

Veteran Home International Comments

It was England's and South West OA's turn to organise the Veteran Home International this year and North Gloucester OC stepped up to the plate to host it alongside the Caddihoe Chase. The extra effort NGOC made to reflect the special nature of the VHI was clear to see and appreciated by the VHI team members. The majority had travelled a very long way to race in the Forest of Dean: travel rewarded with excellent terrain, planning and all-round competition. Thank you to all those, nearly all NGOC, named elsewhere and led by Pat MacLeod, who made it happen. I hope they are jointly and severally proud of their achievement.

The four home nations: England, Ireland (drawn from all four provinces, administered by NIOA), Scotland and Wales race. Each team comprises 2 men and 2 women in age groups 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 and one man and one woman in age groups 35 and 65: 24 people per team. The competition comprises an individual on the Saturday and a relay on the Sunday.

Teams were accommodated very locally in Welsh Bicknor YHA youth hostel and a pub bunkhouse in Upper Lydbrook (totals: 70 on Friday night and 84 on Saturday night). The VHI Dinner (90 sitting down) was laid on in the adjacent Goodrich village hall on Saturday evening led by Jackie Hallett with Welsh Junior O Squad (athletes and parents) providing 2/3rds of the meal and in hall support.

This year England were better by a margin over Scotland on both days, with Wales besting Ireland by not much. Organising the VHI embedded in an 'open' event increased its visibility and allowed those chasing in the Caddihoe later to spectate and cheer on their national teams in the relay, helped by the visibility of the spectator control. The results, individual, relay and team can be accessed through the [NGOC Results page](#).

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