

All Our Yesterdays – 50 Years Ago, Number 4 – John Bowness

There were many very good players around at that time but the three main kingpins were Charlie Jacques, Ernie McLeish and, just hanging on, Colin Truman. After the County Championships (remember Jacques had won the YMCA Open) this was my report for the Leicester Mercury.

There have been few more popular County Men's singles champions than Colin Truman who, last weekend, beat the number one seed, Charlie Jacques, to win the title for the first time in an event full of interesting results.

It was an emotional moment for Colin as his opponent conceded the final point in a tough rather than spectacular final.

This has been a season of mixed fortunes for the new champion. After agreeing to help his "home" club of Egerton Park (Melton) try to achieve first division status from division 2A, he was discarded by the County team selectors in favour of younger players of a more modern approach to the game, but still lacking Truman's tenacity.

This latest success is adequate compensation and the expected promotion for his team in the league will be an additional bonus.

Twice before he has reached the final only to fall at the last hurdle each time, a hurdle that, at 28, Colin Truman has some years left to approach with much more confidence after this season.

While still on the subject of the "big three" I also reported on the Rose Johnson Cup a few days later under the heading "Truman ends Jacques' hopes"

Any hopes Charlie Jacques had of emulating the feat of Ernie McLeish two seasons ago when he was unbeaten locally in all competitions, evaporated when Colin Truman beat him in a Rose Johnson Cup semi final match.

This win for Truman proved to be Egerton Park's only success as King Richards Road reached the final with a 6-1 victory.

Just for interest for Knighton Park players, they were in the other semi final with myself, Paul Randell and Grahame Elsdon. Grahame was an absolute delight to play alongside, a lovely man. But, on this occasion, Ernie McLeish thrashed us all to take Barwell through.