

BENENDEN'S DICCON GRAY PICKS UP 2 GOLD, 1 SILVER OVER 60s MEDALS @ HOME NATIONS VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Representing England over 60s, Benenden's Diccon Gray picked up two gold medals and one silver medal at the Home Nations Veteran Championships played at the Irish National Indoor Arena, Sport Ireland Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin over the weekend.

Playing with Steve Brunskill (Cleveland) and Sandra Rider (Yorkshire) in the over 60s team event, Gray contributed to England victories over Ireland B, Guernsey, Isle of Man and Wales, all 7-0. He then suffered England's only singles loss, over 5 games to Willie Mahabon, in England's 6-1 success over Scotland, before lifting the title with a clean 7-0 win against Ireland A. Although the overall results went England's way, it was a hard fought competition.

Partnered by Steve Brunskill, Gray claimed his second gold medal, beating the Scottish pair, Kenny McLean and Willie Mahabon in straight games in the men's over 60s doubles final.

Top seeded in the men's over 60s singles, the left-handed Gray had to graft hard to beat Irish defender Shaun Murray 3-1 from a game down in the semi-finals. However, the big hitting two wing topspin attack of Gerry Campbell (Scotland) thwarted Gray from taking his third gold medal in the final, the Benenden man going down in the 5th game, after staging fighting comebacks from behind throughout the match.

Gray commented that, "It has been a gruelling long weekend of competition, and I think that I perhaps under-performed when it mattered most. So I feel a mixture of disappointment and pride, but in the end I got a decent haul of two gold and one silver medals".

Diccon Gray is the founder member, and current general secretary of the Weald Table Tennis Club, which meets at Benenden Village Hall on Thursday (7-9pm) and Sunday (6.30-8.30pm) evenings, all-comers welcome.

For further information, contact Ken Muhr, Tel. 01580 752676 (H), E-mail. Ken.Muhr@btinternet.com or Diccon Gray, Mobile. 07970 575285.



England Team
(Diccon Gray on right)



Men's doubles winners
(Diccon Gray on left)



Losing men's singles finalist
presentation (Diccon Gray on right)