



# 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

## NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2023

### 2023 A YEAR TO REMEMBER! 2024 A YEAR TO LOOK FORWARD TO

SEASONS GREETINGS. This Christmas message comes at the end of a very busy 60th Anniversary year for the club.

There have been 3 very successful matches against England, Ireland and Wales involving many different GBV players from across the country. Multi player matches against Civil Service, Fire Brigade and Cambridge University combined with the usual fixtures against more local clubs have given chances to all standards of squash players. Tours to Jersey, the Fitzwilliam Club and from Gibraltar have been a great success. There was an inaugural Doubles fixture against the Jesters at the RAC, Woodcote Park, and our annual Festival there too. Our 60's Disco at Colet's proved to be an entertaining social event to round off our year.



Ian Graham

I am indebted to those who have made all this possible. Secretary Nigel Belle (ably assisted by Jane), fixtures organised by Nick Sheppard, tournament run by Geoff Howes (ably assisted by Chris), finances kept in order by Robert Smith are central to all that happens. Thanks too to Karen Hume for the 60's Disco and our area reps who contribute in many different ways.

2024 is going to be another year of moving GBV forward to involve more members and build on all the great work done in our first 60 years.

*Wishing you all a merry Christmas and happy 2024.*

**Ian Graham**  
Chair

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

## AND AN INJURY-FREE, HAPPY 2024

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## MANDY AKIN - One Player, Five Questions

### Interviewed by Aubrey Waddy

Squash is an intense sport, and no one plays it with greater intensity than Mandy Akin. Players' personalities are pretty obvious on court. The no-nonsense message coming from Mandy, as she bustles seriously between points, to the service box or preparing to receive, is that her opponent will have to be at their very best to challenge, not only Mandy's skill, but just as significantly, her will.

The stats tell the story of how this has played out. Mandy has represented England in every age group she's been eligible for, from the o-35s to the o-60s. Currently, she's the o-60s World Champion, having decisively beaten her opponent Sari Niemisto in the final in Wroclaw, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6, something of a drubbing in PAR scoring. She was probably displaying even double the intensity in Wroclaw: she had been fourth in the Worlds in 2011 in Birmingham; then runner up in 2018 in Charlottesville. She was beginning to doubt she'd ever win what really is the ultimate championship for a Masters squash player, fearing that, "this is going to elude me." Finally, "(It was) almost a relief winning!" With a world championship at the top of her pinnacle, Mandy has also won two European titles, nine British Opens, eight Nationals and fourteen regionals. In 2020, when she held the European, National and British Open titles simultaneously, she was recognised as one of the England Squash Masters Players of the Year. In the background to all the squash, Mandy's other passion has always been horse riding. Three Day Eventing, cross country, show jumping and dressage. She was hugely into riding as a child, long before she took up squash. This led to an early ambition to be a vet, but she was too much into sports, the rounders and the netball and the horses. "I always wanted to be the best." The prospect of many years of study for veterinary medicine simply didn't appeal. The horses were more practical and most of her life from 11 to 16 was spent at the stables, where she looked after horses and taught people to ride. Annual visits to Hickstead show jumping ground



Mandy Akin

have always been and still are a highlight in the year for Mandy.

Mandy was introduced to squash almost by chance. In 1981 she had a hit on a college court at Cambridge with a friend. At the time, she didn't even know what squash was! Soon she joined the New Eltham Club... played once a week... had some coaching... started playing for the ladies' team in the mid 1980s... made it into the Kent 2nd team... then the Kent 1st team... won the Kent Closed... still plays for the o-40s team and since 2012 the o-50s when the competitions are run... meanwhile started into Masters squash with the Nationals... four times runner up in the o-35s. She had the distinct disadvantage in the o-35s finals of meeting players such as Liz Brown, Juliet O'Neill and Carol Page who, in contrast to her, were more composed on the glass court reserved for the finals. Then the enormous thrill of her first National title, in the o-40s.

The rapid progress Mandy made following her chance outing in Cambridge enabled her to enter British Open at Lambs several times, when she was good enough to win one or two early rounds. What would have happened if she'd started as

a junior? "I don't look back. No regrets." She has though enjoyed the environment created by Ben Ford at Bexley Squash Club, and has been coached by Ben for a number of years now. Over the years she's had the opportunity to play many of the juniors coming through, notably Gina Kennedy and Paul Johnson (aged 11 at the time!) Mandy still kept a horse for the first ten years of her squash life, which must have involved a lot of juggling, taking into account her developing career as a project manager in banking. She started with Bank of America in London and was made redundant after sixteen years. Then, to avoid the commute, a move to the Woolwich in Bexley Heath, before the Woolwich was taken over by Barclays. Back to Canary Wharf; 25 years later she's still there!

Covid of course allowed Mandy to work from home for a while. In the enforced absence from squash, she enjoyed a lot of one of her other interests, cycling (what would have happened if she'd started on the bikes as a junior!) Cycling has been a regular part of her life, aided by the semi-rural local surroundings at home. These days she does some limited stuff in the gym, and routines with her husband Albert, himself a good squash player. Like so many Masters players, she has to regulate the amount she plays against the amount a suspect joint will tolerate, in Mandy's case a bad knee.

After winning the World Championship, Mandy imagined she would settle down to playing just a couple of times a week, plus some cycling, plus walking her dog. But I've seen her often enough since Wroclaw in 2022 to suspect that gentle squash two times a week won't be enough. She so clearly enjoys the camaraderie of Masters squash, notably the GB Vets. And I suspect that the other element of squash you see in the best players, a mentality tuned to winning, will not allow her to adopt the pipe and slippers approach. This was born out by a comment Mandy made in the middle of our chat, "I was always quite competitive!"

### Here are Mandy's five questions.

#### 1. Who was the best player you played?

Probably Fiona Geaves (former World Number 5) in the Nationals Over 40's Semi-Final – not surprisingly I lost.

#### 2. What was your biggest disappointment in squash?

That I ran around too much and destroyed my knee – maybe if I'd slowed down a bit I might have been able to carry on until I was 80.

#### 3. What was your hardest match?

The longest and probably the hardest was against the lovely Fiona McClean, who unfortunately is no longer with us ☹. It was the Over 55 British Open final in 2017 at Colets and she beat me 3/2 but the match scores were ridiculous at least 4 of the 5 games went to set and ended 23/21 – 16/18 – 16/14 – with the final game ending with Fiona winning

19/17 – (I can't remember the score in the other game). The match was over an hour long which for two over 55 year olds was pretty epic.

#### 4. Which would it be, a squash World Championship gold (beating Egyptian opponents in the semis and the finals!), or an Olympic championship in Three Day Eventing?

Once (years ago) I would've said Olympic Three Day Event but now I think it would be the World Championships gold (maybe as I know what it feels like to win the World Championships!)

Fifth question, chosen by Mandy:

#### 5. What would I have done if I'd never discovered squash?

I would've taken up Football and played for the Lionesses and become rich and famous! (Maybe that's in my dreams though!)



## FESTIVAL OF SQUASH - RAC EPSOM

### 26th NOVEMBER - REPORT & PICS

The final event in our 60th anniversary year was held at Woodcote Park by kind permission of the RAC. The usual 4 teams of GB Vets, Escorts, RAC and Army all produced competitive teams with 37 players in all. The event drew several retired members, and we were pleased to welcome Vice Presidents **Tony McStravick**, **Lance Kinder** with **Jacqui**, and **Tom Hendry** with **Di** who really enjoyed meeting up with old friends and watching some very good squash.

It was clear from the first games that each team had come ready to compete for the trophy with **David Parker's** Escorts determined to overcome a series of lower placings in previous years. Early results kept all teams tightly bunched and it remained like this all day. Handicaps worked well in most contests and less so in others, but all teams remained in with a chance of overall victory.

What no one had realised was that the last match would be the day's defining moment. The Escorts needed a win to

draw level with the RAC. A fabulously high-quality match between Johnny Machin (Escorts) and Alex Mayle (RAC) eventually was won 11-9 in the final game by the Escorts which tied the tournament on 51 points each. It then went to matches won leaving the Escorts the winning side with 12 victories to the RAC's 10. The GB Vets were 3rd and the Army (very unusually) last.



**Ian Graham with David Parker**

Thanks were given to **James Dubois** for arranging the managing the day with the RAC, and to **Jane** and **Nigel Belle** for ensuring all players got to the right court at the right time. Thanks were also expressed to the team captains – **Dale McCarter** (Army), **Shayne Baillie** (RAC) **Ian Graham** (GB Vets) and of course **David Parker** (Escorts) and to all players for making the day so successful. There then followed delicious baguettes and wine.

Whist older players lamented injuries; the youngsters seemed surprised that 3 matches could prove so arduous! We all left quietly determined to return next year with an even better team to collect the coveted trophy from a gloriously happy David Parker (who had had his swim too!). A fantastic year for GB Vets with many of the previous matches in Newsletters and on the website.

**Ian Graham**

Chair, Losing Captain (again!)



**GB Vets team (part)**



**Army team**



**Escorts team**

**RAC team:**

Alex Mayle, Bill Saville, Richard Winter, Julian Peak,  
 Rob Wetherston, Paul Gregory, James Dubois,  
 Patrick Fleming, Paul Gazzard, Angus Baillie,  
 Julian Glogg, Joe Steidi, Shayne Baillie.



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## 60'S EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE GB VETS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The final weekend of our Anniversary year saw 60 members attend a 60's disco for our final 60th year celebration, and what a night!

Huge thanks go to **Karen Hume** who had the original idea and went on to organise the whole thing superbly. Karen was ably assisted by **Robert Smith** and a lot of mannequins (not, I hasten to add, other committee members)! **Jane** and **Nigel Belle** provided original clothes from the 60's that they had worn themselves. Thanks to **Nick Wise** who produced excellent posters and LP covers (gratis!) and Karen with lots of helpers dressed the room.

There were clothes and masks for those wanting pictures. There was fantastic bowl food x 4 – Cone of scampi & chips, Thai green curry, lamb tagine and chocolate brownies all served by the hard working Colet's bar staff with **Geoff Howes'** liaison work behind the scenes. Thanks too to

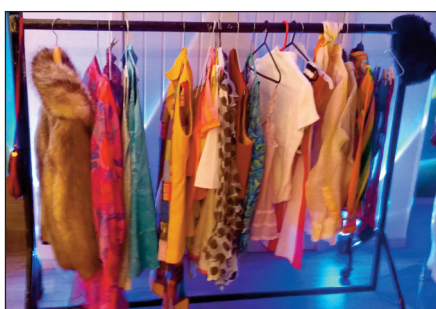
Geoff for all his professional photos. Our disco, DJ Andy Bailey, played a string of great hits that had most guests on the floor (dancing not passed out!) at some stage. "Dad" dancing was great and hard to watch in equal measure, but the epic Chubby Checkers "Let's Twist Again" revealed just how many of our playing members can still bend their knees!

There were great outfits from **Belles** Elvis Presley, **Gollaglee's** Clint Eastwood, and **Bradburn's** Ian Gillan. Prizes though, went to the ladies with **Jackie Redfern** wearing her Mum's original crimplene dress and **Lynne Davies'** Mary Quant combo (£18

off Ebay) taking the bottles of champagne. **Geoff Walton's** magic tricks kept everybody entertained and he was thanked for travelling a long way to perform.

The photos in this Newsletter and on the website will illustrate what a brilliant evening was had by all. Karen you are a star!!

**Ian Graham**



60's Clothes



Karen & Robert



Alison Goy, Ripley Oyler, Sarah Parr



Mannequins



Polly Woodward  
& Allen Barwise



Nick Gollaglee  
& Lynne Davies



Chris & Geoff Howes



Jane & Nigel



Karen, Mandy Akin, Polly, Chris Howes



Geoff Walton



Nigel, Jackie, Kim, Geoff Redfern



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## MORE EVENT PICTURES



Eunice & Phil Bond



Karen & Stuart Hardy



Nick & Sue Sheppard



Ali Goy & Ian Bradburn



Cath Ruffle & Ian McKenzie

### WHERE IS HE NOW?

## TONY McSTRAVICK

When Tony's wife died in 2007, he moved to Henley-on-Thames close to one of his daughters and a regular golfer at Badgemore Park Golf Club (squash was a step too far then!)



Tony with Nigel Belle at the Festival of Squash, RAC Epsom on 26th November 2023

He still lives in Henley and his daughters, Dawn and Caroline and sons Andrew and Matt visit him regularly. He has continued to attend reunion lunches in London with his former colleagues from the Met and often regales his children and grandchildren with tales of crime busting and daring do from his police days!

He celebrated his 88th birthday earlier this year and the whole family is looking forward to a big bash for his 90th.

## REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

### SOUTH – ST. ALBANS

29 Sept - 1 Oct

#### 3 WINNERS

MO50 Matthew Stephenson  
MO75 Barry Featherstone  
WO45 Cathy Ruffle

#### 2 RUNNERS UP

MO60 Eamonn Price  
MO75 Chris Ansell

12 semi-finalists

### NORTH – PONTEFRAC

3-5 Nov

#### 2 WINNERS

MO75 Larry Grover  
WO45 Cathy Ruffle

#### 3 RUNNERS UP

MO55 Steve McLoughlin  
MO75 Barry Featherstone  
WO50 Sarah Parr

7 semi-finalists

### EAST – GRANTHAM

8-10 Dec

#### 5 WINNERS

MO65 Allen Barwise  
MO 75 Barry Featherstone  
WO 45 Catherine Ruffle  
WO55 Mandy Akin  
WO60 Karen Hume

#### 7 RUNNERS UP

MO55 Stephen McLoughlin  
MO60 Darren Withey  
MO65 Nick Gollaglee  
MO70 John Goodrich  
MO75 Larry Grover  
WO50 Sarah Parr  
WO60 Julie-Anne Pegram

6 semi-finalists

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## MATCH REPORTS

### GB VETS VS DORKING – 5 OCTOBER – LOST 1/4

Following a postponement of the match planned for earlier in the year we, and the new Dorking match manager Rob Crayston, were eager to use Squash Levels as a guide to ensure everyone got a good game. And so it proved with all 5 matches resulting in 3/1. Unfortunately for the GB Vets 4 of the matches went Dorking's way so a 4/1 defeat for us.

The O75 Club Championship doubles winners - two years running - of **Nigel Belle** and **Brian Dobson** were on first and after a shaky start managed a respectable scoreline losing the 4th 10/15. **Bryan Francis**, fresh from his European silver win in Hamburg, took the first but struggled

to keep up that form for the next 3. **Kim Ricks** lost a hard battle in the first 16/18, won the second but couldn't keep the momentum going and lost the next 2. **John Prestwich** had 4 very



Dobson (GBV), Ambrose (D), Andrews(D), Parker (GBV), Heron(D), Watkins(D), Crayston(D), Belle(GBV), Francis (GBV), Prestwich(GBV), Lovesey(D) Ricks(GBV) not in picture

close games – 15/12, 14/16, 15/17, 13/15. A game of high quality and hard hitting both players giving as much as they got! **David Parker** at No.1 won a momentous first game 20/18, lost the second 14/16 and then dominated the next 2. A great hard fought win.

**So a Dorking win 4/1.**

It was great to see Harriet, **Bob Gray's** wife, at the match as well as **Lance** and **Jacqui Kinder**.

Great meal, great company and much jolly banter plus brief 'thank you' words from both Match Managers ended a most enjoyable evening.

**Nigel Belle, Match Manager**

### GB VETS VS ESCORTS – 10 NOVEMBER – LOST 1/4

This was an enjoyable evening though a little one sided and the squash was over fairly quickly though that did mean we got to the Tavern at Lord's Cricket ground in good time!

A late opponent injury meant we played four singles matches and one doubles. All our team wanted to play singles so **Mick Murray** partnered **Chris Lowry** in the doubles.

**Salu Monzoor** and **Bryan Francis's** matches were



Murray (L), Courtenay-Luck (3rd L), Connors (4th L), Francis (R), Lowry (2nd R), Moseley (far R)

over pretty quickly both losing 0/3. **Nigel Swain** lost to another GB Vet **Kevin Connors** 1/3 and **Philip Courtenay-Luck's** opponent, **Richard Moseley** (also a GB Vets) retired injured after the second game.

The doubles match was close, **Philip C-L** partnering **Kevin C** for Escorts. They won the first two games, and although **Chris Lowry** and **Mike Murray** pulled it back to two all the Escorts won the fifth.

**Mick Murray, Match Manager**

### GB VETS VS PURLEY – 1 DECEMBER – LOST 0/4

With our No.1 **Fergus Burnett** recently injured and one of their players also injured we agreed to play 4-a-side

First on were **Peter Culver** No.3 and **David Parker** No.4. Both had good, long, hard games but lost 1/3 and 0/3 respectively.

**Cathy Ruffle** No.1 knew her opponent from previous encounters so knew it was going to be a tough challenge. And so it proved. Both players giving their all but Cathy lost in 3.

It was left to **Dan Sweeney** No.2 to save a whitewash. Some excellent squash from both



Cathy Ruffle (GBV), Andy Crispin (P), David Parker (GBV), Matt Torode (P), Dan Sweeney (GBV), Fabio Goriup (P), Peter Culver (GBV)

players, and the scoreline shows just how close the match was – 15/12, 19/17, 15/13 – unfortunately for the GB Vets the result went Purley's way!

So a 4/0 win for Purley, but over the last 7 years the GB Vets just have the edge 4/3! Roll on next year.

Thanks to non playing Match Manager, **Fabio Goriup** (also a GB Vet!) for organising an excellent evening rounded off with homemade lasagne, chips and much alcoholic banter!

**Nigel Belle, Match Manager**

### GB VETS VS CAMBRIDGE UNI – 14 OCT – WON 12/3

The GB Vets congregated once again at the Cambridge University Sports Centre for the annual fixture against the university. As in previous years the plan was to play the first, second and ladies teams with a minimum of fifteen matches scheduled. Some late injury withdrawals meant quite a bit of chasing around

for the organiser right up to midnight on the night before the match but a final group of twelve keen and fit players was settled on and ready to play. On arrival the Vets were greeted with the news that the Cambridge top string had also picked up an injury and couldn't play. With the Cambridge players all shunting up one space this

put a lot of pressure on them which showed in the final result, **a 12-3 win for the Vets**. Many thanks to the Cambridge captain, Benjamin Adams, and President, Eleanor White, for their hospitality and we look forward to what will surely be a tough rematch next year.

**Nick Sheppard, Match Manager**



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## GB VETS VS IRELAND – GALWAY 22/23 SEPTEMBER

The final match of our 60th Anniversary International series took place at Galway Tennis & Squash Club located in the west of Ireland. The Vets team of nine was comprised of a good mixture of standards with National and British Open champions taking part. Ireland providing an equivalent team to ensure a close weekend. Friday's match started with **Polly Woodward** taking on the experienced Norrie O'Grady, Polly who had only recently returned to the squash scene after illness wasn't able to maintain her stamina and went down 3-0. **Sam Balsdon** was next up against another experienced Irish player Pat Hanley, Pat being more mobile took the match 3-0. **Robbie Blair** then won an entertaining encounter after being two down against Mike Conlon, the Irish O65 champion. **Alison Goy** lost the following rubber against Frank Forde despite Ali showing some good parts of her game and court control. Vets 3-1 down. **Stuart Hardy** was then involved in a controversial, very tight loss to Peter Stephens 2-3. There were several contentious reffing decisions with both players feeling hard done by. With the Vets staring defeat full in the face, the top order turned on the style. **Cath Ruffle** beating the talented Siobhan Parker 3-1,

**John Parkes** winning 3-0 against the Irish captain David Lalor, **Allen Barwise** taking out John Dineen 3-0 and the decisive match, **Matt Stephenson** against Keith Moran going the Vets way. **A sterling match win for the Vets 5-4.** Saturday's match was widely anticipated with the Irish altering their team order to try to win back the initiative, **Polly W** lacked fitness in losing again to Norrie. A much needed win for **Alison G** followed against a younger player, far better control from the Nottingham player in this match. **Sam B** had another opportunity against Pat Hanley, however, he couldn't overturn the previous days result, 2-1 in matches to Ireland.



Barwise, Ruffle, Stephenson, Goy, Blair,  
Woodward, Hardy, Parkes, Balsdon

**Cath R** then used her speed and volleying ability to again take out Siobhan 3-0, Vets back on level terms. **Stuart H** had the opportunity to play Mike Conlan, Stuart used his vast experience and court craft to win 3-1, a fine result for the Vet's player. **Matt S** feeling a little under the weather suffered a shock 3-0 loss to Keith Moran, Matt was our banker in this fixture but came unstuck. **Robbie B** played Peter Stephens in the next rubber, again down 2-1, Robbie fought back well to clinch his match 3-2. **Robbie was the Vets player of the weekend** due to his never say die attitude. John P and Allen B then had 3-0 wins against John Dineen and David Lalor respectively.

**Vets taking the second match 6-3 and an overall weekend win of 11-7.**

The team took out the Irish players for an Indian meal to recognise the excellent hospitality shown by the hosts and in particular David Lalor who was presented with a golf shirt for his tremendous organisation. Allen thanked him, the Tennis Club and staff for their hospitality and kindness over the weekend. A return match for next year incorporating a golf tournament is now being discussed.

Allen Barwise (Captain)

## GB VETS VS JESTERS – DOUBLES RAC EPSOM 15th OCTOBER

Thanks to **Karen Hume** and **James Dubois** for getting 4 matched pairs for this penultimate event in the GBV's 60th Anniversary season. **Fergus Burnett** and **Dan Sweeney** took on the Jesters top pairing of **Richard Winter** and **Ross Gardner** and got little change from a very good duo and a 0-3 loss. We learned later that Ross won the RAC award this year for the most victories in doubles matches. **Kim Ricks** and **Dermot Hurford** were up next for their game against **Shayne Baillie** and **Tim Abbott**. This

was a very close match with great rallies, but the Jesters eventually proved worthy 3-2 winners. At 0-2 in the match GBV fielded their two world champions, **Mandy Akin** and **Karen Hume** against home team captain **James Dubois** and **Catherine Ruffle**. GBV were quickly into their stride and 2-0 ahead before the Jesters fought back to 2-2 and 12-12 in the 5th before GBV won the day. It was left to **Nick Sheppard** and **Robert Smith** to salvage a draw. They were up against **Betsy Drury**, younger, quicker and

less experienced than her partner **Adam Blewer**, a talented left hander. This combination proved to be a little too much for the craftier GBV pairing.

**So a win for the Jesters 3/1**

The match was really enjoyed by all players with soup and a quick drink to round off the morning. Thanks again to Karen and James for putting this all together.

Ian Graham



Robert Smith & Nick Sheppard (R)



Karen Hume & Mandy Akin (R)



Dermot Hurford & Kim Ricks (L)



Dan Sweeney & Fergus Burnett (R)



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## EUROPEAN MASTERS – HAMBURG 6-9 SEPTEMBER OVERALL RESULT FOR GB VETS – 4 GOLD, 3 SILVER, 2 BRONZE!

### WOMENS REPORT BY MANDY AKIN

#### OVER 45 – CATHERINE RUFFLE

Catherine started her event with a good 3/0 win. Her 2nd match was tight all the way, just losing 2/3 on a 30 degree court! She then moved into the 5th – 8th playoff group, where she won both her matches 3/0 to give her a 5th place finish in her first European championships.

#### OVER 50 – ALISON GOY & SARAH PARR

Alison had a bye in the first round and in the second lost to the 5/8 seed 0/3. This moved her in to the 9th to 16th place group. 2 wins put her into the 9th/10th place playoff. Alison took the first game but lost the next two, she fought back in the fourth but lost it 13/15 giving her a final finish of 10th place, which was a good placing in a strong field.

**SARAH PARR – GOLD!** She was a ¾ seed and put in two excellent performances to win her first and second round matches 3/0. This moved her into the semi-final against the no. 2 seed who picked up an injury in the 3rd so this put her into the final. This was on a glass court, Sarah won the 1st 11/9, lost the 2nd 8/11, took the 3rd 11/6 and her great play took the 4th 12/10 to make it a 3/1 win and her first European Championship Gold medal. She was very glad she made the decision to enter!

#### OVER 60 – MANDY AKIN & TAMMY BENNETT

Tammy had a tough first round match vs the No.3 seed who was runner up in Poland at the World Masters. Tammy put in a good performance but just lost 1/3. She played two more group matches and won both of those 3/0 and this put her in to the 4th to 6th playoff box. Tammy continued to play well and won her next 2 matches 3/0 to ensure she finished in 4th place.

**MANDY AKIN – GOLD!** had a bye in the first round. The following day she won 3/0 to book her place in the 1st to 3rd playoff group. Her

next match was against the No 3. Seed. Mandy put in a solid performance to win the match 3/0 to move her in to the 1st / 2nd place playoff.

Mandy was then up against one of her (favourite) rivals from the past, Bea Spitse from Holland. She just took the 1st 16/14, won the 2nd, lost the 3rd, and took the 4th 11/5 and the match to take the O60s European Championships Gold medal.

#### OVER 65 – LYNNE DAVIES

Lynne (¾ seed) had a tough first round vs the No.2 seed but Lynne was on her game and won 3/0 with a great performance. She then won her next match 3/0 to put herself top of her group and moving her in to the 1st to 3rd playoff group. She won her next match 3/0 to gain herself a place in the final. The final was against another one of her Welsh teammates, Jill Campion (1 seed). Although Lynne fought hard, Jill took the match and the over 65 European Championships Gold medal with Lynne taking the Silver medal.

#### OVER 70S TO 80S – COMBINED AGE GROUPS

##### ANN MANLEY – GOLD - WHAT A LEGEND!

Ann was playing in a group format and had three matches in her group stage against players who ranged from 70 to 80. (Ann is in the O75 category). She won her 1st 3/1 and her next 2 3/0 which took her into a 4 draw to playoff for positions 1 to 4. She then beat her French opponent 3/0 to take her into the final which she also won in style 3/0 – 11/4, 11/9, 11/3 to take the O75 European Championship Gold medal, but also the O70s European Championship Gold. She will add these to her massive total of nationals, British opens, European and World Championship medals – fantastic performance by Ann who always has a smile on her face.

### MENS REPORT BY ALLEN BARWISE

The men's GB Vets squad had a mixed tournament, result wise. There were some notable performances from IAN ROSS taking gold. **BRYAN FRANCIS** and **BARRY FEATHERSTONE** who both took silver medals, **DARREN WITHEY** and **MATT STEPHENSON** taking bronze. Darren beating world champion Freddie Johnson in the quarters, a fantastic result for the Buckingham player.

Barry Featherstone met his closest rival Ian Ross in the final of the men's 75's, these two were the stand-out players in the group. Ian taking the final 3-0. Barry having beaten the No1 seed in the previous round.

The O70's had a stand-out performer from Ireland as the No1 seed, the other players were basically playing for second place, a position Bryan Francis did exceptionally well to achieve. **SAM BALSDON** ¾ seed reached the semis but also lost out to the No.1 seed.

**ALLEN BARWISE** and **IAN BRADBURN** were both expected to do well in the O65's event, however, although they both had reasonable wins in the early rounds much more was expected from them, Allen reaching the semi's and deciding not to play in the bronze play-off and Ian the quarters in which he was 2-0 up against the overall winner. In the same

age category **RIPLEY OYLER** progressed to the third round when he came across a handy Finn who was a little too strong for him.

**DAVID HARRIS** in the 60's was subject to a poor draw and lost in the second round to John Dineen from Ireland. **EAMONN PRICE** who had high hopes for the tournament despite the incredibly strong entry made the quarter finals losing out to the eventual finalist from Switzerland. **MARK WOODLIFE** seeded two lost to the eventual winner in the semi. Darren Withey after beating the No1 seed lost out the Georgio Sorio who had previously disposed of Eamonn.

**PARAMJIT DEOL** lost in the second round in the O55's to a strong sixth seeded Spaniard. He did however, have a good win in the first round. Matt Stephenson had an excellent tournament beating several good players on his way to third place in the O50's. Matt training hard prior to the event.

Finally..... Huge congratulations to all of the ladies who managed to bolster the success of the Vets, especially **MANDY AKIN** and **SARAH PARR** winning their respective age groups. Much respect !!



# 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

## APART FROM PLAYING SQUASH I ALSO... DO PHOTOGRAPHY

Any member looking at team and tournament results will often see the name Fergus Burnett and often with a victory to his name. Fergus is a great supporter of GB Vets but you will rarely see him in ESM events because his Photography keeps him very busy and often at weekends.

Fergus' career in Photography began when he was chosen by the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to receive a one year Photography Bursary open to 19-24 year olds. Fergus spent that year learning his trade in as far-flung places as the Yemen and Jordan. It finished with a fortnight's trek up the Amazon, onto British Guyana and finishing in the Bahamas. This amazing year gave him an exciting portfolio that

enabled him to work in the world of newspapers. After 9 years and a job as Chief Photographer Fergus realised he just sat at a desk and others got all the exciting stuff, leaving him with the paperwork!

This hastened him to freelance work and an eventual Royal connection that would define his subsequent career. Charities often seek Royal patronage and hold events at Royal venues bringing photographers to capture the event. Fergus made some useful contacts and would visit Buckingham Palace, Hampton Court and Windsor Castle on a fairly regular basis. The Royal Household then decided that just 3 photographers would attend to all events at Royal

venues and Fergus was one of those appointed. He spends a lot of his time going in and out of Royal places for many different charities making lots of further contacts with businesses and the corporate world. Fergus' biggest client is Imperial College covering all royal, student and Outreach programmes. He loves to capture these moments when the subjects become unaware of his camera. I asked if he does weddings(!) and he will do them for those he knows well to get that personal touch. Fergus says his life is always busy but never predictable.



Fergus Burnett

## GB VETS GOLF DAY – SURBITON 4TH SEPTEMBER

Another spectacular golfing day at Surbiton Golf Club on Monday September 4th saw 18 members of the Club compete for the annual GB Vets Golfing Day Trophy. Well there will be a trophy when I get round to sorting one out!

Another year goes by and it seems that some golfers mature with age, or is it just that their handicap goes up so they can score the same. For the second year running **David Johnson** came first, with a previous winner **David Esser** second

and **James Barrington** third. **Chris Howes** won the prize for best lady's score. **Dillwyn Rosser** won both the longest drive and nearest the pin in 2 shots. He actually drove the hole and narrowly missed his eagle putt. **Stuart Hardy** won nearest the pin. The team prize (teams were randomly drawn after the round) went to **John Galt, Kevin Connors** and myself.

A mix of made up awards ensured that everyone left with at least a ball as a memento of the day,

which will probably be lost the first time they play with it.

The fixture is booked for the 9th September next year but with a 1.00 start. This date is the Monday after the proposed Club Championships finals weekend.

Hopefully even more of you will join us next year.

Geoff Howes



David Johnson



Chris Howes



Stuart Hardy



Dillwyn Rosser



Connors, Galt, Howes

## JERSEY FESTIVAL

The GB Vets team for the October Jersey Festival comprised of, **Allen Barwise** (Capt), **Robbie Blair**, **David Gray**, **Alison Goy**, **Polly Woodward** and **Nick Shepherd**. The team got off to a disappointing start losing 2-3 to a strong Trojans team, Allen and David winning at one and two. With the inclusion of Robbie for the following two matches the Vets fortunes changed and a 3-2 and 5-0 win followed. An excellent event as usual with a great social feel ensured the Vets had an enjoyable if not entirely successful weekend. Hopefully we will receive an invitation for next year.



GB Vets Team



# 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF The Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain

## NEW MEMBERS

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

|                   |   |                              |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Mark Ainley       | - | Beckenham Squash Club        |
| Peter Call        | - | Wellington College, Berks    |
| Joe McAuley       | - | Glaxo & Darlington           |
| Derek Wright      | - | Dorking Tennis & Squash Club |
| Leesa Marie Ragg  | - | Nuffield, St.Albans          |
| David Stanton     | - | Colets, Thames Ditton        |
| Mark Kirkman      | - | Connaught Squash Club        |
| Nick Gollaglee    | - | Wyvern Squash Club, Taunton  |
| Geoff Walton      | - | Brooklands                   |
| Peter Buchan      | - | Montrose Squash & Racketball |
| Julie-Anne Pegram | - | Ipswich Sports Club          |

## MEMBER INFO

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

[www.gbvs.co.uk](http://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.

**Tim Higginson**  
**Robert McIntosh**

## NEW YEAR – NEW KIT?



Why not treat yourself to some new kit for 2024 or better still put it on your Christmas wish list and hopefully someone might buy it for you!

Go to [www.iprosports.co.uk](http://www.iprosports.co.uk) click on 'Club Zone', scroll down and click on the GB Vets logo and then follow the on screen instructions. Enjoy!

## OBITUARIES

It is with much sadness we announce that the following have recently gone to that great squash club in the sky:

**Arthur Franks**, a member since 1979, died in early 2023.

**Robin Hawkins**, a member since 1977, died in April 2023.

**Robert Sich**, a member since 1984, died in early 2023.

**Malcolm Gilham**, a member since 1989, died on 6th Oct 2023.

**John Barclay**, a member since 1993, died on 30th Oct 2023.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2024

| DATE                                                                                                                               | EVENT                  | VENUE             | CONTACT       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 11 January 2024 TBC                                                                                                                | Match vs Roehampton    | Roehampton        | Nick Sheppard |
| 12/14 January                                                                                                                      | West Regional          | Wolverhampton     | ESM Website   |
| 20 January TBC                                                                                                                     | Match vs Rugby School  | Rugby             | Graham/Reader |
| 27 January                                                                                                                         | Match vs Oxford Uni    | Oxford            | Nick Sheppard |
| 3 February                                                                                                                         | Match vs Chichester    | Chichester        | Ian Graham    |
| 7/11 February                                                                                                                      | Nationals              | Nottingham        | ESM Website   |
| 7 March                                                                                                                            | Match vs Hurlingham    | Hurlingham        | Nigel Belle   |
| 22/23 March                                                                                                                        | York Tour              | York              | Allen Barwise |
| 13 March TBC                                                                                                                       | Match vs Royal Navy    | Portsmouth        | Graham/Reader |
| 17 April TBC                                                                                                                       | Match vs RAC           | Pall Mall, London | Nigel Belle   |
| 6 May                                                                                                                              | GB Vets Golf Day       | Windermere        | Allen Barwise |
| 5/9 June                                                                                                                           | British Open           | Birmingham        | ESM Website   |
| 17/24 August                                                                                                                       | World Masters          | Amsterdam         | WSF Website   |
| 7/8 September                                                                                                                      | GB Vets Finals weekend | Colets.           | Geoff Howes   |
| 9 September                                                                                                                        | GB Vets Golf Day       | Surbiton          | Geoff Howes   |
| 26 September TBC                                                                                                                   | Match vs Dorking       | Dorking           | Nigel Belle   |
| 3 October TBC                                                                                                                      | Match vs Oxshott       | Oxshott           | Nigel Belle   |
| 3/6 October                                                                                                                        | Jersey Festival        | Jersey            | Allen Barwise |
| TBA: GBV vs England Masters, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Army, RAF, Edgbaston Priory, National Civil Service, National Fire Service. |                        |                   |               |