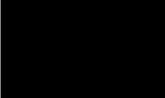
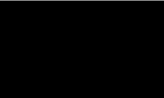
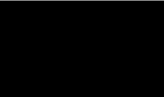
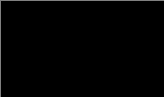


2025 MASTERS HOME INTERNATIONAL ENGLAND

Event Dates:	Friday 25 th - Saturday 26 th April 2025		
Address:	Nottingham Squash Club		
England Teams:	Men's O50	Women's O50	Men's O70
	Wayne Beglan (Captain) Paul Boyle Adam Dominey Joss Hargrave Chris Lynam Matthew Stephenson	Christine McMullen (Captain) Rachel Calver Louisa Dalwood Debbie Locke Libby Montgomery Kate Smith	Robert Houldsworth (Captain) Ian Graham Stuart Hardy John Hithersay David Matthew Geoff Redfern



MENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		17	17	19	49	1
	9		17	15	41	2
	6	11		17	34	3
	8	9	7		24	4

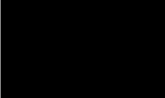
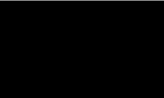
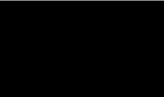
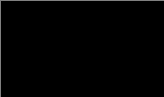
MENS OVER 50 REPORT



To Follow

Wayne Beglan
Team Captain

WOMENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		17	20	20	57	1
	5		14	19	38	2
	0	8		10	18	4
	2	5	17		24	3

WOMENS OVER 50 REPORT

The O'50's ladies contingent has seen some competitive squash this season with a number of ladies fighting to get into the final selection to represent England at the Home Internationals. It's always nice to put the competition against each other to one side and come together as a team during this weekend. The bonus is to come out as champions.....so did we?

Session 1 England v Scotland

#5 Kate Smith v Lynn Davies - This was Kate's first cap for England, and she was first on for the team against experienced Welsh #5, Lynn Davies. It was a close fought first game, but Kate held her nerve and worked the rallies well to win 11-4 however Lynn came back with some tricky serves in the second game and knocked Kate's rhythm to take the game and even the score at 1-1. Kate took early control of the next two games, playing some inch perfect drops and chasing down every shot, putting her opponent under pressure to cruise to a 3-1 win. A great first Home Internationals win for Kate!

#3 Chrissie McMullen v Jill Campion - Chrissie knew that Jill could never be underestimated with her tough lob and drop game, but she managed to find her length and used her power to get the ball into the back corners winning the first 11-6. Jill increased her lengths, but Chrissie kept calm and fought well to win a close 2nd game 11/8. In the third Chrissie started well and stayed focused. The game was really close with some great rallies, but Chrissie moved Jill around and fought hard to win the 3rd 11/9 for a 3-0 win.

#1 Rachel Calver v Helen Barnard - A close first game. A few unforced errors by Rachel allowed Helen into the game but she kept her focus and used her volley to take time away from Helen to win the first 11-9. The 2nd was another close game. Rachel started strong and took the lead, but Helen had some good lengths to put Rachel under pressure and won some crucial rallies but fortunately Rachel kept Helen at bay and clinched the 2nd 11-9. Helen's front short boast and volley drops gave her a good start in the third. The game continued with both competitors being evenly matched in their length game and both wanting to take the volley and put their opponent under pressure with the drop. Point for point to 6-6. Rachel pulled ahead to 10-6 match ball but Helen was not done and continued to fight only for Rachel to win the match on a lovely forehand volley drop. Another success for England as Rachel won 3-0.

#4 Libby Montgomery v Jill Griffiths - This was a lovely game to watch with both players producing great lengths and both looking to volley early. 2 luck...I mean amazing dead nicks from Jill in the first game as it was hand in, hand out up to 7-6 before Libby took control winning the first game 11-6. In the 2nd Jill started with some deadly serves to take an early lead, but Libby kept her calm and pulled it back utilising her accurate lengths, keeping Jill to the back of the court enabling her to win the second game 11-9. In the 3rd great shots from Jill forced Libby to

cover the front court but not only did Libby manage to cover the court at full stretch but played some great winners to take an early lead. Jill kept the pressure on and used her accurate serves and short game to give her 10-5 game ball which she converted. Libby increased the tempo in the fourth to take the early lead, with some great rallies Jill edged it back before Libby won the game 11-6. Great fought 3-1 win for Libby.

#2 Louisa Dalwood v Rhianne Davies - For the final match of this session Louisa started with uber focus taking an early 5-0 lead. She constantly kept her opponent under pressure forcing her to the back of the court for a convincing 11-3 win in the first. Rhianne came back fighting in the second both working each other around the court. It was point for point until 4-4 but then Louisa started to pull ahead as she took control, retrieving well winning 11-5 after a forehand drop went down for Wales at game ball. Keeping on that pressure Louisa went full force into the 3rd to win the match in 3. 11-3 in the 3rd. Great start for England with a 5-0 win (20 – 1).

Session 2 – England v Scotland

#5 Kate Smith v Max Thompson - Kate had clearly dispelled of her HI debut nerves on Friday and started strong, getting into her lengths and forcing her opponent to make errors to win the first game 11/1. In the 2nd Kate used her trademark backhand length / boast combo to move Max around to win the second game 11/3. It was no contest and Kate stayed calm and focused to win the third game 11/3. A strong start for England with a 3-0 win!

#3 Chrissie McMullen vs Sue Strachan - Chrissie made a great start, playing herself into the game to win the first 11/4. Some great rallies in the second and Chrissie showed off her athleticism to take the 2nd 11/5. Chrissie managed to stay in the zone throughout the third and moved really well around the court to take the game 11/3 and the match 3-0.

#1 Rachel Calver v Donna Cruickshank - At the start it couldn't have been closer with each rally going point for point. Rachel was playing some really steady squash but Donna wasn't phased and matched shot for shot. Close fought first game but Rachel came out on top winning it 11-7. Rachel got a great start in the 2nd but was put under pressure during some great rallies before settling into her attack mode to win the second 11/8. Rachel kept that attacking gear as she pushed the accelerator, punishing loose balls with her usual calm prowess to change the pace and force her opponent to make the errors. Rachel won the third 11/6 to win the match 3-0. Great play from our No1!.

#4 Debbie Locke v Pauline Douglas - Time for Debbie to step into the England team and she couldn't have had a better start moving the ball around nicely to twin the first game 11-6. Pauline's skill and experience can never be underestimated, and she fought back hard in the 2nd, but Debbie settled into her rhythm to win a closely battled 2nd game 11-9. The 3rd was a tight affair with Pauline not being one to give up easily she put Debbie under some pressure, but Debbie dug in and won the 3rd 11-9 to clinch the match 3-0. Great result.

#2 Louisa Dalwood v Julia Horsburgh - The first game was battle of the boast. Louisa was being pushed but used her signature killer boast to gain some points. Julia matched her to put on the pressure, but Louisa settled in to win the first 11-6. Louisa woke up in the 2nd game after the long wait to get on court and comfortable took the 2nd and 3rd game for a 3-0 win. 5-0 win for England (20-0) Even with all the shouting and cheering coming from the Ireland v Wales match on the next court. Anyone would think they were enjoying themselves 😊

Session 3 - England v Ireland (The final battle and decider).

#5 Debbie Locke v Jennifer Dillon - After what appeared to be a nervous start, both players relaxed and got into the game around 6/6. Debbie pulled ahead clinching the first game with a winning drop shot. In the second game, Ireland started well winning rallies by focusing on front of court play. Debbie fought back taking the ball long, with some amazing trickle boasts, eventually winning 11-5. England steamed ahead in the third, with Debbie by now in full control of the court, winning 11-3 for a 3-0 win.

#3 Chrissie McMullen v Aisling McArdle - The first game was fast and furious with some really high-quality rallies - a mixture of amazing boasts (front and back), a mixture of length and front court play. The players remained neck and neck to 7/7, with Chrissie pulling ahead with at least 3 cross court volley drop shots, to take the first

game 11-7. Chrissie started strong in the second game, focusing on her attacking game and dominating with volley drop smashes, followed by soft cross court drops, eventually winning 11-4. The third game seemed more of a battle. Chrissie chased every ball relentlessly, but Ireland managed to pull off some amazing winning shots taking the lead at 8-7. Fighting hard, Chrissie pulled back reaching 10-9 (match ball), 10-10, 11-10 (match ball), 11-11, 12-11 (match ball) 12-12, 13-12 (match ball) Victory finally at 14-12!!

#1 Rachel Calver v Sue Swan - Both players displayed similar styles, and both showed their talents in the air. Amazing length rallies with great accuracy by both, testing each other's patience but the constant pressure from Sue forced Rachel to make some errors and allowed Sue to take the first game 11-8. Rachel took an early lead in the 2nd but too many balls in the air allowed Sue back in, but Rachel held her nerve to win the 2nd 11-8. Game 3 was the battle of the volley and drops. With Rachel coming out on top 11-6. Rachel was in the zone now and knew what she had to do in the 4th and did it convincingly to take the game 11-3 and the match 3-1.

#4 Libby Montgomery v Orla Diamantino - The first was a close game and could have gone either way but unfortunately for Libby the battle was won by Orla who clinched it 11-8. It was point for point in the 2nd. Libby played some short shots a little too early in the rally giving Orla control of the front to sneak the points. Libby kept fighting getting herself a superb back court nick which was applauded by all. Orla kept the pressure on working Libby around the court to clinch the 2nd 11-8. Another hard-fought battle in the 3rd that could have gone either way. It went to the wire, but Orla just had the edge winning 13-11 to take the match 3-0.

#2 Louisa Dalwood v Rachel McNulty - Both competitors entered the court with a similar game plan. The first game tested each other's nerve and patience. The game had everything with lobs, lengths, boasts, drops. The game was clinched 12-10 by Rachel. Louisa came out with skill and precision in the 2nd moving Rachel round to take an early lead which she maintained throughout to win the 2nd 11-3. The Dalwood determination continued in the 3rd to a 5-2 lead. Superb drop by Rachel got a point but that didn't deter Louisa. Rachel made a comeback to 8-8 after which it was a battle to the finish with Louisa taking it 11-9. Rachel's lovely boast from both sides is lethal winning her some crucial points to stay in the game. It was a battle to the end with Louisa clinching it 11-8 in the 4th.

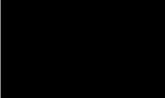
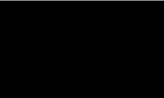
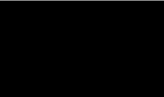
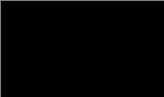
England won 4-1 (17-5)

England are the champions. It was time to celebrate!

I couldn't feel more honoured and prouder to have been asked to captain an amazing bunch of ladies who fought hard, supported throughout and partied until the end. Massive thanks to the tournament organisers from England Squash Masters, Allen Barwise, Brian Brock with support from Catherine Ruffle and Ali Goy who went above and beyond in her role and ended up missing her own mention at the presentation dinner as a result. Thanks to Nottingham Squash club for hosting the event, St James Hotel and the Park Plaza Hotel for their hospitality.

Christine McMullen
Team Captain

MENS OVER 70 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		8	20	20	48	2
	16		20	20	56	1
	1	4		8	13	4
	3	3	17		24	3

MENS OVER 70 REPORT



The first match on Friday playing at Nottingham Squash Club in the historical and picturesque Park Estate was against the spirited Welsh side. First on was the new captain Bob Houldsworth, wanting to get off to a good start and try to set an example. A comfortable 3-0 win and points on the board. John Hithersay was next on and although not quite timing the ball, found it eventually, going through with a 3-1 win. Stuart Hardy was next on, keen to maintain his win ratio against the renowned tricky Welsh number 1, Tony Bevan. As expected, a hard-

fought match ensued with Stuart clinching the 3rd 13-11 to gain a 3-0 victory. With the match won, but everyone keen to maintain the standard, England debutante David Matthew. (John Graham for the day) playing his first match at 4th string, was too strong for his opposite number, another 3-0. The evergreen Ian Graham at 2nd string, started unusually slow, losing the first 2 games against a tenacious Clive Morgan but came back strongly to take it 3-2. A good 5-0 victory to start the series.

Saturday began against Scotland. Bob first on again began well, lost a bit of concentration in the second game, but romped the 3rd, a 3-0 start. John at 3rd string had a comfortable 3-0. Next was the feature event of Stuart against the perennial Scottish player Ian Ross. Stuart didn't let Ian settle, mixing pace with deft touches saw him home for a 3-0. Geoff Redfern started his first match at 4th string against Dave Sturman. The first 2 games were shared but Geoff's experience came through closing out the match 3-1. A determined Ian Graham was too quick and accurate for Keith Hobson, winning convincingly 3-0. Two matches won 5-0 which matched Ireland's performance, resulting in a winner takes it all match to conclude the series and day.

With all the players involved being unbeaten, determined and focused for the match, the stage was set for an epic encounter. David Matthew against Robert Peel started proceedings. David started well, the first game under his belt, dominated the next to 1 point. Nip and tuck in the 3rd until David took a blow to this face knocking him off his stride and losing the game. Another very close game was won by a resolute David 11-9 to win the match 3-1.

John Hithersay was next on court against Ireland's number 3 Patrick Hanley. A good start and the first game won 11-8 but then a hard fought second game with a reversal of the score line, 1 each. The third game determined the match with both payers having game balls only for John to lose out 11-13. The fourth slipped away from John, losing 3-1 leaving the match 1 each.

This then brought together National Champion Stuart Hardy and Irish National Champion Kyran Hurley. What was expected to be possibly the defining match unfortunately fell short of expectations. It would be fair to say that Stuart will want to forget the match as soon as possible with Kyran totally dominating, a 3-0 loss. Pressure now on 4th seed Geoff came up against a powerful hitting Peter Stephens. Understandably trying to control and react to the fast pace, a loss of the first game wasn't unexpected. With encouragement from the rest of the team Geoff fought back and took a very contested 2nd game 12-10, game on. No inch given or taken, the 3rd was a battle, both contestants having game ball. Geoff lost it 10-12, such small margins. Having spent a lot of energy trying to take control, Geoff unfortunately lost the 4th hence a 3-1 loss. Congratulations to Ireland for a fine win.

A huge amount of pride was restored when Ian Graham (player of the series) played Herbert Cotter in the final rubber. An entertaining match where Ian showed his range of skills and fitness in taking the match 3-1.



The presentation dinner was enjoyed by all, if not with a hint of jealousy watching the other England teams being presented with their winner's trophies.

I would like to thank all the team members for their support and encouragement, and I look forward to meeting them as good friends soon.

Robert Houldsworth
Team Captain