

England become first Over 80 European Champions



Ludwigsburg, Germany played host to the WMH European Masters Championships 2025 for the age groups O65, O70, O75 and O80 during the last week of August. This was the first time that there had been an O80 section and England faced old rivals Netherlands and O80 newcomers Germany. After a comfortable 3-1 win against the hosts with goals from Tony Jones and Adrian Stephenson (2), England were faced with tougher opposition in the form of the Netherlands to whom they had lost their last two annual international matches.

With a squad of 14 depleted to 12 with accidental off-field issues for two of their players, it was always going to be an uphill battle but the defence stood firm and kept the lively Dutch forwards at bay after England took an early lead through a goal from David Gill. A momentary lapse in the third quarter led to a Dutch equaliser but heads didn't drop and Adrian Stephenson tucked away what was to prove a winning goal a few minutes into the final period. The defence again rose to the occasion to see out the last few minutes and England, perhaps against the odds, became the first Over 80 European Champions.

In a final friendly match against guest Australian team Southern Cross England maintained their 100% record with a 2-0 win, both goals scored by Tony Jones. England team manager Adrian Stephenson praised the whole squad: 'It was a great team performance and the group bonded well both on the pitch and off. We must now set our sights on the WMH Masters World Cup in the Netherlands next year.'