



## **Men's Over 50 Home Internationals**

**12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Cardiff, Wales**

**Squad (left to right)**

**Dave Roberston, Paul Thomas (captain), Richard Tailby, Mark Jones, Marcus Thomas, Dallas Hayvice**



## **Day One**

### **Wales v Scotland**

Stepping up first we had the ever-ready Marcus Thomas taking on Douglas Emery. Unfortunately, Marcus was a little slow out of the blocks with the first and most of the second game over in flash. But, the comeback started towards the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and then a strong third game performance set up the fourth. Not to be for Marcus this time with Douglas taking the game 11/6 for the win.



***Marcus Thomas with Douglas Emery***

Next up we had the home crowd favourite Richard Tailby (that's if we had been playing on Court 4 at CSC). Rich was playing Peter Buchan and with the first game going all the way to a tie break we knew we would be in for a close game. Rich took the first and third with Peter taking the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – all set for a big fifth game. With great determination and coaching from Nic, Lloyd, Mark, Dave, Dallas etc. Rich got the job done with a brilliant 11/6 final game to bring home the 3/2 win.



***Richard Tailby with Peter Buchan***

Dallas next on at No.1 against the brilliant Simon Boughton. Simon is so good to watch, Dallas decided that this was his best policy and save himself for the big games on Saturday. 3/0 loss.



***Dallas Hayvice with Simon Boughton***

Paul Thomas up next against John Kynoch – looked like in the warmup it could be a close one. It certainly was – but not close enough. PT had game ball at 10/9 in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> games only to lose both on a tie break and the third went down to the wire to at 11/9. 3/0 loss.

Last on Dave Robertson against the super fit Angus Robertson. Dave started like an express train with great control and aggressive squash to take game one 11/4. The second was a tough event but Angus regained control of the match. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> game went to Angus but could have gone the either way. Great effort from Dave.

Sadly a 4/1 loss which was much closer than it looked.

## **Day Two (am)**

### **Wales v Ireland**

Early start at 930 with Mark Jones getting the match started. Mark looked fresh – a first for Mark, and he started first game superbly taking it 11/9 with some well crafted squash. Mark and John were very well matched with Mark just missing out on games two and three both 11/9. Sadly, Mark could not get going quick enough in the fourth and went down in a good match 3/1.



*Mark Jones with John Dullaghan*

Next up Tailby against Dara O'Flynn – the first of a very strong Irish top three. The first game could have gone either way with Rich playing some excellent squash but Dara eventually won with 12/10. The next two also went the way of the Irish but a stirring effort from Wales.

Dallas up next against the unbelievable Steve Richardson! Best player not to turn professional!! What a joy to watch the game. Dallas made Steve work hard and really dig deep but sadly no one all weekend was a match for Steve. Loss 3/0.

Paul Thomas on next against the Irish No.4. PT started well and took the first and this continued with PT getting stronger and taking the match 3/0.



*Paul Thomas with Cyan Macaogain*



Finally, Dave R played David Ayers – another great Irish player. Another tough match for Dave R – but Welsh Dave got stronger as the match went on and whilst going down 3/0 each – we only just lost out in a tie break 10/12 in the third game.



*Dave Robertson with David Ayers*

**Day Two (pm)**

**Wales v England**



It is always a huge challenge when we take on England and none more so than this year. The team is packed with fantastic players.

Mark Jones stepped on court first against Jeremy Krzystniak. Jeremy was strong and did not let Mark into the game keeping control of the court throughout the match. Tough start 3/0 loss.

Next up we had Richard Tailby against Paul Boyle (10,000 levels!). Paul, similar to Jeremy was too strong for his Welsh opponent – although Rich played great squash he could not get a foothold into the match against the excellent Paul Boyle.

Dallas on next and played his absolute best match of the weekend against the England No.1 Stuart Hargreaves. In a tough first game, which was filled with quality rallies and shots from Dallas, it was Dallas who took the lead 1/0. Could we beat the English No.1 – sadly no. Stuart went on to win 3/1 but a super match from Dallas and a very credible result.

Marcus Thomas next on against Matthew Stephenson. On paper this should have been straight forward to the English man but Marcus dug in well and made life difficult at times for Matt – whilst a 3/0 loss it was well fought.

Last on again, and for the final time we had Dave. Dave played one of the most talented players you will see in Mike Gregory. After a few great shots in game one from Mike, Dave put some work into both his and Mike's legs only to just lose 13/11. The second game was led from the front by Mike so 2/0 England. Then, Dave produced an excellent period of pressure to take the third 11/9. The fourth went to England to complete the 5/0 win for them.

Great effort by Dallas and Dave against the England No.1 and No.2.

## **Conclusion**

A wonderful weekend of squash, with some old and new friends played in the right way.

Big thank you from the team to;

- Russell and Roy for organising the whole weekend – everything ran perfectly.
- Bonkers – for being our referee for all three matches.
- Nic and Lloyd for being excellent hosts at Cardiff and providing the food and a great atmosphere. If only Tailby could have played all his games on Court 4 at Cardiff!
- Tony Bevan and Lynn Davies for being great support during the weekend.

Finally, thanks to the O50s team – a super set of chaps and great privilege for me to Captain.

**Paul Thomas**

**May 2023**