

2014 MASTER HOME INTERNATIONAL SCOTLAND

Event Dates:	Friday 23 rd - Saturday 24 th May 2014		
Address:	Aberdeen Squash and Racketball Club, Aberdeen.		
England Teams:	<u>Men's O40</u>	<u>Men's O60</u>	<u>Women's O35/O45</u>
	Nick Wall (Captain) Stuart Summers Jon Gliddon Paul Boyle Chris Stanley Courtney Downing	Ronnie Bell (Captain) Nick Drysdale Ian Holmes Steve Jackson Alan Hathway Geoff Redfern <i>Reserve Geoff Walton</i>	Sam Mueller (Captain) Sarah Parr Rachel Calver Isabelle Tweedle Claire Walker Amanda Warren <i>Reserve Lucy Murphy</i>

MENS OVER 40 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		19	20	20	59	1
	6		20	20	46	2
	7	4		7	18	4
	3	5	15		23	3

MENS OVER 40 REPORT

Back to Aberdeen Squash club many Years after my last visit. A little smarter but still old fashioned in its own way..... (The club that is, not me!).

After looking over the team squads put forward, as expected our likely big match would come first against Ireland. After flights and long drives this was not what we would have wished for. With our strongest side out, Chris Stanley nicely eased our nerves with a comfy 3-0. Stuart Summers was up next and we knew he would be in for a tough one from seeing his opponent in other years internationals always preform very well. He proved just too strong for Stuart in a very tight match. Nick Wall was next up, the legs a bit slow from a seven hour drive but just scraped home in each game to give us a 2-1 lead. Jon Gliddon was up next and played very nicely as he can and took the match for us. Paul Boyle then finished the job off nicely giving us a healthy 19 points to relax into the evening with. The matches on the usual one court meant Paul had to play his match with lets say a diminishing interest as all the other age groups had long finished and were getting dinner. The hardback courts to all but one court do not lend themselves to creating the desired harmony between age groups and atmosphere. Something to definitely consider when picking a future venue.

We all had dinner as a team and I can say it was the most together team with no hint of any individual been more important than the team that I have ever had the pleasure of playing in. After a few drinks it was quite late so back to the Hotel we went. No-one seemed to want to go on a bender & spoil the next day.



In the morning a 10am start brought us a match against Wales who had beaten Scotland 15-7 the previous day. Mr Stanley was rested and Courtney Downing stepped in and destroyed his opponent in the first. His opponent seemed very nervous and only started to play in the second game. The longer the games went on the more he seemed to get used to Courtney's game and points became harder to win. Courtney dug in and battled out an important win to set us going. This seemed to settle all of us and Mr Summers was happy to log a win after a near miss yesterday. Wall was up next and scrapped to a tough 3-1 win and again the match. Jon Gliddon then made it 4-0 and the poor Mr Boyle then made it 5-0 at some point while our attention had gone to the afternoon match at 2PM. This was mainly due to the fact we had already started it! Some were trying to get lunch, some shower, some get off court, it had got a little disjointed. When we all did finally seem to get to be behind the court we were now playing on the Glass-back as it was the Scots for us, a few of the team seemed less sure with the Captain's decision to drop himself at one and play the team all up a place!

The first match was not going at all well as Courtney was 2-1 down and looking like the mornings play was catching up with him, it was looking odds on we would be one down. Towards the end of the forth, the Scot started to choke as Courtney dug in.... 2-2. Somehow Courtney fought and fought and found a second wind when again he looked down and out and pulled off a great victory. Next up was Mr Gliddon, a few nerves were hopefully gone from within the squad! Well they were back. Mr Gliddon had roomed on his own so we were debating what channels he had been viewing as his legs seemed not to be functioning! After much geeing up he scrambled home with some of the ugliest squash I have ever seen him play. Fair play you only have to be two points better than your opponent. I think he took that one literally. Mr Boyle was up next delighted to not be on last and with a crowd. He played great as he had all weekend and brought home the match and the Trophy. Mr Stanley and Summers finished the job off in style for a 5-0 win.

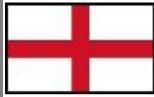
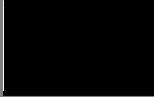
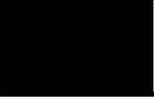
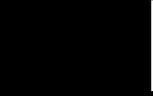
The lads met in the Bar to celebrate before heading back to the Hotel to get changed. The dinner was extremely good and an evening of entertainment followed, England seemed to have cleared up like the good old days. Mr Downing seemed to feel the effect of his tough matches and gently nodded off at the table as the night went on.

Well done to the Ladies who avenged defeat to the Scots from last time and the O60's as reliable as ever. I think we made a great team and with no team meetings! We once had a team meeting about the team meetings in previous years! The laid back approach seems to work too. The only complaint about whole weekend would be that the accommodation must be within walking distance in future.

Many Thanks to Scottish Squash who hosted a Fantastic Home International Event.

Nick Wall (Captain)

MENS OVER 60 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	20	20	60	1
	1		6	?	?	?
	0	16		20	36	2
	1	?	2		?	?

MENS OVER 60 REPORT



England over 60's travelled north of the border to Aberdeen in search of their 15th consecutive win in the Home International series. Scotland arranged the fixture in Aberdeen – Highland territory – in the hope that it might be a step too far for the opposition. Undaunted, England assembled a team from all corners of the country and even farther afield – Munich to be precise – that well known bastion of English hegemony! Aply Captained by Ronnie Bell, aka Jim Davidson, England started their campaign against the Irish on Friday evening.

Alan Hathway first on court at 5 proved a long journey –from Germany - is no barrier to peak performance and polished off his opponent in quick time, closely followed by number 3 Ian Holmes who similarly dispatched his opposite number. A slight hiccup at one which seemed on the cards, when British Closed Champion, Nick Drysdale, went one down against a tenacious Irish opponent. He should have been 2 down when, courtesy of a lucky let at 8/3, he clawed his way back to win 10/8 and similarly came from behind to win the 3rd. The 4th proved easier and he ran out a relieved winner, proving his injury lay off was now firmly behind him. Captain Bell was on sparkling form, bamboozling his adversary at number 4 with his usual array of tricky and disguised shots. Finally at 2 it was left to Steve Jackson to administer the coup de grace. The plot did not seem to be going to plan as he went 5/0 down to an unorthodox opponent. However, he fortunately rallied and after quiet between game words from Holmsey, who reminded him that the longer he spent on court the less drinking time there would be, so he quickly concluded the 5/0 whitewash.

Saturday saw us back at the club fresh, well some of us, and early with a 10am start against Wales. With all games played on one court, the matches were in danger of running through to the next match at 2pm. It was important therefore to finish off opponents quickly and ensure maximum recovery time. A reorganised team saw Nick being rested and Geoff Redfern kicking things off at 5. He did not disappoint with a whirlwind performance that blasted his opposite number off court in double quick time. Similar action followed from the Captain who was not troubled at 3. Steve Jackson promoted to number one looked as if he was trying to repeat Nick's performance of the previous day, by going one down with a lethargic first game. Strong words from the Captain restored the situation and 3 tough games saw him through 3/1, and another win for England. Messrs Hathway and Holmes duly completed the job and England were two thirds through their weekend assignment.

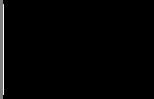
Scotland had also won their games against Wales and Ireland, so this final match would decide the Home International champions. Sadly for Scotland their number one sustained an ankle injury which effectively ruled him out of the match. The result therefore was never really in doubt and with Nick back at number one and Captain Bell stepping aside to let Alan play a third match, all 5 players recorded comfortable 3/0 wins. There was a special award to Steve Jackson at 2, who was given a squash Oscar for his performance on being tripped when 8/1 down in the second. After 3 barrel rolls he eventually got up and came back to win 10/8, duly acknowledging the ironic applause which greeted this escape!

The club hosted a fantastic dinner and evening of entertainment, where England accepted their awards proudly, joining their over 40 male and over 40 lady colleagues who similarly triumphed. To round off the evening in style the players carried their trophies home on the late night bus to the centre of Aberdeen much to the surprise of the driver!!

Many Thanks to Scottish Squash who hosted a Fantastic Home International Event.

Ronnie Bell (Captain)

WOMENS OVER 35/40 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	17	20	57	1
	0		0	0	0	4
	7	20		20	47	2
	0	20	3		23	3

WOMENS OVER 35/40 REPORT



Back on England Soil....

As the Captain of the England over 35/40's team I felt there was a lot of pressure on us all as a team to try and win the trophy back after last year's results. The Home Internationals were held in Aberdeen at the Aberdeen Squash Rackets Club. Everyone arrived on the Friday, and after traveling some went to eat on arrival and the remaining team went for a kip I said to myself what is that all about lightweights already and showing their ages...

First match of the weekend was against Ireland, Sarah Parr went on first only dropping 3 points, following by no 3

Isabelle Tweedle who had no mercy on her opponent winning 27/0. Next on was Claire Walker who won 3/0 and then last matches were Sam Mueller who won 3/0 and Amanda Warren who again won 3/0 so overall a complete whitewash of 5/0 to England and a good start to the weekend. Everyone sat down at the club for dinner followed by going back to hotel, no one decided to sneak out to cocktail bars and took the right option of going to bed early by all players, very impressive indeed such commitment by the team.

On the Saturday, after a good night's rest and hearty breakfast by all, it was an early start to the day against Wales. Claire decided to rest before Scotland game and put her feet up before the big game in the afternoon and bring along her cheer leading skills for the morning. Sarah kicked things off by winning 3/0, Isabelle was next on with another 3/0 but feeling a little more generous by dropping 2 points only this time. Amanda, Sam and Rachel had a clean sweep of 3/0 so England were in a great position winning 5/0 before going into the afternoon session with the big decider versus Scotland.

Scotland had won both their matches against Wales and Ireland so the pressure had begun. First on was Sam of whom was feeling the pressure managed to win at 5 against the wise owl and experienced Sue Strachan. Next on was Rachel against Katy Temple, it was a great match and whilst the rest of the team were having a nervous breakdown on the balcony as the match was so tight, Rachel stayed cool, calm and collective and pulled a deserved win of 3/2. Next on was Claire against the experienced Senga Mcfie, Claire took the 1st game, Senga pulled the 2nd game 10/8, then Claire went on to win the next 2 games and sealing the match 3/1 which confirmed our team win which was a great effort by Claire. Next on was Isabelle against Sabine McKenzie who was feeling nervous all the way through the early part of the afternoon session, but she went on and won 3/1. Last on was Amanda Warren against a tough opponent Helen Nicol who was very whippy around the court of which Amanda unfortunately lost 3-0 but a great effort. It was very tense throughout the team but everyone showed their experience and strength on and off the court to beat a very good team and to bring the trophy home. GO ENGLAND!

The club hosted a great dinner, followed by presentations and an evening of entertainment and everyone strutting their stuff on the dance floor.

Congratulations to the Men's O40's and O60s a great win all round by England.

Many Thanks to Scottish Squash who hosted a great Home International Event and I was very proud to be Captain and to be part of a great team!

Sam Mueller (Captain)