

THE SINGLES

The 1980 British Singles Championship proved to be no less surprising than the American if only for its failures rather than its successes. When last year's winner takes 118 points from 20 games, losing only once, a polite yawn (as practised to perfection by the teenage element) is the order of the day.

If anyone had suggested at the start of the day that Alan Dean and Dave Lockwood would finish in seventh and eighth respectively, they would not only been laughed at, but they might have been offered 100-1 by bookie Cyril.

The turnout of 24 players was the best for a long time, and with all the less experienced players expressing the noble desire of having a crack at the title, it was decided to split the field into two leagues of 12, each containing five seeded players (as selected by I.F.Tw.A.). The top five finishers in each league then were to play a separate league on the Sunday, starting again from scratch. In theory the qualifiers should have been Lockwood, Edwards, Seaman, Thorpe and Mooney from Div. A and Mapley, Dean, Pam Knowles, Relle and Hull from Div. B. I.F.Tw.A. (Dave Lockwood - ed.) got this bit about right. The lowest seeds in each division were the only two to fail - Mick Mooney was supplanted in devastating fashion by his erstwhile partner Julius Mach after six years in the winkerness, and Dave Hull, having started well, fell away badly. Everyone was delighted that Duncan Budd of LUSTS aged only 14 had proved himself in the big time with an opening seven games of 7, 3, 4, 4, 7, 5½, 7. He need feel no disgrace in picking up only three more points against the top four seeds. All the other newcomers declared that they had enjoyed the experience, including Crispen (Crippen) Jarman of LUSTS who didn't play anything like as bad as his five points suggest.

The media coverage was excellent. Dave was interviewed by BBC South on Friday evening, ITV Southern sent a cameraman on Saturday afternoon to fit into a discussion between Jon Mapley and Fred Dinenage screened on the Monday. The 'Guardian' reporter did us proud with a front page article.

The full Division result are shown on the following pages.

The play on Sunday had drama right from the start. Pam (no longer in awe of anyone) dumped Alan 6-1 and promptly lost to Jon 7-0. Keith was in ominously good form, opening up 5½, 6, 4, but the real foretaste of the shocks to come came with Cyril's 3½ against Dave in Round 2. After 3 games it was Jon 19, Cyril and Keith 15½ each. Cyril then threw the whole thing wide open with his first win over Jon, and with Dave and Alan coming back into the picture on 17½ and 19 it looked like a 1979 repeat performance. Cyril held his 1½ point advantage in Round 5 and it was looking critical for Jon, who had Keith, Alan, Julius and Dave still to play.

Charles Relle then decided it was time he left his impression on the proceedings. He beat Cyril 5-2 in Round 6, giving Jon back the lead, and in the space of about fifteen minutes proved that he is the most devastating potter in the business, taking six points off Alan and five off Dave, effectively ending their challenges. Jon had recovered from his thrashing by Cyril and was showing his six-appeal again. Alan had a fling against him in Round 7, bravely going for a very difficult pot-out. Three greens went in, the next didn't and Jon made no mistakes.

There were a great bunch of players fighting for the minor placings. By the time Round 8 was complete only Jon and Cyril were possible winners, Keith looked safe in third, but fourth to eighth could have been virtually any order. Pam was now playing very well indeed, and notched up 26 points from her last 5 games to finish a deserved fourth. Charles' inspired burst stuttered in the last round (1-6 to Pam) so he was one point below her in fifth, Julius played steadily for sixth, ½ point behind Charles, beating Alan 4-3 in the last round to give him his worst ever Single result of seventh place.

The last match drama never really materialised. Jon went into the game with Dave 3 points ahead of Cyril, who was playing Keith. Jon quickly gained the upper hand and although the the score was uncertain looked sure to get at least 4 points, while Cyril was in dire trouble against Keith. Dave's chance came, as it nearly always does, getting on a biggish pile and blasting three of his reds out. He casually commented "You've got

DIVISION 'B'

ROUND

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Rank
MAPLEY	6	10	16	23	30	35	42	49	55	61	68	1 ST
DEAN	1	7	8	13	20	26	32	38	45	51	58	2 ND
PAM KNOWLES	3	6	12	18	24	30	35	41	46	52	57	3 RD
RELE	4	5	6	13	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	4 TH
HULL	6	12	15	15	15	16	17	23	24	30	31	
SCENMAN	1	5	10	12	12	13	15	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	
IRESON	0	1	3	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	
BUDD	7	10	14	18	25	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 TH
JOSLAND	6	12	17	18	20	25	25	26	27	32	38	
BALDWIN	1	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	17	17	17	18	18	
HENDERSON	4	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	31	32	33	
MOORE	3	9	11	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	

VIEW OPPONENT SCORE

/cont. from p2.

six greens free", a fact which Jon had not overlooked as he fired them all in. So it was all over and no-one could believe that Dave would finish a tournament 3,1,1,1 in eighth place.

Geoff Thorpe didn't get going at all, despite winning 4-3 against Keith, and Duncan Budd achieved what he set out to do, scoring 9 points.

One had to feel sympathy with the tribulations of World Champion Lockweed. He had made it abundantly clear that he was itching to win this one. He generously offered no excuses for his collapse, having given himself every chance by arriving on Friday and leaving on Monday. Alan has not been on his usual form this year. Lets hope he can return to his brilliant best in 1981. Pam emphatically proved that Washington was no fluke, and Keith showed glimpses of his former glory. Cyril came very close to making that last giant leap.

Its a great pity that Nigel Knowles could not be there. Having won in 1977 he has missed the last three because of work commitments. The tournament is poorer without you, Mr. Editor!

The Final:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	total
1. JON MAPLEY	-	1	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	50
2. CYRIL EDWARDS	6	-	1	6	2	6	6	3½	5½	6	42
3. KEITH SEAMAN	1	6	-	6	6	5½	1	4	3	6	38½
4. PAM KNOWLES	0	1	1	-	6	1	6	6	7	6	34
5. CHARLES RELLE	1	5	1	1	-	1	5	6	6	7	33
6. JULIUS MACH	1	1	1½	6	6	-	4	1	6	6	32½
7. ALAN DEAN	1	1	6	1	2	3	-	4	6	6	30
8. DAVE LOCKWOOD	1	3½	3	1	1	6	3	-	6	5	29½
9. GEOFF THORPE	1	1½	4	0	1	1	1	1	-	6	16½
10. DUNCAN BUDD	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	-	9

Some incidents from the play:

Geoff was playing against Alan attempting to pot a free uninvolved yellow. Very close by was a pile, green on two others. As he placed his squidger on the yellow, the depression of the mat caused the green to slide down on top of the yellow before he could attempt the pot. Judgement of Solomon (Who? - ed.) - An irreversible wink movement has occurred and he must stop without actually playing the yellow. Any comments?

Jon managed an unusual way to lose a squidge-off when his wink hit his opponent's Wink into the pot!

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS

<p>It was with some trepidation, mingled with my natural curiosity (some say nosiness) that I climbed the stairs at Goldsmith's College to the venue of the 'London Open'. Would I asked to play? What did the average tiddleywinks player look like? Say? Do? All these questions were whirling through my mind as I walked with Nigel into the room.</p>	<p>The room contained a group of matted tables, four young players, assorted bags, coats and sandwiches, but no world class tiddley-players. Where were they? Nigel asked the curt but pertinent question "Which pub are they in?". It was immediately obvious to me that this yet unknown group of sportsmen shared two burning interests, tiddleywinks and beer - or</p>
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was it beer & winks. Even now, after intensive study, I am not sure of the precedence. So I was to meet the crowd on familiar ground, the pub.

Introductions completely confused me, which one was Charles or Dave or Cyril - it was to take me the whole afternoon to finally sort out this enthusiastic and diverse collection. Character studies at this stage would be libellous - so suffice it to say I will carry the sight of Charles' trousers and T-shirt parting company to reveal his whiter than white vest and underpants for a long time. As I will Dave's American twang advising his young partner to get on top and use two fingers.

There was also Cyril, your original left wing, right handed player. He stocks an excellent real-ale, as all at the A.G.M. would agree and so must be of good character. He can swear with the true fluency of a classical scholar (we all now know the medieval German for &?;!@).

Who could this tanned cigar-smoking executive type be? Jon Mapley - perhaps this was the one to watch. He sported his own individualised T-shirt and seemed always to pot out (whatever that means).

Of course there were many other players present on that enjoyable afternoon and later at the most extra-ordinary Annual General Meeting I have been privileged to attend. Those I have missed out can breathe a sigh of relief, while those I have included I hope have a sense of humour to match their Winks playing ability.

Janet Poole.

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#### THE LONDON OPEN 1980

(A rather belated account.)

Fourteen pairs competed in the tournament, including two faces not seen for a long time, Dave Hull and Paul Lakra. The Sunday Times Colour Supplement and Keith Seaman respectively are to be thanked for these comebacks.

A seven round Swiss was arranged as the first stage, which resulted in the top three pairs being separated by only 1½ points. Cyril and Dennis came out marginally ahead with a most impressive run of scores only marred by a devastating 0-7 against Dave & Alan.

The most surprising result was the failure of the hat-trick seeking pair, Jon and Charles, to even finish in the top four and qualify for the semi-finals. Charles was certainly playing well below his best, and

missed some crucial shots.

The semi-finals saw Cyril and Dennis facing Mick and Peter in a one game sudden death play-off, with previous scores not counting. Alan and Dave met Paul and Keith in the other semi. Both games were very interesting and were won 4-3 to pit Alan and Dave against Cyril and Dennis in a two game final.

Cyril and Dennis were given no chance to avenge their earlier defeat and scored 1½ and 1 point in the two games.

#### Qualifying Stage:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Cyril Edwards    | 36½ |
| Dennis Opposs    |     |
| Alan Dean        | 36  |
| Dave Lockwood    |     |
| Paul Lakra       | 35  |
| Keith Seaman     |     |
| Mick Mooney      | 33  |
| Peter Toye       |     |
| Jon Mapley       | 28  |
| Charles Relle    |     |
| Rod Lees         | 27½ |
| Dave Hull        |     |
| Tony Hopkins     | 25  |
| Derek Henderson  |     |
| Charles Jeffries | 24½ |
| Nigel Knowles    |     |
| Graham Josland   | 22  |
| Alan Boyce       |     |
| Tony Brennan     | 20  |
| Derek Wheeler    |     |
| Mick Wiseman     | 17½ |
| Mick Still       |     |
| Robert Baldwin   | 17  |
| Jason Blackburn  |     |
| Crispin Jarman   | 15½ |
| Duncan Budd      |     |
| John Snuffer     | 5½  |
| Michael Lamkin   |     |

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THE NEWTS DINNER

Charles & Eleanor Relle were again the hosts for the annual New London Tiddley-winks Society dinner, which was again a great success. Seventeen attended, including Guests of Honour Nigel Knowles and Janet Poole. The NEWTS AGM was submerged by pre-prandial sherry - much more appreciated. (I now realise why it is called Newts, as I returned to my hotel drunk as one after the dinner! - ed.)

THE 1980 AMERICAN SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Unfortunately Alan Dean's complete article could not be included in the last WW but Alan now takes up the story of his and Pam's eventful trip.)

Pam and Alan met at Keith Seaman's house on the Thursday evening, visited Laker's Office in Victoria at midnight, to discover that tickets were on sale for the Friday flight, and returned to Keith's for a few hours sleep before setting off in the early hours for Heathrow. Standby seats were obtained after a long wait and at 11a.m. our winking representatives were on their way to New York.

Seven hours later, at 1p.m. local time, they stepped into the humid heat of J.F.K. airport and made their way, by bus and taxi, to the workplace of Dave Lockwood and Joe Sachs. Meanwhile, way down in Washington D.C. Larry Khan, who had taken a day off for the occasion, was awaiting the arrival of Pam and Alan at Washington Airport, a mere 30 miles from his home.

After Pam and Alan had waited around for some time, trying to acclimatise to the heat, Fred Schapiro joined the group and an assault course began, the object of which was to cross New York City by public transport, carrying heavy luggage and without losing sight of the rest of the party in the rush hour crowds. This was followed by a very long wait for a much overdue bus in an incredibly hot bus station, wondering if there was time to run across for a Coke and not daring to risk it. This trip was to another Airport, where a hire car was waiting for the drive to Larry's house in Washington, arriving about 24 hours after the start of the trip in London, in the early hours of Saturday morning. By 4a.m. it seemed to Alan it was time to get up being two hours past his normal rising time, and little further sleep was possible. Pam, fortunately, fared rather better.

Breakfast, like every meal, was eaten out and the tournament then got going mid-morning. The temperature was high and the humidity awful. The crushing blow was the discovery that the building's air-conditioning was turned off for the weekend. Doors were propped open to get a small movement of air but it was obvious that most players were suffering from the heat.

The field was disappointingly small (only eleven players) but very strong. Dave wrote the names on a blackboard in his estimated finishing order (starting with himself) and the same order is used in the table of scores given. Early surprises were the defeat of Larry by Pam, in the first round, and the 6-1 win by Jim Marlin (supposedly out of practice) over Alan. Alan was playing quite well but Jim produced a phenomenal sequence of squops for victory.

Pam continued to amaze everyone with her victories, thoroughly deserved, produced by solid strategy and excellent squopping. The one exception to this approach was when she met Alan, late in the first day. With her very poor record against him in serious singles play she felt that the best chance was to go for an early pot out. Five were quickly potted but the sixth, at the second attempt was squopped by Alan. It was in fact squopped by each of Alan's colours but when he brought in an additional guard it knocked off both the squopping winks leaving Pam an easy pot. As it was in free turns Alan was not allowed to resquop. Pam missed the pot but landed safe. Alan decided potting himself would be easier than getting the squop, but managed only five in before Pam potted out and won 5-2.

At the end of the first day Pam was leading. This seemed amazing enough but more so as she had already played most of the top players, a result of the Lockwood seeding system. Even so no-one seemed to take her threat very seriously and it was suggested by some that she easily could lose the remainder of her games.

On the second day Pam continued to play with great skill and coolness (mentally that is, it being impossible for anyone to remain remotely cool physically). Victory followed victory, mostly by the margin of 6-1 and still Pam played with cool, calm precision.

Apart from a bad loss to Dave Pam won every other game, and finished the first stage of the competition half a point ahead of Dave with Larry two points further back. Her lead could easily have been much safer as both Dave and Larry had been in trouble against Alan and only managed to win because of a few inconsistent shots from Alan.

