let-up in the second, but Alex stuck to his game and played some very good squash before eventually losing the set 9/11. The third set started with point for point, before Barry dug in and took the game 11/6. A great start for England.

Ian Graham vs Ian Ross

Ian Graham is the present British Open champion, and Ian Ross was last year's National and Open Champion, so we had a game in store! Graham started quietly against a very determined Ross and the early exchanges saw hurried shots and a few mistakes before Ross took the first. At the start of the second we saw a more focused Graham and he took the second 11/8. Needless to say, you don't win National titles by throwing in the towel, and Ross returned for the third looking more determined than ever, digging in and not allowing Graham to get into his game, eventually winning 11/5. However, to play Ian Graham is to know that the game is never over until its over, and he stormed back in the fourth to win 11/3 and level the game at 2 all. With everything to play for, and pride at stake as well as victory, both men started the fifth and no quarter was asked for, good squash and fairness, to see Graham take the game and match 11/8.

Peter Smith vs Alex Everingham

Both men are experienced campaigners with a 'never say die' attitude. The first set was nip and tuck, the lead changing hands while they both settled on court, Everingham taking the first 11/9. Peter seemed to have settled and was playing controlled squash which saw him take the second 11/3. Everingham however, continued to battle in the third, before Peter took the game 11/9. Both men started the fourth with a determined and focused attitude before Everingham finally prevailed 11/5. This was the third 5 set match of the night which neither man was prepared to lose. Both men played some excellent squash, before Peter finally delivered England's 4th victory of the evening with a combination of length, drop and reverse angles, taking the game 11/7.

Terry Belshaw vs Emilio Fazzi

Emilio is the reigning Scottish champion and took to the court with the same game that won him the title - an array of drops and nicks from anywhere on court, which won the first game 13/11. Terry came back on court for the second and managed to negate Emilio's game somewhat and took the game 11//9. The third was nip and tuck, with the pace starting to show in Emilio's game and mistakes creeping in, Terry took full advantage and won the game 11/8. The fourth started in the same way, each point hard fought, but Terry seemed the fresher of the two and took the game and match.

England 5 - Scotland 0

England vs Wales

Martin Day vs Peter Steed

Martin Day stepped into the England No 5 slot for the first game against a Wales, who were fresh from a 4/1 victory against Ireland the previous evening.

This obviously meant nothing to Martin, who took to the court like a man with a mission - and he had! Martin moved his man around the court with accuracy and although Peter tried to get into the game, Martin stood firm and took the game 11/5. The second proved similar, Martin moving well and playing length and drop saw him take the second 11/6. The third saw Peter comeback into the game and win some early points with some excellent squash, but Martin was not going to be outdone, and finished in style to win the game 11/8 and the match 3/0. First blood to England.

Barry Featherstone vs Richard Ford

Richard came on court, fresh from a 3/0 win against Ireland the previous evening and was brimming with confidence. The game started with both men striking the ball as though they disliked it, but both being aware of exactly where they wanted it and how to get it there. Both men were moving each other around the court with skill and power, until a mistake by one or an excellent shot by the other won the rally. Neither Barry nor Richard were showing signs of giving up single point, but Richard eventually took the game 11/9. The second started as the first, with power hitting, but Barry was bringing a little more finesse into the game and his length and drop were paying dividends and he won the game 11/6. One game all and on for the third. Barry continued in the theme, playing Richard to the back with width and length before going for the winner, 11/3 to Barry and it looked although Richard was tiring. The fourth started, and it appeared that Richard was not tiring! The power game came back and at times Barry found himself on the defensive, with both men covering every inch of the court and giving very little away until it was 10/10 and two clear points. Barry stepped up to the plate to take both and win the match 12/10. Credit to both men for an excellent game of hard-fought squash.

Ian Graham vs Tony Bevan

Tony came to the game having had an excellent win against David Gotto of Ireland the previous evening, and came onto court with a smile, to face Ian Graham, who had also taken the win over Ian Ross of Scotland. Tony started strongly, moving Ian around the court and building up his points to take the first 11/5. Ian changed his tactics in the second, making fewer errors and catching Tony out of position to win 11/3. On for the third, and Tony had readjusted his game to combat Ian's accuracy, and the lead was exchanged numerous times until Ian managed to win 12/10. The fourth commenced with both men playing accurate length, width and drop, and Ian's cross court shots after length, were picking up points, but Tony was fighting every point. Both men were deceiving each other by disguise and guile, but Ian hit an unplayable volley boast which took him ahead and to win the match 11/9.

Peter Smith vs Geoff Perret

Both Peter and Geoff had a successful Friday, although Geoff had managed a 3/0 win as opposed to Peter's five setter, but this seemed to work in the favour of the England man as he had his eye in from the start. Geoff was playing good squash and picking up points, but Peter always seemed to have the final say in the important rallies and took the first 11/9. Both men returned to court for the second and Geoff looked as though he was in for the long haul, but mistakes at crucial times, coupled with Peter's determination and accurate racket play saw Geoff lose out 11/8. The third match started well, with both players using the court to advantage, but mistakes were creeping in when Peter took control mid-way and won the match 11/6.

Terry Belshaw vs Clive Morgan

Terry was well aware that Clive had a 3/0 victory under his belt from the previous evening and was in no mood to let him settle into his game. Terry won the spin, putting Clive under pressure from the outset, keeping the Wales man in the back of the court and having time to play short allowing Terry to win the game 11/2. The game continued in the same vein during the second set, with Terry ensuring that Clive didn't get a foothold and winning the game 11/4. Clive returned to court for the third with renewed determination and took the early points, but Terry used the court to advantage and with a series of lobs and drops won the game 11/7.

England 5 - Wales 0



England vs Ireland

Barry Featherstone vs John O'Shaughnessy

The England Team were ready to play, when we were informed that Robert Peel, the Irish No 2 had pulled out. As they had a five-man squad without a reserve, this meant that each Irish player moved up a place. This was an unfortunate situation for the Irish team, but also meant that the England's 5 Martin Day didn't get to play. This was very disappointing for Martin (and the team), but as expected of the Yorkshire man, he took it on the chin and continued with his unwavering support throughout the tournament - thank you Martin.

The order of play was now 3/1/4/2 which saw Barry Featherstone playing John O'Shaughnessy to start the match. Barry opened up with power play followed by subtle drops and cross courts, and he soon had John in trouble, taking the game 11/4. There was change in the second set, as Barry moved his man around before finishing the rally in style. John was working hard, and dug in, but made little impression on Barry's game and Barry took the set 11/5. As the players returned for the third, Barry took immediate control and against a rapidly tiring John, powered his way to victory 11/0.

Ian Graham vs David Gotto

Next on court was the England number one, Ian Graham vs David Gotto. The last time this pair met, David was the victor. Looking at Ian as he prepared for this game, it would have been a foolish man who bet on that happening again! Ian commanded the 'T' from the start and matched David shot for shot. Ian had brought his 'A' game and with a combination of length, width, cross courts and volleys he had David on the ropes, taking the game 11/4. The second continued in the same way, and David was finding it hard to make a dent in Ian's attacking game. Ian was varying his play and style and coupled with the accuracy of his killing shots, took the game 11/5.

Needless to say, David is never out of a match, and the third brought some long rallies and excellent finishes from both men, two very good squash players giving the crowd wonderful entertainment. However, there has to be a winner, and on this occasion, Ian finished the game 11/6. It was unfortunate for David that he played when Ian was in such form, because as a spectator I haven't seen him playing better - but that's what an ENGLAND shirt can do!

Neil Nightingale vs Joe Downley

Due to the rearrangement of the Irish team, Neil Nightingale was playing Joe Downley. Joe started the game and points were exchanged until Neil started to find winners with his rear court boasts and drops, making Joe cover the whole court. Joe remained a contender until the final points which Neil took to win the set 11/9. Neil opened the second set, and still using the successful shots from the previous set, interspersed his game with a series of tight drops to take the second 11/6. Joe came out for the third with a more determined attitude, picking up on Neil's tactics and turning them into points, however, the Derbyshire man was not to be denied his second victory of the weekend and closed the game 11/8 to win the match 3/0.

Terry Belshaw vs Seamus Daley

With the title already secured Terry had to win in order to give England clean sweep. It would appear that someone had also mentioned that to Seamus who had other ideas! The game commenced with Seamus playing winning drop shots from anywhere on the court and making Terry work hard for an 11/9 win. Seamus was not having much success with his service game, and Terry returned the compliment with a series of drops which Seamus had difficulty with, before responding and picking up his game until Terry closed the set 11/6. The third set commenced with Terry being moved around the court by Seamus with the scoreboard ticking over until Terry closed out the match 11/5.





England 5 - Ireland 0



The Captain would like to thank the team for their fantastic commitment to the cause and the indomitable team spirit that was generated throughout the weekend. Many thanks also to our photographer Ros Featherstone and the unwavering support throughout the season of our wives and partners.

Terry Belshaw
Team Captain

WOMENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	5	X	25	2
	0		3	X	0	3
	20	20		X	40	1
	X	X	X		X	X

WOMENS OVER 50 REPORT



The O50 team had Jillian Lillico playing her first cap for England.

First up was Scotland on the Friday evening. Alison went on against Heather. It started with a battle in the first, Alison narrowly losing, followed by a tight 2nd game, with game ball against her but went on to save it 12-10. Heather used her match experience to take the 3rd and 4th with England losing 3-1. Next up was Linda, recently

back from a hamstring injury requiring weeks off court. Linda was guarded in her movement and lost 3-0. Izzy came up against Senga Macfie who achieved a top PSA ranking of 16. Izzy used her vast array of shots but was simply out played losing 3-0. Jillian was up next, nursing a knee injury from an on-court collisions 2 weeks prior. Jillian was 2-1 up but Julia realized Jillian was struggling to the front of the court and used this to her advantage, winning 3-2. Sarah versus Sabine was a tough match. Sarah took the lead winning the first but then lost the next 2 games to be 2-1 down. Sarah rescued the 4th but was finally outplayed losing 3-2. A win to Scotland 5-0 but proud of the effort everyone put in.

The next morning, we were up against Ireland. Alison took a confident win in the first. A good lead 8-3 in the second was gradually closed to 8-7 but Alison steadied and won 11-7 and went on to win 3-0. Linda against Danielle never looked in doubt, with consistent scores 11-4, 11-4, 11-5. Izzy played the lovely, smiley Linda, who never gave up despite Izzy's 3-0 win. Jillian against Joan stepped in with powerful serves and shots, trying to limit the need to move with her sore knee, and produced a confident win 11-4, 11-3, 11-4. Last up Sarah against Beverley. Rather a slow start with unforced errors but scraped through the first game 11-9. Sarah was more settled in the second and 3rd winning 11-3, 11-4 out powering her opponent. A great win 5-0 against Ireland. Sadly, Wales couldn't field a team so only 2 matches and 2nd place for England.



Sarah Parr
Team Captain