

Ecclesfield clinch first championship



BADMINTON NOTES

By JON CULLEY

The Sheffield and League season enters weeks, at least one on issue has already led, bringing a first championship to

team in Division 3A of ned section have come season's programme y of ten wins and two nd a total 20 points well out of the reach of t rivals Eckington and College.

first time Ecclesfield promoted as cham- the first time they have Division 2 status.

secretary Peter Trickett at while he is delighted eason's success, he is a oncerned about 's chances of main- improvement at a

problem is a lack of e club has sufficient to first team, given an eason, but does not h to provide adequate

particularly short of ayers, Mr Trickett however, that new

members, would not be simply first team reserves but would form the basis of a second combined section outfit.

While on the theme of success, it looks like Brunswick are about to collect a hatful of honours in the Sheffield League.

They field six teams (three men's, two combined and one women's), and at this stage of the season no less than four remain unbeaten.

Of the teams which have suffered reverses, the men's first team are still in the hunt for the championship, having slipped up only against rivals Stocksbridge, and the No 2 side in the combined section has been beaten only by Brunswick first team.

Brunswick's record in the Yorkshire League has been almost as impressive; the second team has won all its matches, while the first have suffered setbacks at the hands of only Middlesbrough and North Bradford.

First team players Phil Kidger and John Unwin have found their top form recently and are both on the fringe of the England squad, while promising young players have emerged in Gary Hadley, Elaine Guymer and Steve Higgins.

Prospect

Kidger and Unwin are recognised as being among Sheffield's leading players, and I hope to talk to one or both of them in the next few weeks about the prospect of open badminton being established in this country.

It is no secret that a number of Britain's top players — who under the guidance of the All England Association are forced to retain amateur status — would like to follow the lead of badminton's big brother sport of tennis and turn professional.

It is estimated that a professional badminton player could earn as much as £50,000 a year — the kind of bait which

could bring a split in the administrative body and see the formation of breakaway groups.

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Final details of the Sheffield League's open and handicap tournaments have now been clarified.

HANDICAP — Men's singles: Alan Plater (Dronfield) bt Abid Hussain (Bradfield), 15-7, 15-9; doubles: T Andrews, A Faruq (Polytechnic) bt Ian Carter, Hussain (Bradfield); women's singles: Mrs Anne Walker (Brunswick) bt Miss Vari Mayes (Hallam), 11-8, 11-9; doubles: Miss Sue Biggins, Miss Ann Bickerstaffe (Brunswick) bt Mrs Walker, Miss Lynne Biggins (Brunswick), 15-12, 12-15, 15-12; mixed: S L Ng, Miss J Hartley (University) bt Gary Hadley, Mrs Elaine Guymer (Brunswick), 15-8, 14-15, 15-11.

The women's doubles final, incidentally, was not only the closest of the tournament, but was quite a family affair, Sue and Lynne Biggins and Anne Walker are sisters!

OPEN — Men's singles: Alwyn Lacy-Jones (Stocksbridge) bt Martin McHale (Davy Loewy), 15-6, 15-14; doubles: Lacy-Jones, Hamish Dow (Stocksbridge) bt John Davidson, John Bellamy (Abbeydale), 15-7, 14-17, 15-7; women's singles: Mrs Anne

Walker (Brunswick) bt Miss Wendy Hallam (Brunswick), 11-4, 11-2; doubles: Mrs Walker, Mrs Kate Booth (Brunswick) bt Miss Jo May, Mrs Linda Lawson (Brunswick), 15-4, 15-8; mixed: Gary Hadley, Mrs Elaine Guymer (Brunswick) bt Steve Howard, Mrs Ros Hill (Abbeydale), 11-15, 15-2, 15-9.

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Sheffield and District Association secretary Philip Lakin has asked me to remind clubs to be prompt in returning results from the end of season matches so league tables can be up-dated in time for the annual dance and presentations evening on April 7.

He also asks clubs to return any unwanted tickets for the evening so they can be reallocated in good time.

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Sheffield and District Works Sports Association badminton section ko tournament, held at Sheffield University: resulted

Mens doubles: K Singh, M Bradley (Sheff Area Health Authy) bt A Pearce, W Young (F Parramore). Mixed doubles: K Singh, Miss L Sanderson (Sheff Area Health Authy) bt R Madin, Mrs D Dolby (W A Tyzack). Women's doubles: Mrs D Dolby, Mrs B Yarrow (W A Tyzack) bt Mrs E Whitelaw (W A Tyzack), Miss L Sanderson.

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