

3Touch Volleyball

Stokes and Meijer Women's Grand Prix Winners 2002



Hedda Meijer serves for Stokes/Meijer at the Weymouth Beach Classic photograph © BM Totterdell

Debbie Stokes and Hedda Meijer (pictured) won the 2002 Women's Beach Grand Prix title this year. Poole's Debbie and Netherland's Hedda are based at Loughborough University where Debbie has just finished a BSc in physical education and sports science and Hedda is involved in biotechnology. Both play for Loughborough 2 University indoor team.

Hedda played a little beach volleyball in the Netherlands but Debbie, while an experienced indoor player, had not played much on the beaches until this season. Hedda uses her height well at the net for attack and block and smaller Debbie is skilful in defence. The pair entered the Grand Prix series after winning the Challenger at Boscombe in June. They won the Weston Grand Prix, came second at Poole and reached the semifinals at Barry Grand Prix. They also reached the semifinals at the Boscombe Open.

The top women players of Audrey Cooper, Mo Glover,

Melissa events t pairings the pair recogni! Debbie Spokes and Hedda Meijer (pic- tured) won the challenger at Boscombe and were runners up in the main Grand Prix at Poole. Audrey commented that they play very well as a team and have a good understanding. Hedda and Debbie are determined to get to the next level. England's Audrey Cooper commented after their Challenger victory at Boscombe in June that the pair played very well together. (Picture page 8, Stoke's letter - report page 1

Beach People

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THE TWO OCEANS WEYMOUTH BEACH TEAMS TO WATCH

WOMEN

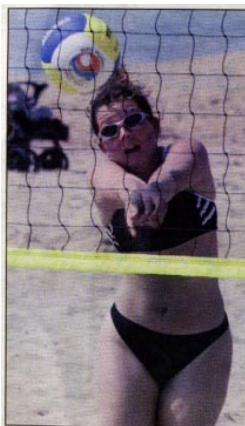
MEIJER/SPOKES

These two won the recent event in Weston super Mare and are becoming increasingly difficult to beat. Hedda Meijer is from Germany and Debbie Spokes from nearby Poole - they could be the surprise package on the beach this weekend.



Tim Ho

Daily Echo, Bournemouth



EYES ON THE BALL: A female player

Man's world for female duo

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

OLYMPIC hopefuls Amanda Glover and Denise Austin became the first females to compete in a British men's event when they took part in the Boscombe Invitation Cup.

Glover and Austin not only made blocks against some of the biggest men in the competition but they also enjoyed some spells of total dominance in their matches.

The net was 15 centimetres higher than they were used to, but they did not complain and were even happy to wear the men's extra large competition vests.

Although Glover and Austin didn't make the men's final, they did get to the climax of the women's competition.

However, they lost 2-0 to number one seeds Hedda Meijer and Debbie Spokes.

It was good preparation for Glover and Austin, who will try to qualify for the Athens 2004 Olympics by playing in the FIVB World Tour throughout Europe this summer.



BIG BLOCK: Action from the Boscombe Invitation Cup beach event

Top seeds Tim Hollis and Mike Randall beat Jody Gooding and Colin Paterson 2-0 in the men's final. The Boscombe Invitation Cup was staged by Bournemouth Beach Volleyball Club and Bournemouth Borough Council and backed by parasol Skin Care, Sportset, Mikasa and Pinnacle Events and Marketing Services.