

2015 MASTER HOME INTERNATIONAL WALES

Event Dates:	Friday 24 th - Saturday 25 th Apr 2015		
Address:	Sport Wales National Centre (SWNC), Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, and Cardiff Squash Rackets Club, Ryder Street, Cardiff		
England Teams:	Men's O40	Men's O60	Women's O50
	Jonathan Gliddon (Captain) Paul Boyle Jamie Goodrich Joss Hargrave Michael McLaughlin Matthew Stephenson	Stuart Hardy (Captain) Peter Alexander Mark Cowley Nick Drysdale Ian Holmes Geoff Redfern	Sarah Parr (Captain) Judith Allgrove Rachel Calver Katie Lawrence Rachel Pullan Joanne Smalley

MENS OVER 40 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		5	17	20	42	2
	20		18	20	52	1
	4	3		17	24	3
	5	5	8		18	4

MENS OVER 40 REPORT

The team arrived in Cardiff at the Welsh Institute of Sport with a few nerves but mostly excitement. England had some experience in the team with Jamie Goodrich, Mike McLaughlin, Paul Boyle, Jonathan Gliddon (Captain) & a couple of debutants in Joss Hargrave & Matt Stephenson.

We were about to have the team photos taken when we realised that Jamie still hadn't arrived yet & we couldn't have them taken without him as we would have missed his flamboyant, model-like facial expressions that he is well known for pulling in his photos!

Once we had been able to ensure that Jamie was going to turn up in time for the match (stuck on the motorway for over 6 hours!), we got the match underway with the England skipper dropping himself to give the debutants their first taste of International squash.

The number 5's, Matt Stephenson against John Ashton of Wales started proceedings. At 2-0 down, Matt rid himself of his nerves & started to play much better squash to level at 2-2. The deciding 5th was all about who had the biggest minerals & after being 9-6 down, Matt showed his grit (& a lucky serve into the nick!) to complete his comeback to win 3-2 – great result! Next up were the number 3's, Paul Boyle of England against Andy Evans of Wales. Boyler the 'bull-dog' showed his class & won in style 3-0. With the number ones on court next, Jamie 'the model' Goodrich finished pruning his 'trendy' beard & went on court against the local crowd pleaser Lloyd Forkan. At 2-0 down, Lloyd changed his shirt for a revealing low-cut style, which put Jamie off a bit! However, Jamie was relentless & closed the match out to win 3-1. At number 4, Joss Hargrave made his international debut against the

French/Welshman Arnaud Marotin. This was a bit of a 'David & Goliath' match-up & although Joss suffered from a few nerves in the first game, 'giant-duracell' Joss won the next 3 games fairly comfortably. Number 2 string were on last with 'Big Mac', Mike McLaughlin versus the evergreen Matt 'Growler' Crowley. Mike just about finished his 5th meal of the day in time to complete the 5-0 win against the Welsh by winning a competitive 3-1.



After a quiet Friday night, England's next match on Saturday morning was already being touted as the probable decider as the Irish team had strengthened by gaining some players from their previous years winning Over 35 team, one of which is still a full international for their senior men's team! So Joss went on first at number 5 against the very steady, Neal Murphy & started well by winning the first game. Neal played some very consistent squash & took the next 3 games to win the first rubber for Ireland. Number three string Paul Boyle was on next against an old Devonian junior, David Ayherst. Paul showed his typical bulldog spirit but David played probably his best match ever to squeeze out the winner in four games. Finding ourselves 2-0 down, the pressure was mounting for the English, especially as our number one Jamie Goodrich was next up against the current Irish senior men's team player, Stevie Richardson. Jamie played like the model squash player he is & found himself 2-0 up. Stevie gradually showed his experienced talent & clawed back the next three games to give Ireland the victory. At 3-0 down, the mood was very flat for the English & Ireland understandably had their tails up. England's skipper & number 4, Jonathan Gliddon, went on court next with a bit of a sore back against the stylish Irishman Dara O'Flynn. Having already won the match, the Irishman had a 'free-arm' & according to the rest of the Irish team & played the best they've ever seen him play to win 3-0. Last on court was number 2, 'Big-Mac' Mike McLaughlin against the Irish, Warwickshire county player Rob Staunton. Rob played an effective game to win 3-1 & closed out the match with a very unexpected 5-0 win for the Irish team.

Although the English team were very downhearted, the Runners-up spot was still to play for & so we had to beat Scotland to secure 2nd place. With the English determined to save some pride, Matt Stephenson took on the Scottish number 5 Mark James. Matt's specially fitted lady-long socks obviously did the trick & he showed his class by winning 3-0. The 'Bull-dog' Paul Boyle didn't start growling until the second game & won 3-1. Unbeaten all weekend, the Scot Peter O'Hara took on Jamie 'the model' Goodrich & although Jamie was well up in the 1st

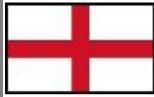
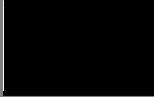
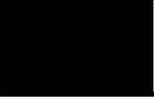
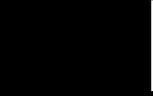
Game, Peter showed why he is a previous British Champion & gave Scotland the win 3-0. Next up was skipper Jonathan Gliddon at number 4 against Roddy Campbell. 'Captain Glids' exercised the demons of the earlier Ireland match & gave a captains performance to win 3-0 which won the match to secure the Runners-up spot for England. Last on were the number 2's with 'Big Mac' Mike McLaughlin against Peter Buchan from Scotland. Mac had just about enough time to eat his sixth meal of the day to keep his furnace fuelled & came through with a comfortable & classy 3-0 win to give England a 4-1 winning score line.

So with the runner-up spot in the bag, we all joined together at the presentation evening dinner & with some lubrication, the thoughts & conversation between the English contingent quickly made its way to discussing how it could have gone the other way against the Irish on any other occasion but with their strongest team ever put together, they just played better on the day. We all agreed that we couldn't wait to have the opportunity for next year to have the chance to gain our revenge!

Jonathan Gliddon (Captain)



MENS OVER 60 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	20	19	59	1
	2		18	7	27	3
	1	6		9	16	4
	5	17	16		28	2

MENS OVER 60 REPORT



The all-conquering England Men's over 60 team had a setback in the week leading up to the Internationals when Mark Cowley had to withdraw as he had 'flu. Fortunately, our reserve Paul Reader had kept himself available and was able to attend. A double bonus for Paul as he had a walkover in the semi-final of the Veterans Club of GB Championship the weekend before due to Mark being ill, then a call up to the England team.

So we all made it to Cardiff and decided that the team order would be Peter Alexander, (Suffolk), Nick Drysdale (Avon), Stuart Hardy, Middlesex) (capt), Ian Holmes (Northants), Geoff Redfern (Warwickshire) and Paul Reader (Hants). First up was Wales at the National Squash Centre and Paul opened proceedings. Unfortunately he did not settle into his normal game and uncharacteristically nervous went down in five games. The captain went on next and steadied the ship with a 3/0 win and Peter demolished the Wales no. 1 for a handful of points. A performance that showed why he is the British Open and National Champion. Ian and Nick both dropped a game but we're not seriously threatened, so a 4/1 win for England.

The Saturday morning match was against Ireland who had beaten Scotland in a very tight match.

Geoff came in for Paul at five and won in straight games as did Stuart, Peter and Ian. Nick had begun to feel unwell, however and went 2/1 down before asserting himself and winning in five. One does not win the Open, Nationals and European Championships in a year and lose when feeling a bit unwell!

So a 5/0 win to England and the third match against Scotland.

Paul came back in at five and played to his normal form and won 3/0. Ian dropped a game at no.3 and Peter was particularly ruthless against John Rae at no. 1. Geoff won comfortably and at no. 2 Stuart demolished Jim Dougall to complete another 5/0 win. So three wins for England and the Championship retained. Wales pipped Ireland for second place. Time for drinks and celebrations.

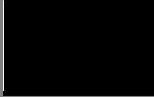
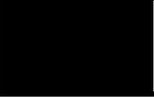
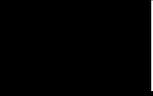
A splendid weekend by Wales Squash. Very well organised and a good presentation dinner with Mike Workman compering and Alan James singing.

My thanks to my England team who were so good it made captaincy easy. A pleasure to be there with you all.

Stuart Hardy (Captain)



WOMENS OVER 35/40 RESULTS SUMMARY

Team					Total	Position
		20	17	20	57	1
	0		0	4	4	4
	4	20		17	41	2
	0	7	19		26	3

WOMENS OVER 35/40 REPORT



We had an interesting start to the matches with Katie still on the motorway, stuck in traffic and Rachel C turning up with two left footed squash shoes! Luckily five other players had shown up and Sarah's squash shoes fitted Rachel. We all won against Wales 3-0 to give a convincing 5-0 victory. Saturday morning, we had a full team but

Judith had mislaid her squash rackets! Joanne went in search and the five of us prepared to play Ireland. Another convincing victory, all winning 3-0. The Saturday afternoon Scotland game, we weren't missing any equipment or players. Sarah stepped out of the match to put the youth forward. Katie suffering from nerves had a stressful start and dropped the second game, but once she got into her rhythm, won the last 2 games efficiently. Judith, next on, never let her opponent get started and won 3-0. Rachel C versus Helen Nicoll was tough from the start. Rachel secured a 6-0 lead in the third but Helen fought back to take the game and match 3-0. Joanne and Rachel P continued the theme of 3-0 wins, never giving their opponents a chance. An excellent 4-1 victory to England and an overall win of the O35/40 home internationals 2015.

Sarah Parr (Captain)

