

Men's O50;

(Left to Right)

Jon Evans, James Walters (Wally), Nick Jones, Richard Murphy, Ian Fenner-Evans (c), Steve Evans



It was a handsome bunch that gathered in Nottingham in May 2019. Having seen the opposition teams on paper, there was an expectation that it was going to be a tough weekend of squash ahead. However, with 50% of the team having a reasonable head of hair we were hopeful. 😊

Wales vs. England

Friday evening and first up England – a squad littered with national champions! As captain, it is always difficult to decide who to play first from a squad of six. Step forward Nick to take on the challenge. First game 11-1 to England – oops was it the right choice? A stern talking to in the break, and Nick was back on court. He had a determined look and chased every ball, confounding and frustrating his opponent. The second game was a battle and Nick came out on top 11-9. Nick was back in the match and his growing confidence was as palpable as was his opponent's frustration! Excellent squash in the third and fourth games saw Nick come out the winner 3-1. This was a great performance and the best possible start.

Next up was Steve, making his first appearance for a number of years and playing an opponent whose squash is often described as "unconventional" – and that's by his own teammates! This was a difficult match and Steve played well hitting accurately and with good variety. It was a tight match but his opponent had the edge, winning the last few points in each game.

Jon stepped on court with a smile (only kidding!). As always, he was focussed and ready for the number 1 Englishman. However, Jon found the first game difficult to get into his rhythm and lost it to 5 points. The second game was a much tighter affair with his opponent experiencing the renowned 'top spin drop'. However, a couple of long tight rallies saw his opponent take the game

11-9. The third game was a battle royal – both players giving their all and neither giving an inch. This was exciting, quality and edge of the seat squash – 10-10, 11-11, 12-12, 13-13. The Englishman hanging on for dear life, looking ragged, looking desperate! But in fairness to him, he persevered and managed to win the game 15-13 and with it the match. Had Jon won this game.....who knows?! However, what we do know is that there were two hand-wringing, exhausted supporters that had lived and breathed every point with Jon – his wife Jill and his daughter!

Ian had a steady start to his match, but his opponent was able to find more winning shots to take the first game 11-5. The second game was much tighter with better accuracy and working his opponent around the court. An opportunity squandered at 11-11 saw Ian lose the game 13-11 and go 0-2 down. Ian worked hard and took the third game 11-9, but was unable to repeat the result in the fourth losing the match 1-3. This was another tight match, where it was “what might have been” if only he had won the second game.

Richard stepped on court. He started his match with some sublime squash hitting fantastic length and combining it with his “killer boast”. Game won 11-5. The second game saw his opponent rally and start to settle into a rhythm, forcing some uncharacteristic errors from Richard as he tried to get the ball as tight as possible. 7-11 and it was one game all. The only way to describe the next two games is long, brutal, tight rallies with the score ebbing and flowing between both players. It was great to watch but sadly his opponent managed to find the extra few points that mattered in each game. This was a close loss, 1-3, which once again could have gone the other way in favour of Richard – fine margins!

Finally, Wally and Sharon supported the team throughout the whole match – fantastic effort. Wally then had a hit with the English number 6 using it as a warm up for the matches the following day – and taking some games in the process!

Overall, whilst the team came away with 5 points, this match was a lot closer than that suggests.

The game in the bar on Friday evening was not “Where’s Wally?” but instead “Who’s Steve Evans?”



Sat a.m. vs. Ireland

Wally led the way against Ireland on the Saturday morning and it is always great to see him dominating the “T”! A tight first game went Ireland’s way 9-11. But Wally was hitting with pace, accuracy, and power making his opponent work very hard. He also had his secret weapon behind the glass – Sharon; “What are you doing?” “Get on with it!” These words of encouragement clearly had the right effect and Wally won the next three games, although it was tough and required him to maintain focus throughout.

Steve – what a match! This was the Steve of old and the match had it all – rallies, nicks, dodgy calls, arguments, the death stare! The first two games were tight and both went to tie breakers, and both went Ireland's way 11-13 and 13-15. But Steve is a great competitor and was not phased at being 0-2 down. Instead he started to find his length and with it started to combine a variety of shots that worked his opponent around the court. Encouraged by the whole team he played controlled squash that saw him win the next three games 8,7,and 5 and ultimately the match. And of course, how did it end....with a fist pump! 😊

Jon put in a solid performance, almost giving away the third game (13-11), but winning 3-0. Richard then faced the Irish "legend" who is a quality shot player, when given the chance. In the first two games Richard controlled the rallies giving little opportunity to his opponent and making him work around the court. The third game confirmed that Richard had to be at his best as his opponent came back and won the game 8-11. The fourth game was tight up to 7-7 but the slow, deep boasts had drained the running from his opponents legs (something we can all empathise with) and Richard won the game 11-8 and also the match 3-1.

Ian gave away a 2 game lead to his opponent and then grafted out a familiar tough 3-2 win. Overall a solid team performance with maximum points gained.

Sat p.m. Scotland

Wally – solid performance with the first two games being tight, but winning the third comfortably.

Nick – won the first game, second and third games were tight losses, and then he faded in the fourth.

Ian – no surprise.....another 3-2 win.

Richard – solid, controlled 3-0 win.

Jon – after a good win in the morning Jon hit the bottle. In his words "*I've learnt something new! Too much drinking isn't good for you!*" So, what happened? Well, it seems you can drink too much water and end up with water toxicity. As Jon played the match he was cramping and generally feeling unwell. This is not what you want when playing the Scottish number one. Testament to Jon's determination is that having lost the first two games he came back to win the next two. However, the effort of combatting water toxicity and his opponent caught up with him in the fifth game and he eventually went down 2-3, but what a valiant effort. It is worth noting that lesson learnt, Jon played the British Open the following weekend winning the final 3-0 in 27 minutes to become British Open Champion! Well done Jon and huge congratulations.

Another good performance from the team as a whole – players and supporters together.

Final result - we achieved a great second place;

England 58 Wales 42 Ireland 28 Scotland 13

Thank you to England squash for the trophies.



The Welsh boys know how to dance,
well most of us!

Nice jacket Murph!

This was a special weekend with a great team, great friends and a good time. It was a privilege to be captain and I am grateful for the support I received from everyone. I am sorry that Jon (recovering from water toxicity) and Jill are not in the picture, but they are not forgotten.

Thank you.

Ian Fenner-Evans

