



MENS Over 35 Home Internationals 3rd May – 5th May 2019

Galway, Ireland

Squad:

- 1. Mike Dickens (Newport) Captain**
- 2. Joel Preece (Cowbridge)**
- 3. Matthew Williams (Llantrisant)**
- 4. Matt Lloyd Lewis (David Lloyd Cardiff)**
- 5. David Spinks (Llanelli)**
- 6. David Robertson (Cowbridge)**

The 35's team were first on against the Irish hosts on Friday 3rd May at 5pm. After a delayed flight (we though Ryanair were always on time!) our arrival was 4.50pm and were put straight into the lion's den.

Ireland had assembled their strongest team for many years bringing ex professional brothers John and Niall Rooney so a tough start ensued.

Debuts for David, Matthew and Joel, along with masters vets Mike and Matt, played out a 5-0 loss to Ireland, who now looked very much like strong contenders to upset England.

The team regrouped in the hotel on the Friday night and discussed Saturdays tactics over an energy drink.

Saturday morning came the fixture against England who had assembled a very strong squad. In this matchup we witnessed the "nick" of the weekend from Mr Spinks, unfortunately he put so much force into the shot he tore his

calf muscle (get well soon "Mark"). Performance of this fixture went to Joel Preece taking a game at number 2.

A special mention to Dave Robertson who joined up with the team late on Friday and was thrown in at the deep against a very tough opponent from England.

Another 5-0 loss but some very good battles and a good bit of grit shown by the squad.

After soup and sandwiches and a power nap we were ready for the battle against Scotland and the lads were pumped and looking for the win:

Wales vs Scotland

First on was Dave Robertson at number five, just a shame they decided on Ireland vs England to be streamed live.

He twisted and turned his opponent and battled hard, and got Wales up and running with a 3-0 on the card.

Next was Matt Williams in at three, who had been struggling with an injury.

With a raucous crowd behind making a din, Matt dug deep for a fantastic 3-1 win.

Up next was the Captain, Dickens. Going 2-0 down the team were not counting their chickens. He dug deep and dragged it back to 2-1, but could not hang on and was ultimately done.

The veteran Matt Lloyd Lewis next up at four, and this match was certainly not a bore. Everyone watching knew, that this match was going to be a 3-2. Matt has a great masters history, and it was amazing that this win meant the victory.

Joel Preece was next on and ready to finish the game, after his squash and dancing process this weekend we won't forget that name! As a captain I couldn't ask for more, and as Joel took the win he received the player of the over 35 masters tour.

***Fantastic weekend with a great group of lads @sqwales**



