



NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2022

WORLD MASTERS REPORT MEDAL WINNERS



MANDY AKIN

WO60 GOLD medal. Won all her games 3/0 except losing one game in the final against the No.2 seed.



KAREN HUME

WO65 GOLD medal. Won all 4 matches, not losing a game!



ANN MANLEY

WO75 GOLD medal. Won all 5 matches, not losing a game!



ADRIAN WRIGHT

MO80 SILVER medal. Lost 7/11 in the fifth in the final to the No.2 seed.



IAN ROSS

MO75 SILVER medal. Lost in the final to the No.1 seed.



BETT DRYHURST

WO75 BRONZE medal. Played 5 won 3 lost 2



BARRY FEATHERSTONE

MO75 BRONZE medal. Lost in semis to No.1 seed, then won the 3/4 play off.

Hasta La Vista Squash Club in Wroclaw (pronounced vrot-swaaf) is the biggest squash club in the world with 33 courts, badminton, table-tennis and a big gym and they hosted the World Masters event for about 680 players across 19 different age-group events. Built on an industrial estate in a converted factory, it's ideal for players although the spectator facilities reminded me of visiting the January sales in Oxford Street.

Match organisation was poor, for no discernible reason, as you had to wait until about 9pm before learning where and when your next day's match was scheduled. With a Monrad system for most events, it should be possible to allocate times and even courts days or weeks ahead. This also meant that players in the smaller events didn't have their first match until Wednesday so why travel on the previous Saturday and incur extra hotel costs? Fortunately, we were able to book

(or grab) practice courts, so I actually played for the best part of an hour every day, with a variety of players who were not in my age group.

While some categories had between 70 and 95 players, requiring play over the full week, most were smaller like my over 75s with 20 entries. I played a South African, an Australian, then a Canadian and finally an American – they had one thing in common in that they were all charming, good company and very sporting. Obviously, standards varied but most players were National Champions, or close to it, or were used to playing competitively on a regular basis.

There were two further parties, after the first one which I missed, both held at hotels away from the Club, with good buffets and dancing and entertainment provided, though it was noticeable that alcohol consumption was quite conservative until the Farewell Party

after play had finished.

I joined half a dozen other players in an electric mini-coach driven by a local Guide and this was an ideal way to get the flavour of the City with a running commentary from a well-informed local student all in a two-hour timeframe. In fact the old town is set around the Rynek, which is a very large square full of bars, restaurants and other entertainments.

Special memories for me must include the closing Medal presentation where 7 GB Vets won a medal, see above, and England won the Nations Cup. Also there was some jaw-dropping squash, especially in the younger categories topped by the final of the Mens Over 35s. Finally, to the camaraderie of the players – across gender, ages and nationalities. This was a week to savour.

Report by James Dubois Pictures by Nigel Belle

IN THIS ISSUE...

- THE KAREN HUME INTERVIEW
- CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT
- MEMBER NEWS & MORE



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

POLAND – INDIVIDUAL PLAYER REPORTS



NIGEL BELLE
MO80. Lost in group stage to eventual winner 1/3. Overall won 2 lost 2.



EUNICE BOND
WO65. Won her 2 group matches but lost next 3. Placed 4th.



RIK BOXER
MO65. Lost 1/3 in first round. Monrad. Won a further 2 matches.



TIM BURRELL
MO45. Progressed to 4th round. Placed 15 of 80 draw.



PAUL CLARKE
Official Referee. Excellent marking as usual.



LYNNE DAVIES
WO65. Lost to No.1 seed in group stage. Won next 3 matches, placed 5th.



JAMES DUBOIS
MO75. Lost in 1/4 final to No.1 seed. Placed 8th of 20 draw.



DAVID GRANT
MO70. Lost in 1st round and doesn't want to talk about his other losses!



DAVID HARRIS
MO60. Won his first match 12/10 in the fifth, then lost to the 3/4 seed.



DERMOT HURFORD
MO60. Reached the 4th round. Placed 13th of a 92 draw.



RICHARD MILLMAN
MO60. Lost in the 1/4's to the No.1 seed. Placed 5th of 92 draw.



RIPLEY OYLER
MO65. Reached the semis. Placed 4th.



SARAH PARR
WO50. Reached the semis. Placed 4th.



NICK PEEL
MO60. Reached the 3rd round. Won a further 3 matches. Placed 25 of a 64 draw.



EAMONN PRICE
MO55. Reached the 4th round losing in the fifth game. Placed 9th of a 92 draw.



DAWN ROBINSON
WO55. Lost to the 3/4 seed. Placed 16th.



MATTHEW STEPHENSON
MO50. Reached the 4th round. Placed 11th of a 76 draw.



ROBERT SMITH
MO75. Lost to the No.2 seed in the second round. Placed 14th.



AUBREY WADDY
MO75. Lost in the semis to the No.2 seed. Placed 4th.



SUE WASTIE
WO65. Lost both matches in the group stage. Placed 10th.

RICHARD MILLMAN



With the Nations Cup.

A Painter's Prayer

There was a painter whose usual practice was to dilute the paint. He thinned it by adding water, so it covered a greater area, but was not as good or as durable. The painter landed a big job painting the church and had just finished when a storm arrived with thunder, lightning and torrential rain so fierce that it

removed all the paint. Amid the thunder and lightning, there came a loud voice...

"REPAINT"

It boomed

"REPAINT",

AND THIN NO MORE!"





The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

KAREN HUME - One Player, Five Questions Interviewed by Aubrey Waddy

GB Vets players watching a customarily controlled performance from Karen Hume would hardly guess that after one of her youthful hockey tours, she was given the 'Star Wars Award'. What was that for, you wonder? Her renowned Darth Vader stare, focussed on her opponents! The look continued to be a useful ally in her teaching career, and quite possibly for those tricky moments when appealing to the Marker for a let. Watchers would be less surprised, in the context of Karen's athleticism, to know that she has various other sports in her background. As well as the lightsabre hockey, she enjoyed netball, and, particularly, tennis, which she played "all day every day" as she moved into her teens, inspired by Bjorn Borg. During a long chat, she mentioned a single sports regret, that she didn't take up squash sooner. She couldn't afford coaching in her early squash days in Bromley, at a time when the tennis influence in her swing could have been toned down.

The GB Vets players imagined in the previous paragraph, presented with Karen's own estimation of herself, would simply not understand, "Always the bridesmaid," she says. "I'm a plodder(!)" "Not interesting(!)" Then she mentions, "I've never considered my record." This explains the bridesmaid remark. The reality is clear from the stats: Karen has no fewer than fourteen regional Masters titles, spanning the o-40s to the o-60s. In 2019, she was o-60s National Champion. In 2011, she won the European o-50s title. In 2018 in Charlottesville, she was runner up in the o-60s World Championships. And pride of place, in 2016 in Johannesburg, Karen became o-55 World Champion. It's an exclusive group of players who have won National and European and World titles.

Karen has played for many years for Kent in all age group categories. She was first selected for England way back in the o-35s, although by then she was an age group higher, in her forties. She had been encouraged into Masters squash by Mandy Akin. She hasn't missed national selection in many of the years since. She had started squash as soon as courts were built at Bromley Cricket Club, when she was 19, and it became her main



Karen Hume

sport a few years later for the usual reasons of time, which apply especially to women after having children. Hockey she was really sad to have to give up. Not that she could have played hockey at nine months pregnant, which she did with squash, "to try to hurry my son (James) along!" It didn't work because James was ten days late. Karen complains that the nine-months-sized bump gave her, "the awful habit of returning serve from backhand to forehand!" She stopped playing earlier with her daughter Alex, at eight months. Both kids are doing well in life, and have provided a couple of grandchildren.

Karen's first career job was as a secondary school geography teacher at a sprawling Comprehensive in Woolwich, after which she moved to a primary school. She had gained her teaching degree at Avery College, then part of London University. She reflects on how lucky she was to have had the 39 years of her career at the time she did, "I had an absolute ball." These days, absurdly, experienced teachers have to complete exactly the same exhaustive teaching plans and associated paperwork as Newly Qualified Teachers. It's "no longer fun." Part of Karen's fun as a teacher came with the sporting successes of her junior teams in hockey, netball and athletics. Her netball team was top of the Borough for many years.

Outside squash, Karen's interest in geography is probably a help in one of her enduring passions, quizzing, which she traces all the way back to

Bamber Gascoyne (Sunday lunchtimes for the teenage Karen, after Thunderbirds!) Another passion is art, with currently two classes a week with different teachers, and regular visits to exhibitions. She stays in touch with former colleagues in a book club, and her interest in music is clear from the tour to Memphis (chez the late Elvis), Nashville and New Orleans that she and her husband Robert Smith, another leading GB Vets member, did with Mandy and Albert Akin, and Nigel and Jane Belle, after the World Championships in Charlottesville.

As for Karen's notable style, and the influence of her tennis background, the beauty of squash is that not everyone has to wield a racquet like a lightsabre. Robert is, "very good with advice." In the world championship final in Johannesburg, when Karen was 0-2 down, Robert gave what is always the best between-game advice if you're in any doubt, "just hack it!" With her background, Karen was perfectly equipped to execute ("temperament-wise, I'm quite strong"), and the discouraging score of 6-11, 5-11 became 6-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-6, with Karen understandably elated.

Karen wouldn't be a Masters squash player without a history of injury. Four knee operations for a really bad knee injury obliged her to miss the whole of the 2015 season. But "the rehab worked", and it was in 2016 that she won her world title. In recognition she was chosen, alongside Keeley Johnson and the late John Rae, as one of the three England Squash Masters Players of the Year. She is currently struggling with an ankle injury, but despite the ankle, competitors in her age group may be discouraged to hear her say, "I've so much room for improvement." She is coached by Ben Ford, so it seems likely that she will improve, playing a bit less but doing more gym work. Listening to Karen talking about squash, it seemed to me, a lot of the improvement will come from her applying her sports brain.

Along the way, another squash truism, the pleasure of doing it: "I love the camaraderie."

1. Who was the best player you ever played?

Sue Wright when she was 13. I just managed to win.

2. What was your hardest match?

Versus Julie Field in a regional PARS to 15 when she beat me 23/21 in the fifth.

3. What single squash memory would you take to a desert island (but not your hardest match?)

Walking up to the podium to be presented with my World Championship Gold Medal in Johannesburg 2016. *

4. World champion at netball, tennis, hockey or squash. Given the choice of one, which would it be?

Squash of course.

Fifth question, chosen by Karen:

5. Why do you continue to play after so many injuries?

Because I love squash – it's addictive.

*** STOP PRESS! Karen won GOLD in the Women's O65 World Masters Championships in Poland, August 2022!**



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS REPORT 2022

Over the weekend of 3rd 4th September the Club Championships were held at Colets. Due to the low numbers of entrants, all of the Tournament matches were played over one weekend. Even with the construction work taking place and the unavailability of access to the balcony there was plenty of excitement and some great matches to watch.

A very crowded Saturday schedule saw all of the knockout events reaching the finals stage and most of the Round Robin matches played. Sunday was Finals day and completion of the Round Robin events. Winners of the Men's singles were Dan Sweeney O'45, Fergus Burnett O'50, Marvin Rust O'55, Teejay Sogunro O'65, Ian Graham O'70, Barry Featherstone O'75 and Mike Clemson O'80. The Ladies O'55 winner was Kim Ricks.

The Non-County events were won by David Parker O'55 and Keith Ragg O'65. The Ladies and Mixed Doubles were fantastic matches and were won by Kim Ricks & Tammy Bennett and Karen Hume & Fergus Burnett. Other doubles winners were Dermot Hurford & Nigel Stiles O'50, Peter Maskell & Adrian Bowles O'60, Ian Graham & Philip Ayton O'70 and Alistair McMeckan & Roger Sulley O'75.

My thanks must go to the two main markers, Dean Clayton and Paul Clarke, who give a whole weekend of their time to come and make the tournament finals a success, and to Jane Belle for all her help on the tournament desk.

After the completion of all the matches there was a bit of chaos as our proposed venue for the AGM

was suddenly moved to the cafe bar, where we all crowded in for a speedy (12.45 Minutes) AGM, followed by the presentation of the trophies and the buffet.

Over the weekend the two players playing the most matches were David Parker in 3 events and Mike Clemson in both the O'75 and O'80 singles, plus the O'75 plate.

In recognition of his services to the club Robert Smith was awarded the Burrell Trophy and for his contribution to the tournament the Norman Hunt trophy was given to David Parker. Thanks again must also go to Colets for allowing us to host our finals at the club. Hopefully next time all the refurbishment work will be completed.

Geoff Howes - Tournament Director



NC O55 S
David Parker W
Nick Sheppard RU



NC O65 S
Keith Ragg W
James Etheridge RU



M O80 S
Nigel Belle RU
Mike Clemson W



M O75 S
Barry Featherstone W
Phil Ayton RU



M O70 S
Barry Featherstone RU
Ian Graham W



M O65 S
Peter Culver RU
Stuart Hardy W



M O60 S
Teejay Segunro W
Allen Barwise RU



M O55 S
Marvin Rust W



L WO55 S
Kim Ricks W



M O50 S
Fergus Burnett W



L Doubles
Karen Hume & Mandy Akin
(in black) RU
Kim Ricks & Tammy Bennett W



Mixed Doubles
Fergus Burnett & Karen Hume W
Dermot Hurford & Kim Ricks RU

Legend: NC=Non County. RU=Runner up. W=Winner. M=Mens. L=Ladies. S=Singles. D=Doubles



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

RESULTS NON COUNTY RUNNER(S)-UP

EVENT

O55/64 Singles Plate

O55/64 Singles (The Hendry Jug)

O65 Singles Plate

O65 Singles (Smith/Hume Salver)

Nick Sheppard

Martin Miller

James Etheridge

WINNER(S)

Chris Lowry

David Parker

Harry Parkes

Keith Ragg

MAIN TOURNAMENT

O80 Singles

O75 Doubles (Kinder/Woodliffe Cup)

O75 Singles Plate

O75 Singles (Howell Cup)

O70 Doubles (Leo Melville Trophy)

O70 Singles (Pellew Salver)

O65 Singles Plate

O65 Singles (Perkins/Dengel Cup)

O60 Singles (Burch Salver)

O60 Singles Plate

O60 Doubles (Burch Trophy)

O60 Doubles Plate

O50 Doubles Plate

O50 Doubles (Warlingham Decanters)

O55 Singles (Walrond Cup)

O55 Singles Plate

Ladies O55 Plate

Ladies O55 Singles (Keith White Trophy)

O50 Singles (President's Cup)

Ladies Doubles (Belle Salver)

Mixed Doubles Plate

Mixed Doubles (Akin Cup)

O45 Singles

The Burrell Trophy 2022

The Norman Hunt Trophy

Nigel Belle

Nigel Belle & Robert Smith

Phil Ayton

Geoff Howes & Aubrey Waddy

Barry Featherstone

Peter Culver

Allen Barwise

Alan Leffen & Steve Pusey

David Parker & Ash Chakraborty

David Parker

Dawn Robinson

John Lane

Karen Hume & Mandy Akin

Dermot Hurford & Kim Ricks

Nick Sheppard

Mike Clemson

A. McMeckan & R. Sulley

Mike Clemson

Barry Featherstone

Ian Graham & Philip Ayton

Ian Graham

Harry Parkes

Stuart Hardy

Teejay Segunro

Chris Lowry

P. Maskell & Adrian Bowles

James Dubois & Mark Hayden

Fergus Burnett & Nick Sheppard

Dermot Hurford & Nigel Stiles

Marvin Rust

Nick Sheppard

Polly Woodward

Kim Ricks

Fergus Burnett

Kim Ricks & Tammy Bennett

Dawn Robinson & Allen Barwise

Karen Hume & Fergus Burnett

Dan Sweeney

Robert Smith

David Parker



M O75 Doubles
Roger Sulley & Alistair McMeckan W



Burrell Trophy
Robert Smith



M O70 Doubles
Ian Graham & Phil Ayton W Aubrey Waddy & Geoff Howes RU



M O50 Doubles
Dermot Hurford & Nigel Stiles W Nick Sheppard & Fergus Burnett RU



Markers
Parker, Smith, Belle, Clarke, Clayton



M O60 Doubles
Peter Maskell & Adrian Bowles W



Norman Hunt Trophy
David Parker



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

CHAIR'S UPDATE



Ian Graham

The season has started with some impressive successes at the recent World Championships and our own tournament finals at Colet's. Competitive matches followed by a well-attended AGM showed the Club remains very active.

I remarked at the AGM our future lies in team matches with local clubs around the country and against larger organisations like the Civil Service, Universities and Representative matches where more players can be fielded. Our Newsletters must continue being informative and keeping retired players up to date with club activities. Golf Days extending into the Midlands and North are proving popular. A format will be found to increase participation in our club

championships for next year.

Finally, 2023 will be our 60th Anniversary. A Festival and Dinner will go ahead at the RAC, Woodcote Park. There will be Golf Days in the South, Midlands and North. The multi-player fixtures will also include matches against the Home Nations Masters' teams.

A lot of Squash to be played and we need you all to look at the website to offer match managers your services. We are a club that wants players of all ages and abilities representing our teams.

With all good wishes for an injury free season.

Ian Graham
Chair

GOLF DAY REPORT 2022

This year's Golf Day (Southern) took place at Surbiton GC on Monday September 5th the day after the Club Championships. This allowed a few players from the north to compete without having to travel again.

We had a great turnout with 20 golfers this year, the weather was perfect and the course was in excellent condition. There were some great scores and some not so great, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and there were prizes for all.

Best score of the day went to David Johnson who moved from last position a year ago to Champion Golfer this. Allen Barwise was in second place and

John Galt third. There were prizes for nearest the pin and longest drives for both men and ladies. Various other random prizes were awarded. Longest drive to get there went to Dillwyn and Gitti Rosser who live in Germany. Having to buy new socks (his were black not white) to Garry Williams.

All in all a great day on the course completed with a drink, some good food and the usual tales of fortune both good and bad.

The fixture is provisionally booked for the 4th September next year but with a 9.00 start. Hopefully even more of you will join us next year.

Geoff Howes



Chris Harland, Dillwyn Rosser,
Phil Ayton, Peter Child



John Galt, David Johnson, Allen Barwise



Polly Woodward, Maggie North,
Gitti Rosser, Chris Howes

A Priest's Last Wish

A devout priest was lying on his deathbed. Asked if he had a last wish he replied "I'd like you to bring me a banker and a politician to my bedside". When they arrived he wanted one either side of him and he asked them to hold his hand. After a minute or two

a bemused nurse asked the priest why did he want to have a banker and a politician at his bedside. "Well" he said "I want to die with a thief on either side of me!"



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

59TH AGM REPORT

32 members attended the 59th AGM held on Sunday 4th September at Colets, Thames Ditton. The President and Chair 'whipped' through the agenda, approving last year's minutes, the 2021 accounts, the Chair's report and the Committee for the coming year.

Sadly Tony McStravick, Our longest serving Vice President decided to retire, see article below. We welcome James Barrington onto our Committee. All other Committee members were re-elected. This took just 12½ minutes, almost a record!

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2022/23

President: Philip Ayton

Vice Presidents: Tony Gathercole, Lance Kinder, John Woodliffe, Tom Hendry

Honorary Life Members: Jonah Barrington, Mike Clemson, Alex Hamilton

Chair: Ian Graham

Hon. Secretary: Nigel Belle **Hon. Treasurer:** Robert Smith

Hon. Match Secretary: Nick Sheppard **Publicity:** Ian McKenzie

Tournament Director: Geoff Howes

Committee: Karen Hume, James Barrington

Area Reps: Allen Barwise (North), Ian Ross (Scotland), Lynne Davies (Wales), Andy Murray (Midlands)

ESM Representative: Stuart Hardy

A copy of the minutes of the 59th AGM, which will be formally approved by the members at the 60th AGM, can be found on our website under 'Latest Pages'.

THE GLEN RAGOU MEMORIAL CUP

The Glen Ragou Memorial Cup, now in its 5th year, was played on 17th September at Sutton Coldfield Squash Club.

25 players from the 'North' vs 25 players from the 'South'. The event is intended to be a social but competitive one, with the winning team

presented with the Glen Ragou Cup and all profits going to charity.

A CLOSE RESULT: NORTH 61 POINTS, SOUTH 57

A total of 14 GB Vets competed – 5 from the North: Alison Goy, Polly Woodward, Ian Bradburn, Allen Barwise, Jamie Barnett. 11 from the

South: Geoff Redfern, Nick Sheppard, Catherine Ruffle, Mandy Akin, Ripley Oyler, Sarah Parr, Andy Murray, Karen Hume, Luke Rawlins.

VICE PRESIDENT RETIRES!

Tony McStravick, who has been a member since 1981, over 40 years, has decided to retire on health grounds. He has been a most active, dedicated, enthusiastic and loyal supporter.

He was Hon. Match Secretary from 1984-88, a Match Manager over many, many years and a Vice

President since 1999 – a truly remarkable record.

He kept playing squash twice a week until his wife contracted breast cancer and who died in 2007. Since then he kept up with many members and was always to be seen at the finals weekend and the AGM. He will have many great memories.

On behalf of the Club we wish him well in his retirement and hopefully we may see him at our Diamond Jubilee dinner/dance at RAC Epsom in November 2023.

Editor.



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Robert Blair - Barnton, Cheshire
- Alex King - David Lloyd, Gidea Park
- Emilio Fazzi - Newlands Tennis Club
- Jeanette White - Colets, Thames Ditton
- Simon Evenden - Lings & Saints
- David Gray - Penrith & Carlisle
- Kathryn Gray - Penrith & Carlisle

MEMBER INFO

Don't forget you can access all members details via our website:

www.gbvs.co.uk

Login: GBVETSSQUASH

Password: RACKET7288

ALL UPPER CASE

'LOST' MEMBERS

Surely someone must know the whereabouts of a 'lost' member below? If so please let the Hon. Sec. know.

- Alf Barker
- Tim Higginson
- Robert McIntosh
- Aubrey Smith

OBITUARIES

Very sad to report that the following have gone to that great squash club in the sky:

- Tony Waller member since 2008 died 2022 aged 91
- Alan Oates member since 1989 died 2022 aged 89
- Jim Peyton member since 1989 died May 2022 aged 79
- John Bullock member since 2002 died August 2022

BUY CLUB MERCHANDISE ON LINE!

Go to www.iprosports.co.uk

click on 'Club Zone' scroll down to the GB Vets logo

and then follow the instructions!

Exception: Lamb's wool v neck pullovers.

For information contact the Hon. Secretary.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	MATCH MANAGER
7-9 October	Jersey Festival	Jersey CI	Allen Barwise
9 October	Festival of Squash	RAC Epsom	Ian Graham
23 October	Cambridge University	Cambridge	Nick Sheppard
27-30 October	Gibraltar Tour	Gibraltar	Allen Barwise
30 October	Lancing College	Wimbledon	Nigel Belle
4-6 November	Midlands Regional	Wolverhampton	Visit ESM website
24 November	Purley Squash Club	Purley	Nigel Belle
26 November	Chichester	Chichester	Ian Graham
3 December	John Rae/Jim Dougal Memorial event	Carlisle	Allen Barwise
9-11 December	South Regional	St.Albans	Visit ESM website
12 January 2023	Roehampton	Roehampton	Nick Sheppard
13-15 January	East Regional	Ipswich	Visit ESM website
21 January	Oxford University	Oxford	Nick Sheppard
8-12 February	National Championships	TBC	Visit ESM website
9 March	Hurlingham	Hurlingham	Nigel Belle
6 April	Dorking	Dorking	Nigel Belle
14 April	Oxshott	Oxshott	Nigel Belle
19 April	RAC	Pall Mall	Nigel Belle

MORE CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTOS



M O60 Doubles
Steve Pusey & Alan Leffen RU



M O45 S
Dan Sweeney W



Referees
Paul Clarke & Dean Clayton



Jane Belle & Geoff Howes



Jacqui & Lance Kinder