

NEWSLETTER - JULY 2024

GBV v ESM

COLETS 29th JUNE 5/5 IN MATCHES, 20 ALL IN POINTS!

The second annual match versus ESM was a 10 a side encounter at Colet's on June 29th and played in memory of **Lance Kinder**, one of the greatest players to grace GBV and ESM events. A GBV side sent in advance to **Stuart Hardy** enabled him to match up suitable opponents that you would not normally meet. Stuart did a great job!

GBV's Peter Call beat Dave Stanton 3-0 in a very competitive match but Andy Hall levelled the match with a 3-1 victory over a rejuvenated Mandy Akin. Gemma Barber got the better of Karen Hume 3-1 and Nick Sheppard just shaded Dave Clarke 3-2 to give ESM a 3-1 lead. Kim Ricks' victory over Keith Ragg followed up with a win from Albert Akin over Alex **Perry** levelled the match at 3-3. **Robert** Smith had a 3-2 cliffhanger against Brian Brock before Tammy Bennett's defeat of David Parker and Nick Perry's downing of Richard Mosley gave a 5-4 advantage to ESM. In the Chairs match Ian Graham just managed to sneak



Ian Graham Chair GB Vets (Left)
Stuart Hardy Chairman ESM (Right)

through 3-2 against **Stuart Hardy** to tie the match at 5-5 and 20-20 in games.

The post match social was a very friendly and **Stuart Hardy** received a sitting ovation from half the audience when claiming a victory for ESM on points! **Lance Kinder** was given several accolades and there were many stories shared of this gentleman of the courts who, with Jacqui, was such a great supporter of these events. Jacqui will receive the 60th Anniversary booklet signed by all the players and flowers.

On this happy note the two captains left already planning their winning team for 2025. Thanks to Colet's for the usual high standard of organisation, welcome and food. Thanks too to all the players and guests who battled the traffic on a particularly busy and hot Saturday afternoon.

Ian Graham Chair GBV

NEW WEBSITE

Many of you will no doubt have seen that the club website is changing. Our new website is being built in collaboration with Brian Brock and will make it easier for us to keep the members in contact with news and events. There will be improvements to showing our fixture calendar and members will be able to sign up for matches and tournaments through the site rather than by email or text. Behind the scenes the new site shares technology with that used by England Squash Masters which has been well proven over the years. Rather than wait for

everything to be in place, we have gone live with the new site although we are still in the process of bringing across the club archives and other historic material so please keep checking back as new functionality is added. One important change is that members will have individual logins and we will be communicating further about this soon.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank Tim Stainton for all the support he has given us in maintaining the old website for several years.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- THE GEOFF HOWES INTERVIEW
- NOTIFICATION OF 61st AGM
- RESULTS, RESULTS, NEWS, NEWS!



GEOFF HOWES - One Player, Five Questions

Interviewed by Aubrey Waddy

Most GB Vets members will have met Geoff Howes, either as a player or as the long time organiser of the club's annual tournaments, a responsibility that started in 2008 following a peremptory call from John Woodliffe,

'You've been recommended to run our tournament'

Hard to resist such a summons from John! In the era of email, running the annual GB Vets event is a big enough task, with the men's age groups and the women's age groups and the plates and the doubles. Imagine what it must have been like in earlier years when you had to rely on paper and printers and the Royal Mail. Geoff also runs the Surrey Vets leagues, and as a glutton for punishment actually instituted a Vintage league in the county, when he himself reached 55.

Many GB Vets members will be aware of Geoff's career as a professional photographer. Over the years, this took him on many fantasy assignments. A month in Indonesia for Garuda Airlines? Yes, fantasy! A portfolio for the tourist board in Antigua? Yes, fantasy! And back home in humdrum old London... Katie Price with barely a stitch of clothing on. OMG, FANTASY! Katie, aka Jordan, and many others. Glamour work was part of a "vast range of commercial jobbing photography," that filled Geoff's professional life. Notably he used to do photos for girlie calendars. Geoff photographed a lot of people with their clothes on, too, including many sports stars - Kenny Dalgliesh, Sally Gunnell, David Seaman, Linford Christie. He did many album covers for Gary Numan, receiving gold discs for 'Replicas' and 'Are Friends Electric'.

Geoff's passion for photography started when he was growing up in Kingston-on-Thames. He was given a Brownie 127 camera. Before long he was doing his own developing and printing in an improvised darkroom in the bathroom. After he left school in 1966, while studying zoology and psychology at college in West Ham, he became friendly with the owner of a photographic shop, who also had a photographic studio. After his second year the college told Geoff to take a time out to work on his photography, which was occupying far more of his attention than his studies. He got a job as an A-V technician at Kingston Poly. Then, armed with a portfolio from a memorable trip to Sicily, where he documented peasants and farm workers in the arid rural setting, he enrolled at Harrow Polytechnic for a three year degree in commercial photography. Showing the consistency that is a feature of his squash, Geoff again moonlighted, this time setting up a photographic studio with two friends in a former Sunday School hall in Chiswick

"Hustling for work" was the name of the photography game in the years that followed. The gab was as important as the camera. Geoff's big break came working for Brides magazine, which enabled him to move his studio to the West End. He developed the "enormous list of clients" that more than sustained his successful career.

You can tell Geoff is a proper photographer from the way he comes alive talking about the quality of the light. He has a story of abandoning his companions on a walk in his beloved Lake District to capture a specific view of Lake Windermere that he knew would be perfect at sunset. Indeed the Lake District has been a big part of Geoff and his wife Chris's life. They now have a timeshare in Keswick. Their attraction to the Lake District was reinforced by a chance meeting in 1990 with some hikers coming off Skiddaw. It turned out that the group was collecting the famous Wainwrights (all the fell tops listed in Alfred Wainwright's guide books). Geoff completed the 214th and last of these in 2022. And this is a person, "who used to hate walking!"



Geoff Howes

Geoff's development as a squash player was as random as his photography. At school, rowing was his big sport. Indeed the first time he saw a squash ball was when one fell out of the pocket of his rowing coach. "What's that, Sir!" There's still evidence from Geoff's "flicky, wristy" style of squash of his early days as a badminton player. His squash began, improbably, after a chance encounter during a washed out camping holiday in the West of Scotland. This led to a regular round robin in the courts at St George's Hospital Medical School in central London and games in local leisure centres, "we hacked around", before he joined Richmond Town in 1976. He was "never good enough for the top teams" at Richmond. He would have had to displace Jonny Leslie to get into the first team at No 5. But he was gaining experience. In 1984 he and Chris moved to Molesey, where he joined Thames Ditton Squash Club, which in due course became Colets. The proximity of the Middlesex Hospital courts to his Bond Street studio led to him representing the hospital in the London University league. This had started with the usual cry for help from the captain of a squash team, "We're short of a player tonight." Geoff was deemed eligible, "as an outpatient!"

At Colets Geoff steadily improved. He reached the third team, coached among others by Alison Cummings and Larry Grover, and later, Dardir el-Bakry. The non-elitist nature of the sport continued to draw him in. In due course he met Stuart Hardy at Colets, and started entering regional Masters tournaments. Martin Pearse persuaded him to enter the Nationals, which eventually led to his selection on no fewer than three occasions for England Squash Masters in the home internationals, in the o-60s and o-65s.

Geoff joined GB Vets in 1999. A highlight was an invitation on the club's 2004 tour of South Africa. His first representative squash was playing for Surrey in the Vets o-55s. By the time he moved to the o-65s he had become number one in the county - Geoff has clearly improved with age. He has been an outstanding doubles player, too, and has carried his partners to success at least once in every one of the GB Vets doubles age groups, starting with the o-45s, in which Alan Thomson begged him to take the place of the injured Sean Freeman. Of course, they won, beating Keith Jones and



Chris Ansell, both singles world champions in 2010, in the final. In subsequent age groups, Geoff's combination of steadiness, mobility and the ability to win points with unexpected shots, added to his outstanding temperament, made him tremendously effective.

Chris Howes, who can so often be seen at Colets and elsewhere supporting him, can't have foreseen how squash would take over Geoff's life. They met the day after Chris's sixteenth birthday, at a post-regatta party. The old adage, 'it's the way you tell them,' must have applied to Geoff's opening gambit, "Would you like a hot dog?" They've been married for fifty four years! Their two kids Ed and Emily have both been sporty and have provided them with five grandchildren.

Organisers in all walks of life tend to go unthanked, but I hope Geoff pauses from time to time to reflect on the difference he's made with Surrey squash and GB Vets. If there's a debit side, squash has worn out both his knees, although perhaps 214 Wainwrights played a part in that. But on the credit side, playing for your country at any sport is a big deal, and you can always get new knees!

Here are Geoff's five questions.

1. What was your hardest match?

I think one of my hardest matches was with Martin Pearse in a regional in Bury St Edmonds in 2008. I was on my way to Bury when I was informed that my good friend and doubles partner Shaun Freeman had died that morning. I really didn't feel like playing and couldn't get into the game. Martin was 2-0 up and winning the 3rd easily in about 10 or 11 minutes when I got very angry. I won the 3rd and the 4th but lost the 5th 10-9. The match lasted about 1 hour 15 minutes. That would never have happened if we were playing PARS.

2. Who were the best opponents you encountered?

The two best players I encountered within my age groups would have to be Philip Ayton and Stuart Courtney. I played Stuart in a GB Vets age group after his hip replacement and his mobility was almost non-existent. BUT, if he got anywhere near the ball he hit a winner. I played Philip in the Open in Liverpool (the day after getting revenge over Martin Pearse) I thought I was doing ok till Philip opened up and started hitting his boasts. You could read that he was going to hit the shot but I don't think I ever got near reaching one.

3. What's more significant to you, your 214 Wainwrights or your caps for England Squash Masters?

While I'm very proud to have completed all the Wainwrights, there are thousands of others who have done so. A couple of ultra athletes

have taken less than 6 days to complete them. So I must say that in a less than stellar squash career, being selected for England on merit is probably a prouder achievement.

4. Who would you most like to have photographed, but never did?

Back in the late 70's I met a "plugger" working for CBS records and became good friends. He knew of my love of Bob Dylan's music and even gave me a complete box set of his records (I still play a lot of vinyl even in the digital age). Once he asked if I would like to photograph Dylan, of course I would have loved it if the opportunity had arrived, but unfortunately it never did.

Fifth question, chosen by Geoff:

5. How do you like to spend your birthday?

My birthday is on the last day of the year. Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or other significant dates mean that other things are going on and your birthday is not necessarily the most important event of the day. However over the years I've enjoyed many different birthday experiences. A highlight being in Sydney at Taronga Zoo watching the Sydney Bridge Fireworks with Chris and some of my best friends. Lately I prefer to stay at home with the family and it seems to have become a tradition that Dad cooks a BBQ (my choice). Ably assisted by my son and son-in-law keeping me supplied with grape juice. Happy New Year!

TOURNAMENT ENTRIES FOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2024 Club Championships are taking place at Colets Health and Fitness in Thames Ditton over the weekend of 7/8 September.

The closing date for entries will now be August 11th.

To date the entries are very low and to enable the tournament to take place please ensure your entry is in by the new closing date.

Entry is made through Leaguemaster using the following link:

https://gbvets.leaguemaster.co.uk/cgi-county/icounty.exe/showtournamentinfo?tgroupid=9





THE VETERANS SQUASH RACKETS CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

PRESIDENT: Philip Ayton CHAIR: Ian Graham

Notice is hereby given that the

61st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain will take place at

COLETS HEALTH & FITNESS,

St. Nicholas Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0PW

on

SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2024 (approx.1pm)

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence
- 2. Approval of 60th AGM Minutes
- 3. Matters arising
- 4. Approval of 2023 Accounts
- 5. Chair's Report
- 6. Election of Officers (see notes below)
- 7. Any other business

Notes:

- a) Election of Officers: The PRESIDENT is standing down and it is proposed that Nigel Belle be elected President of the Club. The HON. SECRETARY is standing down and Linda Pritchard has kindly agreed to take over. The TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR is standing down and Keith Ragg has kindly agreed to take over.
- b) i) It is proposed that Philip Ayton be elected an Honorary Life Member and ii) It is proposed that Geoff Howes be elected a Vice President.
- c) All other Club Officers have agreed to stand for re-election.
- d) Any other nominations for Club Officers should be notified to the current Hon. Secretary in writing or email at least 7 days prior to the meeting.
- e) Points for item 7 Any Other Business should be notified to the current Hon. Secretary in writing or email at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Nigel Belle, Hon. Secretary, 28th July 2024.



CLUB MATCH REPORTS

RAC PALL MALL – 17th April 2024

Always such a pleasure playing against the RAC at Pall Mall. Great company, very enjoyable competitive but fun squash and the après hospitality and generosity second to none.

With a late withdrawal of the GB Vets No.1 **Dermot Hurford** through injury, we knew we would have a fight on our hands. **Kim Ricks** at No.5 was up first and at 1/1 seemed to be in with a chance. Although she played very well her opponent came through a worthy winner 3/1. Both **Ash Chakraborty** at No.3 and **Mick Murray** at No.4 were up against tough opponents and try as hard as they did, both succumbed 0/3. **Peter Culver** at No.2 was in fine form but in the end, although managed to win a game, lost in 4. So it was left to **John Goodrich** at No.1 to save a whitewash! Playing



Picture from left: James Gardner (RAC Match Manager), Ara Levonian (RAC), Mick Murray (GBV), Tej Johar (RAC), Richard Winter (RAC), Nigel Belle (GBV Match Manager), Peter Culver (GBV), Mike Horridge (RAC), Kim Ricks (GBV), John Goodrich (GBV), Angus Baillie (RAC)

against fellow GB Vet, **Richard Winter**, who is 700+ squash level points higher than John, seemed a tall order. But John, captain of the England O70 team in this year's Home Internationals, took up the challenge and after a tremendous game came out a worthy 3/1 winner.

So although a 1/4 defeat, the après hospitality and usual superb buffet in the Long Bar, more than made up for our poor result! Let's hope for a better result next year!

Sincere thanks to James Gardner and the RAC for excellent organising and we wish James well and a speedy return to the courts after rather a long injury.

Nigel Belle Non-playing Manager

OXSHOTT – 19th April 2024

Thanks to fellow GB Vet, **John Prestwich**, our now regular annual fixture took place at Oxshott on Friday 19th April.

Playing PARS to 15 Kim Ricks No.3 was up against a hard hitting, with some deft drops, opponent and lost 9, 12 and 12 having given her all. Peter Culver at No.2 was steady and effective. 1/1, took the 3rd 15/2 and although he took his foot of the gas in the 4th ran out a 3/1 winner. Nigel Belle, playing at No.5 reluctantly replacing a player who was injured, had a repeat game with his last year's opponent... ...and a repeat of a 0/3 defeat! A welcome to have Steve Jackson at No.1 playing for the Vets. An excellent game with Steve always in the driving seat and eventually taking the 4th 15/2. So at 2/2 it was up to newcomer and O70 Welsh Home International player, Derek Wright, to secure a win for the Vets. This turned out to be a very evenly matched game. Derek took the first 2 games 15/11, 15/10, his opponent took the next 2 15/13, 15/10. In the fifth Derek looked to be on the ropes and facing defeat but he refused to give in and his determination earned him a much deserved 5th game win 15/12.

So a 3/2 victory for the Vets although

Oxshott won more games 10/9!

The usual friendly batter and excellent meal and hospitality followed, and all looked forward to a repeat battle next year.

Nigel Belle Match Manager



Picture from left: Nigel Belle (GBV), Mark Godfrey (O), Mark Francis (O), Kim Ricks (GBV), John Prestwich(O), Matt Harris (O), Steve Jackson (GBV), Chris Browning (O), Peter Culver (GBV), Derek Wright (GBV)

LIMPSFIELD – 19th July 2024

On the hottest day of the year the GB Vets took on Limpsfield for this annual match. Due to the heat PARS to 11 was agreed.

First on was No.5 **Robert Smith** who was most upset to have to play a lad more than 6 decades younger than him! Although he put up a brave fight, he went down 0/3. **Karen Hume** at No.3

played well winning in 3, a good run up to her World Masters challenge in August. Both **Peter Culver** No.2 and **David Parker** No.4 had solid 3/1 wins so by the time **Dan Sweeney** No.1 went on GB Vets had already won the match! Dan, playing well, 2/0 up, was looking to overturn his 2/3 defeat by the same opponent as last year. This unfortunately was not to be as

a hamstring injury forced him to retire.

So a 3/2 win for the GB Vets.

Many thanks to Colin Bruce of Limpsfield for organising a most enjoyable evening.

Nigel Belle Match Manager



BRITISH OPEN RESULTS SOLIHULL - 5/9 JUNE

5 WINNERS

MO60 Eamonn PriceMO65 Nick GollagleeMO70 Stuart HardyMO75 Ian RossWO60 Mandy Akin

7 FINALISTS

MO60 Darren Withey
MO65 Allen Barwise
MO70 Ian Graham
MO75 Larry Grover
MO80 Leo Kingston
WO45 Cathy Ruffle
WO65 Karen Hume

6 SEMI-FINALISTS

MO50 Matthew Stephenson
 MO70 John Hithersay
 MO70 Geoff Redfern
 MO75 Barry Featherstone
 WO65 Lynne Davies
 WO65 Lesley Sturgess



HOME INTERNATIONALS





36 GB Vets members represented their Country in the Home Internationals played at Nottingham, Dublin, Edinburgh and Cardiff during April and May. England (all players not just GB Vets) won all age categories with the exception of the Men's O50 where they came second to Ireland.

All England players except where noted: S=Scotland, W=Wales, I=Ireland

WO35/40 Gemma Barber, Mhairi Gritz(S) MO45 Tim Burrell WO45 Cathy Ruffle MO50 Matthew Stephenson WO50 Sarah Parr MO55 Steve McLoughlin, Ray Burke MBE WO55 Lynne Davies (W) MO60 Eamonn Price, Darren Withey, Nigel Bacon, John Parkes WO60 Polly Woodward, Mandy Akin, Tammy Bennett MO65 Allen

Barwise, Nick Gollaglee, Ian Bradburn, Julian Craxton WO65 Sue Pynegar, Lesley Sturgess, Julie-Anne Pegram, Ann Manley, Lynne Davies (W), Eunice Bond (S) MO70 John Goodrich, Terry Belshaw, Geoff Redfern. MO75 Larry Grover, Barry Featherstone, Robert Smith, Ian Ross (S), Alex Sinclair (S), David Grant (W)

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PLAYERS!

WORLD MASTERS AMSTERDAM - 15/22 AUGUST



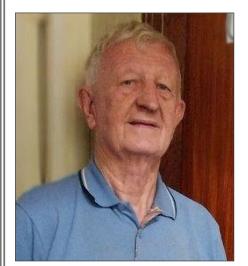
33 GB Vets members are heading for Amsterdam to play in the World Masters where there are 21 Events and 1200 Entrants!

WE WISH THEM THE VERY BEST OF LUCK. IF YOU CAN'T WIN A TROPHY, JUST ENJOY!

WO50 Sarah Parr, Alison Goy MO60 Eamonn Price, Darren Withey, Peter Call, Teejay Sogunro WO60 Mandy Akin, Polly Woodward MO65 Nick Gollaglee, Dermot Hurford, Ian Bradburn, Kevin Connors, Ripley Oyler, Richard Mosley WO65 Karen Hume, Lynne Davies, JulieAnne Pegram MO70 Stuart Hardy, Emilio Fazzi, Geoff Redfern, Joe McAuley, Geoff Walton, Ian Lennox, WO70 Sue Wastie MO75 Ian Ross, Barry Featherstone, Larry Grover, Alex Sinclair, Alastair McMeckan, Robert Smith WO75 Ann Manley, Averil Murphy MO80 Leo Kingston.



APART FROM PLAYING SQUASH I ALSO... BUILD FILM SETS



Trevor Cox

Trevor has been a member for nearly 25 years. He has played county squash for Oxfordshire with quite a few titles to his name over the years. Starting first as an apprentice welder and then on to oil rigs until he realised, having welded lots of cars, that he would do better with his own garage and founded T C Motors.

After retiring, Trevor had 40 years' worth of tools to store and hired space in the defunct local college. At the same time a film crew were making "the Little Drummer Girl". Trevor was asked if he knew anyone who could take iron pipes off walls, refit them and turn the room into a padded cell. Trevor volunteered and started an ongoing series of contracts to help build, take down, store and then sell on film sets. Trevor often works without a fee and sells off the film sets.

The first person he ever met was Kate Bush

who was filming a music video. Over the years he has met and become friends with quite a few well known thespians: Kate Winslett, Jody Comer, Roger Allam, Sean Evans, Guy Pierce, Damian Lewis, Tom Hanks, Kaiser chiefs and Pet Shop Boys to mention some of the more famous figures. Trevor says they all have one thing in common. They are delightful people and many still ring him if in the area.

The most immediately memorable films he has been associated with are Star Wars, A Very British Scandal, Death of Stalin, A Spy Among Friends, the Endeavour series and Murder in Provence.

Trevor is totally caught up in this second career which seems more a labour of love than the hard work that goes into building complicated film sets.

Trevor Cox as told to Ian Graham

GB VETS ANNUAL GOLF DAY 2024 SURBITON 9TH SEPTEMBER

The 9th GB Vets Golf day will take place at Surbiton Golf Club on Monday September 9th.

We meet at 12.00 for bacon rolls and coffee with a 1.00 starting time, followed by a 2 course meal.

The charge for the day will be £85 covering all costs including prizes, (except your drinks).

To reserve a place please email me at geoff.chrishowes@ntlworld.com and transfer a £20 deposit to my account:

Geoff Howes Nat West 50-41-01 11760621



GB VETS VS

CIVIL SERVICE - WON 7-1 FIRE SERVICE - LOST 4-5

PLAYERS: Ray Burke MBE, John Parkes, Nick Gollaglee, Rob Reid, Mark Ainley and Sue Pynegar. GB Vets, Tim Burrell & Nick Shepherd played for the Civil Service.



NEW MEMBERS

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

Ara Levonian

- RAC

Alexandra Perry - Racquets Fitness, Thame

Nicholas Perry - Racquets Fitness, Thame Gemma Barber - Bournemouth & West Hants

Tony Webb

- Bournemouth & West Hants

BUY NEW

Go to www.iprosports.co.uk click on 'Club Zone' scroll down to the GB Vets logo and then follow the instructions!

'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**

UPCOMING MATCHES FOR 2024/5

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT
15/22 August	World Masters	Amsterdam	WSF Website
7/8 September	GB Vets Finals w/e	Colets	Geoff Howes
9 September	GB Vets Golf Day	Surbiton	Geoff Howes
14 September	Ragou/Cowley Cup	Sutton Coldfield	Andy Murray
26 September	Match vs Dorking	Dorking	Nigel Belle
27/29 September	North Regional	Pontefract	ESM Website
September TBA	GB Vets vs Ireland	Carlisle	Allen Barwise
9/12 October	Jersey Festival	Jersey	Allen Barwise
13 October	Jesters Doubles	Woodcote Park	lan Graham
1/3 November	West Regional	East Glos Club	ESM Website
17 November	Festival of Squash	Woodcote Park	lan Graham
29 November TBC	GB Vets vs Purley	Purley	Nigel Belle
30 November	vs Scottish Masters	Edinburgh	Allen Barwise
30 November	vs Rugby School & Stags	Rugby	lan Graham
6/8 December	East Regional	lpswich	ESM Website
10/12 January 25	Midlands Regional	Wolverhampton	ESM Website
5/9 February 25	British Nationals	Colets	ESM Website
31 March 25	GB Vets vs RAC	Pall Mall	Nigel Belle

HAVE YOU ENTERED THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP? IF NO, YOU NEED TO DO SO BY 11th AUGUST! **ENTRY DETAILS ON PAGE 3**