

Friendly matches and we took two of them, Robert Armytage and Richard Webb, on our Southern tour. However, because of the prolonged early season rain, they were deprived unfortunately of that first experience, enjoyed by so many past Yorkshire players, of continuous play on the good fast grass courts of this tour, particularly those at Wimbledon.

Our programme was curtailed somewhat, and played on either tarmacadam or shale surfaces, but at least it did provide some guidance towards ultimate County Week selection which at the time, created a flutter of surprise, and some criticism, mainly over the recall of Stewart Moses after several years seemingly in the wilderness. However, as a youngster he had shewn his mettle in Group I, and as he with Dick Dillon, formed probably the best club pair in Yorkshire, it seemed a worthwhile calculated risk to try them as a third pair (for so long our weakness when previously in Group I) in our coming fight for the major title. From the original selection Terry Pickering the then current County Champion, was eventually withdrawn after arriving back from a Squash Tour of South Africa and finding himself short of the Tennis practice he expected to get out there. This ended a remarkably long run of successive County Weeks for Terry, but in a negative way it did at least slightly ease our final pairing problem whilst at the same time it brought back that other consistent stalwart Brian Sheridan into the team as reserve.

So to Eastbourne where the luck of the draw rather unkindly placed us against Essex, the then Champion County, on the first day, making it even more difficult for our normal club players to adjust their game to the more demanding conditions. After a great deal of thought and discussion the composition of the team was finally settled on straightforward lines by first of all reverting to the first pair of Hann and Taylor who had shewn themselves some years ago to be one of the finest combinations ever at this level, and bringing together again, as our second pair now, Clifton and Pool who had in the past played many times as a Junior pair. Thus we stuck to our original intention of playing Dillon and Moses as an established pair at third string, and though we disappointingly just lost the match by four Rubbers to five I was convinced more than ever that we could still win