



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

President: Philip Ayton

www.gbvs.co.uk

Chairman: Tom Hendry

AUTUMN 2017 NEWSLETTER

2018 and beyond.... ... a message from our President and Chairman



We are now approaching our Emerald year, with 2018 being 55 years since our beginnings. We prefer to think of this age as the Vintage year, when you can finally get out of being referred to as a Veteran, albeit still being a member of the Vets Club. There is a problem for our Club, like that of many other sporting organis-

Philip Ayton
President

ations, in that the average age of the membership is nearly 10 years older than it was 10 years ago. This stems partly from a difficulty in recruiting younger members, but also because of the longevity of many of those who have actively pursued the game. This is shown a little by the performance of our 24 members who attended the recent European Masters in Poland, loaded more towards the older age groups, but with half of them gaining medals. Well done.

It has become increasingly apparent that England Squash are no longer able to effectively manage the development of our game. This has become especially clear with their lack of support for Over 35 squash. Our close friends England Masters have become increasingly frustrated with the situation; this has led them to follow the example of The GB Vets, in 2016, and disaffiliate themselves from England Squash.



We are pleased to report that the two committees of the GB Vets and England Masters are now working even more closely together to try and guide the future of seniors' squash and ensure a sustained focus for Veterans/Masters players who want to continue enjoying squash into their later years.

Tom Hendry
Chairman

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CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017-18

**FINALS WEEKEND – COLETS – 28/29 APRIL 2018
ENTRIES CLOSE 31ST DECEMBER 2017**

Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find 2 Entry Forms – one for the main tournament and one for ‘Non County’ or Internationals players. The latter was started a couple of years ago and has proved very popular. As with the main tournament it is planned to have trophies for all 3 events –singles between 45 and 54, 55 and 64 and 65+

Last year the entries for some of the ‘younger’ age groups was quite small as were some of the doubles. The Club has had a good influx of some ‘younger’ members this year so hopefully entries will be much higher. Do please help our hard-pressed Tournament

Director, Geoff Howes, by sending your entries in as early as possible.

The finals weekend will again take place at Colets, Thames Ditton and as those of you who were present last year for the free evening meal on the Sunday will testify that it was a superb occasion – great hot and cold food, plenty of wine, but above all excellent company!

After the finals on the Sunday there will be the AGM followed by the presentation of prizes. Even if you are not playing do please come along for what is always a most enjoyable weekend.

COMPLETE YOUR ENTRY FORM TODAY!

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET RECEIVED YOUR ENTRY FORM CONTACT THE HON. SEC. OR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

GB VETS GOLF DAY SURBITON GOLF CLUB – 11 SEPTEMBER



David Johnson, Steve Jackson, Stuart Hardy.

Early September saw 13 GB Vets members assemble at Surbiton Golf Club for the 3rd Annual Golf Day.

The course was in excellent condition and we seemed to have it to ourselves. Millionaires Golf.

Although not a long course, Surbiton is a good test and a score just above par saw Steve Jackson become 2017 champion. Stuart Hardy and David Johnson claiming the next two places.

We had the usual nearest the pin and longest drive competitions



Phil Ayton, John Galt.

with a random team event for those not yet in the prizes. With a good supply of golf balls along with wine for the main winners everybody went home with a souvenir from the day. Perhaps some of those prizes only lasted that evening or were lost the next time out on a course, but hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves.

The afternoon was rounded off with a delicious meal, some fine wine, good company and many tales of “If only”. That's golf!!

Next year's date is Monday 10th September. Put it in your diary when you get one and join us.

EUROPEAN MASTERS 2017 – POLAND

HASTA LA VISTA CLUB, WROCLAW, 30 Aug – 2 Sept

This is an extended report and additional pictures following the September mini Newsletter
In all 24 GB Vets competed and half received a medal – 4 Golds, 5 Silver and 3 Bronze!

4
GOLD



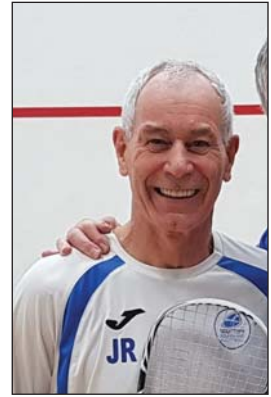
*Keeley Johnson (left)
Gold O40 winner*



*Mark Woodliffe (right)
Gold O55 winner*



Mark Cowley Gold O60 winner



John Rae Gold O65 winner

5
SILVER



Mandy Akin (left) Silver WO55



Karen Hume (left) Silver WO60



Jim Dougal Silver MO65



Rod Boswell (right) Silver MO70



Bett Dryhurst Silver WO70

3
BRONZE

**TOTAL
12
MEDALS**



*Rachel Woolford (left)
Bronze WO50*



Ian Bradburn (left) Bronze MO55



*Barry Featherstone (left)
Bronze MO70*

SEMI FINALIST:

Alan Thomson MO55

QUARTER FINALISTS:

Jonathan Gliddon MO45

Eamonn Price MO50

Aubrey Waddy MO70

ALSO COMPETED:

Nick Sheppard, Gordon Kerr, Mark Taylor,
Nick Peel MO50

Ripley Oyler, Dave Clarke, Sam Balsdon, MO60

Robert Smith MO70

Nigel Belle, Myron Evans MO75

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP, COMMENTS & INPUT!

A £25 M&S Voucher will be sent to the first 4 members who respond to the questions posed on this page! So act now! Thank you.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

One of the Club's main objectives is "to arrange matches, at home and abroad, between the Club and other teams."

We now run around 30 matches against other Clubs in a season – a decade ago it was approaching 80. So why the decline? Well a) time, or the lack of it, to fit in matches around tournaments and leagues b) a reluctance to devote time and energy to arrange a match. Another problem is that there has not been an effective database of players that Match Managers can refer to when trying to raise a team.

Well now there is a list of players by County/area with an indication of their standard, so it should now be much easier to

arrange a match and pick a team.

So how about your Club arranging a fixture against a GB Vets team?

Step 1. Find a Match Manager (ideally you!) Step 2. Find a suitable date and time. Step 3. Arrange a GB Vets team against your Club's team. Step 4. Enjoy a competitive, fun evening of squash followed by a meal and refreshments (provided by your Club but paid for equally by both teams).

It really is that simple. So how about it? Contact the Hon. Sec. or Hon. Match Sec. now to discuss more details and get the ball rolling.

EMERALD ANNIVERSARY

Having been founded in 1963 your Club will celebrate its Emerald Anniversary – 55 years – next year.

We celebrated in style with a black tie dinner at the RAC Woodcote Park, Epsom for our Golden and we were at the same venue for our 40th and 45th.

The dinners have in the past attracted over 100 people (members and guests) and have been heavily subsidised by the Club.

So the question is 'How do we celebrate next year's

Anniversary?' Now is the time to have your say!

There are some that say, whilst previous celebrations have been excellent occasions, held in excellent surroundings, perhaps we should include dancing as a way of making the evening more 'exciting' especially for the 'young'.

What do you think? Let the Hon. Sec. know now!

belles@waitrose.com

TOURS

Do you fancy going on a squash tour? Over the past 50 years there are not many places on the planet that the GB Vets touring team has not been to.

However the squash calendar is now getting very full with tournaments and leagues. So whilst tours abroad used to be commonplace, time, and indeed money constraints, now mean that they tend to be long weekend affairs usually not far from home.

However a number of opportunities have now presented

themselves and if there is enough interest then a tour could easily be arranged.

We have Richard Millman in the Atlanta area of the States, Vinnie Taylor in Toronto, Canada, Clark Adam in Jamaica, numerous members in Scotland and also in the Channel Islands, all eager and willing to arrange a tour.

So do you fancy going on a tour or tours? If so let the Hon. Sec. know now where and for how long, thank you.

WEBSITE

When was the last time you visited the GB Vets website? Have you ever? Do you just visit it when the Club Championships are on? Do you use it to look up a member's detail if you haven't got your handbook to hand?

It is important that your Club Committee has a general idea as to the answers to the above questions.

A lot of time, effort and money goes into keeping the content of the site as up-to-date as possible as well as providing archive material for reference.

Please have a look at the website now – **www.gbvs.co.uk** – What do you think? Worthwhile? Or should the website's

function be solely a) to provide information for potential new members b) provide tournament details just for the duration of the event c) provide member details and d) be a source of past history via an archive page.

In the past 2, 8 page printed Newsletters have been produced per year. You will be aware that recently you have been receiving a single page Newsletter via email every 2 or 3 months.

Do we do away with the 8 page ones and just email single page ones as and when deemed necessary?

Your feedback is needed now-please!

Fixtures 2017/18

Below is a list of all fixtures for the coming season.

These can also be found on the website www.gbvs.co.uk

All players are urged to let Match Managers know asap of their availability.

Please do not wait to be asked to play in a particular match if you are available.

Please note also that fixtures are sometimes rearranged so check the website for up to date information.

NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday 5 November	Festival of Squash – Woodcote Pk	Tom Hendry	twhendry@gmail.com
Friday 17 November	Bromley Cricket & Squash Club	Karen Hume	karen.hume999@hotmail.com
Saturday 18 November	Chichester	Paul Reader	pfareader@hotmail.co.uk
Sunday 19 November	Lee on Solent	Paul Reader	pfareader@hotmail.co.uk
Monday 27 November	Civil Service at Southbank	Geoff Howes	geoff.chrishowes@ntlworld.com

JANUARY 2018

Thursday 11 January	Roehampton	Graham Chambers	grahamchambers@dixonwilson.co.uk
Friday 12 January	Beckenham	Robert Smith	robert.smith@sgsmithproperties.co.uk
Saturday 20 January	TBC Park Langley	Robert Smith	robert.smith@sgsmithproperties.co.uk
January TBA	RAC Woodcote Park	David Esser	lesserstressed@yahoo.co.uk

FEBRUARY 2018

Saturday 3 February	Eton College Boys	Dave Smith	bigd1102@hotmail.com
Thursday 15 February	Dorking	Graham Chambers	grahamchambers@dixonwilson.co.uk
Monday 26 February	Escorts (Finchley Manor SC)	Nigel Belle	belles@waitrose.com
Tuesday 27 February	Camberley	Graham Chambers	grahamchambers@dixonwilson.co.uk

MARCH 2018

Sunday 4 March	TBC Bromley/Nuffield Health	Robert Smith	robert.smith@sgsmithproperties.co.uk
Friday 9 March	TBC The Wimbledon Club (Lakeside)	Geoff Howes	geoff.chrishowes@ntlworld.com
Friday 16 March	Purley	Nigel Belle	belles@waitrose.com
Friday 16 March	RAC Pall Mall	Nigel Belle	belles@waitrose.com
Friday 16 March	Hurlingham	Chris Lowry	chrislowry@mercerhole.co.uk
Saturday 17 March	Fitzwilliam/Dublin	Steve Jackson	smaxjackson@googlemail.com
Saturday 24 March	Bourne Farnham	Dave Smith	bigd1102@hotmail.com
Monday 26 March	Civil Service at Southbank	Geoff Howes	geoff.chrishowes@ntlworld.com

APRIL 2018

Thursday 17 April	Ashtead	Dave Smith	bigd1102@hotmail.com
Friday 20 April	Bexley	Nigel Belle	belles@waitrose.com
Wednesday 25 April	Surrey Sports Club	Dave Smith	bigd1102@hotmail.com

MAY 2018

Friday 4 April	Oxshott	Nigel Belle	belles@waitrose.com
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ADDITIONAL FIXTURES BEING PLANNED

Ealing
 Bishops Stortford
 Limpsfield
 Cumberland
 Cheam
 Brighton
 Sandown
 St Georges Hill
 Petersfield
 Oxford & Cambridge

DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED TO PLAY – TELEPHONE THE MATCH MANAGER NOW!

TOURNAMENT RESULT

NORTH OF ENGLAND – 13-15 OCTOBER 2017
PONTEFRACT – 2 WINNERS 4 RUNNERS UP



Stuart Hardy (right) MO60.

WINNER!

STUART HARDY, No.1 seed, triumphed over an old rival 16/14 in the fifth after 1hr 20 mins!

WINNER!

BARRY FEATHERSTONE beat the No.1 seed, Rod Boswell, comprehensively 3/0 in the final.



Barry Featherstone (right) MO70.

- MO45 **Andy Normile**, No.1 seed, progressed to the final but unfortunately had to concede due to a pulled muscle.
- MO50 **Cliff Martindale** having overcome **Marvin Rust** in the ¼'s, **Gary Raw** in the semis, lost 2/3 in the final.
- MO55 Both **Nick Peel** and **Neil Harrison** reached the semis. **Mark Taylor** reached the ¼'s.
- MO60 Apart from winner **Stuart Hardy**, **Ripley Oyler** and **Richard Mosley** also competed.

- MO65 **John Rae** having edged out the No.1 seed in the semis lost 2/3 in the final. **Edward Winter**, **Ian Smith**, **Trevor Cox** also competed.
- MO70 **Martin Pearse** reached the semis, **Dave Hardern**, **Adrian Wright**, **Mike Clemson** reached the ¼'s whilst **Allan Whittow**, **Roger Booker** and **Andrew Beeston** also competed.
- WO45 **Alison Goy** competed.
- WO50/55 Pool: **Lesley Sturgess** 3, **Sue Pynegar** 4, **Sarah Howlett** 5.

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER

We are no different from any other successful Club – we need a constant supply of new members to replace those that have left for whatever reason.

Whilst our membership numbers are currently holding steady, even increasing slightly, we need your help in recruiting new members, especially amongst the 'younger' age groups.

As an existing member, you know the benefits of the GB Vets, but to make your recruiting job easier,

enclosed with this Newsletter is an application form and on its reverse side, the benefits.

So do please keep this form handy and give it to a potential new member.

Further copies of the application form can be downloaded from our website.

Many thanks

for your help.

TOURNAMENT RESULT

EAST OF ENGLAND – 22-24 SEPTEMBER 2017

EAST ANGLIA T & SC – NORWICH – 7 WINNERS 3 RUNNERS UP



MO35 New member **Jamie Goodrich**, (left) aged 46, playing 2 age groups down won a thrilling final 3/2.



MO45 **Jonathan Gliddon** (right) won the final 3/0.



Barry Featherstone (right) beat the No.1 seed 3/0 in the final.



Adrian Wright (right) beat **Nigel Belle** 3/1 in the final.



Keeley Johnson (left) won the pool.



Rachel Woolford (right) beat **Mandy Akin** in a pool of 3 although Mandy was playing 2 age groups down!



Karen Hume (right) beat **Sue Pynegar** convincingly 3/0 in the final.

- MO45** **Jeremy Krystyniak** reached the semis.
- MO50** **Stephen McLoughlin** reached the semis, **Andy Murray** reached the 1/4's. Also competed: **Marvin Rust**, **Ray Burke MBE**, **Nick Sheppard**.
- MO55** **Nick Peel** & **Mark Taylor** reached the semis. Also competed: **Ash Chakraborty**, **Neville Thomson**, **Ian Bradburn**.
- MO60** **Stuart Hardy** (No.1 seed) reached the semis. Also competed: **Ripley Oyler**, **Paul Reader**.
- MO65** **John Rae** (No.1 seed) reached the semis. **Trevor Cox** reached the 1/4's. Also competed: **Tony Hulse**, **Edward Winter**, **Ian Smith**.
- MO70** **Chris Goodbourn** reached the semis. **Martin Pearse**, **James Dubois**, **Mike Clemson** reached the 1/4's. Also competed: **Robert Smith**, **Allan Whittow**.
- WO35/40** Also competed: New member, East Anglia T & SC coach, **Katie Lawrence**.
- WO55** **Karen Hume** beat new member **Pamela McCartney**, **Jackie Gregory** and the then **Sue Pynegar** in the final. Sue having upset the seedings by beating No.2 seed **Sarah Howlett** in the semis.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MASTERS REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Midlands	Edgbaston Priory	10/12 November 2017
South	Winchester	1/3 December 2017
West	Exeter Golf & CC	5/7 January 2018
North West	Grove Park	26/28 January 2018

JESTERS AMATEUR TOURNAMENT

RAC Pall Mall 2/5 February 2018

BRITISH CLOSED – NATIONALS

Manchester 12/18 February 2018

GB VETS FINALS WEEKEND

Colets, Thames Ditton 28/29 April 2018

BRITISH OPEN – MAIN

Hull 13/20 May 2018

BRITISH OPEN – MASTERS

Colets, Thames Ditton 13/20 May 2018 TBC

HOME INTERNATIONALS

MO35,55,75,WO55 Cardiff 20/22 April 2018

MO50,70,WO50 Dublin 4/5 May 2018

MO45,65,WO45 Nottingham 11/12 May 2018

MO40,60,WO35/40 Aberdeen 18/19 May 2018

WORLD MASTERS

Charlottesville, USA 29 July/4 August 2018

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members who have joined since the main Spring 2017 Newsletter:

David Scurlock – Haslingden
 Kevin Laughton – Hull East Riding
 Matt Belliere – Limpsfield
 Neville Thomson – The Avenue LT&SC
 Katie Lawrence – East Anglia T & SC
 Jamie Goodrich – East Anglia T & SC
 Mark Belle – Brighton
 Pamela McCartney – Ipswich Sports Club
 John Bullard – Beaconsfield

'LOST' MEMBERS

Alf Barker John Barton Terry Farrington
 John Grieve Tim Higginson T Peter Jones
 Robert McIntosh Geoffrey Mortimer

Surely someone must know the whereabouts of one of the members above? If you do please contact the Hon.Sec.

GONE TO THE GREAT SQUASH CLUB IN THE SKY

It is with much sadness we report that **Eric Robinson** died in July 2017. A wonderful jovial character who played for Wales at many different age groups. Also **Tony Collins** who died in March of this year. Also **Verney Montague** who died in December 2016. Verney won the Club O75 Singles Tournament in 2006.

NEW HANDBOOK

With this Newsletter you should have received the updated 2017/8 Members Handbook. Whilst all members details are available to see on our website it is generally felt that a hard copy of the Handbook should be printed. The Committee agreed a while ago that this would be done every 2 years to save costs. Please check your details and advise the Hon. Sec. of any errors, omissions or amendments.

CLUB SHOP – ON LINE

Don't forget you can now (only) buy Club merchandise on line. Not only are the usual items – polo and tee shirts – available but now also shorts and warm-up jackets.

Go to www.iprosports.co.uk click on the 'Club Zone', scroll down and click on the GB Vets logo and then follow the instructions!

Exception: Lamb's wool v neck pullovers are bought from a different supplier. For information on these and to order contact the Hon. Secretary Nigel Belle.

GOD'S PLAN FOR AGING

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In his wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In his wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

NINE IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER AS WE GROW OLDER

- Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- Life is sexually transmitted.
- Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- Give a person a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a person to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- In the 60's people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

Please share this wisdom with others while I go to the bathroom. *Thank you Howard C from SW18 for these pearls of wisdom. Ed.*

FANCY A TOUR?

There are a number of opportunities on the horizon for a GB Vets tour – Canada, Scotland, Jamaica, Atlanta (USA), Jersey – to name but a few. There was a time when tours abroad were commonplace, but now with time and money constraints, they have recently tended to be long weekend affairs usually not far from home.

Please spend some time to read the article on Page 4, consider the questionnaire and email the Hon. Sec. with your thoughts and comments.

WEBSITE

There is a general feeling that the website is only used when the Club Tournament is on and very occasionally when one wants to look up a member's detail if your handbook is not to hand. When was the last time you visited our website? Is it worth all the time, effort and money spent on it? Please visit the site now and email the Hon. Sec. with your thoughts and opinions.

MARKERS FOR BRITISH OPEN

You may like to know that the GB Vets Club contributed £500 towards the cost of Markers for this year's British Open held at Colets, Thames Ditton in June. England Squash, in their wisdom, reduced/removed funding for their time and expenses. Markers are an essential part of the smooth running of any tournament and the GB Vets were happy and proud to help ensure this happened.

ANNIVERSARY BOOK

This magnificent record of the GB Vets '50 Years On' is still available to purchase. You can buy it now for just £10 inc p&p. Order from Nigel Belle 01959 565444 OR email belles@waitrose.com OR purchase from any Committee member. Pay by cheque payable to 'The Veterans SRC of GB' or by Bank Transfer, details on request.

