



SQUASH AND THE CITY

After much excitement and planning, a pioneering 13-strong England Squash Master's team of over 50s men and women, and over 60s men, crossed the Atlantic with eyes set on winning the inaugural Trans-Atlantic Masters Squash (TAMS) Test Series against USA, Canada and Ireland.

The event opened on Thursday night with an informal drinks evening at the Harvard Club. The Canadian team, who were England's first round opponents the next day, mixed and mingled, mainly sipped expensive iced water which was the first sign that they were serious title contenders (on-court at least).

As a jet lagged Friday dawned at the team hotel, the Yale Club, the England side finished some squash prep, buying expensive headbands and compulsory squash glasses, before assembling in the Long Room at the Yale Club under alumni portraits of former Presidents (Mike Gregory looking up longingly at Bill Clinton). An opening lunch was held at the magnificent Harmonie Club near Central Park where USA event co-host John Musto greeted players and declared the event officially open. Team playing order, a new feature, was drawn from a hat and play got underway shortly thereafter in the unfamiliar surroundings of a high-rise building.

The purely hydrated Canadians began the TAMS series with a rousing 3-1 win over England in the over 50s women's fixture. Highlight for England was Louisa Dalwood winning in what she described as 'my best ever international performance'. Sadly, she was playing on court 3, which was only accessible through a side door on court 2, with no viewing gallery, so we'll take her word for it. The England over 60s men bravely evened things up, 3-1, leaving the over 50s men to play their crucial fixture against a strong Canadian side at what Matt Stephenson described as a 'nightclub hour', UK time. Struggling with squash glasses, the England team had a narrow but excellent 3-2 win in highly charged conditions. A frustrated John Simpson, struggling with his foggy squash glasses at such a nightclub hour, solved the problem by removing the glass from his glasses and played in frames, a genius move that may be subject to a future ruling from US Squash. However, it all happened on court 3 so you have to take his word for it.

A weary England team awoke on Saturday for 2 title deciding fixtures a few blocks away at the Harvard Club. Eammon Price worked up a (complex but failed) algorithm for splitting tips in a diner before players made their way through a sea of green and St Patrick's Day parades in Mid Town for matches against Ireland. Results were overwhelmingly in England's favour in all age groups as the team pivoted towards the final afternoon against a strong USA team to decide the men's 50s and 60s trophies (and possibly the overall winner's trophy). With just a few hours before play, Rachel Calver led a focussed mini-shopping trip which proved nearly provided the inspiration before a close 1-3 loss to the USA women (20,000 steps up 6th Avenue with an Amex causing Louisa to fall on her backside at one stage).



The men's over 50s team began strongly before a strange wind chill blew through the Harvard Club. In an apparent tradition, club coach and USA legend, Richard Chin, plunged the air conditioning to align with his game tempo which had the desired result in a surprise but emphatic victory at number 1. With the aircon settings back to normal, the England team each had fine wins to complete a 4-1 victory. Upstairs, the men's over 60s also completed a rousing 4-0 win with Darren Withey gloriously completing the overall title, apologising with a serve that rolled off the door hinge.

Spirits were high as the team attending the final formal dinner, another magnificent occasion on level 21 of the Yale Club. Speeches were warmly received and age group trophies awarded to England in the men's over 50s and 60s events. England were then presented with the overall TAMS event winner's trophy by a bare margin before Ireland were announced as 2025 hosts and Jeremy Krzystyniak performed a rousing solo rendition of Let it Be by The Beatles ('a stroke is not the answer ...'). Proper celebrations commenced in earnest across Manhattan culminating in Alex Betts' serious foot injury miraculously mending itself in a lower east side nightclub.

Personally, may I pay special thanks to a wonderful England team who committed to playing in this event and making it happen but who also competed and socialised with an exemplary touring team spirit. May I also say thank you to our American hosts who gave us a lifetime squash memory, in particular John Musto and Richard Chin as founding event organisers. Special mention also to Steve Wren who drove Canadian participation with energy and wit as a founding organiser, and Dara O'Flynn initially then Jennifer Dillon and Nick Staunton for arranging Irish involvement.

We look forward to Dublin as hosts in 2025 in what we hope will become a regular fixture on the international squash masters' calendar.

Paul Boyle



The Teams

| 2024 TRANS-ATLANTIC MASTERS SQUASH TEST SERIES - NATIONAL TEAMS | | | | | | As of: | 12-Mar-24 |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
|  | |  | |  | |  | |
| ENGLAND: 50+ MEN | | USA: 50+ MEN | | IRELAND "ALL STARS": 50+ MEN | | CANADA: 50+ MEN | |
| RANK | NAME | RANK | NAME | RANK | NAME | RANK | NAME |
| 1 | MIKE GREGORY (Devon) | 1 | RICHARD CHIN (Riverdale, NY) | 1 | NICK STAUNTON (Ireland) (London, UK) | 1 | DAVID SLY (Kingston, ON) |
| 2 | PAUL BOYLE (Buckinghamshire) | 2 | JOHN MUSTO (Stamford, CT) | 2 | GEORGE POLSKY (USA) (New York, NY) | 2 | JAMIE CROMBIE (Cincinnati, OH) |
| 3 | JOHN SIMPSON (Yorkshire) | 3 | SEAN RYAN (Portland, OR) | 3 | JAY ANDERSON (Canada) (Nelson, BC) | 3 | SCOTT MIKALACHKI (London, ON) |
| 4 | MATT STEPHENSON (Yorkshire) | 4 | RICHARD ELLIOTT (San Francisco, CA) | 4 | CHRIS O'CONNOR (USA) (Manhasset, NY) | 4 | DON LEE (Toronto, ON) |
| 5 | JEREMY KRZYSZYNIAK (Surrey) | 5 | RAHUL NAYAR (Miami Beach, FL) | 5 | DARREN FOGEL (USA) (Rye, NY) | 5 | STEVE WREN (Gatineau, QC) |
| ENGLAND: 60+ MEN | | USA: 60+ MEN | | IRELAND "ALL STARS": 60+ MEN | | CANADA: 60+ MEN | |
| RANK | NAME | RANK | NAME | RANK | NAME | RANK | NAME |
| 1 | ALEX BETTS (Middlesex) | 1 | DOMINIC HUGHES (Berwyn, PA) | 1 | RICHARD KENNY (USA) (Boston, MA) | 1 | TOM POWERS (St Catherines, ON) |
| 2 | EAMONN PRICE (Hertfordshire) | 2 | SYED JAFFRY (Jamestown, RI) | 2 | TOM EVANS (Canada) (Moncton, NB) | 2 | BILL LAM (Toronto, ON) |
| 3 | NIGEL BACON (Essex) | 3 | TAD FRIEND (Brooklyn, NY) | 3 | TED McLEAN (Canada) (Mississauga, ON) | 3 | TODD CHRISTIANSON (Medicine Hat, AB) |
| 4 | DARREN WITHEY (Buckinghamshire) | 4 | BRUCE GORDON (New York, NY) | 4 | LANCE MALD (USA) (Weston, CT) | 4 | GARY DELAVIGNE (Sarnia, ON) |
| ENGLAND: 50+ WOMEN | | USA: 50+ WOMEN | | IRELAND: 50+ WOMEN | | CANADA: 50+ WOMEN | |
| RANK | NAME | RANK | NAME | RANK | NAME | RANK | NAME |
| 1 | RACHEL CALVER (Leicestershire) | 1 | LISSA HUNSICKER (Larchmont, NY) | 1 | AISLING McARDLE (London, UK) | 1 | STEPHANIE HEWITT (Toronto, ON) |
| 2 | SUE SMITH (Derbyshire) | 2 | JULIE LILIEN (Brooklyn, NY) | 2 | JENNIFER DILLON (Dublin) | 2 | NICOLE GARON (Cambridge, ON) |
| 3 | JILLIAN LILICO (Hertfordshire) | 3 | LESLIE CAMERON (Kenosha, WI) | 3 | ROSIE BARRY (Dublin) | 3 | SEANNA KEATING (Toronto, ON) |
| 4 | LOUISA DALWOOD (Hertfordshire) | 4 | BRYNN JAFRY (Jamestown, RI) | 4 | DANIELLE DONOHUE (Wicklow) | 4 | KATHY COWPER (Moorefield, ON) |



Match Results

England v Canada

Over 50s women: England 1 Canada 3

Rachel Calver lost to Stephanie Hewitt 3-0
Louisa Dalwood beat Nicole Garon 3-2
Jilian Lilico lost to Seanna Keating 3-1
Sue Smith lost to Kathy Cowper 3-0

Over 60s men: England 3 Canada 1

Eamonn Price beat Tom Powers 3-1
Darren Withey beat Bill Lam 3-0
Alex Betts lost to Todd Christianson 3-1
Nigel Bacon beat Gary Delavigne 3-0

Over 50s men: England 3 Canada 2

Mike Gregory beat David Sly 1-0 retired
Paul Boyle beat Jamie Crombie 3-2
Matt Stephenson lost to Scott Mikalachi 3-1
John Simpson lost to Don Lee 3-1
Jeremy Krzystyniak beat Steve Wren 3-0

England v Ireland

Over 50s women: England 3 Ireland 1

Rachel Calver beat Aisling McCardle 3-0
Louisa Dalwood beat Jennifer Dillon 3-0
Jilian Lilico beat Rosie Barry 3-0
Sue Smith lost to Danielle Donohue 3-1

Over 60s men: England 4 Ireland 0

Eamonn Price beat Richard Kenny 3-0
Darren Withey beat Tom Evans 3-0
Alex Betts beat Ted McLean 3-0
Nigel Bacon beat Lance Mald 3-0

Over 50s men: England 5 Ireland 0

Mike Gregory beat Nick Staunton 3-1
Paul Boyle beat Jay Anderson 3-0
Matt Stephenson beat George Polsky 3-0
John Simpson beat Chris O'Conner 3-0
Jeremy Krzystyniak beat Darren Fogel 3-0

England v USA

Over 50s women: England 1 USA 3

Rachel Calver beat Lisa Hunsicker 3-0
Louisa Dalwood lost to Julie Lilien 3-2
Jilian Lilico lost to Leslie Cameron 3-0
Sue Smith lost to Brynn Jafry 3-2

Over 60s men: England 4 USA 0

Eamonn Price beat Dominic Hughes 3-0
Darren Withey beat Tad Friend 3-0
Alex Betts won 3-0
Nigel Bacon beat Bruce Gordon 3-0

Over 50s men: England 3 USA 1

Mike Gregory lost to Richard Chin 3-0
Paul Boyle beat John Musto 3-1
Matt Stephenson beat Sean Ryan 3-1
John Simpson beat Richard Elliot 3-1
Jeremy Krzystyniak beat Rahul Nayar 3-1







