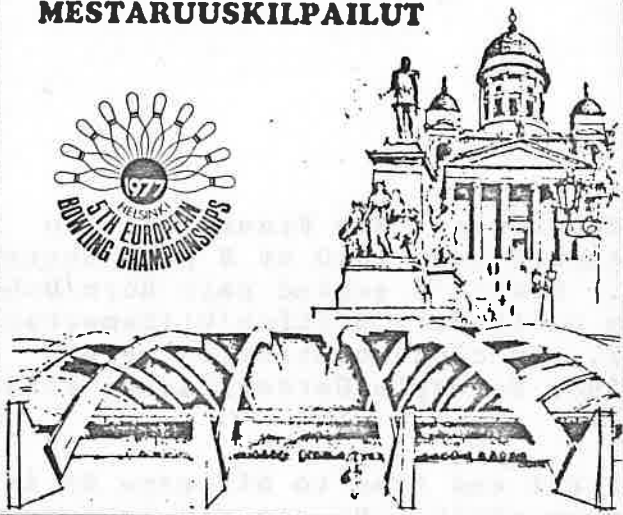


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SOME START.... Ten pairs got par or better. Veteran Mo Knapp of Great Britain who did not get a medal being left out of the 8 man team came back with vengeance in the doubles openings. He got 255 and with partner Gerry Bugden continued for 450. But that only secured third place. Better were France Jean-Pierre Horn (248) and Philippe Dubois (203) for 451 and best were Austria, whose Ernst Berndt bombed the pins to the tune of 259 and as partner Herbert Frölich had 202 totalling 461. France second pair Maurice Lesourd (221) and Bernard Pujol (223) were next with 444 ahead of Finland's remaining big hope Tauna Ranta and Niilo Olonen who got 434. Another five or a total of ten pairs got par opening games in this hot squad.

Great Britains Knapp and Bugden went to the top after two with 834 but coming strongly are Norway whose two pairs climbed greatly lead by Arne Strøm 235. The Strøm-Kittelsen duo totalled 826, Frances Horn/Dubois held on to third with 812 one pin ahead of the second Norwegian constellation where Jan-Erik Larsens mighty 259 helped him and Erik Garder to 811. Finland's two Martti Skyttä and Koskela were next with 810. Belgium 809, Austria leaders after game one at 808 and Pujol/Lesourd of France still maintained par pace.

New leaders mid-way are Belgium four pins behind the pace of Sweden in the first doubles squad. In this pair Emile Briffoz opened with 226 and in games two & three partner Louis Wildemeersch put together 221-225. Their total was 1237, 13 pins ahead of Lesourd/Pujol of France (1224) who sharpened up again. Third were the title holders Norway. Strøm gold winning partner from Dublin Svein Laregg is not here this time but the duo of Kittelsen and Strøm can easily be called Norways two all-time best bowlers. Finland's pairs were 6th and 7th at this stage with Olonen and Ranta holding the latter spot. Scores: 1184 and 1178 respectively. In between were a French and Norwegian pair.

The see-saw battle at the top continues. Now France went to the top in game four. Pujol/Lesourd have 1640 or 8 pins better than Strøm/Kittelsen of Norway. France's second pair Horn/Dubois were next with 1611 and Belgium ex-leaders Briffoz/Wildemeersch had dropped to fourth with 1607. In close contention were Skyttä/Koskela, Finland with 1598, Norway's Garder/Larsen 1583 and Finland's Olonen/Ranta 1571.

The name Strøm translates to current and true to his name he is giving an electrifying performance again. He got six in-a-row starting from the 4th frame for 237 game and Kittelsen alternated doubles with bad shots but still got 209, so that their leading score became 2078. Going very well are also the two Frenchmen Lesourd/Pujol with 2054 next were Garder/Larsen, Norway 2023 and Finland's Skyttä/Koskela 2020. Also in par figures are Horn/Dubois. France at 2000 even three pins ahead of Wildemeersch and Briffoz of Belgium.

No player has been able to defend a doubles title in the European Championship but Arne Strøm did it... In the last game it was Per Kittelsen with 224 that made sure of the title. Their total was 2490 eleven pins short of the record. Talking about records Juan V. Guisasola of Spain returned the hegemony to the men shooting the highest game ever in European Zone Championship play: 278. He started with 8 strikes had a nine spare and then a double plus nine pins in the 10th frame. Guisasola is a veteran in the Spanish team which he joined as an 18-year old wonder kid for the FIQ 1960 World Tourney in Hamburg. VIVA ESPANA.

IT IS NORWAY ALL THE WAY: to cap a great day Jan-Erik Larsen and Erik Garder combined for 2444 good enough for silver. For the bronze medals the situation was more dramatic. French anchor Bernard Pujol needed nine spare nine to beat Sweden's score from the earlier squad and that is just what he did to the great joy of partner Maurice Lesourd. Their total was 2435 one pin better than the Swedes.

Also the Finn duo of Martti Skyttä and Martti Koskela summed up a par total, 2418. In the best speedskating tradition the Norwegian spectators sang: SEIERN ER VÅR which means we are the champs.