

## 2014 MASTER HOME INTERNATIONAL DUBLIN

<b>Event Dates:</b>	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2014		
<b>Address:</b>	Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Dublin		
<b>England Teams:</b>	<a href="#"><u>Men's O50</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Men's O70</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Women's O50</u></a>
	Eamonn Price (Captain) Gary Raw Darren Withey Ged Martin David Gray Martin Greenslade Reserve Ray Burke	Adrian Wright (Captain) Mike Clemson Graham Fisher Brian Hardcastle Nigel Belle Andrew Beeston Reserve Tony Clifford	Tammy Bennett (Captain) Mandy Akin Pippa Green Sarah Howlett Lesley Sturgess Shelley Walsh
	<a href="#"><u>Men's O75</u></a>		
	Lance Kinder (Captain) Pat Kirton John Woodliffe		

### MENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		18	18	18	54	1
	3		8	12	23	3
	1	14		12	27	2
	2	8	7		17	4

For the detailed results of each session please click [here](#)

### MENS OVER 50 REPORT

The England Men's Over 50s Team assembled at the impressive and very hospitable Fitzwilliam Club on Friday afternoon to do battle once more in the Home Internationals with the aim of retaining the Trophy. The team comprised of: Martin Greenslade from last year's winning team; Eamonn Price, moving up from the Over 45s and back in Dublin; Darren Withey, back in the England fold; and debutants Gary Raw and David Gray. Unfortunately Ged Martin had to pull out due to a last minute injury and reserves Ray Burke and Graham Hooper were unavailable. They missed some great squash, great company and a couple of pints of Guinness. The travelling team was bolstered by Janice and Tash who provided much support, photographic skills and art education...who was Dali again...?

A brief photo call was followed by our first fixture against Wales. This resulted in a 5-0 score line with convincing wins for Price, Greenslade and Withey. The debutants adopted different strategies...David Gray, on and off court as swiftly as possible for an early Guinness...and Gary Raw made sure he got his money's worth with a hard fought

3-2 victory. A late, but tasty, buffet followed, a little rehydration and the majority of the team were in bed around midnight.

Our match on Saturday was due to start at 10am, so, after a substantial breakfast at 8, we took the shuttle bus back to Fitzwilliam. Next up were the Irish team. Gray repeated his Friday strategy and Withey then overcame by 3/0 the fiercely competitive and well-supported orthopaedic surgeon and Irish Captain, David Borton. David had registered his first victory over England in the form of Peter Lonsdale the previous year, but a repeat was not to be, as Withey was too accurate and quick. Sandwiched between efficient wins by Price and Greenslade, Raw dragged out a marathon win by 9/7 in the fifth from 6/4 down showing great determination and tenacity at the critical moments against a talented Shaun McKee.

After a short break for soup and sandwiches, we were back on court for our final match against Scotland. The team all recorded 3/0 victories to ensure the Claret Jug was retained (by Gary Raw) and we all looked forward to a swift half before preparing for the evening dinner.....but it was not to be.....as only sport can deliver, a great drama was developing on the show court (see Tammy's report). Despite winning at 5 and 4, the English Ladies went down 3/2 to a very talented and motivated Scottish Ladies Team. Hugely gutsy wins for Pauline, Sue and Fiona over Sarah, Lesley and Mandy provided fantastic entertainment for an increasingly noisy crowd and accelerated the Guinness consumption rather early in the evening....It was a very impressive and well deserved victory for a delightful but passionate Scottish ladies team, and they enjoyed every minute of it. The similarly delightful English ladies accepted their defeat very graciously, despite their disappointment and the closeness of the result.

After England ties (nice red) were donned, and a couple of drinks in the bar, the team made their way in to the Formal Dinner. This proved to be a very enjoyable affair, with good food, good wine, some restrained shuffling on the disco floor and a none-too-early bedtime. No trophies or players were misplaced, which will please the hard-working Home Internationals organiser, Dave Hardern.

Overall the team had a very successful and enjoyable weekend and we all send our great thanks to Ireland Squash, especially Ciaran, Rosie, Mick, Brian, Paul, and the tireless referees, for the seamless organisation and fantastic hospitality.

**Eamonn Price (Captain)**

## MENS OVER 70 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		18	18	18	54	1
	2		17	9	28	3
	0	7		6	13	4
	3	14	12		29	2

For the detailed results of each session please click [here](#)

## MENS OVER 70 REPORT

The Ireland Home International event got to a bad start when the transport organised to ferry players from the hotel to the Fitzwilliam club got held up in traffic. As a consequence the MO70's did not get started until 1750. With only 5 courts, and 1 being taken up part of the time by Club players, fitting in 7 teams was difficult. After a first match 5 setter, it was 1950 before the second match started, being deposed of the court with a MO50's match in between. It was 2140 before we finished the last match.

The first match against Wales with Andrew Beeston at 5, was a 5 setter. Andrew storming to a 9/0 9/2 start but then losing the next 2 to set up another cliff hanger in the fifth which he eventually won 10/8/9 against Eric Robinson.

Graham Fisher dispatched Welshman David Hughes in the second match at 3rd string and Brian Phillips having only a few recent competitive matches under his belt, could not match Captain Wright.

Brian Hardcastle also triumphed 3-0 at 4. Mighty Mo Clemson proved too much for Gary Williams in the final game.

Attempting to work the order to our advantage, meant Nigel Belle lost out on Saturday morning, when his thought to be opponent, who had played O75 and O70's on Friday night did not show. In the afternoon session Nigel faced Scot Angus Mackay who was clearly struggling with his knees and suffered a 27-0 rout. Full credit to the Scot for putting his country first and turning out, but disappointing for Nigel – whose comment “to play for his country was a great honour”, made up for it somewhat.

Myron's Evans enthusiasm was not enough to knock Graham Fisher out of his stride losing 3-0. Frank Fahey Challenged captain Adrian Wright but could not prevent another 3-0 defeat. Brian Hardcastle and Mike Clemson completed the route, but Mike dropping a game to a determined Noel Murphy.

The Saturday afternoon Session saw the O70's only needing 1 win to secure overall victory and Nigel's 27-0 rout over a courageous Scot was enough. Graham Fisher had little trouble disposing of Bill Kennedy. There only remained pride now left for Scotland as they had lost both their games against Ireland and Wales. Ken Reid is showing more promise with each game, and he had routed Brian Phillips in the morning session, so was full of

confidence in his match against the English captain. It was not enough though, despite the captain having less fuel than the previous day's tank, he could not take the game he needed to cause any upset. Andrew Beeston romped home against Andrew Rugg-Gunn as Did Mike Clemson against Bill Kennedy. So 3 x 5-0's and maximum points.

It won't be so easy next year though I understand. Ireland have a t least 2 younger men coming through, whilst we will have wait 2 more years before we get Ansell and Boswell to the Ranks.

The Fitzwilliam club as always showed its class – the Evening meal along with the Friday and Saturday food was excellent as was the Guinness. Ciaran Roche and Rosie, Mossie Collins daughter, I discovered, worked tirelessly over the weekend, along with Brian updating the computer, and the markers. Thanks to all concerned and the patience and devotion of my team.

Especial thanks also to Jane Belle, who not only offered assistance to the Organisers, but also kept me a record of the scores. Unfortunately, despite a determined effort to get all the score updated on Sunday morning, having tramped up and down 6 flights of steps with kit and baggage due to heavy lift duty, in haste I left the file at the hotel so there may be a delay getting the scores sheets published. Also to Jacqui Kinder who distributed the pennants to the captains.

Congratulations to the MO50 under Eamonn Price and MO75's captained by Lance Kinder who also had unbeaten records. Commiserations to the WO50's who lost in a final tussle with a strong Scottish squad in the last match, this going to 5. Well done to Tammy Bennett for expressing public congratulations to the Scottish victors. Magnanimous in defeat and a credit to the English team.

For the record Graham Fisher accepted responsibility for looking after the Trophy and getting it engraved for next year.

**Adrian Wright (Captain)**

### MENS OVER 75 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		12	12	-	24	1
	3		12	-	15	2
	1	2		-	3	3
	-	-	-		-	-

For the detailed results of each session please click [here](#)

### MENS OVER 75 REPORT

Report to follow.

## WOMENS OVER 50 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		18	11	18	47	2
	0		3	5	8	4
	13	18		18	49	1
	4	16	3		23	3

For the detailed results of each session please click [here](#)

## WOMENS OVER 50 REPORT

With Wales unable to raise a team of five, it was agreed that this would be a three string event. However, Ireland and Scotland were keen to field five players, and we agreed to play “friendly” matches at 4 and 5. Needless to say, they were competitively contested, even though the results didn’t count towards the Home International event.

Winning with a three string team was always going to be a tough call for the English “girls”. The first match, against hosts, Ireland, started in Friday evening at 9pm. Jill Campion at 1, Lesley Sturgess at 2 and Sue Pynegar at 3 all looked sharp and won their matches convincingly, as did Helen Gould and Jan Ellis playing friendly games at 4 and 5 respectively. When we turned up for supper at around 10.30pm we were relieved to find that food was still plentiful.

Our second match was against Wales on Saturday morning. Sue Pynegar at 3 controlled her match throughout, preventing Wendy Norris from playing her winning shots, winning with a very convincing 3-0. Jill Campion then went on against the highly experienced Sian Johnson. The first game was neck and neck, but Jill took it thanks to a few lucky nicks at crucial times. She then gained confidence and played text-book squash to win the next two games and the match comfortably. Helen Gould, short of competitive match play, made a slow start against Lynn Davies at third string, losing the first game. However, she came back with her usual determination, out-hitting her opponent with tight, confident drives to win 3-1. Lesley and Jan won their friendly matches (against Irish ladies who were honorary Welsh for the day) comfortably.

That left Scotland. Lesley Sturgess, at 3, did well to take the first game against the improved Moira Atkinson. The second and third were a different story, with Moira proving to be too adept at retrieving Lesley’s lobs and drops. Two one down, Lesley rallied in the fourth, winning it with good reading of the game and shot selection. However, Moira found her consistency again and won the fifth. Jill Campion struggled to settle against Pauline Douglas, who was fast and efficient, reading Jill’s game like a book. Jill was unable to regain the confidence and accuracy of her earlier match and, despite finding form briefly in the second, lost 3-0. Despite knowing that England could only come second overall, Helen was sharp and accurate against Eunice Bond, an experienced shot player at two, and won 3-0. Sue had no problem beating the Scottish number 4 in their friendly match.

Thanks to the organisers and the Fitzwilliam Club for their hospitality for putting on a fun 'do' on the Saturday evening. Also, thanks to all our opponents - we've been playing each other for years, play good (sometimes) competitive (always) squash on court and then enjoy catching up and socialising off court.

**Tammy Bennett (Captain)**