

MENS OVER 60 TEAM PUT UP FIGHT IN HOME INTERNATIONALS

Words by Richard Ford 9.6.2012

Wales Over 60 Team 2012

1. Clive Morgan
2. Peter Steed
3. Haydn Jones
4. Mike Mooney
5. Geoff Perrett
6. Richard Ford (Captain)

The Wales team started their campaign on Friday evening against a typically strong England team, and lost 0-5. Geoff Perrett, Haydn Jones, Mike Mooney and Clive Morgan all lost 0-3, but Peter Steed played very well at No 2 although he lost narrowly losing the third game 8-10.

In the second match against Ireland, Wales disappointingly lost 1-4. Richard Ford at No 5 lost a close match 2-3. Clive Morgan at No 1 took a game against the celebrated Irish No 1, David Gotto, but eventually Clive lost 1-3. Then Mike Mooney won 3-2 at No 4 having recovered from 1-2 down and 2-8 down in the fourth, Mike fought back bravely to win the fourth game 10-9, and then Mike won the fifth 9-4 against a demoralised opponent. In the final rubber, Peter Steed at No 2 again played well, and he took a 2-0 lead but his opponent fought back to level at 2-2, and then the Irish No 2 clinched the final game 10-8 in a very tight and closely fought match.

In the final match against Scotland, Wales again lost 1-4. Richard Ford again led the team off at No 5, but he was hampered by a calf strain injury incurred in the previous match, and lost 0-3, although only narrowly lost the third 7-9. Mike Mooney at No 3 levelled the score at 1-1 but he eventually went down 1-3, and Clive Morgan lost 0-3 at No 1 but two games were closely contested with Clive going down 7-9 and 6-9. Then Geoff Perrett at No 4 had a great 3-2 win against a strong Scottish opponent after recovering from a 1-2 deficit. Finally, a tired Peter Steed at No 2 in the final rubber went down 0-3.

In summary, England were the champions winning their matches 5-0 against Wales and Scotland and 4-1 against Ireland in which match David Gotto, the Irish No 1, won a close fought match 3-2 against the England No 1. In the decider for second place, Scotland narrowly defeated Ireland 3-2. The Wales team played with a great deal of effort and commitment, and overall played better than the results suggested by keenly contesting a number of closely fought matches.

Words From *Richard Ford* Mens Over60 Captain