

Vets on Tour

This week our roving reporter Mike Rofone provides us with a fascinating insight into life on the county circuit with this exclusive in-depth interview with the skipper of the highly-talented O45 team, George Kousseff.

In this rare treat for squash fans, George opens his heart for the first time about his misgivings for the new interpretation of Section 4(d), paragraph (iii) of the England Squash eligibility regulations, and explodes some popular myths surrounding his part in the demise of the much lamented "two-serves" rule in 1984.

Our reporter caught up with him at his warm weather training camp in West Wittering, a few days after the O45s triumphant weekend at South Marston squash club, near Swindon (twinned with Eurodisney):

MR: George, you must be absolutely delighted at the success of the O45s in your promotion group last weekend. Surely even in your wildest dreams you could never have envisaged trouncing Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire by such a wide margin?

GK: Who are you?

MR: This victory means that Hampshire are back in Division One at the first time of asking. Would you say that this was down to the iron self-discipline instilled by the youngsters in the squad, Andy Smith and Richard Freemantle, or would you put it down to the old hands like Simon Dakeyne, Geoff Whitfield and Geoff Lees providing a more stabilising influence?

GK: I haven't a clue. Look, I'm sorry, I don't normally give interviews.

MR: Yes, I was coming to that. Has public recognition changed your lifestyle at all now that the team has become so successful? With so much talent in the squad, and the likes of Hales, Partridge, Antonius and Millard waiting in the wings, all of whom have served with such distinction in the past, it must be a huge headache trying to balance all the different permutations available to you.

GK: Not really.

MR: Turning to the future now, is there any truth in the rumour that you are intending to hand over to a younger man next season? Do you think you'll still be playing for the team yourself in 12 months' time, or are you perhaps thinking of concentrating on mentoring some of the juniors? I hear that Jon Foster and John Merriman have been coming through the ranks and many expect them to make their breakthrough next season. Surely such a talented squad should have ambitions of a place in the Premier Division?

GK: Indeed.

MR: And is there any truth in the rumour that you usually only play once a week because you only own one pair of shorts?

GK: Get lost creep.

MR: Thank you very much for your time George and best of luck for the remainder of the season.

GK: Up yours.

That's all for this week. Next week Andy Smith will be giving us an update on his trialling of the latest athletic supports to come on to the market, and Simon Dakeyne will be passing on his new recipe for lemon meringue pie. And the following week, weather permitting, we hope to be organising a treasure hunt to find Richard Freemantle. Do join us then.

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - RESULT SHEET - Men O45

Category	Men O45
Round	Two
Division	Two (Promotion Group)
Date	30-31 Jan 2010

Match 1	Wiltshire	v	Hampshire	Score	Games
	1	Paul Clark	Andy Smith	3-0	9/1 9/3 9/2
	2	Gary Preston	Richard Freemantle	1-3	4/9 10/8 3/9 8/10
	3	Andy Smith	George Kousseff	0-3	1/9 2/9 2/9
	4	Dean Watkins	Geoff Whitfield	2-3	0/9 1/9 9/3 9/0 2/9
	5	Steve gale	Geoff Lees	0-3	0/9 0/9 4/9
			Result	6/17	

Match 2	Gloucestershire	v	Herefordshire	Score	Games
	1	Tim Smith	Rob Reid	3-0	9/4 9/3 9/4
	2	Rolf Wilson	Tom Burton	0-3	2/9 3/9 1/9
	3	Dale Curtis	Steve Hill	3-1	6/9 9/7 9/5 10/9
	4	Tim Edwards	Rob Davies	2-3	9/0 7/9 9/0 7/9 7/9
	5	Tony Briscombe	Ian Thornewell	3-1	9/1 6/9 9/6 9/7
			Result	16/8	

Match 3	Wiltshire	v	Herefordshire	Score	Games
	1	Paul Clark	Rob Reid	3-0	9/3 9/1 9/2
	2	Gary Preston	Tom Burton	1-3	1/9 8/10 9/2 4/9
	3	Mike Hyland	Steve Hill	3-0	9/5 9/4 9/1
	4	Clive Morgan	Rob Davies	1-3	9/7 2/9 6/9 0/9
	5	Steve Gale	Ian Thornewell	3-2	6/9 9/6 5/9 9/5 9/4
			Result	16/8	

Match 4	Gloucestershire	v	Hampshire	Score	Games
	1	Tim Smith	Andy Smith	0-3	3/9 8/10 0/9
	2	Rolf Wilson	Richard Freemantle	1-3	0/9 9/4 6/9 0/9
	3	Dale Curtis	George Kousseff	0-3	0/9 4/9 1/9
	4	Tim Edwards	Geoff Whitfield	0-3	4/9 5/9 6/9
	5	Tony Briscombe	Simon Dakeyne	3-2	7/9 9/7 6/9 9/6 9/4
			Result	4/19	

Match 5	Wiltshire	v	Gloucestershire	Score	Games
	1	Paul Clark	Tim Smith	2-3	9/5 4/9 0/9 9/5 5/9
	2	Gary Preston	Rolf Wilson	3-0	9/5 9/3 9/2
	3	Julian Mitchell	Dale Curtis	3-0	9/6 9/3 9/6
	4	Mike Hyland	Tony Briscombe	0-3	1/9 8/10 4/9
	5	Dean Watkins		3-1	
			Result	16/7	

Match 6	Herefordshire
1	Rob Reid
2	Tom Burton
3	Steve Hill
4	Ian Thornewell
5	Chris Payne

v Hampshire	Score	Games
Andy Smith	2-3	9/7 9/2 8/9 2/9 0/9
Richard Freemantle	3-0	9/1 9/5 9/0
George Kousseff	0-3	3/9 3/9 2/9
Simon Dakeyne	0-3	6/9 1/9 6/9
Geoff Lees	0-3	4/9 1/9 1/9
Result	5/17	

	Final Places	Ties	Points
1	Hampshire	3	53
2	Wiltshire	2	38
3	Gloucestershire	1	27
4	Herefordshire	0	21

One point for each game won in a match
 5 bonus points to team winning the tie
 Match = player v player
 Tie = county v county

