



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

MINI NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2020

NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

The members of the GB Vets Committee had to take the difficult decision to postpone both our Club Finals and the Annual General Meeting. One consequence of this is that I am still your Chairman!

Since that sad weekend in early March, we have now been sent into self-confinement with all pubs, gyms, cinemas, theatres, restaurants, garden centres and all but essential shops closed. However, it is probably true to say that most of the members of the GB Vets and England Squash Masters were most devastated by not being able to get onto a squash court! We are now all restricted to one run per day with or without the dog! A recent chat with Stuart Hardy, now the Chairman of England Squash Masters, showed that our early disappointment was soon shared by the England Masters who have not only lost their season finale of Home

Internationals, but also the indefinite postponement of the British Open. I also recently had a chat with our local professional Paul Chaplin who, like all of us, is unable to get on a squash court and is reduced to sitting in his garden!

Whilst most of us play our game to keep fit and convince ourselves that we are still twenty years younger than we actually are, our clubs with their staff and professionals have seen their businesses closed down. I was sad, but not surprised, to get a letter from the Oxford and Cambridge Club, my local tennis club and the sports centre that they had to close immediately without any real idea when they might be allowed to reopen. I am sure that all our members have had similar news with local squash clubs closed with no notice.

Of course, we squash players are not alone. Those football fans in Liverpool who already

have the champagne on ice, ready to celebrate a unique Premiership win; the rugby fans who wanted to celebrate their team winning the Six Nations and the vast number of potential Olympians robbed of a chance to shine in their sport in Japan later in the year.

However, whilst Stuart and I, together with our Committee members, look forward to the time when we are back on the squash courts, our thoughts at the moment are with our members and their extended families. We wish you all a safe emergence from these difficult times.

Tom Hendry

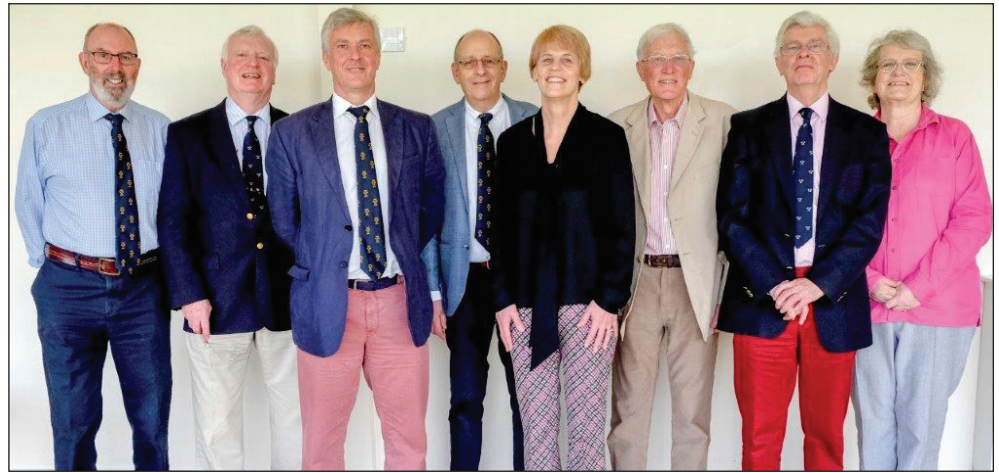
...and a message from our President...

'be sure to try and keep in touch with fellow squash veterans via a phone or virtual chat such as Skype, Zoom etc. and even raise a glass with them!'

Philip Ayton



Tom Hendry *Chairman*



2019/20 Committee

Geoff Howes *Tournament Director*, Nigel Belle *Hon. Secretary*, Nick Sheppard *Hon. Match Secretary*

Robert Smith, Karen Hume *Committee members*

Philip Ayton *President*, Tom Hendry *Chairman*, Di Hendry *Treasurer*.

NEW MEMBER

We warmly welcome the following new member who has joined since the last Newsletter:

Nigel Swain
Meadhurst Sports Club



JIM DOUGAL

It is with great sadness we announce that Jim Dougal passed away peacefully on 27th February 2020. Jim, who was a member of the GB Vets since 2011, was a tenacious match player with great touch and deception and confident of his own ability.

He was successful at Regional, National and International level – he won numerous Scottish Regional titles and won a total of five National titles at O55, O60 and O65. He won a silver medal in the European Championships in 2017.

His biggest success was winning the British Masters Open O65 title in 2016 where he beat John Rae in the final. Jim represented Scotland at the Home Internationals with great success from 2007 and captained the team which won the O65 title in 2016.

Jim will be greatly missed by all who knew him – another sad time for our squash family.



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GB VETS VS FITZWILLIAM – 21 FEBRUARY 2020

The annual match versus Fitzwilliam club was played to coincide with the England Ireland Rugby game weekend, which our visitors had fortunately secured tickets for on the Sunday 23rd February. This year, for the squash match we were able to secure courts at Lords Cricket Ground, facilitated by one of our players, **Gordon Kerr**, who is a member. Gordon was also able to secure a tour round the facilities, to the delight of our guests, who found themselves exploring the hallowed halls of the Long Room, the visitors dressing room and gazing at the ground from the players balcony.

The match itself proved a very close affair with all the strings closely contested. At string 4 Gordon kicked off in a tightly fought duel edging 2:1 in the lead only to run out of steam as his opponent clinched the game 3:2. On the other court No. 3 **Peter Culver** was involved in another tight duel, moving well after his recent hip operation. So well in fact that he took the match 3:1. Next on court was No 1 **Steve Johnson**, fresh from his British Open triumph, if not a little battered and bruised from his labours! Playing a talented much younger opponent Steve lost the first two very tight games, but in pulling one back ran out of

steam to go down 3:1. However over on the other court things looked more hopeful as **Tammy Bennett** playing her old rival Fitz Captain Michael Roden. Having lost some close recent encounters to him in previous matches things did not look good as she easily lost the first. However, rallying she played some great squash and ran out a 3:1 winner. So match level. Could the final 2 pull off victory. **Kim Ricks**



Steve Jackson, GB Vets Captain, right.

playing at 5 had a formidable opponent in the Irish Attorney General (AG). Could he bring his legal skills to bear on court or would Kim undermine his defence. The match was nip and tuck the whole way and with Kim standing at 9/6 in the fifth things looked good. However with some great shots and fair degree of luck with the frame of the racket the AG scraped home 12:10. Playing last could Captain **Steve Jackson** at least level the match. Playing a much younger opponent whom he had beaten 10/9 in the fifth in a previous match, he was always going to be up against it. With never more than a couple of points in it Steve looked like he would even the match at 9/6 in the fourth but his opponent had other ideas and with skill and a touch of luck squeezed home 13/11 to seal the game 3:1 and the match 4:2 to Fitzwilliam.

The dinner was held in the beautiful setting of Queens Club and we were joined by other Fitz teams who were playing the Jesters and Public School Old Boys. Some 40 people enjoyed dinner and some amusing speeches from the respective Captains. So lively were the proceedings that the two Steve's regaled the assembled gathering with a song duet that was a lament for past squash prowess!

Steve Jackson

BRITISH NATIONAL MASTERS RESULTS 11/16 FEBRUARY 2020

- MO35 **Jamie Goodrich** reached the semi-finals
- MO50 **Stephen McLoughlin** reached the semis
- MO55 **Ray Burke MBE** and **Eamonn Price** reached the semis
- MO60 **ALLEN BARWISE** beat **Neil Harrison** 3/1 in the final
- MO65 **STEPHEN JOHNSON** beat **Mark Cowley** 3/1 in the final
Stuart Hardy reached the semis
- MO70 **IAN GRAHAM** beat **Larry Grover** 3/2 in the final
Ian Ross and **Barry Featherstone** reached the semis

- MO75 **Mike Clemson** lost 2/3 in the final
Adrian Wright reached the semis
- MO80 **VINNIE TAYLOR** won the 3 man pool
- WO50 **Rachel Woolford** reached the semis
- WO55 **MANDY AKIN** won the final 3/2
- WO60 **Karen Hume** reached the semis.

RICHARD MILLMAN

Richard is the creator in the US of the 'Millman Experience' a squash learning and training system. He has just notched up 27 years at the Squash Doctor Corp.
CONGRATULATIONS!

LOCKDOWN – WHO CARES!

Heard a Doctor on TV say to get through the boredom of self isolation we should finish things we start and thus have more calm in our lives. So I looked through the house to find all the things I've started but hadn't finished...so I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Jock Danielas, a bottle of wum, the remainder of Valiumun scriptuns, an a box a chocletz. Yu haf no idr how feckin fablus I feel rite now. Sned this to all who need inner piss. An telum u luvum xxxx

STAY FIT, SAFE, HEALTHY & HAPPY!

Best wishes to you all and keep up the jokes, advice, banter and comments. Why don't you email me something for the next Newsletter?
– secretary@gbvs.co.uk
Let's hope we can all get back to normality very soon.