



WORLD MEDICAL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS



O. D. Beresford

Bournemouth 19–27 June 1982

The World Medical Tennis Society is open to doctors who, according to its constitution, as revised at Garmisch, Germany in July 1981, wish to promote tennis participation among physicians. Its further aims include, promotion of international friendship, encouragement of physical fitness, particularly in relation to aging and illness and the exchange of information and experience. This it does by promoting tennis tournament on an international basis in which time is set aside for the reading of appropriate papers.

Such a tournament was held for the first time in Great Britain at Bournemouth from 19th to 27th June, 1982 with the British Medical Tennis Association acting as hosts.

The British Journal of Sports Medicine is indebted to Dr. O. D. Beresford of Bournemouth who representing the British Medical Tennis Association at the conference has sent us the following personal comments.

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The World Medical Tennis Society was founded in 1971 in Monte Carlo since when a meeting has been held in a different country each year. At present some fifty countries are members of the Society which has steadily grown since its inception.

At the 1982 Championship in Bournemouth there were about 300 participants from 22 nations including, Canada and Sri Lanka. The republic of Ireland, Jamaica and New Zealand each had a representative, but the largest contingents were from Italy, USA, Sweden and Japan. There were 16 events divided into age groups and also one for the Nations Cup which was won by Sweden. Great Britain narrowly lost to Norway in the first round.

The weather after the first two days was very wet but 220 matches out of a total of some 500 were played on Sunday and Monday. For the rest of the week every available all-weather court in the area was used which meant transporting to and from outside courts. Even so all events were completed by Saturday evening in time for the presentation of prizes at the Gala held at the Pavilion in Bournemouth.

The open singles was won by Dr. Gruchet of France who defeated Dr. Caimo of Italy; the winner for the previous two years. Andrew Paton of Bath; a previous Junior Wimbledon Champion, did well to reach the quarter finals, losing to Hans Nerell of Sweden in three sets.

The ladies singles was won by Dr. Engeljahringer of Austria who defeated Nuala Dwyer of Britain (also a previous Junior Wimbledon Champion) in the final. J. P. R. Williams (yet another previous Junior Wimbledon Champion) was in attendance and reached the semi-final of the mixed doubles, partnered by Nuala Dwyer. In between matches he kept fit by playing innumerable games of squash.

The British success was in the open mixed doubles won by Richard Stott of Barry, South Wales, and Judith Pell of Poole. The latter partnered by Nuala Dwyer were losing finalists in the ladies doubles.

The over 70's singles was won by Dr. Ogawa of Japan, the event attracting an entry of 9. Dr. Spitzer of Switzerland won the over 60's singles, so the winners of various events were spread amongst many countries.



O. D. Beresford, Mrs. Ogawa, Dr. K. Ogawa, Dr. Salbe



Dr. J. P. R. Williams (UK) Mrs. H. Kichikawa (Japan) Dr. K. Ogawa (Japan)
Dr. S. McCampbell (President WMTS) Dr. H. Nerell (Sweden)

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The prizes were presented by Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, Chairman of the Institute of Sports Medicine and handed over by Ken Bailey, the well known cheer-leader of all British sport.

The social events were a great success. On the first day of play a wine party was held at the West Hants Club, much enjoyed by all as it was a glorious evening. On Monday the Mayor's reception was followed by dinner at the Pavilion. Our Lady Mayor, Councillor Sheila McQueen, proved a most successful hostess and thoroughly enjoyed herself mixing with the various nationalities present.

The highlight of the week was the Mediaeval Dinner at Beaulieu in the New Forest. This had to be divided into two groups as the maximum number they could cater for was 170. However, both groups had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. One of the French doctors was an opera singer and was persuaded to perform, to the delight, not only of the guests, but the staff of Beaulieu also. I understand the little Japanese ladies also caused some amusements by visiting the bar and, not knowing what drink to order, came back with pints of beer!

The week ended with the Gala Evening at the Pavilion when prizes were presented but the Americans had also prepared very carefully a sing-song consisting of well known English songs including our National Anthem (old style!). The words of John Peel were altered to bring in all the personalities of the week and had been prepared very carefully as it scanned perfectly. This was organised by a doctor called Homar Peabody — an unlikely name but he really does exist and is a delightful character.

The scientific events were very poorly attended which was a pity as Dr. Justin Clark had gone to a lot of trouble to obtain some excellent speakers. The wet weather had something to do with this as the concourse to the marquee was all too often flooded. However, the directors of the World Organisation recognises the problem and next year's in Helsinki will set aside one day for the academic programme only.

Purely as a matter of interest the budget for this event was some £20,000 and we ended up just about £200 on the right side. Of course we did have some help from drug firms, otherwise we would have made a loss. The wet weather put up the costs because we had to supply transport for outside courts and also in some cases pay for them.

Some hilarious moments may be worth recounting. On the day of registration I arrived at the West Hants to find a somewhat irate manager complaining that a large caravan type vehicle was in the car park and had hung out his washing before the eyes of the residents of this salubrious area. The owner turned out to be an Italian who did not speak a word of English but by sign language and the help of a club member he was eventually persuaded to do his washing somewhere else.

At 10 p.m. one evening I was contacted because a Finnish boy aged eleven years was at the club and no-one knew where the Finns were staying as they had made their own arrangements. Problem solved by driving him around Bournemouth until he recognised the hotel!