

**Squash Home Nations Tournament, May 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May 2014 held at Nottingham Squash club**

**Wales Men's Over 65 Report.**

The Over 65 team arrived in Nottingham with the minimum 5 players due to late injury and withdrawals requiring the 5 players to play all 3 games over the weekend. The O65 team was Steve Evans (capt), Mike Mooney, Leighton Jenkins, John Patrick and Chris Leach.



The opener on Friday evening against Ireland, saw new cap Chris Leach get us off to a fine start with a debut 3-0 win at No. 5. Further wins from Leighton Jenkins at No.3 who remarkably turned round a first game whitewash to win 3-1 was followed by a strongly contested 3-1 win from Mike Mooney at No. 2. This gave Wales an excellent team win of three rubbers to two after John Patrick No. 4 had lost narrowly 2-3 to the very experienced Tom Cantwell in a match which could have gone either way, and Steve Evans who had been beaten 0-3 by David Grotto, the Irish No. 1 and the tournament's best player. Having only dropped four games and with 5 points being awarded for the team win, Wales finished the evening with a very creditable 16 points.

On Saturday morning a very strong and feisty England team, who had only narrowly beaten the Scots were determined to put some records straight, and although the Welsh team fought hard, with spirit and a few games of resistance only Mike Mooney was able to put a dent in the English domination of the match taking a game in an even contest against Aubrey Waddy at No.2 . This meant that with the experienced Ireland Internationals David Grotto and Tom Cantwell likely to be a match and game winner in the final round against England, the pressure was on the Welsh team to get at least one game and possibly more against a very strong Scottish side to avoid the wooden spoon.

The efforts of having played tough games in the morning took their toll on the early players and although playing well and getting close, no games were harvested until Steve Evans obtained his first and crucial game of the tournament against Ian Ross the Scottish No.1 This was then followed up by a great effort from Mike Mooney winning 3-0 against Chris Wilson at No2 completing an outstanding tournament obtaining two wins and 7 individual points towards the total Welsh tally.

It was a fine team effort with all five players having contributed to the final points tally of 21 points which put Wales into third place, Scotland coming second and England being the winners of the O65 Men's Home International Tournament 2014.

A dinner and presentation was held in the St James Hotel, Nottingham on Saturday evening. England host captains Martin Pearce, Di Parums and David Youngs gave speeches and due thanks were given to Dave Hardern, Adrian Wright, Nottingham Squash Club and the 2 markers, Andrew Hood and Karl Murray for their hard work, organisation and administration of the tournament. The Welsh O 65 team would like to reiterate these sentiments and we look forward to next year's tournament.

Steve Evans (capt)

