



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain



MINI NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2022



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Club has had another really successful year. There have been great new fixtures playing up to 15 a side. We have been fascinated by the answers to 5 questions posed to **Sara Howlett, Philip Courtenay-Luck, Mark Cowley and Karen Hume**. A growth in new members too with 24 joining so far this year.

2023 is our 60th Anniversary and numerous events are planned. Matches against Home Nations Masters teams, Golf in the South, North and Midlands and our annual Festival linked to the 60th Dinner and of



Ian Graham

course our annual Club Tournament.

So much to look forward to and the Newsletter/Website will keep you up to date. Huge thanks to all committee members who do a fantastic job of keeping everything moving forward and to all the members for playing matches, reading, and contributing to newsletters.

With all good wishes for Christmas and 2023.

Ian Graham Chair GBV

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY!

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 25th November 2023

**Dinner/Dance & Festival of Squash
RAC Epsom**

More details on page 2

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The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

DIAMOND 60 ANNIVERSARY OUTLINE PLANS

- **BLACK TIE DINNER/DANCE** with pre dinner drinks, Magic Man, Auction, Raffle and much more.
- **FESTIVAL OF SQUASH RAC Epsom.**
- **MEGA 15-a-side MATCHES.**
- **INTER-CLUB MATCHES.**
- **GOLF DAYS** in North (Windermere 8th May), Midlands (Sandwell Park, West Bromwich 3rd July) & South (Surbiton 4th September).
- **CLUB TOURNAMENT** with a difference.
- **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY HANDBOOK.**

APART FROM PLAYING SQUASH I ALSO...

The Covid-19 emergency forced the country into a protracted lock down with many squash facilities closed even after lockdown. This forced many members into their other interests with many trying something new. Bett decided on a Concept 2 indoor rower. She quickly regained fitness and looked for competitions!

First up were the England championships in 2021 where Bett won the O75 titles at 500m and 2000m at her first attempt! This provided the motivation for further training



Bett Dryhurst

and a shot at the World Indoor Rowing championships in 2022. You will not be surprised to read that Bett came through this challenge to win her first world title at 2000m beating her closest rival by 20 seconds. We send our congratulations to Bett on this brilliant achievement.

If this article is not tempting you to pen a letter to Santa(!), could you please offer yourself or another and tell us what you are doing.

Ian Graham

The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

INTER CLUB MATCH REPORTS

VS LANCING – 30 OCTOBER – LOST 1/3

The inaugural match vs Lancing College took place on Sunday 30th October at the Wimbledon Club. Lancing play in the Londonderry Cup, an annual competition for Public School Old Boys. 15 or so teams take part so this match was a warm up for them prior to their first round match later in the year. Unfortunately 2 of the Lancing team withdrew the day before the match so the GB Vets loaned them a player and we played 4-a-side.

Fergus Burnett at No.1 had to retire after a long, tough first game with back trouble.

Chairman **Ian Graham** at No.2 had an excellent hard game against the Lancing Captain (30 years or so his junior!) but narrowly



Graham, McCarter, Sweeney, Burnett, Boulden

lost in the 5th.

We had loaned **Dan Sweeney** to play against newcomer **Dale McCarter** and again after 5 great hard fought games Lancing Dan ran out the winner.

Alan Boulden at No.5 had a relatively easy win 3/0.

So a 3/1 win for Lancing.

Much chatter, a few drinks and light refreshments followed and all agreeing to renew the contest next year.

Nigel Belle

VS CHICHESTER – 26 NOVEMBER – DRAW 3/3

This annual fixture is in it's 30th year. Past players often return to watch and have lunch. This year our match was graced with Graham and Pat Fisher with Lance and Jacqui Kinder. There were 6 matches that were all competitive. 9 GB Vets played, with **Ian Graham**, **Chris Lock** and **Stephen McCloughlin** playing for their home club Chichester.

It was the Chairman **Ian Graham** who got the Vets off to a flying start by losing 0-3 to **Geoff Lees**! Meanwhile, our President **Philip Ayton** was embroiled in a tough game. It was always going the full 5 games with Philip finally losing 13-15 in a very close match. On the glass back GBV Captain **Paul Reader** could not find enough of his winning shots losing 0-3. Chichester Captain **Chris Lock** then defeated

Barry Featherstone in 3 close games. This left the top two strings requiring wins for our



Both teams

team to snatch a draw. **Gareth Hall** duly obliged with a good 3-1 victory. **Stephen McCloughlin** had struggled with the power hitting of Chichester player, but a move onto the glass back after the first game and a tightening of line and length suddenly put a different complexion on the match. Keeping it straight and playing some great angles proved a winning combination for Stephen and a 3-1 victory tied up the match at 3-3.

We had a very enjoyable lunch and lingered to catch up with old friends before collecting crutches and zimmer frames with promises to return next year. Thanks to Paul and Chris for putting two well matched teams together and the club for their generous hospitality.

Ian Graham

VS PURLEY – 2 DECEMBER – WON 3/2

Always an enjoyable close fixture and this year proved no exception.

Andy Davies at No.2 and **Adam Rich** at No.3 started the evening off with Andy winning relatively easily 3/0 whilst Adam had 4 close games and won 3/1. **Cathy Ruffle** at No.1 playing excellent squash lost the first, easily won the 2nd, narrowly lost the 3rd 16/18 and succumbed 7/15 in the 4th. **Dan Sweeney** playing his usual effective slightly unorthodox game won 3/1. So with the match effectively



Belle, Ruffle, Rich, Davies, Sweeney

won the two reluctant match managers, Purley's GB Vet **Fabio Goriup** and GB Vets **Nigel Belle** took to the court, the original No.1's for both sides having withdrawn injured. In a see-saw match which saw Nigel with 2 match balls in the 4th surely would make it 4/1 but no he lost that one and the 5th, so a GB Vets win 3/2.

Great post match chat and supper and all agreeing a good time was had by all.

Nigel Belle

VS ESCORTS – 18 NOVEMBER – LOST 2/3

With **Nick Sheppard** playing 2 matches, as the Escorts were short of a man, he lost one 0/3 and won one 3/0 vs fellow GB Vet **David Parker**. Whilst **Ash Chakraborty** lost 0/3, **Mick Murray** won 3/0 vs fellow GB Vet **Richard Mosley** therefore levelling the scores at 2/2.

The final match was doubles with the Escorts pair taking on Ash and Mike. 2/1 to the Escorts.

A win therefore of 3/2 to the Escorts.

Nick Sheppard

TOUR REPORTS

JERSEY SQUASH FESTIVAL

7-9 OCTOBER 2022

This was GB Vets first foray into the frenetic social whirl that is Jersey Squash Festival. An endurance event rather than a straightforward squash tournament comprising of 40 teams of five players. We were extremely fortunate to gain entry as this is a much sought after event.

The squad comprised of Allen Barwise (Capt), Ian Bradburn, Ali Goy, Dave Gray, Polly Woodward and new member Robbie Blair. We were allocated a place in Div 4, probably because of our age profile.... which comprised of two groups of four teams. First up was a team from Chelmsford who took us to a tight 3-2 finish. The Vets managed to come through with wins from Robbie, Dave and Allen. Polly and Ian losing in close contests.

Later that day, wins for Allen, Robbie, Ian, and Ali took us through against Trojan Squash. Saturday's match against Regent Rackets proved successful in the Vets reaching the final by winning 5-0, a strong performance despite the previous nights social activities.

Sunday morning's final was against a strong team from Enfield, Manntrain. A great set of guys who played the game in the right spirit. Ali went on first losing a close match 3-1 a good effort despite feeling a little under the weather. Robbie our debut boy used his technical game and excessive long reach to level the match winning 3-1. Ian then took out their number 3 in decisive fashion showing he'd not lost any of his power and aggressive boasting ability. Vets 2-1 up.



Robbie Blair, Ali Goy, Allen Barwise, Dave Gray
Polly Woodward, Ian Bradburn.

Allen then had his best performance of the season narrowly losing to a guy in his 20's, 2500 points above him on squash levels. A very close 3-2 defeat in which Allen had 3 match balls. Dave then took to the court knowing he had to win to clinch the title. Again his opponent was nearly 40 years younger and much higher ranked, despite this the match went to the final game and it see-sawed throughout but Dave missed out 11-9.

A runners up medal and trophy was presented to the team and despite the disappointment of not taking the top prize everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hopefully the Vets will get an invite next year.

An added bonus was the team being interviewed by Jersey TV. Allen was asked about the history and role of the Vets within the squash fraternity and he utilised the opportunity to promote and market the club.

Allen Barwise

GIBRALTAR SQUASH FESTIVAL

28-30 OCTOBER 2022

Another first for the GB Vets Squash Club, an invitational event in Gibraltar. Two matches against Gib select sides held at a splendid venue on the coastline. The organisers and club members giving the Vets an incredibly warm welcome.

The squad comprised of, in team order, Allen Barwise (Capt), Steve Edmondson, Ian Bradburn, Ali Goy, Sam Balsdon, Bryan Francis and Polly Woodward. Unfortunately Simon Evenden had to withdraw at the last moment due to a family hospitalisation.

We played Gib A on Friday night with superb wins for Polly 3-0, Bryan 3-1, Ali 3-2, Ian 3-2 and Allen 3-0. Steve 1-3 and Sam 2-3 narrowly missing out. A hard closely fought match to kick off the series winning 5/2.

Saturday's match against Gib B proved a tougher contest due to a stronger selection at the head of the order. The ladies played really



Allen Barwise (right) being presented with the
plaque by Troy Charvetto.



Ian Bradburn, Ali Goy, Bryan Francis, Allen Barwise,
Steve Edmondson, Polly Woodward, Sam Balsdon.

well to give the Vets a great start both winning 3-0. Bryan and Sam then had 3-1 wins to take an unassailable 4-0 lead. This is where the game turned with Ian narrowly losing out 3-2, 11-9 in the fifth. Steve then met a much younger and fitter opponent losing 3-1. The number ones served up a gruelling, fitness sapping match with Allen taking on the recent Commonwealth competitor Christian Navas who took the match 3-1. Allen struggling to match a guy 35 years younger. A 4/3 win by the GB Vets to take the trophy.

A social event followed with the Vets being presented with a commemorative plaque by the host of the club Troy Charvetto. The Vets then entertained several of the players and officials to an Indian meal as a thank you for a very special weekend. A return fixture has already been arranged for next mid July in the North of England.

Allen Barwise.



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

NORTH – GROVE PARK

30 Sept – 2 Oct

4 WINNERS

Matthew Stephenson MO50
Ian Graham MO70
Ian Ross MO75
Sarah Parr WO50

5 FINALISTS

Neil Harrison MO60
Paul Reader MO70
Barry Featherstone MO75
Cathy Ruffle WO45
Karen Hume WO55

7 SEMI-FINALISTS

Neil Cross MO40
Tim Burrell MO45
Allen Barwise MO60
Stuart Hardy MO65
Terry Belshaw MO70
James Dubois, Aubrey Waddy MO75

MIDLANDS – WOLVERHAMPTON

4-6 Nov

4 WINNERS

Matthew Stephenson MO50
Ian Graham MO70
Ian Ross MO75
Sarah Parr WO50

5 FINALISTS

John Parkes MO60
Simon Evenden MO65
Terry Belshaw MO70
Aubrey Waddy MO75
Karen Hume WO60

9 SEMI-FINALISTS

Tim Burrell, Eamonn Price MO45
Jeremy Krzystyniak MO50
Steve McLoughlin MO55
Allen Barwise MO60
Stuart Hardy, Ian Bradburn MO65
Lesley Sturgess WO60
Barry Featherstone MO75

SOUTH – ST. ALBANS

9-11 Dec

7 WINNERS

Neil Cross MO40
Stuart Hardy MO65
John Goodrich MO70
Barry Featherstone MO75
Cathy Ruffle WO45
Sarah Parr WO50
Mandy Akin WO60

7 FINALISTS

Tim Burrell MO45
Steve McLoughlin MO55
John Parkes MO60
Paul Reader MO70
Aubrey Waddy MO75
Keeley Johnson WO45
Karen Hume WO60

8 SEMI-FINALISTS

Jeremy Krzystyniak MO50
Andy Murray MO55
Nigel Bacon MO60
Ian Bradburn MO65
Simon Evenden MO65
Terry Belshaw MO70
Chris Ansell MO75
Alex King WO50

A farmer named Sam was overseeing his herd in a remote hilly pasture in Herefordshire when suddenly a brand new BMW advanced toward him out of a cloud of dust.

The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, RayBan sunglasses and YSL tie, leaned out of the window and asked the farmer, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?"

Sam looked at the man, who obviously is a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing animals and calmly answers, "Sure, why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in



Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses an MS-SQL Database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-colour, 150 page report on his hi-tech miniaturized HP LaserJet printer, turns to the farmer and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves," says Sam.

He watches the young man select one of the animals

and looks on with amusement as the young man stuffs it into the boot of his car.

Then Sam says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?" The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a Member of the European Parliament", says Sam. "Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?" "No guessing required," answered Sam. "You showed up here even though nobody called you, you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used millions of pounds worth of equipment trying to show me how much smarter than me you are, and you don't know a thing about how working people make a living – or about cows, for that matter. This is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog."

And that friends is why it is so great that we have left the EU!!! (Supplied by Howard Cherlin a few years ago).

JOHN RAE/JIM DOUGAL MEMORIAL MATCH – CARLISLE 3RD DECEMBER 2022

We wanted to remember two great Scottish Squash players, **John Rae** and **Jim Dougal**, who played Masters events with great success and competed in the England Squash Masters circuit regularly. Unfortunately both passed away far too early just before COVID which delayed this event. But, **Allen Barwise** (England) and **Ian Ross** (Scotland) produced a magnificent trophy and the event, a match between the Veterans Squash Club of GB and Scotland was on.

So, the teams met at Carlisle Squash Rackets Club and were well looked after by Ronnie Bell before the battle commenced.

There were two Ladies matches and **Polly Woodward** started well against Scotland's Sue Stachan taking the first with some clever squash. Sue's power started to tell in the second however and she gained the upper hand and won 3/1. England International **Alison Goy** had a different problem playing the very talented daughter of Jim Dougal, Mhari who played a fine game, moving beautifully and hitting well. Alison conceding two age groups battled well but went down in four games. **Two up to Scotland.**

England struck back with top 70s players **Terry Belshaw** who had a tricky match up with Scotland International **Emilio Fazzi** a renowned shot maker. But Belshaw produced a fine array of winners and won through in straight games. The Veterans Club were soon in trouble, however as **Leo Kingston** was out-powered by a slightly younger opponent in the lively Alex Sinclair, again going down in four. Things got worse when former National Champion **Aubrey Waddy** fell to Ernie Cowell, the Anglo-Scot



Ian Ross receiving the trophy from Jacinta Dougal.

who produced a fine match to recover from losing the first to win 3/1. **4/1 to Scotland** The talented **Robbie Blair** always had the edge over Scotland o-65 International Bryan Jackson - runner up in the Scottish closed - but Robbie's racket skills took the day as his power and touch took the day in straight games. England Masters Chairman **Stuart Hardy** had an interesting match up against Scotland's British Open and European Masters 70s Champion **Ian Ross**. The first was tight but when the Englishman took it 13/11 he settled and powered through the next two to put the overall score at **4/3 to Scotland. All to play for.**

Scotland extended their lead when a flurry of errors saw **Tommy Elves** go down fairly quickly to the combative Alex Allen. And things were decided when Scotland cunningly deployed a very good player at no. 2 in Barry Masson. Even the varied skills of **Peter Lonsdale** could not cope with the very solid game of the younger man, so **6/3 to Scotland.**

The top match was European Champion **Allen Barwise** against National Champion Robin Ridley the Scotland no. 1. Barwise was the favourite having not lost to Ridley before and his powerful brand of Squash took him to 2/1 up. But a hamstring injury finished the match as Barwise had to retire injured.

So a final score of **7/3 to Scotland.** The first winners of the Rae - Dougal Memorial Trophy meant that the lovely cup, which was presented by Jim's wife, Jacinta, went north of the border. Hopefully to return in two years time.



England team: Barwise, Elves, Lonsdale, Goy, Blair, Belshaw Woodward, Hardy, Waddy, Kingston.



Both teams

Stuart Hardy



The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

NEW MEMBERS

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

Peter Lonsdsle - Durham & Cleveland
Gareth Hall - Winchester, Army
Dale McCarter - Army Academy
Neil Cross - Lexden Rackets & Fitness

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

OBITUARY – HOWARD CHERLIN

Howard 'Merlin' Cherlin (Middlesex & England) one of our top Masters Squash players passed away on 22nd November 2022 after a long illness.

He was a notable Squash Player being a National top 20 player in his youth and a regular on the tournament circuit and Squash in London. Playing out of South Kensington SC he amassed 18 Club Championships there before moving to Roehampton and the Wimbledon Club and winning there as well. He served Middlesex well and took o35, o45 and o55 titles there as well as leading them to the Inter County Championship.

Always unorthodox and playing with a smile, he was difficult to read and his racket skills were sublime. Sending an opponent



completely the wrong way gave him great enjoyment!

With the Masters he notched up two British Opens and three National titles as well as a European Masters in 2019.

He was a regular player in the Veterans Club of GB events and toured South Africa with a team winning the Inter Provincials and won two VCGB singles titles.

Howard was a lovely man and a unique character. He will be greatly missed and our condolences go to his wife, Sally who has given him tremendous support.

Stuart Hardy.
Chairman. E.S.M.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	MATCH MANAGER
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
27-30 January	Jesters Tournament	RAC Pall Mall	See Jesters website
29th January	Cambridge University	Cambridge	Nick Sheppard
8-12 February	National Championships	Edgbaston	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
6-11 June	British Open Masters	Colets	Visit ESM website



MERRY CHRISTMAS! AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!