

2011 Grand Slam Report

Cardiff, Wales

The squad arrived at Cardiff stadium at 11am in good time for the 1pm start. England's record going into this event was contrasting to say the least. The ladies were going for their hatrick of wins and the men hoping to improve on the third place of last year. Due to a couple of recent injuries of two members of the squad Craig Burke and Natalie Williams were unable to attend.

Head coach: Willie Thomas

Assistant coach: Paul Newby

Men's Team

Alton Brown – Captain
Rory Daniels
Jordan Thomas
Aaron Swales
Lee Heath
Ryan Jay

Ladies Team

Katy Hurry
Alice Goudie
Carla Burkitt
Sarah Clark

The Irish team did not attend the event which left three of the home nations to battle it out, England, Wales and Scotland.

England	England	Wales	Result
Alice Goudie	2	2	Draw
Carla Burkitt	2	0	Win
Katy Hurry	2	3	Lose
Sarah Clark - Sub	ENGLAND wins by one point		

The first bout was a close call with Alice Goudie drawing the first, then a good performance by Carla Burkitt winning the second fight to put England's nose in front. Katy Hurry found herself on the back foot trailing 3-0 half way into the bout, but produced a spirited effort to pull back two points and although losing the bout she lost the battle but the team won the war winning overall by just one point.

England	England	Scotland	Result
Katy Hurry	2	1	Win
Sarah Clark	1	0	Win
Carla Burkitt	3	2	Win
Alice Goudie – Sub	ENGLAND wins 3-0		

The second match against Scotland was a more decisive affair with solid performances from Katy Hurry, Sarah Clark and Carla Burkitt with an emphatic 3-0 win. Once again our senior ladies are 'Grand Slam champions'.

With the ladies work done, the men were keen to get going. Up first was England vs Wales. Aaron Swales got us off to a good start winning 2-1 against the Welsh heavyweight. Jordan overcame the popular Welsh competitor in a bruising 7-5 bout. Alton Brown sealed the match with a late match winner. With the match won the Welsh were now just fighting for pride but Ryan Jay and Rory Daniels annihilating their opponents with a blitz Krieg of techniques. A great 5-0 win with the English team scoring a total of 28 points for, with only 8 against.

England	England	Wales	Result
A Swales	2	1	Win
J Thomas	7	5	Win
A Brown - Capt	2	1	Win
R Jay	9	1	Win
R Daniels	8	0	Win
Lee Heath – Sub	ENGLAND wins 5-0		

England was even more fired up and ready for the second match bringing Lee Heath into the affray. Alton Brown led the charge with another solid performance winning 3-0. Lee Heath exploded onto the mat giving his opponent no chance to settle winning 9-1 within the time. Jordan Thomas fought like a seasoned senior sealing the 3-0 win to give the England men's team their first victory in recent years. Again Rory Daniels and Ryan Jay now focusing on performance wrap up an made it another emphatic 5-0 win.

England	England	Scotland	Result
A Brown - Capt	3	2	Win
Lee Heath	9	1	Win
J Thomas	4	0	Win
R Daniels	6	3	Win
R Jay	5	3	Win
A Swales – Sub	ENGLAND wins 5-0		

Summary

A great result for the seniors winning double gold in the 'Grand Slam', home nations. Both men and ladies performed with distinction however, what was inspiring to me as a coach was the team unity within the squad where the support for one another created such a measure of intrinsic motivation. Thank you to all who came to support us and although you were few in number you were in good voice and certainly heard.

Willie Thomas

EKF National Kumite Coach