



## The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

President: Philip Ayton

[www.gbvetssquash.co.uk](http://www.gbvetssquash.co.uk)

Chairman: John Woodliffe

# SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER



*Gordon Ross on left being presented with trophy by President Phil Ayton*

## GORDON ROSS

### 2009 BURRELL TROPHY WINNER

**Gordon Ross was awarded the Burrell Trophy after the presentation of prizes at Colet's Club on 19th April 2009.**

The trophy is awarded annually to the member considered to have served the Vets Club of GB exceptionally well over a period of time and Gordon, who has been a member for some 27 years, has certainly done that – and more.

He has, in the past, managed matches, played in them and has taken charge of organising the markers and referees at our Finals Weekend for more years than we can remember. This has meant cajoling four or five other members to spend their entire weekend on the squash court balcony keeping score and making decisions that some of those on court heartily disagree with!

Seriously though, it has meant that all players who reach that stage of the competition can concentrate on their game and we are very grateful to Gordon and the gentle and efficient manner in which he makes it possible. He fully deserves the award.

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REPORT – RESULTS – PHOTOGRAPHS**
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# CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009



## Tournament Director's Report 2009

The 46th Annual Tournament took place over the weekend of 18/19th April at Colets in Thames Ditton.

With over 25 past and present internationals playing in age categories from 45 to over 75 the quality of squash on display was exceptionally high.

Highlights of the weekend were the finals between Alasdair Niven and Steve Jackson in the O'55 age group and the match between Eamonn Price and Alan Thomson in the O'45, with Alasdair and Eamonn coming out on top. The Club President Philip Ayton gave his usual master class of age group squash winning the Over 60 title.

In the Ladies tournament 2 members of the

England O'45 squad fought out a close 3-2 with Mandy Akin overcoming Claire Baker who may have been suffering from celebrating Chelsea's win the previous day at Wembley.

Following a brief 12 minute AGM and the presentation of prizes some 80 members and guests enjoyed the traditional buffet and a chance to catch up with old and not so old friends.

Thanks must go to Colets staff for their assistance in holding this event, which will be played next year at Broxbourne over the weekend of 17th 18th April.

**Geoff Howes**

## Tournament Results 2008/9

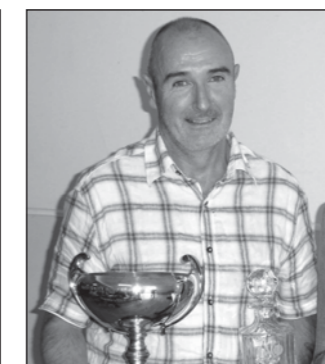
Event	Winner(s)	Runner(s) Up	Result
Over 45 Singles (Breakwell/Fisk Salver)	Eamonn Price	Alan Thomson	3-1
Over 45 Doubles (Edwards/Berman Trophy)	Chris Ansell & Keith Jones	Brian Willmor & Peter Willmor	W/O
Over 45 Doubles Plate	Phil Alexander & Mick Carson	Phil O'Malley & Paul Robson	3-0
Over 50 Singles (President's Cup)	Mark Cowley	Stuart Hardy	3-0
Over 50 Singles Plate	Richard Mosley	Chris Lowry	3-0
Over 55 Singles (Walrond Cup)	Alasdair Niven	Steve Jackson	3-2
Over 55 Singles Plate	Paul Reader	Andrew Larkin	3-1
Over 55 Doubles (Warrington Decanters)	Trevor Wilkinson & John Perrott	Brian Willmor & Peter Willmor	3-0
Over 55 Doubles Plate	Roger Sulley & Keith Hews	Tony Wheeler & L. Jenkins	3-2
Over 60 Singles (Burch Salver)	Philip Ayton	Barry Featherstone	3-0
Over 60 Singles Plate	Aubrey Waddy	Keith Searle	3-0
Over 65 Singles (Dengel & Perkins Cup)	Adrian Wright	Mike Clemson	3-0
Over 65 Singles Plate	Brian Dobson	Nigel Belle	3-1
Over 65 Doubles (Burch Trophy)	George Aplin & Len Froggitt	John Woodliffe & Lance Kinder	3-0
Over 70 Singles (Pellaw Salver)	Lance Kinder	Tony Seare	3-2
Over 70 Singles Plate	Gordon Ross	Ray Rook	3-0
Over 70 Doubles (Leo Melville Trophy)	John Woodliffe & Lance Kinder	Tony Seare & Brian Sayer	3-0
Over 75 Singles	Brian Sayer	Anthony Waller	3-1
Ladies Singles (Gathercole Trophy)	Mandy Akin	Claire Baker	3-2
Ladies Doubles (Belle Salver)	Mandy Akin & Karen Hume	Claire Baker & Chris Howes	3-0



O45 Singles Winner **Eamonn Price**



O45 Singles Runner up  
**Alan Thomson**



O50 Singles Winner **Mark Cowley**



O50 Singles Runner up **Stuart Hardy**



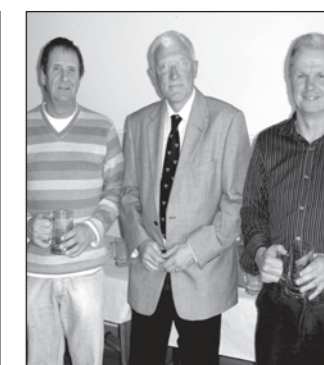
O55 Singles Winner **Alasdair Niven**



O55 Singles Runner up **Steve Jackson**



O55 Singles Plate Winner  
**Paul Reader**



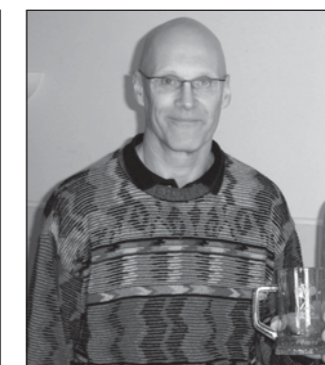
O55 Doubles Plate Winners  
**Keith Hews & Roger Sulley**



O60 Singles Winner, presented to  
**Philip Ayton** by **John Woodliffe**



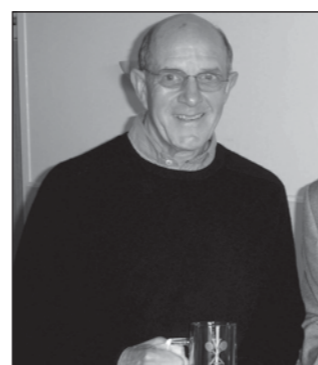
O60 Singles Runner up  
**Barry Featherstone**



O60 Singles Plate Winner  
**Aubrey Waddy**



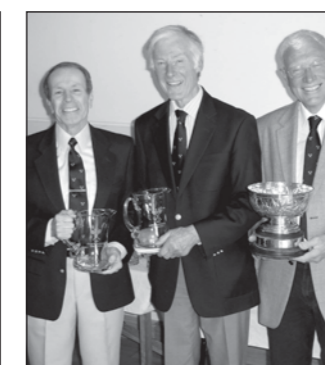
O65 Singles Winner **Adrian Wright**



O65 Singles Plate Winner  
**Brian Dobson**



O70 Singles Winner **Lance Kinder**



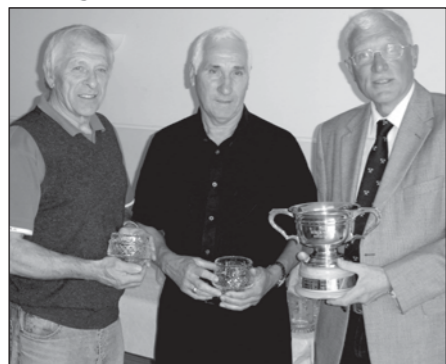
O70 Doubles Winners  
**Lance Kinder & John Woodliffe**



Ladies Doubles Winners  
**Karen Hume & Mandy Akin**



# CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009



065 Doubles Winners **George Aplin & Len Froggitt**



Ladies Singles Runner up **Claire Baker**



070 Doubles Runners up **Brian Sayer & Tony Seare**



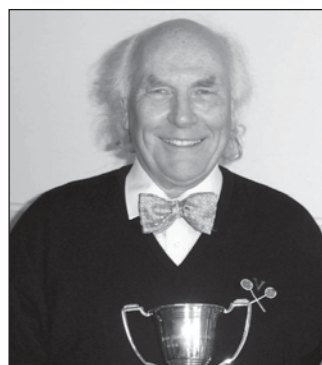
Armchair players? **Brian Sayer & Tony Seare**



Enjoying the buffet **Dilys & Mike Clemson**



Round tablers **Featherstones, Phil Ayton, Lance Kinder**



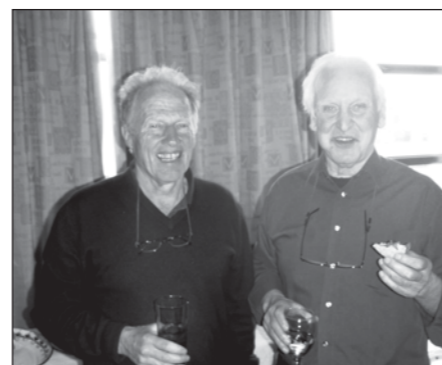
075 Singles Winner **Brian Sayer**



Markers: **Tony Seare, Gordon Ross, Nigel Belle, Philip Ayton (President), Gordon Coulthard, Jack Harris, Dean Clayton**



Grinners & Winners **Brian Youngs, John Woodliffe**



Glasses everywhere! **Denis Hill & John Timperley**



Your good looking committee



Changed partners! **Brian & Irene Willmor**



Front Row seats at AGM **Oliver Pollard, Norman Hunt**



Flower Girls **Jane Belle, Chris Howes**



Little & Large **Lance Kinder & Chris Ansell**



Bevy of beauties! **Mandy Akin, Karen Hume, Claire Baker**



**Margaret & Gordon Ross, Tom Hannon**



Just good friends! **Albert Akin, Robert Smith, Lance Kinder**



Winners! **Mandy Akin & Mark Cowley**



Celebrating their wedding Anniversary **Paul & Cheryl Reader**



Say Cheese! **Ros & Barry Featherstone**



More wine please **Karen Hume, Albert Akin**



My cuddly boy! **Anne & Brian Sayer**



What's **Claire Baker** saying or looking at?

**FREE CHAMPAGNE!!**

A bottle of Champagne will be given to the member giving the most apt caption to what Claire Baker is saying or is looking at.

**Captions to Hon. Secretary by Christmas please**

## ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2009 TO BE APPROVED AT 47TH AGM – APRIL 2010

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2009		
	2009	2008
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	5,608.00	5,632.00
Joining fees	160.00	140.00
Championship entry fees	1,340.00	1,405.00
Interest	139.35	370.31
Profit on sweaters	–	5.70
Profit on shirts	–	–
Book (sales)	30.00	10.00
Postage	–	2.50
Anniversary Dinner	4.11	–
Donation	10.00	–
	<u>£7,291.46</u>	<u>£7,565.51</u>
<b>LESS: EXPENDITURE</b>		
Loss on ties	87.50	66.00
Championship costs	668.48	790.96
Championship prizes	1,458.79	1,203.25
England Squash	253.50	–
Postage/telephone	421.56	–
Insurance	524.26	479.36
Handbook/newsletter	2,569.25	3,099.90
Stationery	5.94	–
Club matches (Irish visit)	–	504.40
Website	980.00	630.00
Sundries	–	25.00
Golf day deposit	–	100.00
	<u>6,969.28</u>	<u>6,898.87</u>
	<u>322.18</u>	<u>666.64</u>
Surplus/(Loss)	<u>£7,291.46</u>	<u>£7,565.51</u>

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2009			
	2009	2008	
	£	£	
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
Balance at 30.06.07		11,734.43	
Surplus to 30.06.08		666.64	
		<u>£12,401.07</u>	
Balance at 30.06.08	12,401.07		
Surplus to 30.06.09	322.18		
	<u>£12,723.25</u>		
<b>REPRESENTED BY:-</b>			
Balance at bank	12,308.05	11,892.37	
7 shirts at cost	87.50	87.50	
27 ties at cost	148.50	242.00	
7 sweaters at cost	179.20	179.20	
	<u>£12,723.25</u>	<u>£12,401.07</u>	
<b>SUNDRIES</b>			
Flowers (Brian Hanson)		<u>£25.00</u>	

**GORDON COULTHARD, HON. TREASURER**

## NORMAN HUNT – 84 YEARS YOUNG!



**At the tender age of 84 Norman Hunt has been a member of the GB Vets for 39 years (equalled only by Peter Gracie). Norman is a frequent visitor to the Club Championship finals and deservedly won the Burrell Trophy in 2002. Here are some of his recollections:**

- His squash playing years spanned 3 decades halted in the mid 1990's by a knee replacement.
- He played for Brighton for over 20 years and managed and enjoyed a great set of fixtures along the South Coast.
- He also played at London West Surrey enjoying, amongst others, matches against the Police. He recalls on occasions receiving some strange looks from 'ladies of the night' as he was carrying a sports bag in the West End before the spread of fitness centres!
- He also enjoyed matches against Twickenham which was where the Club Championship finals were held between 1982 and 1995.
- Veterans tours were a highlight of his playing career. The team, mainly vintage, to the Jersey Squash Festival were referred to as

the 'Rigor Mortis Squad' but when they won their group it was changed to the 'Vigour Mortis Squad'! They borrowed a wheelchair to take the captain up for their prize!

- Another memorable tour was to Belfast at the height of the troubles. Remembered, not only for the home side's hospitality but for barricades, barbed wire and intense security.
- The 5 star Los Monteros Hotel in Marbella for the Spanish open was another favourite. Many GB Vets entered including Tony Gathercole and John Timperley.
- In 1981 he helped inaugurate the O45 and O55 singles Club Championships. (The finals were held at the New Malden Club). Whilst his successes were mainly as runner up or in the plate events he did manage to win the O55 doubles with Don Howell in 1986.
- When the Inter County Veterans matches started he managed and played for Sussex and later in the Sussex Vintage team.
- He remembers a very sad occasion when Brighton hosted the South of England. He was marking a match when that great squash character, Dick Bourne, collapsed and died on court. At his funeral the little chapel was overflowing with his friends.
- On a lighter, brighter note he met many celebrities at squash matches including Leonard Rossiter and Tommy Steele.

Over the years Norman has thoroughly enjoyed his squash – it has provided relief from a stressful production management career, been great for his social life and provided much needed exercise.

We look forward to seeing Norman for many years to come at finals weekend and other GB Vets functions.

**NB. Norman's ghost writer!**

### SPRING NEWSLETTER BY E MAIL?

There has been an overwhelming positive response by members who received the Spring 2009 Newsletter by e mail.

It is therefore the plan to continue this policy for future Spring editions and to now investigate ways of saving further monies by making the Handbook available to members via the website.

**belles@waitrose.com**

## NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**MANDY AKIN**  
2009 Ladies Champion

Mandy's squash achievements to date are outstanding. Represented England O35 and O40, a total of 14 caps. British Open O40 Champion twice, O 45 Champion in 2008. British Closed O40 Champion 2005, O45 Champion 2009.

She has also won the GB Vets Ladies singles title for the last 5 years and the Doubles with Karen Hume for 3 years. Mandy will have a particular remit on the committee that of raising the profile of Vets squash and of recruiting more lady members.



**MIKE CLEMSON**  
2009 O65 Runner up

Mike learnt to play squash at the early age of 14 and has just completed his 50th season in Division 1 of the Hull and District League. Captained English Universities in 1964, played for Yorkshire O55's for 10 seasons and O60's since inception. Played for England O60's and O65's and has several Masters Regional titles to his name. He is currently the British Open and National O65 Champion and he won the GB Vets O60's title in 2006.

Mike will be our Northern Representative whose primary task will be to recruit new members.

### NEW RULES FOR DOUBLES

The World Squash Federation has published new rules for doubles which will be in force at the Commonwealth Games in 2010. The main changes are as follows:

**Scoring** is to be the best of 3 or 5 games, PARS (point a rally) to 11 or 15 with sudden death at 10- all or 14-all.

**Serving order.** The nominated first server from team A loses a rally and the marker calls 'Hand out'. The first server from team B then serves. That team loses a rally and the marker calls 'Hand out'. The nominated second server from Team A then serves....and so on.

**Hitting an opponent with the ball.** A conduct penalty must be given if the referee decides the striker's action is dangerous.

**Interference.** More aligned with singles – and points awarded.

**Interpretation for our Tournament.** In the knockout stages the current rules will apply. During the semi-finals and finals we will play the best of 5 games to 11, with sudden death at 10-all. Strokes will be awarded in extreme cases of interference.

### 10 YEARS AGO GB VETS IN NEW YORK...



*Phil Ayton, John Woodliffe, Trevor Wilkinson and Lance Kinder enjoying the Manhattan Skyline from the Staten Island Ferry.*

A six man team spent a week in the Big Apple organised by Neil Stewart.

**Result:** Played 5 Won 3 Lost 2

### ...AND OLD YORK



*Left to right: Fabio Goriup, Stewart Gray, Tony Claydon, John Woodliffe and Patrick Wood. In front: Julie De Vider and Sue Hudd.*

With apologies for the poor picture quality – but they all look so young don't they!?  
**If anyone has a contact in New or Old York and is prepared to organise a GB Vets tour please contact any member of the committee.**

## HOME INTERNATIONALS

Congratulations to all members who recently represented their country. All England players except where noted.

### NOTTINGHAM 1/2 MAY 2009

#### Women's O50

Karen Hume, Bett Dryhurst, Eunice Bond (Scotland).

#### Men's O65

Adrian Wright, Len Froggitt, Mike Clemson, Tony Clifford, Brian Hardcastle, Myron Evans (Ireland), Brian Phillips (Wales), Gary Williams (Wales)

#### Men's O70

Lance Kinder, John Woodliffe, Tony Seare, Alex Richardson (Ireland), Tom Hannon (Ireland)

### EDINBURGH 8/9 MAY 2009

#### Women's O40

Sam Willis, Jacky Jones.

#### Men's O45

Eamonn Price, Darren Withey, Alan Thomson (Scotland)

#### Men's O50

Stuart Hardy, Peter Alexander, Ian Bradburn, Duleep Adhihetty, Chris Harland, Mark Cowley.

### CARDIFF 15/16 MAY 2009

#### Women's O45

Claire Baker, Lesley Sturgess

#### Men's O55

Ian Holmes, Alasdair Niven, Paul Reader.

#### Men's O60

Martin Pearse, Phil Ayton, Barry Featherstone, John Smith, Mike Taylor, Howard Cherlin, Chris Wilson (Scotland), Peter Wilson (Scotland), Leighton Jenkins (Wales)

### ENGLAND WON ALL THEIR MATCHES!

**An apology.** To Claire Thompson (Scotland) who represented the Women's O45 for the last two years but was omitted from the Newsletter reports. Sorry Claire! **Ed.**

## CLUB SHOP

*We have the following items for sale:*

- Blue, v-neck pullovers with Club logo – **£30 inc. post & packing**
- White, polo style squash shirts with Club logo – **£15 inc. post & packing**
- Club ties – **£7.50 inc. post & packing**
- Club lapel pins – **£3.50 inc. post & packing**

*Please contact Gordon Coulthard, Treasurer, if you wish to purchase any item.*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### BRITISH OPEN

8-14 September Manchester

### 2009 WORLD MASTERS GAMES

10-18 October Sydney, Australia

### 1st INT. MASTERS IN EGYPT

22-27 October

### BRITISH CLOSED

9-14 February 2010 Manchester

### FRANCIS BAY DOUBLES

26-28 February 2010 South Africa

### CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

17-18 April 2010 Broxbourne, Herts.

### REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

**EAST** 25-27 September Bury St Edmunds

**WEST** 30 Oct-1 Nov Swindon

**MIDLANDS** 4-6 December Coventry

**SOUTH** 8-10 January 2010 Broxbourne

**NORTH** 5-7 February 2010 Pontefract

## The Lovely Game of Doubles

Squash doubles is now very popular and is recruiting more and more players each year. Some players are especially lucky to have access to a proper doubles court, which is 4ft wider than the standard singles court, but the game is still good fun on a singles court. However, because of the closeness of players to each other it can become quite heated at times and tempers can fray!

In an ordinary friendly game players are mainly tolerant of each other when they cannot see the ball because of a big backside or broad shoulders in front of them – as I write this I am thinking of Kevin Freeman many years ago – and a cheerful ‘for goodness sake clear the ball’ or a bit of banter keeps the game flowing. However, in match situations players are not always so tolerant and can become increasingly irate. In our own Tournament, the semi-finals and finals are refereed and although tempers can still bubble up occasionally our splendid officials will now impose strokes, but more importantly, ensure fair play is maintained.

The difficulty arises during matches leading up to the semi-finals. Competition is keen, naturally, and the vast majority of games are played in totally the right spirit, but we would urge that wherever possible players should recruit a marker from the host club to take off some of the pressure. Where from previous experience, or for whatever reason, players consider there may be difficulty with some opponents and cannot enlist the services of a willing marker, they should ask Geoff Howes, the Tournament Organiser, if he can find one and he will do his best to help.

The important thing is to enjoy the game – and remember, there is beer to follow!

## 46th AGM REPORT

53 members, including the committee, spent just under 15 minutes at Colets, Thames Ditton, agreeing formal matters, hearing reports and electing officers for the coming year. There were no dramas!

If you want to see the full minutes visit our website:

[www.gbvetssquash.co.uk](http://www.gbvetssquash.co.uk)

## Membership News

### NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members who have joined since the Spring 2009 Newsletter:

Alan Nelson – Nuffield Health, Bromley, Kent

Brian Donnelly – South Bank

Tim Carter – Beckenham

### LOST MEMBERS

Thanks to our Treasurer's efforts hunting down addresses from members banks the number of 'lost' has decreased significantly.

Do you know the whereabouts of any of those listed below?

If you do please let the Hon.Sec. know. Thanks.

Alf Barker Kevin Bevington Anthony Bodie

John Dobbin John Dover Ted Hare

Tony Roots Faith Sinclair Stephen Withers

## WHAT ABOUT A TOUR TO FRANCE?

Roger Morrell who now lives in France has offered to host a team to play against his local club in Cap d'Agde. The club has two glass back squash courts, 8 indoor and 24 outdoor tennis courts, badminton Courts, a small gym and an open air swimming pool. There are also a number of golf courses nearby.

Ryan air currently operate from Luton to Bezier (about 12 minutes away from Cap d'Agde) on Monday and Friday which would make a Monday to Friday or a Friday to Monday the most likely course.

There is a pleasant hotel near the club. July and August are out because of local use, but Sep, Oct, Mar, Apr, May and June are all good months to go.

Anybody who might be interested in going should contact John Woodliffe.

## SQUASH AN OLYMPIC SPORT?

Squash is one of 7 sports vying for inclusion in the 2016 Olympics. It is up against highly resourced sports such as rugby and golf. In June the W.S.F. (World Squash Federation) made formal presentations to the I.O.C. (International Olympic Committee) Executive Board in Lausanne. By the time you read this, the Board probably will have announced the 2 sports that it recommends for inclusion in the 2016 Olympics. In October in Copenhagen the I.O.C. will finally vote on the two sports to be included.

If you want to keep up-to-date with developments go to

[www.squash2016.info](http://www.squash2016.info)

**!!!! STOP PRESS !!!!**

## GB VETS TRIUMPH IN GERMANY

5 Golds and 3 Silvers at the inaugural European Masters held at Krefeld (near Dusseldorf) Germany 26-28 July 2009.

Congratulations to all!

### Gold Medal Champions

W O60 Bett Dryhurst

M O70 John Preston

M O65 Mike Clemson

M O60 Martin Pearse

M O45 Mark Woodliffe

### Silver Metal Champions

W O40 Sam Willis

M O55 Stuart Hardy

M O45 Eamonn Price

More info on [www.englandsquashmasters.com](http://www.englandsquashmasters.com)