



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

President: Philip Ayton

www.gbvetssquash.co.uk

Chairman: John Woodliffe

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

THE AMATEUR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS JESTERS TROPHY 2010



The Amateur Championships started in 1922 and past winners included many notable players – F.D.Amr Bey (Egypt) who won it 6 times in the 1930's, Jonah Barrington (Ireland) winning it 3 times and Geoff Hunt (Australia) once.

But in 1979 top players wanted to be paid and become professionals so the 'Amateur' would be no more. The last match in 1980 saw Jonny Leslie (England) beat Ross Norman (NZ) 3/0 at Wembley Squash Club.

However one man ignored this march of time and decided to carry on running the British Amateur Championships. That man was Peter Chalk, or 'Chalky' as he is affectionately known to all and sundry. This year he will have notched up an amazing 30 years running the event, now called 'The Jesters Trophy', without



Chalky on right being presented with his plaque by David Vaughan

sponsorship and, as far as anyone can tell, without interference from anyone else.

At the same event older players can enter the O35's, O45's (Veterans), O55's (Vintage), O60's (Venerables) and O65's (Vulnerables). Rumour has it that an additional event for the O70's will soon be added called 'The Vegetables'!

This year, as it has been since 2005, the events were held at the RAC, Pall Mall and were run over the weekend of 30/31

January with the finals being played on Monday 1st February. Following the finals all participants enjoyed a glorious buffet supper put on by the RAC but, we suspect, heavily subsidised by Chalky.

Results of the older age groups were as follows:

O45 Eamonn Price beat Tahir Hussain 3/0

O55 Mark Cowley beat Stuart Hardy 3/1

O60 Aubrey Waddy beat Martin Pearse 3/1

O65 Len Froggitt beat Tony Clifford 3/2 (Tony having been 2/0 up!)

All finalists are members of the Veterans Squash Club of Great Britain.

Chalky's Amateur Squash Championship is now a firm favourite on the squash calendar and participants showed their appreciation for all his efforts when David Vaughan, President of the Jesters, presented him with a commemorative plaque on finals night.

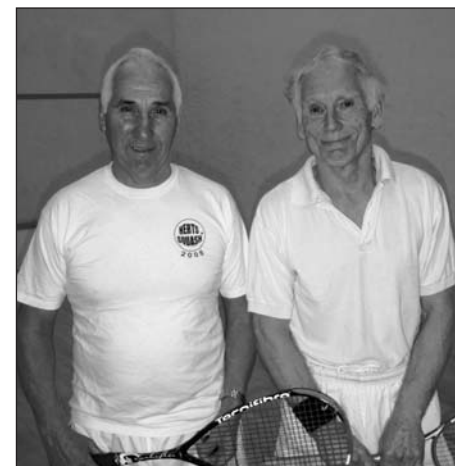
Keep it up Chalky!



O55 Stuart Hardy left & Mark Cowley



O60 Aubrey Waddy left & Martin Pearse



O65 Len Froggitt left & Tony Clifford

IN THIS ISSUE.....

- 2010 Club championships Results to date
- Match Tours & Tournaments Reports
- Squash Poem
- Notice of 47th AGM

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

Notice is hereby given that the 47th Annual General Meeting will take place at

Broxbourne Sports Club
Mill Lane Close, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire EN10 7BA

On Sunday 18th April 2010

Following the Club Finals and prior to the Presentations and Buffet Supper.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 2009 AGM
2. Interim Statement of Accounts
3. Chairman's Report
4. Election of Officers
5. Any other business

THE CLUB SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

The **Semi-Finals** of all competitions, Main and Plate, will commence at 11.00am on Saturday 17th April 2010.

The **Finals** of all competitions will commence at 11.00 am on Sunday 18th April 2010.

The Finals will be followed by the AGM, Presentations and the traditional buffet.

Everyone is most welcome to come along on both days to Broxbourne Sports Club – please support your Club and enjoy a great weekend of squash. Details of how to find Broxbourne SC are below.

The address of the Club is shown in the AGM notice and contact telephone numbers are:

01992 440209 – Club

07836 335494 – Geoff Howes

Broxbourne web site: www.broxbournesquash.co.uk

Details, including maps/routes to the Club and accommodation in the area, are shown on the website.

The route:

From the M25 Junction 25 head North up the A10 for 2.5 miles. Exit left to Broxbourne and join the A1170 for 2 miles. Go past Mill Lane (No right turn) and turn round at Richmond Court.

Return to Mill Lane. Mill Lane Close is 1st right.

From the north coming down the A10 exit to Hoddesdon. Join A1170 and head into Broxbourne.

Mill Lane is on the left after the Station Road traffic lights. Mill Lane Close is 1st right.

WORLD MASTERS GAMES – SYDNEY OCTOBER 2009

2 Gold and 2 Silver Medals for GB Vets

Only three GB Vets made the trip to Sydney last October and all came away with hardware. Over 400 squash players registered for the tournament. Due to the small numbers in both the 70-74 and 75-79 Open sections the players were divided into two groups of 3 or 4 players. The winners of each groups then played off for the Gold and Silver medals. The big surprise for the UK competitors when they got to the venue was the scoring system, it was PAR to 11.

Malcolm Gilham playing in the 75-79 led his group with two comfortable 3-0 wins, unfortunately picking up a shoulder injury in his second match. In the play-off, nursing a well strapped shoulder, Malcolm won quite comfortably (3-0) picking up the Gold medal.

Tom Hannon and **Brian Phillips** played in the 70-74's in separate groups; Tom's group proved to be just a little too strong for him and he

went down 3-1 and 3-0. In the other Group Brian managed to win two out of three games which, with the scoring system in place, put Brian at the top of the Group. In the play off Brian had a 3-2 win and picked up the Gold medal.

A good week was rounded off by Team GB gaining sufficient points to win silver in the O55's.

Brian Phillips

Footnote:

The Games was a massive event being larger than the Games in Edmonton 4 years earlier, with a total of over 28,000 competitors across all sports. These numbers caused considerable problems for the organisers during registration and parading for the opening ceremony with long delays for both.

2010 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the time of going to press, the 2009/10 Club Championships have reached the following stages:

Men O'45 Singles

Semi-finals

Eamonn Price
Nick Peel

v Mike Stewart or Marlon Solomon
v Darren Withey or Nicholas Atkins

Men O'45 Doubles

Still at quarter finals stage

Men O'50 Singles

Semi-finals

Chris Harland or Martin Miller
Philip Alexander or Dillwyn Rosser

v Richard Mosley or Mike Watters
v Alan Boulden or Stuart Hardy

Men O'55 Singles

Semi-finals

Mark Cowley or Albert Akin
Alasdair Niven or Andrew Larkin

v Paul Reader or Steve Jackson
v Terry Whitter or Stuart Hardy

Men O'55 Doubles

Still at quarter finals stage

Men O'60 Singles

Semi-finals

Philip Ayton or Harvey Kember
Barry Featherstone or Chris Ansell

v Geoff Howes or Chris Goodbourne
v Aubrey Waddy or Rob Smith or
or Leighton-Jenkins Howard Cherlin

Men O'65 Singles

Semi-finals

Adrian Wright or Brian Hardcastle
Mike Clemson or Edward Hall

v Terry Foley or Brian Phillips
v Graham Fisher or John Nicholson

Men O'65 Doubles

Finalists

Semi-finals

Aplin & Froggitt
Seare & Sayer

v Wright & Morrell

Men O'70 Singles

Semi-finals

John Woodliffe or Derek Tullett
Brian Philips or Tom Hannon

v Tony Seare or Ray Rook
v Lance Kinder or Brian Sayer

Men O'70 Doubles

Semi-finals

Woodliffe & Kinder
Seare & Sayer

v O'Brien & Barrett
v Davies & Little or Tullett & Rook

Men O'75 Singles

Semi-finals

Malcolm Gilham or Arrnold Reed
James Switzer or Brian Sayer

v Don Williams or Keith Spurgeon
v Brian Wise

Ladies O'40 Singles

Semi-finals

Mandy Akin
Claire Baker

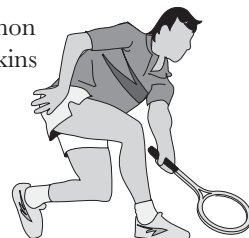
v Kim Ricks
v Jackie Gregory

Ladies O'50 Singles

Round Robin: Karen Hume – Lesley Sturgess – Averil Murphy –
Sue Pynegar – Kath Kemp – Lynne Davies

Ladies Doubles

Round Robin: Baker & Gregory – Akin & Hume – Sturgess & Pynegar



REGIONAL RESULTS... REGIONAL RESULTS...

EAST OF ENGLAND... BURY ST EDMUNDS – 25-27 September 2009

Women's

O50. 4 GB Vets – **Sue Pynegar**, **Lynne Davies**, **Karen Hume** and **Kath Kemp** – competed in a round robin. **Lynne** was the overall winner having won a crucial match against **Karen** 3/2. **Karen** was second and **Sue** third.

Men's

O50. **Ian Bradburn** powered his way to winning the final.

O55. No.1 seed **Mark Cowley's** court speed and pace was just too good for **Stuart Hardy** in the final.

O60. **Howard Cherlin** beat **Martin Pearse** in the semis and **Barry Featherstone** beat **Larry Grover** in the other semi. **Howard**, No 1 seed, despite an overdose of Merlot, proved too clever and his variations of pace too much for **Barry** in the final.

O65. **Adrian Wright**, beat 'the Don' **Len Froggitt** in the semis and **Mike Clemson** beat **Graham Fisher** in the other. **Adrian's** power and determination edged it 3/2 in the final.

O70. **Malcolm Gilham** sneaked past **Lance Kinder** 3/1. At the other end Irishman **Tom Hannon** took out **Tony Seare**. The final saw **Tom** take a 2/0 lead over **Malcolm** then lose the next two, but took the fifth 9/5.

WEST OF ENGLAND... SWINDON – 30 October – 1 November 2009

Women's

O50. New GB Vet **Jane Law** beat 30x world and national champion **Bett Dryhurst** 10/9 in the 4th in the first round and then lost in the semis. Newcomer **Lynne Davies** beat **Karen Hume** in the other semi but lost in the final.

Men's

O45. **Mark Hildred** pushed **Eamonn Price** in the ¼'s but **Eamonn** won another Regional title 3/1 of which 3 games went to 10.

O50. **Peter Alexander**, although eligible for the O55's, found life hard and lost to **Ian Bradburn** in the semis. **Chris Harland** won the other semi only to lose 3/1 to **Ian** in the final.

O55. **Peter Leary** seeded 2, lost to **Mike Tidy** in the first round. **Mike** then removed **Alastair Niven** but lost in the semis. In the other half of the draw **Stuart Hardy** sneaked past **Paul Reader** 3/2 but then lost in the semis to the eventual winner **Keith Jones**.

O60. In the top half **Barry Featherstone** progressed to the final but not before **Geoff Howes** took a game off him in the semis, In the bottom half **Larry Grover** succumbed in the ¼'s whilst **Mike Taylor**, having gained revenge over **Martin Pearse**, then lost in the semis. **Barry** notched up another title beating his opponent 3/0.

O65. No 1 seed, **Adrian Wright**, progressed to the final beating **Brian Hardcastle** and **Len Froggitt** on the way. **Graham Fisher** beat **Mike Clemson** 3/0 but was no match for **Adrian** in the final.

O70. Saw travelling partners **John Woodliffe** and **Lance Kinder** playing in the final for the umpteenth time. **John** edged it 9/2 in the final.

MIDLANDS... COVENTRY – 4-6 December 2009

Women's

O50/O55 Round Robin. **Sue Pynegar** beat **Lynne Davies** 3/2 in the final.

Men's

O45. **Andy Smith** and **Darren Withey** reached the semis, the latter losing in 5 and the former losing to the eventual winner **Eamonn Price** who did not drop a game all tournament.

O55. The two top seeds, **Mark Cowley** (1) and **Keith Jones** (2) reached the final which **Mark** won 3/0.

O60. In the absence of **Phil Ayton**, **Howard Cherlin** was No.1 seed but was knocked out in the semis. **Barry Featherstone** No.2 seed was untroubled by **Rod Boswell** and **Mike Tidy** but came unstuck in the final.although leading 2/1 and 4/0 he lost 5/9 in the fifth.

O65. A 6 man round robin with **Mike Clemson** sneaking **Adrian Wright** in the final 3/2.

O70. Was a round robin with **Lance Kinder** winning 3 matches out of 3.

NORTH OF ENGLAND... PONTEFRACT – 5-7 February 2010

Women's

O50 **Lynne Davies** came third.

Men's

O50. New GB Vet **Richard Millman** of Norfolk and South Carolina, USA fame, won 3/1 in the final having beaten **Chris Harland** in the semis.

O55. No glory in this age group for the GB Vets.

O60. **Mike Taylor** progressed to the semis having beaten **Larry Grover** 9/5 in the fifth in the ¼'s. No.2 seed **Howard Cherlin** having beaten **Rod Boswell** in the ¼'s then lost to eventual winner **Barry Featherstone** in the semis.

O65. **Mike Clemson** lost 10/9 in the fourth in the semis and the other semi saw **Graham Fisher** 3 points away from defeating **Adrian Wright**. However the Silver Fox won 9/6 in the fifth. He then went on to win the final 3/1.

O70. Despite losing 3/2 to **Tony Seare** in a 4 man round robin, **Lance Kinder** won all his other games and emerged on top with **Malcolm Gilham** coming second.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND... BROXBORNE – 5-7 March 2010

Women

O45. **Claire Baker** lost 2/3 in the final.

O50. Round Robin: **Karen Hume** second, **Sue Pynegar** third.

Men's

O50. **Chris Harland** beat **Dermot Hurford** in the semis but lost in the final.

O55. **Mark Cowley** beat **Stuart Hardy** in the final.

O60. **Chris Ansell** beat **Martin Pearse** 10/9 in the 5th in the semis but then lost 3/0 to **Barry Featherstone** in the final.

O65. **Tony Clifford** beat **Graham Fisher** 3/0 in the final.

O70. Another triumph for **Lance Kinder** beating **Malcolm Gilham** 3/0 in the final.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

THE BRITISH OPEN

Manchester 8-14 September 2009

MEN O45. Eamonn Price took 69 minutes to beat **Mark Woodliffe** 9/5 in the fifth in the semis only to succumb 3/0 in the final.

O50. Dermot Hurford and **Ian Bradburn** reached the semis. No one came close though to the well known New Zealander **Ross Norman** who took only 14 minutes and lost only 2 points to win in the final.

O55. First 2 seeds reached the final but **Peter Alexander** No 1 lost to **Mark Cowley**, No 2 3/0.

O60. In the semis **John Smith** (3/4) succumbed to the No 1 seed **Philip Ayton** and **Barry Featherstone** (3/4) lost to **Howard Cherlin**, No 2 seed. Unfortunately for **Howard** he had to retire hurt in the 4th game to give **Philip** yet another title.

O65. 2 seeding upsets saw No 1, **Mike Clemson**, lose in the semis and 3/4 seed **Len Froggitt** lose to 5/8 seed **Tony Clifford** in the 1/4's. No 2 seed **Adrian Wright** won the final 10/9, 10/8, 9/3.

O70. Lance Kinder having taken the first game against the No 1 seed, **Pat Kirton**, eventually lost 3/1, whilst **Brian Phillips** progressed to the semis in the other half.

WOMEN O40. Sam Willis was the only GB Vet to progress to the semis which she lost 3/1.

O45. Mandy Akin, the No 1 seed, progressed to the semis but unfortunately had to retire injured after just 12 minutes.

O50. Karen Hume and **Lesley Sturgess** progressed to the semis and the latter having won her match then lost in the final 3/1.

O55. Only 2 entries and **Bett Dryhurst** won yet another title to her already impressive list.

NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Manchester 9-14 September 2010

GB VETS TAKE 5 OUT OF 6 MENS TITLES!

MEN O45. EAMONN PRICE WINS! having beaten **Mark Hildred** in the 1/4's. **Darren Withey** progressed to the 1/4's.

MEN O50. RICHARD MILLMAN WINS! having beaten **Duleep Adhietty** in the 1/4's. **Chris Harland** and **Dermot Hurford** did battle in another 1/4 final with **Chris** winning but then also losing to **Richard**.

MEN O55. MARK COWLEY WINS! against **Peter Alexander**. **Peter** 2/0 and 6/1 looked sure of victory but **Mark** with determination, a succession of superb nicks and reverse angles eventually won 10/9 in the 5th.

MEN O60. BARRY FEATHERSTONE WINS! 9/6 in the fifth after 72 minutes, having beaten **Philip Ayton** in the semis also in 5. **Ian Graham** reached the semis.

MEN O65. ADRIAN WRIGHT WINS! **Graham Fisher** lost in the 1/4's and **Mike Clemson** in the semis.

MEN O70. Malcolm Gilham succumbed in the semis as did **Lance Kinder** to the losing finalist **John Woodliffe**.

WOMEN O45. Mandy Akin beat **Claire Baker** in the semis and after 60 minutes play **Mandy** lost in a tense final 9/4 in the 5th.

WOMEN O50. Bett Dryhurst, Karen Hume, Lynne Davies and **Lesley Sturgess** lost in the 1/4's whilst **Susan Pynegar** lost in the semis.

MATCH REPORTS

GB VETS vs CAMBERLEY

1st DECEMBER 2009

The annual match versus Camberley took place at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Match Manager, **John Woodliffe** and five others, took on the might of the home side, on three very good courts, on a brisk misty December evening.

One of the games was settled in 3 sets: **Seumas Kerr** losing 7/9,4/9,5/9.

Only one went to 5 sets and involved the two most senior players. **Lance Kinder** who, despite battling hard and long, eventually lost 8/10,6/9,9/7,10/8,1/9. **John Woodliffe** played manfully, in a very closely fought encounter, but lost 9/7,7/9,6/9,5/9.

John O'Brien won his match in four sets, 10/8,10/9,6/9,9/0 and **Andy Hartley** in a hard hitting game triumphed over one of Camberley's newer members in four sets 9/7,9/5,0/9,10/8.

As customary, the number One match finished the evening and all those involved enjoyed watching an excellent, tightly contested game of marvellous squash play, in which **Ian Robinson** beat the local man 9/10,9/4,9/8,9/1.

So the Vets Club notched up yet another hard fought victory 4/2.

Following the match, the après squash centred on the Royal Standard PH where 13 players and guests enjoyed an excellent meal washed down with some suitable liquid refreshment. All of those present vowed to be there for the return match in 2010.

Tony McStravick.



GB Vets: Back Row: Andy Hartley, John O'Brien, Tony McStravick 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively from left. Front Row from left: Ian Robinson, John Woodliffe, Lance Kinder. Seumas Kerr not in picture-left early.

GB VETS vs NORTHWOOD

9th DECEMBER 2009

Most of the regulars were available for this Vets Club annual event against the 'Old Northwoodians' in Middlesex and the first on court on was **Cliff Boyall**, the Vets Club number five who, after a valiant effort, lost 3/9,7/9,5/9.

Meanwhile the two captains commenced their third string match on the second court. Northwood got off to a good start by taking the first game 9/2 before **Gordon Ross**, for the Vets Club, got going to win the second game 9/7. The third game was also close with Gordon coming back from 4/7 down to level the score at 7/7 before Northwood found another gear to take the third 9/7 and the fourth 9/1.

Graham Davies, at four for the Vets Club found his opponent too strong, losing 2/9,4/9,4/9. This gave Northwood the overall match win, but **Russ Shipton**, playing at one for the Vets Club, had some enjoyable rallies, appreciated by those watching, against the Northwood number one before going down 2/9,7/9,0/9.

John Nicholson, at two for the Vets Club, had the unenviable task of going on court to avoid a whitewash. He lost the first game 9/6, but just edged a close second game 10/8, after both players had served for the game several times. The third and fourth games were also close, but the Vets Club player won them 9/5,9/6 to win 3/1.

This annual match has usually been won 3/2 by one side or the other over the last 15 years or so. Perhaps the fact that Northwood had a few players under 60 –just! – while all the Vets Club players were in their 60s and 70s had some impact on the result being 4/1 to Northwood, but, as ever, a pleasant social evening was enjoyed by all.

Gordon Ross

GB VETS vs DORKING

17th FEBRUARY 2010

This was a seven a side match, which was played as 5 singles and 1 doubles.

The first match on court featured the vastly experienced doubles pairing of **Lance Kinder** and **John Woodliffe**, who have probably played as many games of doubles together as any couple in the country. Experience again told in the end with a 3-1 win for the GB Vets.

Next on court was **Nigel Belle**, whose exquisite shots could not quite compensate for the reduced mobility from which he was suffering due to his scar ridden half new knees. He lost 3/1 which levelled the scores.

Geoff Gill played next for the GB Vets and had an epic battle. Geoff is a left hander who hits the ball ferociously hard and mixes it with some delicate boasts. He looked down and out after losing the 3rd game 9-1, but turned the match around with a 9-1 score in the 5th!

Geoff Howes took a young, very fit Dorking man to 5 but alas just lost. The overall match score was now 2-2 with 2 matches to play.

Dillwyn Rosser from Colets was called into the match just 2 hours before the start and proved to be an inspired choice of substitute and won 3/1 against an extremely fit Dorking opponent.

Last on court was **Ian Robinson**, who ominously said that he was not in match condition having not played a serious game of squash for 20 years! But Ian had not mentioned that he was a professional whose best ranking was in the top 20 in the world! He won 3/0

A highly entertaining evening was rounded off with 18 people round the table enjoying a great supper and some of Harriet's fabulous mince pies! Overall match result GBV 4 Dorking 2.

Bob Gray



GB Vets: Geoff Howes, Ian Robinson, Geoff Gill, Lance Kinder, Nigel Belle, John Woodliffe, Dillwyn Rosser

GB VETS vs THE FITZWILLIAM CLUB, DUBLIN

27th FEBRUARY 2010

Each year the Veterans Club plays the Fitzwilliam Club of Dublin on the day the England v Ireland Rugby International takes place. The match alternates between Dublin and London and this year it was London's turn to host the event.

Through the good offices of Gordon Kerr we were able to arrange the match at MCC Lords and to entertain our visitors to lunch in the Lords Tavern afterwards. The result could not have been closer as the six-a-side match ended 3-3, with each team winning 12 games. As the Fitzwilliam Club were the current holders of the McVeagh Trophy and the match was a draw, they retain the trophy until next year. The visitors enjoyed looking round the Lords ground and Museum, including The Ashes, after the match.

As always, the occasion was very enjoyable with some excellent squash being played in a very sociable atmosphere. The day concluded with dinner at the Queen's Club, organised once again by Robert Dolman. All the Fitzwilliam squash and tennis teams were represented, together with their weekend opponents from RAC Pall Mall, the Jesters' Club, the Public Schools Association and the Veterans Club of GB.

The results of our match were as follows:

Veterans Club		Fitzwilliam Club	
Nick Peel	beat	Damien O'Reilly	3-2
Gordon Kerr	beat	Jim Flynn	3-0
Geoff. Howes	lost to	Seamus Woulfe	2-3
Andrew Lowenthal	beat	Martin McDonnell	3-1
Bill Ryan	lost to	Martin Rodgers	1-3
Gordon Ross	retired injured	Seamus Toomey	0-3

CLUB SHOP

We have the following items for sale:

Blue, v-neck pullovers with Club logo	– £33 excluding post & packing
White, polo style squash shirts with Club logo	– £16 excluding post & packing
Club ties	– £7.50 excluding post & packing
Club lapel pins	– £2 excluding post & packing

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

Membership News

NEW MEMBERS

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

John Goodfellow	– Bishops Stortford
Kath Kemp	– Bishops Stortford
Mike Stewart	– Ashtead, Surrey
Graham Whitehead	– Oxshott, Surrey
Jackie Gregory	– Springheath, Chelmsford
Nick Atkins	– Hurlingham, Queens Club
Kim Ricks	– Esher, Surrey
Lynne Davies	– Cardiff
Tim Delves	– Edgbaston Priory
Mike Watters	– Foxhills
Martin Brooke	– Hyde, Manchester
Alan Edge	– The Northern, Manchester
Graham Hooper	– Wellington
Jane Law	– Bowdon, Cheshire
Martin Solomons	– Connaught, Chingford
Brian Hurst	– Colets, Thames Ditton
Andy Smith	– Petersfield, Hants
Mark Hildred	– Boston, Lincs
Susan Pynegar	– Nottingham SRC

'LOST' MEMBERS

We have lost contact with the following members:

Alf Barker	Kevin Bevington
Anthony Bodie	John Dobbin
John Dover	Ted Hare
Dave Hickman	John Grieve
Terry Farrington	

Do you have contact details for any of them? If you do please contact the Hon. Sec. Thanks.

We are most saddened to learn of the deaths of the following members:

Brian Booth	Tony Darbyshire
Alan Fuller	Jim Grandage
Neale Stainton	Prof. Ian Stevenson

AN APOLOGY

To Alasdair Niven who won the O55's Walrond Cup against Steve Jackson at the 2009 Club Championships only to find that his name did not appear in the list of past Champions in the Handbook! Apologies Alasdair. Ed.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Congratulations to GB Vets Chairman, John Woodliffe and his wife Terry, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 30th 2010.

Forthcoming Events

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

17/18 April 2010.

10th WORLD MASTERS

23/28 August 2010, Cologne, Germany.

HOME INTERNATIONALS

WO35, MO35, MO55	Cardiff	23/24 April 2010
WO50, MO50, MO70	Dublin	30 April/1 May
WO45, WO55, MO45, MO65	Nottingham	7/8 May
WO40, MO40, MO60	Scotland	14/15 May

SQUASH

(With grateful thanks to Oliver Pollard)

This court, white walls, wherein do play
lithe ladies, men past twilight day.
Beneath red lines, a 'temple' track
where hounding, bounding, chase the
ball as it sweeps around and bye,
then in the dust at corner die.
As clad in white, a squeal on wood
our shoes do make, the shot's too good.
As lost this point, is lost the set,
exhausted hang our arms in sweat.

Oh! respite time, without the court,
the cooling air, 'tis all too short.
Return with clump!, wood door in wall
at stance, perceive, in hand the ball.
Then served this sphere so highly tossed
eyes concentrate, opponent lost.
Huddering, scuddering boasts a nick!
that 'top spin drop', a knowing trick,
I reach in vain, our shoulders clash!
then chased a lob, in headlong dash!
A let refused?, we hands on hips,
discuss there previous baulks and trips.

This closet world, where skill is vied,
stamina, speed and guile are tried,
arrang'ed game, at date at hour,
'tis finished now, a drink, a shower.
Retains in us and outwards shows,
extended youth with fitness glows.
Our game born out of 'Rackets' old,
at turn of century, boys so bold
at Harrow school, had dared to make,
and leave this world, within their wake
an enlivened place!!!!

Brian Obey Bexley 1977

CHAMPAGNE WINNER



Mike Clemson's winning caption to the picture of Claire Baker in the Summer 2009 Newsletter was 'with PARS, do I get a Bakers dozen?' As Mike is a honed athlete and doesn't touch champagne, he was presented with 6 new Dunlop squash balls by Hon. Sec Nigella Belle at the British Closed in Manchester February 2010.

GB VETS TOUR TO YORK

November – 2009 30th Anniversary of Wiggington Squash & Social Club

There could scarcely have been more convolutions or incidents on Dick Turpin's ride to York.

The face of horsepower may have changed, hedges and ditches may no longer claim their victims, but the straightjacket of motorway, the stranglehold of congestion and surprise diversions have taken their place, and toll.

After six hours and 'a clear round' surmounting major roadworks and detours, Anne and I arrived at the Travelodge, just south of York a day before the match was due to start.

Fabio Goriup and Julie who came up the following day, Friday, fared less well and arrived during supper after their matches had been abandoned.

Despite these inauspicious happenings and the splitting up of the popular doubles duo of John Woodliffe and Lance Kinder the weekend was a success.

Ten years ago Stewart Gray was posted to York and set about finding a squash club, not just a squash club, but a friendly welcoming squash club. He found Wiggington and Nick Clifford.

Nick is the heart and soul of squash at Wiggington and he and Stewart soon found themselves agreeing that a visit by the Vets GB – some squash and much bonhomie – was an attractive idea and so a regular annual visit began.

The squash commenced on Friday evening with John Woodliffe and I, an untried doubles combination, won the first game by a few points but our rather younger opponents, fleeter and harder-hitting, won the next three games by narrow margins.

Tony Claydon was overcome by an equally youthful, fast-moving and accurate opponent 3-0.

Barry Featherstone had looked forward to playing his intended opponent and host, Nick. Nick however was called away at the last moment to fill a shortfall in one of the club sides for a league match. Instead, a teenage, up and coming player, on the edge of the national under-19's side, took Nick's place. After much running and controlled placements, Barry won 3-0.

John Woodliffe and Terry had to return south for Remembrance Day duties with Lance Kinder taking his place on the Saturday.

However, the ghosts of Dick Turpin or John Gilpin struck again and, after an unintended and enforced tour of Leeds, Lance and Jacqui arrived an hour late and Lance gamely went on court, still at the wheel, to partner me in the second doubles, again an untried partnership.

This was a great pity because our opponents – the club coach and a rather rotund but very gifted squash player had particularly sought a re-match of five years previous. Then, Lance and John, and the home pair put on a great display of doubles. This time, alas, we could not do justice to such memories and succumbed quickly and inertly to a much better pair.

Our lady player, Julie, did us proud with a display of power, touch and fitness from so slight a figure to win 3-0. Fabio just went down in the fifth.

Barry Featherstone in his second match of the weekend won 3-2 to add to his Friday victory and Tony Claydon went down 3-2 in his second match.

As a Club we had been keen to give our support to Wiggington on their 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Dance later that evening. This was held at Sandburn Hall, at Flaxton, attended by some 200 members and friends. I recalled the Dinner & Dance at the York Racecourse held five years ago and knew that this evening would be superb.

So it was – and their first lady chairperson, Linda Pepper, gave an astonishing anthology of information, records, humorous asides and coverage of family involvement mentioning all from the youngest, the successful, the loyal and the unusual covering the last thirty years in her maiden after-dinner speech.

On behalf of the Vets Club GB I presented our 40 Year History Book and emphasised that we came not to conquer but to enjoy our friendship with Wiggington.

After such an evening had drawn the last vestige of physical endurance from us we retired and in the morning departed south trusting our steeds would not come a cropper on the way home.

Brian Sayer



Brian Sayer presenting the Chairperson of Wiggington Club, Linda Pepper, with a GB Vets 40th Anniversary book.



Nick & Sheila Clifford, Tony Claydon, Ros & Barry Featherstone



Tony Claydon, Anne & Brian Sayer



Julie and Fabio Goriup



Jan & Stewart Gray