



newsletter

Steve Comish full of Eastern promise

Wrest Park hosted its most prestigious event yet when the big hitters assembled on Friday July 25 for the Eastern Championships. The build-up was frantic - the lawns were resited on Tuesday, most of the hoops reset on Thursday, and the last hoops went in on Friday morning, the grounds team finally quitting the lawns (after wiping off the last traces of the black rubber mallet on the hoops) five minutes after play was due to start.



Early morning line-up looking north from lawn 6

Jon Watson, our only representative, lost in the first round to Debbie Cornelius but acquitted himself well in the plate event which was won by David Goacher. The championship was won by Steve Comish, who beat Keith Aiton by three games to one in the best of five final. There were triple peels galore, and as a club we can take some pride in the nice things that were said about the standard of the lawns and the hoop setting - it was even suggested that Wrest Park should host the Easterns permanently!



Steve Comish receives the trophy from George Collin

Inter Club - nobbled by Northampton

The Inter Club competition is the premier national club knock-out played to advanced rules. Our form in this competition is patchy - in 1995 we were beaten finalists and in 1996 we beat the holders in the first round and then lost to Southwick. This year our first round opponents were the bogey team of Northampton, and we lost. I can't really add more as I haven't seen the results.

Mary Rose - Northampton nobbled

This was played at home on August 2 (I think - again, no results to hand). The doubles may have turned on a moment when John Anstey took John Wheeler to task for discussing tactics with Eric and received a firm but fair response which unnerved him sufficiently to miss some crucial shots. After a clean sweep in the morning Wrest Park then lost three of the afternoon singles and were saved by a typically gritty win from Rod Ashwell. The next round is away to Parkstone.

Longman Cup - now for Northampton

We came through the third round playing at home against Nottingham on 19 July and now have to play - can you guess? Is there no getting away from them?

Third round: **Wrest Park 3 Nottingham 2**

Terry Mahoney (4) and David Woolley (9) lost to Roger Berkeley (9) and Ian Hill (9) -3(T)

John Bevington (3½) and David Parsons (11) beat John Filsak (7) and Tim Smith (11) +6(T)

Terry and John lost to Roger and John -3(T)

David W beat Ian +10(T) David P beat Tim +7(T)

Beds and Herts League results

15 June vs Cassiobury (home) Won 5-1

Peter Smith (12) and David Parsons (11) beat Arthur Reed (1½) and Robert Bateson (10)+6(T)

John Bevington (3½) and Mark Smith (16) beat Peter Thompson (3½) and Brian Christmas (6) +2(T)

David Woolley beat Arthur +24

David P beat Peter +12

Peter lost to Brian -3(T) Mark beat Robert +8(T)

21 June vs Meldreth (home) Lost 5-1

John Wheeler (1½) and Tim Brewer (18) lost to Chris van Essen (8) and Richard Artley (24) -5(T)

Vic Rees (5) and Peter Smith (12) lost to Jon Smith (1½) and Robert Skeen (16) -1(T)

John W beat Jon S +22 Vic lost to Chris -25

Peter lost to Robert -10 Tim lost to Richard -10

12 July vs Enfield (home) Won 5-1

George Collin (3) and Paul Sharrock (8) beat Basil Lawrence (14) and Joan Lawrence (24) +11

John Bevington (3½) and Terry Mahoney (4) beat Ian Davidson (9) and Wendy Spencer-Smith (24) +11

George beat Ian +3 John beat Basil +6

Terry lost to Joan -1(T) Paul beat Wendy +2(T)



Eastern two-step: Debbie Cornelius and Richard Hilditch

26 July vs Letchworth (away) Lost 5-1

George Collin and Tim Brewer lost to Philip Windred and Robert Stodon -7

Terry Mahoney and Peter Smith beat John Hall and Jeremy Scott +16

George lost to Philip -7 Peter lost to Jeremy -4

Terry lost to David Harley -16 Tim lost to Robert -4

2 August vs St. Albans (away) Lost 3-1

John Bevington (3½) and George Collin (3) lost to Paul Halliday (16) and Dick Barnard (14) -26

Terry Mahoney (4) beat Andrew Apps (14) +15

John and Terry lost to Dick and Andrew -2(T)

George lost to Paul -13

Wrest Park tournaments

July 4-6 Advanced Manager: Eric Audsley

My information comes from a copy of Graham Fowler's report which mysteriously ends with the words "Thanks are". Terry Burge didn't turn up until Saturday and then lost to Judy Anderson. Gordon Hopewell was undefeated on Friday but lost to Graham Fowler on Saturday. Graham's match against Lionel Tibble featured a two ball ending with Lionel stuck on the left-hand wire of rover, able to run it but not far, and Graham lurking just north of the peg. Lionel ran the hoop, checked that he could see nothing, called for an umpire and played a gentle shot which curled onto the peg. Graham won the tournament with Gordon runner-up, and George Collin gained the most handicap points.

August 9-10 Advanced Manager; Jon Watson

Something of a helter-swelter weekend, with fast lawns, tight hoops and many games going to time. Any hopes that Graham Fowler may have had of repeating his July triumph were dashed as he lost to Judy Anderson, Rod Ashwell and Jon Watson. The tournament ended with a three-way tie between Rod, Bill Sidebottom and Chris Tuthill, all with four wins. Rod had actually beaten the other two, but it was Chris who had accumulated the most points, so he took the prize.

New members Pro-Am doubles event

This was held on Sunday August 17, managed by John Wheeler, and consisted of three rounds of alternate stroke doubles and some golf croquet, with tea breaks punctuated by village gossip. Peter and Elaine Newman, Mike and Jan Jarrard, Mary Russell, Judy Kitchiner, Vip Peirce and Peter Berry were kept busy by their "professional" minders, and the Newmans scooped the magnificent prizes, Peter winning the Golf Croquet and Elaine the doubles. Another event is being considered for the club finals day on Sunday September 21.

Club competitions

Our representative in the All England area finals on Sept 6/7 will be either George Collin or John Bevington. In the Archer Cup it is now a case of who can stop Steve Jones, who is still forging ahead in both halves of the draw. The Steel is very much up for grabs, with plenty of games left.

**John Bevington
18 August 1997**