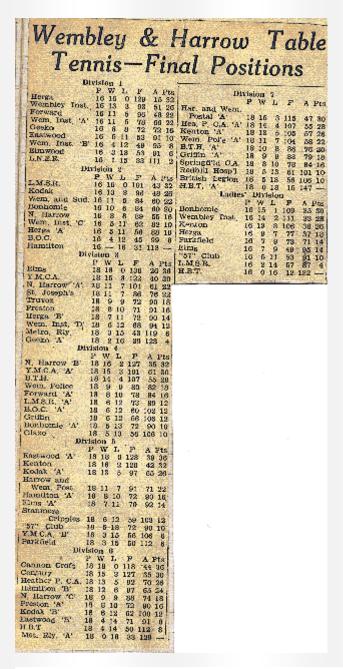
WEMBLEY & HARROW LEAGUE SCRAPBOOK

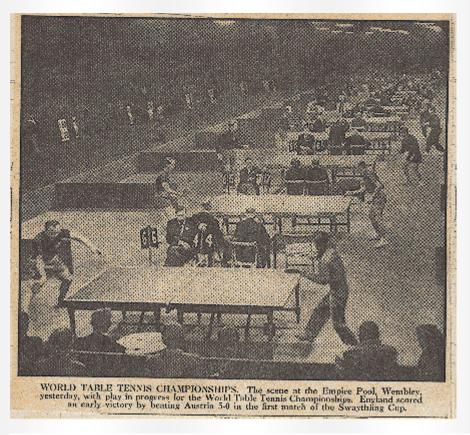
This presentation introduces some items from the League archives, or, more precisely, late League President Michael Close's scrapbook. There is a selection of newspaper articles and contemporary photographs going back to the 1940s.

1948-55



A cutting from the local paper showing the final League tables for the seven men's and one ladies' divisions in 1947-48.





Action from the World Championships held at the Empire Pool (now the Wembley Arena) in 1954.



Some of the winners at the League Closed Championships held at Kodak in 1955. Back row, left to right: J Parker and S Jacobson (men's doubles), Miss J Lewsey and Miss L Murray (ladies' doubles), L Landry (junior boys' singles); Front row: Miss M Chipperfield (ladies' singles), M Close (men's singles).



MISS MURRAY HITS HER WAY TO THREE TABLE TENNIS TITLES

PRIDE of place in the finals of the Wembley Closed

Bud medals.

Detailed Te sull 1s: Boys' singles, linal; L. Landry (holder) beat B. Donnelly 21-14, 21-19.

Men's singles, semi-linals: A. Rhodes beat A. Linforth 21-15, 21-7; L. Landry heat M. Close 21-13, 18-21, 21-18. Final: L. Landry beat A. Rhodes 21-18.

acleated women's doubles in women's singles, linal; Miss L. Murray beat Mrs. J. Hayward Miss J. Lewsey (Wembley land Miss J. Lewsey in Wembley land Miss J. Lewsey and Miss J. Lewsey and Miss J. Lewsey and Miss J. Lewsey and Miss J. Brooks and Sudbury), who came back from being 2-1 down to take the men's singles tile against international Alan Rhodes and S. Jacobson bear A. D. Hill and A. Hyams 21-13. 21-15. Mixed doubles, final; M. Close and Miss L. Murray bear A. D. Hill and A. Hyams 21-13. 21-15. Mixed doubles, final; M. Close and Miss L. Murray bear A. Rhodes and Miss L. Murray bear A. Rhodes and Miss J. Brooks was packed with action.

Thus I andry rounded off a successful evening. Earlier he had beaten M. Close in the singles semi-final, and B. Donneliv (G.E.C.) in the final of the boys' singles.

Lost both finals

Miss J. Brooks (West Fow) reached two firms on the loston the partners was on the loston.

Lost both finals

Miss J. Brooks (West Harrow) reached two finals, but was on the loring stric in each. The partnership with Mrs. M. Seilly (Johnson Matthey) provided strong opposition in the warmen's doubles, but in the mixed pairs she and A. Rhodes failed to find their touch.

Miss K. O'Sullivan (Blue Triangle) was robbed of the apportantity to play in finals' night in the girls' singles final hecause of the unhavoidable ahsance of her opponent, Miss G. Fraser (Rlue Triangle). Miss G. Fraser (Rlue Triangle). Miss G. Sullivan declined a walkover and the march will be played later.

The Commanding Officer at Stannsore, Wing Commanded Triptrice, was present with his wife, who presented the cups and medals.

Detailed results: Boys' singles, linals L. Landry (holder)

How the local paper reported the League Closed Championships in 1956.



The Elvin Cup winners for Wembley and Sudbury in 1956: Tony Hill, Michael Close and Lawrie Landry.





And the same team won in 1957!

Michael Close in action

Michael Close, former Chairman of the League, also holds the record for the number of senior titles won at the Closed Championships, as well as many other team titles. Here are some archive photographs from Michael's playing days.



Practicing at the Herga club in 1954





With Tony Hill (centre) and Ralph Lewis (right), the double-winning Wembley & Sudbury team of 1960/61



Michael Close (centre), winning captain.



1958-1963



Winners from the Closed Championships 1958: Back row: L Landry (men's doubles), E Howarth (boys' singles), M Close (men's doubles and mixed doubles); Front row: Miss J Lewsey (ladies' doubles), Mrs M Seilly (ladies' singles), A Rhodes (men's singles), Miss L Murray (ladies' doubles and mixed doubles).



Institute take title from the holders



The successful Wembley Institute team with the Pivin Cup—(left to right) S. Jacobson, A. Hyans and J. Gnillard.

TWO of the Wembley and Harrow Table Tennis League knock-out team competition hoals were won by Heagroup at Kodak canteen, Wesldstone, iast week, and the senior trophy went to Wembley Institute who beat Wembley and Sudbury.

Wenthey and Sudbury were the 1957 and 1958 winners and are this year's league champions. Despite a fine determined effort by Michael Close, the Wembley and Sudbury captain, who was undefeated throughout the competition, the team found the all-round strength of the Institute too good for them.

Figure victoria.

Lee Institute were twice trailing 3-1 and 4-3, our feaght hack magoificently. Mis. A. D. Meyoth, a vice-President of the League, presented prizes to the two teams.

In the Harry Finch Trophy linal, Hengroup second ream after losing the first four games, presented their form and local Brand of Trade III 5-4.

Brand of Trade III 5-4.

The two frophics were presented to Hengreup by Mrs. E. M. Mildenhall, a vice-President and wife of the League chairman.

Results—senior cup (Wemberg Harry Finch 1984).

Easy victory

training 3-1 and 4-2, our feeght had magnificently. Mrs. A. E. Meyorin, a vice President of the League, presented prizes to the two toxons.

In the Harry Finch Trophy than, Hengstonp sexond ream after losing the first form and local Brant of Trade III 5-4.

Hengroup double

Hengroup double

At the same time the Hengroup is to do the same were making it, a double for the dulp by July 19-19, 19-21, 21-19, 2

A report on the Elvin Cup Final, 1959





The front page from the programme of a challenge match in May 1959. The Wembley Lions won 9-0.



A 'Close finish' in Wembley Table Tennis closed championships

Alan Rhodes beaten in exciting final

MICHAEL CLOSE of Summit-close, Edgware, pulled off one of the biggest surprises in the Wembley and Harrow Table Tennis Closed championships, held at Kodak Hall, Wealdstone, on Thursday, when he won the men's singles crown. He recorded an exciting victory over international Alan Rhodes, nine times winner of the title.

Recently elected chairman of the League, Close gave one of this beat displays to defeat Rhodes, who again started favourite for the champions 10.

It was a sensorbonal final, with Partief Mrs. Redfeath who had the deciding 18g, droppine the first four points and the champions and the champions in the fourth time for Chase has wen for little, but find time that he has heaten Rhodes in the competition. On the three previous times that Chape was successful Rhodes did not take part.

It was the 13th year in someons in the competition. On the three previous times that the was successful Rhodes did not take part.

It was the 13th year in someons in the competition on to win the event.

Probably its most disappointed man of the whole evening was singles (for the over 40). Unfortunately his apponent did not appeal, as Mr. Vilches was robbed of the chance of a game.

A feature of the evening was the defensive play of Close, particulated in the semi-final of the composition of the chance of a game.

The only other major surprise in the tournement was the fact that the much faucied partnership of Rhedes and Alma Talt were heaten in the semi-final stages of the mixed doubles. Triumphart were Mrs. J. Redfearn and H. Tollins, who beat Miss I. Ogus and K. Khulish. The latter were leading 18-16 in the third games when they suddenly lost five months in a row and the match. There was a most exciting game in the final of the manth doubles when A. Hyams and K. Khulish changed ends 10-2 up in the deciding third game based with the final of the ments of necessions during the evening and somewhat more surprisingly doubles when A. Hyams and K. Khulish changed ends 10-2 up in the deciding third game bgainst Close and A. Hill. They then drew shead 14-3 only to find themselves at 20-pd a few minutes later. However, they won the next two pures and retained their title.

One of the most, amusing incidents of the evening was in the final old the match that the match is defensive play for the server of the evening was and the exemilant through the service and the evening was and the evening was and somewhat more surprisingly by Miss. Redfearn, some fine foreholds and play by Tony Hill in the men's doubles and the excellent performance of Miss Ogus at the mixed. Not only did she hitmany splendid winners off fureing and backhand but at times was able to return the best shorts that Collins and Mrs. Redfearn could produce.

This local newspaper report is about the Closed Championships in 1963.



1964-1970



In 1964, the decision was taken to end the separate Ladies' divisions.



YOUNGSTERS SPARK CHAMPIONSHIP NALS F

THE youngsters provided all the fireworks at the Wembley and Harrow table tennis league's closed championships at Kodak last Thursday and it was left to the seniors to provide the guile.

Pricte of place in excitement must go to Marian Henderson and Kay Fry and to Neil Senton and Clive Green for their play in the girls

Santon and Cube Circle to their pay of the guest and boys singles finals.

Marian of the West End Pinner club and a wooderful match signified Kay Fey (Northwood C.A. Club) with the counter hiking of the two girls being including afficient.

girls being truly magnificent.

The first game went to Marian 26.24, the second to Kay 21-15 and then Marian's hirring, as sperking, as was the red shirt she was, waring, completely devastated Kay and Marian was an easy winner in the third game 21-6.

In the hoys singles final Neil Santon was the favourite for he has been the league's leading junior hoy player this season in the Middlesex County Inter League championships, but young Clive Green was not overawed by this fact and after losing the first game easily at 21-10, he was back in the match taking the second 22-20.

With both boys hirting and counter hitting whenever they could, Clive ed 19-16 in the final, only for Neil to be back at 19-19, then 20-all and 21-all, and then taking a chance Clive hit two wenderful forchand drives to run out the winner by 23-21.

Superlative stuff!

Superlative stuff!
Another good performance was that of Jean Williams (Northwood C.A.) who wer all three events in which she superared. In the todies singles final she retained her title beating once again.
Mary Symes of the Vincentians Club by 21-15, 17-21, 22-20.

In the ladies doubles Joan was participed by Eve Britten also of the Northwood C.A. Club, In this particular match, Eve serined unusually subdued, hitting only occasionally to score winners and the attacking shots seemed to flow only from Marian Henderson's maker.

Marian partnered by Marcane Sellie (Saldiverse)

Only from Marian remarkon's ricker.

Marian: partnered by Margaret Selly (Sudbery Court) played extremely well, but the 'old partnership' of Williams and Bruten triumphed in the end and they retained their tide by 19-11, 21-14, 21-15

Jean spain appeared in the mixed doubles final, partnered by Fred Walker. They beat Alan Thomas, and Margare: Sailly of the Land Registry and Suribury Court clubs respectively. 21-15, 15-21, 21-16.

This was a match of extreme caution, with only Alan Thomas 'chancing his arm' with attacking

shots and although to did acore many winners with his backhand drive, Jean and Fred were always in front in the third game and did not look like lesing at any stage.

COUNTERHITTING

In the mens doubles even, the brothers David and Stuart Seationic (Valuele and General Christophysical Intelligently to beat Michael Close (B.O.T.) and Neal Santon (Wembley Posta). In a match which produced some fine winning drives and some good counterly fring, the Seakolmes played better together and won in two straight games 21-17, 21-16.

some good counterluiting, the Seaholmes physiobetter tragether and won in two straight games 2117, 21-16.

The minor singles final saw J. Weller (A borton
and Heastler Park Club) appose P. France (North
Harrow Club). In this purrisular event, France
appeared to have more match experience than his
younger apponent and although Weller played
well, France was not to be denied and ran out the
wirmer by 21-18, 22-20.

As predicted the mens veteran singles final was
played hetween Michael Close and Alan Thomas.
This was an interesting final from a technical
point of view between two players of years of
experience. Time and sgain Thomas wrong footol
close to score well deserved point, but Michael
was always there to pass Alan with finshing drives
and Michael had the last laugh, winning in two
straight games, 21-17, 21-19.

The final game of the evening was the mens
singles final in which Close once again appeared
at the table playing against the Lengue's No. I
player, Eric Coster (Vehicle and General Club).

Although Coster was expected to win easily,
this was not so, for Close played deverly
alternating 'choost' and long range defence in
order not to speed up the game which would have
been fatal for how and weerwelly took the first
game 21-19.

Picking bineself up from the shock of losing the

Picking bineself up from the shock of losing the first game. Coster then attack his his way back into the match, took the second game 21-14 and the third 21-12 to retain the title which he won

lass year.

The League's president's wife Mrs. Builty
Autor was at the finals to present the trophies and
awards and Mr. Amor asteroded later in the even

ong.

Other Langue V.LP's present were vice president Agons and Bert Meyern, Flavold Lowton and the referee of the championships was

The report on the Closed Championships 1970.





The Seaholme brothers won their second of many men's doubles titles at the Closed Championships in 1970.





MARIAN HENDERSON of West End, Pinner, sparkles on her way to yet another girls singles title in the Wembley and Harrow League's championship at Kodak last week.

Marian Henderson retained her junior girls' title at the Closed Championships in 1970, but never subsequently won any senior titles.

1971-1980



Veteran Close

Long time campaigner Michael Close (Board of Trade) proved that the pupils have yet to beat the master when he won three titles in last week's Wembley and Harrow table tennis league close championships at Kodak.

Close — so FITA cosch, league vice-clear-man and one of their leading representative play-ers — triumphad in the men's singles, wasran singles and mixed doubles.

The men's singles final proved a dull climax to the evening, with Close and opponent R. Lahin (Berkeley) ench primarily concerned with de-tence.

After fulls, 28 relatives 2000.

After fully 28 minutes Close won the match 21-14, 21-17, thanks mainly to the fact that Lab-iri occasionally and unsuccessfully tried to force the pace with attacking shots.

FOUND FORM

Enriler Close had partnered Kedak's Mary Clegg to a 16-21, 21-16, 21-10 mixed doubles win over Peter Leekie (West End) and Eve Brittoo (Giaxo).

The eventual champions lost the first game with Mary completely not of touch, but as she grow less tentative they found convincing form.

Soon after, the indominable Close again came face to face with Leckie for the final of the vest rans' event. Leckie's main hope was his thery hack hand face, but Close dominated this and the agent required to 1.2 to 2.5.

match to win 21-9, 21-10.

Most successful weman competitor of the championships — ultimately — was Vincentian Mary Symes, with wins in the women's singles and doubles.

REVERSED

Mary must feel that fortune smiled very sweet-

Mary must feel that fortune smiled very sweety on her in the singles event, for in the qualifying
groups size had lost to Mary Clegg but found
herself in the semi-finals as a flucky loser.

Here she reversed her defeat by Mrs. Clegg to
earn a match against Hatch End's Marguret
Hioris—the former Margaret Fry, an exEngland international and Goucestershire and
Middleses county player who was making her
debut in the championships.

debut in the championships.

Margarel, true to her form throughout the rounds, loss the first game when after building an early lead the failed to defend adequately against her opponent's powerful hitting.

But for once she was unable to come through the last the come through

in the last two games, for Mary maintained her pressure to take the title 21-18, 21-8.

A similar determined recovery helped Mary and pairtour Beryl Butler (Eagle Star)—the league's leading women players—towards the

doubles grown in what was the most exciting final

doubles crown in what was the most exerting final of this evening.

After losing the first game 15-21 against the Clegg Britton duo — formedy rivals in the mixed doubles — they storned back to decisively win the next two games 21-11, 21-10.

The boys' singles final produced a real bold encounter when Kenton's 6 ft. 23 in. Dickie Pluips met clubmate Graham Payne — who stands 5 ft. 6 in.

Payne appeared overcome by the size of his problem against an in-form opponent who earlier in the week had recorded men's singles wins over Ceell Burman and Eric Scook, both also of Kenton.

Philps glided to a commanding 24-13, 21-14

PROMISE

Laura Stalbrew (Harrow Youth) continued her great promise with a confident, aggressive win by 23-5, 21-4 over Fions Stanton (Harrow Weald G.S.) in the gurt's angles final.

Laura, a league putor representative player, should go far with her modern, hit whenever possible style of game.

Another comprehensive win usate in the minor singles event — for players from division six and below — when Chris Hervey (Northwood LTC) beat out-of-touch Peter Dumert (Wembley CC) 21-14, 21-6

The one final not to be contested came, disap-pointingly, in the men's doubles event. The HMSO pair of Tony Jarvis and R. Sydney received a walkover with their Vehicle & General opponents David and Stuar. Seaholme unable to appear — Stuart broke a kg. playing ragby the work before. appear - 5 week before.

Prizes were presented by league President Mr. Arthur Amor and his wife, accompanied by chairman Mr. N. K. Roeve.

BY ONE

During the week, the league's second team bost the Central League 5.4 m a Middlesox inter-league championship match. Details (Wembley and Harrow names first):

D. Sathane seat R. Annkl 21 is, 17-21, 24 is, log not 1. Step. 1.2, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 6. Earnandou to Kirot 1.2, 1, 6-2, lead to P. Munguy 18-3, 21-1, 3-21, M. Ckies lost to Mindle 21-1, 16-1, 19-2, teat-Analy 21 is, 17-1, 17-15, Mr. M. Chego bog Miss G. Gunnari 21-1, 8-2, 1-1, 18-2, 18-3, 18

Closed Championships report 1971





SPHO

Battling to change the ping-pong image

THE CHINESE might be the dominant force behind one of the world's fastest ball games — but not for much longer if local table tennis coaches can help it.

longer if local table tennis coaches can help it.

For every Saturday morning at the Leisure Centre they are busy training the next generation of champions.

For the past two years the Wembley and Harrow League has won the Middlesex Junior Championship with the help of players coached at the club.

Every Saturday, just before 9 am, 40 youngsters aged between nine and 18 troop down to the centre. They range from complete beginners to experienced players.

The three-hour sessions have been running since the Leisure Centre opened about ten years ago, but the coaching itself has been going for over 20. It began at the school in Grant Road, Wealdstone.

Founder of the club is Michael Close, chairman of the Wembley and Harrow Table Tennis League and coach for Middlesex.

Although he still coaches at

Tennis League and couch for Middlesex.

Although he still coaches at the club when he can, direct responsibility for its running lies with another coach, Brian Tysoe.

In all nine coaches give their time voluntarily to the youngsters to develop their talent and in turn help the game progress. Table tennis is trying hard to rid its ping-pong image.

The club will accept any junior as long as they can hold a bat and demonstrate some ball control.

control.

The first half-hour is spent knocking up, followed by two hours of coaching, leaving the

Sally-Anne Burrows

last half-hour free to compete for a position on the club's lad-

der.

When the juniors first join they are taught basic ball control, stance and how to hold the

bat.

It is impressed on the young-sters that table tennis is a game of movement and because of this, fitness training is fitted in when possible.

Youngsters practise in pairs. Each table is numbered so that the best players are on number one with the beginners on table

one with the beginners on table nine.

As they improve they move up to the next table.

The youngsters are able to take proficiency badges—bronze, silver and gold—at the club. Those on the top four tables all have their bronze and some have silver and gold.

The club has nine girls who are members. "There are more opportunities for girls," said Mr Close, "because they are needed in play for the clubs and there are fewer ladies who play than men."

Certainly 16-year-hold Hayley Smee is doing well with a silver to her credit and ranked saith among Middlesse girl juniors. Hayley has been playing for Canons Community Centre for the past three years.

"Table termis is a great sport, You need lots of skill and it keeps you fit," said Hayley.

Next week Focus on bellring-



O Chairman of the Wembley and Harrow Table Tennis League, Michael Close, coaching the club's only Chinese member, 10-year-old Alphonsus Lee.

Boys and girls in action at the Saturday morning sessions.

Where to play

LESSONS at the Leisure Centre, Saturday morninga 9 am to 12 noon, £16 for a 13-week term. Contact Brian Tysoc on 868 7046.

at the desk. Further details or. 908 2528. Willesden Sports Centre in Donnington Road, has eight tables, bookable on a daily

Vale Farm Sports Centre, in
Watford Road, Sudbury, has
table tennis facilities but no
lessons. Tables can be booked
over the phone by members
non-members must book

basis,
Charteris Sports Centre,
Charteris Road, Kilburn, has
two tables available if requested. No arrangements for
lessons. Further details on 625
6451.

Coaching at the Harrow Leisure Centre, soon after opening in 1975.





Elvin Cup finalists 1980: Back row: H Meadows, J McCance, D Seaholme, M Close, S Seaholme, J Corrall; Front row: Olypmus Youth Shield finalists 1980: S Lee, K Brothwood, D Rosenbaum, A Marcus, D Hughes, Miss L Phelps.





P. Wells (Salvatorian College) returns a forehand during boys under 18 championship. Wells defeated P. Tanna in the final to take the event.

OVER one hundred and fifty competitors took part in the Harrow Youth Table Tennis Championships at Harrow Leisure Centre on Sunday. With 12 tables in action for most of the afternoon competition was thick and fast.

In all seven champions were crowned. The championships, mixed, ranged from Under 14 years old to under 21.

There were a number of exciting and close matches during the event, none more tight than in the boys under 16 championship where the brothers Cawley fought out a long ducl.

Marathon

In the end K. Cawley (Salvatorian College) edged

Table Tennis

through when he defeated brother J. Crawley 21-16, 20-22, 34-32 in a third round marethom. K. Craw-ley had less trouble in the final where he defeated Paul Martin (Harrow Youth Table Tennis Club) 21-14, 21-18.

Two separate sets of sisters fought out the finals of the Girls under 14 and under 16 events.

Grateful

In the under 14 championship Rachel Knight (Mount View) beat Katie Hickman (HYTTC) 21-12, 21-6 while in the under 16 final, sister Eyvonne defeated Brims Hickman 21-12, 21-8

21-8.
Tournament organiser
Peter Norton said he was
pleased with the way things
went. "I was very grateful to

the people who umpired during the tournament. A very busy afternoon went very smoothly," he added.

Results

Results

Full final results: BOYS under 14; R. Close (HYTTC) beat D. Goode (HYTTC) 22-20, 21-23, 21-19; under 16; K. Cawley (Salvatorian College beat P. Martin (HYTTC) 21-14, 21-18; U18; P. Wells (Salvatorian College) beat P. Tauna (Pinner Sixth Form College) 21-10, 22-20, Meas U21; J. McCance (HYTTC) beat D. Weston (Harrow Weald Sixth Form College) 21-5, 21-15.

Girls: Under 14; R. Knight (Mountview) beat K. Kickman (HYTTC) 21-12, 21-16; under 16; E. Knight (Mountview) beat E. Hickman (HYTTC) 21-12, 21-8; under 19; C. Wright (HYTTC) beat S. Morlimer (Harrow Weald Sixth Form College) 19-21, 21-19, 21-13.

Action from the Harrow Youth Championships, 1980.

