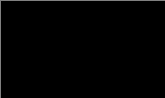
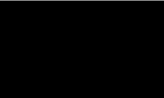
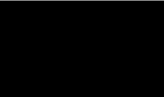
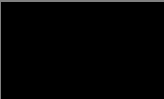


2025 MASTERS HOME INTERNATIONAL IRELAND

Event Dates:	Friday 11 th - Saturday 12 th April 2025		
Address:	Galway Lawn Tennis Club		
England Teams:	Men's O35	Women's O55	Men's O55
	Jamie Douglas (Captain) David Allman Gurbhaj Kahlon Mark McEwen James Snell John Welton	Izzy Bramhall (Captain) Alison Goy Kath Gray Wendy Hiscox Fran Wallis	Andrew Eilfield (Captain) Steve Dodridge Jason Fletcher Sam Hanbury Stephen McLoughlin Tim Smith
	Men's O75		
	Barry Featherstone (Captain) Chris Ansell Bryan Francis Roger More		



MENS OVER 35 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		1	14	6	21	3
	20		20	20	60	1
	8	0		5	13	4
	16	2	20		38	2

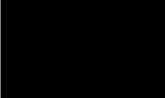
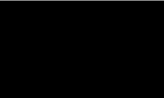
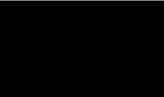
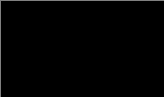
MENS OVER 35 REPORT

To follow.



Jamie Douglas
Team Captain

WOMENS OVER 55 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		2	0	3	5	4
	20		2	5	27	3
	20	20		19	59	1
	20	17	6		43	2

WOMENS OVER 55 REPORT

GALWAY – A WEEKEND OF LOSSES AND WINS



This is the report for the Ladies' Over 55 Team comprising of Izzy Bramhall Captain (1), Fran Wallis (2), Alison Goy (3), Wendy Hislox (4) and debutant Kath Gray (5).

The results were as follows:

v Wales 1-4 loss

v Scotland 0-5 loss

v Ireland 5-0 win



Despite losing 2 matches there were many tangible and intangible wins over the weekend. Often we read reports purely written from the Captain's perspective but I felt it was important that each player if they wanted to had the chance to share how they felt about their journey to representing England – these are a few personal extracts:

Kath Gray

“I was surprised and honoured to be asked to represent England in the Home Internationals. In the first match against Wales I lost 3-0 (nerves took over!). The next day I played against Scotland and, although I played much better than the day before, I lost 3-0 again. My last match, Ireland, I came from 1-0 down to win the match 3-1. Mixed results but I felt it was a privilege to be asked to play for England. A spot-on weekend”.

Wendy Hiscox

“Having been sidelined for most of the season with various back and knee injuries, it was always going to be a battle for me to be fit for my second Home Internationals Weekend. Just to step onto the court in Galway felt like an epic victory in itself – so to come away from the weekend after 3 competitive matches with two solid wins for the team (and body intact) was an extra satisfying bonus. It was yet again a fabulous weekend of team squash, spirit and camaraderie.

Alison Goy (written by Izzy)

Alison played well, demonstrating her shot-making talent. As always, she showed her commitment to representing England both on and off court, offering support and encouragement. Ali is a valued and experienced team member.

Fran Wallis

“This was my 25th Home Internationals and I still get really nervous but I'm so proud to play for my country. I always have had a passion to win and felt today (Friday v Wales) that although I lost I came close to my fighting

best. It's a real individual game down there on the court but when you look up and see your team routing for you it gives you a positive warmth, win or lose, you are all in it together. There are no easy matches and everyone's a winner to even get this far. I congratulate all the players for a well fought match”.

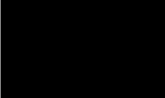
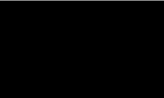
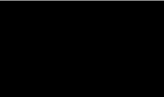
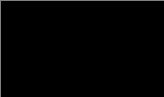
Izzy Bramhall

Playing at Number 1 for England is always going to be tough for me but facing adversity is what builds resilience and fires motivation. Representing my country with 2 knee replacements is a win for me before I even get on court and 2 of my opponents were just too good for me and total respect to them for their technical, physical and tactical prowess. I tried my best and I know soon I will never be able to play again for England as I need a wrist replacement due to chronic osteoarthritis so to be Captain was an honour. My team were fantastic to be around whether drinking coffee, map reading, or playing squash and I thank them sincerely for, as Kath said, a “spot-on weekend” where new friendships were made.

Thanks to Ireland Squash for hosting the weekend alongside Brian Brock for his efficiency, expertise and kindness in organising all the matches. Thanks also to Allen Barwise and the England Squash Masters Committee for all their hard work and time in facilitating squash opportunities for all Masters players, whether it be regionals or international weekends. Thank you so much all of you.

Izzy Bramhall
Team Captain

MENS OVER 55 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		5	8	8	21	4
	20		16	20	56	1
	14	9		16	39	2
	18	2	8		28	3

MENS OVER 55 REPORT



Coming into the weekend, I was feeling the pressure of being captain - especially after winding up Sam (last year's captain) about England's unbeaten record in the Men's Over 55s. I made the mistake of looking at the trophy and seeing "England" on it every single year since it started in 1986. I probably shouldn't have looked...

We had a strong squad, welcoming two debutants - Jason Fletcher and Tim Smith - who joined teammates Steve McLoughlin, Sam Hanbury, Steve Dodridge, and myself. Tim, who made the long journey from Cornwall, left a day ahead of the rest of us and was already testing out each court before we had even left Heathrow. He kindly sent us detailed court reports!

Friday – vs Wales

Our first fixture was against Wales and every matchup looked like it could be tight.

I opened the tie at string 5 against Mike Logan. Nerves were high (especially as captain), but I got off to a strong start and managed a solid 3-0 win: 11-1, 11-4, 11-5.

Next up, debutant Jason Fletcher at number 3 faced the talented and unpredictable Gary Hales. Jason took the first 11-8 before Gary responded, going 9-6 up in the second. It looked like 1-1 was on the cards until Doddi unleashed his signature "Heave Ho" from the crowd, giving Jason the lift he needed. Jason clawed back to win 11-9 and then edged a tight third to seal the win.

At 1st string, Steve McLoughlin took on Richard Murphy in what we all knew would be a long, tactical battle. Steve edged the first 12-10 and, thanks to more crowd magic—this time "Beep Beep!" from Doddi (a Roadrunner tribute?)—snuck the second 11-7. Murphy fought back to take the third, but Steve held firm in a tense fourth to win 3-1.

Although the tie was already secured, every point matters in the Home Internationals. Next, Steve Dodridge faced Welsh captain Carl Elsby. The last time I'd teamed up with Doddi, we were both 19! Carl came out strong, but Doddi used every ounce of his craft to grind out a 3-1 win, digging deep in the third and fourth.

The final match saw Sam take on Ian Fenner Evans. Both players have had strong seasons, and it was a tight affair, but Sam was clinical - winning 11-5, 11-9, 11-9.

Result: England 20 - Wales 2

Saturday Morning – vs Scotland

I rested myself for this game and brought in Tim Smith at 5 for his debut against Scotland. He faced Colin Grant, a gritty, experienced player who just edged Tim in each game: 11-6, 11-6, 11-6.

Jason was next against John Kynoch and delivered a masterclass—dominant from the start and never let John settle. A superb 3-0 win (11-3, 11-6, 11-5) levelled the tie at 1-1.

At 1st string, Steve Mc faced Peter Buchan in an epic. Peter went 1-0 up and was in control before Steve found a way back, Peter then went 2-1 up and had a match ball in the fourth, but Steve clawed it back to force a decider. At 9-9 in the fifth, Peter just managed to find the edge to take it 11-9. Scotland now led 2-1.

Next, Doddi had to win to keep us in it. He lost the first and trailed in the second 6-2 and 9-6, but battled back to take the next three 12-10, 11-9, 11-6—a gutsy, vital win under real pressure.

With the tie poised at 2-2, it all came down to Sam versus Paul Jenkins "the assassin" who had never lost to England. It was a brutal encounter: Sam won the first 15-13, lost the second 10-12, then went 2-1 up before Jenkins levelled again. At 9-9 in the fifth, Sam dug in and found a way—11-9!

Result: England 16 - Scotland 9 (Though it felt like we won by just two rallies!)

Saturday Afternoon – vs Ireland

Despite two wins already, the title wasn't secure - we still needed 8 points against Ireland to guarantee the championship.

Tim opened against Geoff Wales and after going 0-2 down, fought back brilliantly to win 3-2: 7-11, 4-11, 11-5, 11-4, 11-7.

Jason followed against Adrian Lesson, going 1-2 down before skillfully closing out the next two games (11-3, 11-6). Another top performance.

Steve Mc, always strong in the closing stages of a tournament, beat Brian Lalor 3-0: 11-7, 11-4, 11-3.

With the pressure now off, I played Stephen Fasnfeld and managed a smooth 3-0 win: 11-1, 11-3, 11-6.

The final match of the weekend featured Sam against the tricky Brendan Murphy. After losing the first game, Sam turned it around to win 3-1: 6-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-5.

Result: England 20 - Ireland 5

Final Thoughts

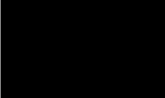
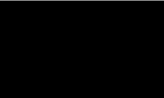
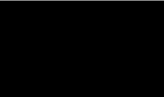
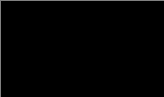
England once again retained the Men's Over 55s Home Internationals title, but it was anything but easy. Every player contributed vital wins and points under real pressure. Huge credit to our debutants Jason and Tim, who made fantastic starts to their England careers, and to the rest of the squad for pulling through in some incredibly tight matches.

Thanks to everyone who supported us -from court-side "Heave Ho's" to cartoon-inspired "Beep Beep" encouragement. It made all the difference.

Andrew Eilfield

Team Captain

MENS OVER 75 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		3	4	5	12	4
	10		7	11	28	2
	11	11		10	32	1
	11	3	5		19	3

MENS OVER 75 REPORT

My wife Ros and I arrived at The Ardilaun Hotel in Galway on Tuesday so that we could spend a couple of days sightseeing before the tournament began on the Friday. We didn't have a straightforward journey from Southampton to Galway. At the airport our flight was delayed for a couple of hours as the baggage scanner was kaputt and we had to stand in a queue for ages while all passengers' hold luggage was hand searched. The coach journey of 130 miles from Dublin to Galway (east coast to west coast) was seamless except for the fact that a journey of two and a half hours took three and a half hours as we were stationary on the motorway for an hour due to an accident.



The Ardilaun Hotel is excellent - a sweeping driveway from the main road with trees, shrubs and many colourful flowerbeds led to the hotel. Inside is a very spacious reception area with plenty of seating, a well-stocked bar and attentive staff. It is a hotel that has character. In the evening we had a very good meal to celebrate our wedding anniversary.

The weather on Wednesday and Thursday was perfect with blue sky and a warm sun. We spent the Wednesday walking around the city which had lots of bars, restaurants and tourist shops. A visit to the cathedral which was completed in the 1960s followed. Not that

impressive from the outside but on the inside it was magnificent, and the effect of the many stained-glass windows was stunning.

On the Thursday we took an all-day coach tour to County Clare, the highlight of which was the Cliffs of Moher. The coach driver gave very informative discussions about the history of the various castles and landmarks which were very interesting.



Now to the Squash



Friday lunchtime – we had a team get-together over a coffee to discuss our first match against the Welsh. A slimmed down Chris Ansell who has been World Champion, European Champion etc knew the ropes as a many time International player but Bryan Francis and Roger (007) More were making their debuts as our top two players were unavailable. I know most of the players in the other teams and although there isn't much room for error in a three man team I said that we could still have a good go at retaining the O75s cup. The O75s Home International teams started in 2014, probably instigated by the now dear departed Lance Kinder. England have won it seven times out of nine with Scotland and Wales winning once each.

England v Wales

No 3 Chris Ansell v Geoff Perrett 3-0 (11/7, 11/7, 11/6)

Chris got us off to a great start with a 3-0 win. This was a tight match to begin with as they traded point for point with winners and unforced errors between them. But Chris finished off each game the stronger player.
1-0 England.

No 1 Barry Featherstone v Jon Phillips 2-3 (11/9, 9/11, 7/11, 11/9, 6/11)

In a tight five set match Jon, a newcomer to the age group, proved to be too strong for me winning 3-2. He was very efficient at hitting winners with straight and cross court drops from anything short of a length. He was also very mobile and picked up a lot of shots I was hoping would be winners.
1-1.

No 2 Bryan Francis v Duncan Jones 3-0 (11/6, 11/3, 11/2)

With the match tied at 1-1 the result depended on this tie. Bryan in his first game for England showed no nerves and was always in control and had a comprehensive 3-0 win.
England 2-1 winners.

England v Scotland

No 3 Roger More v Dave Bissett 2-3 (6/11, 7/11, 11/9, 11/5, 5/11)

Roger on his first match for England had a battle on his hands, going 0-2 down was not a good start but he fought back to win the next two. In the fifth Dave got off to a good start and kept ahead to win the tie.
1-0 Scotland.

No 1 Barry Featherstone v Ian Ross 2-3 (11/7, 6/11, 9/11, 11/7, 3/11)

I have played Ian many times over the years in Home Internationals and the Regionals and shared the spoils but in the last few matches we have played he has generally been the winner. In this match lasting 45 minutes our first four games were nip and tuck but in the fifth Ian took control, he slowed the game down, played good length tight to the wall and put up some very good lobs.
2-0 Scotland

No 2 Bryan Francis v Alex Sinclair 3-2 (10/12, 11/9, 11/2, 9/11, 12/10)

This match was the pick of the bunch for me from the nine matches we had. These men are over 75 and they ran their socks off trying to win points. The amount of effort Alex puts into each rally is inspiring. There were many rallies at the front wall where sure winners were reached and counter dropped or flicked across the front wall only to be counter dropped or flicked back across the wall. Needless to say this match went to 10/10 in the fifth with Bryan edging it 12/10. Great match both of you.
Scotland 2-1 winners.

England v Ireland

Having lost to Scotland it was still mathematically possible to be first if Wales could beat Scotland and we beat Ireland.

No 3 Roger More v Toddy Kealey 3-0 (12/10, 11/7, 11/2)

The first game was so close and they traded winners and unforced errors all the way to 10/10 with Roger edging the next two points to go 1-0 up. Knowing a win was a must for us to have a chance of being first I find it more exhausting watching than playing. Being 1-0 up Roger relaxed and played good squash to get and keep the lead and close out the second 11/7. He then closed out the match taking the third comfortably 11/2.

1-0 England

No 1 Barry Featherstone v Robert Peel 3-0 (11/4, 11/0, 11/8)

Not much to write about here as Robert was having breathing difficulties and unable to put up much resistance. A comfortable win for me.

2-0 England

No 3 Chris Ansell v Seamus Daly 1-3 (11/8, 8/11, 7/11, 10/12)

An entertaining match played in good spirit by both players. All the games were close but Seamus edged the fourth 12/10 to clinch the win.

England 2-1 winners.

The Scottish team won their match against Wales 2-1 to finish in first place with England taking second. Wales No 3 Geoff Perrett had match ball in the fourth but unfortunately for us he failed to take it and lost the tie 3-2. If he had taken it we would have finished in first place as Scotland would have lost their match 2-1.

Presentation Dinner



The presentation dinner was held in The Ardilaun Hotel with all players, guests and committee members in attendance. It was a sumptuous affair with plenty of Guinness and wine accompanying an excellent meal. At the end of the dinner presentation medals were given to the winners and the runners up. England O35s captain Jamie Douglas gave a very good speech on behalf of all the Home Nations for all the hard work the Irish Committee, hotel staff plus our very own Brian Brock had put into the running of this superb event. Ros and I left our table at 11.30pm but didn't get to our room until 1.00am. Saying our goodbyes to many players and guests made us realise what a great set of people we have on the squash circuit. The camaraderie is a joy to behold. It was an honour to be team captain and thanks to my team for all their efforts and support. Also, a big thank you to Allen Barwise for his involvement in arranging accommodation etc and to my wife Ros for all her support in getting us to Ireland and taking all the photos.

Barry Featherstone
Team Captain