

THE WINKING WORLD

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FIRST TEN YEARS OF TIDDLYWINKS

A decade of neo-classical tiddlywinks! The world's first tiddlywinks club was founded at Cambridge University on 16th January, 1955. To commemorate this unique anniversary, The Winking World tells on pages 4-6 the story of how the Cambridge club came into being - a story that will prove an example of farsightedness and enterprise to its readers.

The Cambridge University Tw Club held a Tenth Anniversary Dinner on 20th February 1965 at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, to celebrate the occasion.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL TIDDLYWINKS CONGRESS

TO BE HELD IN APRIL

' You are no doubt aware that Tiddlywinks is becoming a world-wide sport, and naturally as in any growing and virile activity there are several minor differences regarding the mode of play. If this promising pastime is to progress to its rightful position as one of the world's great games we must reconcile these minor differences and formulate a standard set of rules. ' Thus began the invitation to the First World Tiddlywinks Congress. It took place at Christ's College, Cambridge, on June 11th and 12th, 1958, chaired by Bill Steen and Lawford Howells. That Congress formulated the International Rules, and set up the English Tiddlywinks Association (ETWA). The Second International Congress was convened five years later, on June 15th and 16th, 1963 : ETWA, without a proper constitution, had grown overlarge for one man to run, and the financial position was delicate. The Congress was held at the Cobden Hotel, Edgbaston.

Happily, no vagaries of fortune, nor international crises, have brought about the Third International Tw Congress. This Congress is simply an opportunity for a grand get-together of winking enthusiasts, and a forum for tiddlywink debate. It is the constitutionally necessary gathering which will review the work of the last two years, settle any current problems, look to the future, and elect the people who will run the world's most powerful tiddlywinks organisation for the next two years.

The Congress will be held on April 3rd and 4th, 1965, at the Crescent Hotel, Rugby. Invitations have been sent to every winks club known to ETWA, including some in distant parts of the world.

ENGLAND TO PLAY SCOTLAND AT EDINBURGH

An English eight will be travelling to Edinburgh to play Scotland on Saturday 20th March. It will be the fifth England-Scotland match for the Bombay Bowl, and the seventh International (England have played Wales twice).

Forecasts of possible wet conditions suggest that the going may be difficult underwink if the mat becomes soggy, but the groundsmen are making every effort to prepare a true consistent surface. It is anticipated that the England team will use a light roller within the potting area if any damp creeps in.

The Bombay Bowl is a fine silver trophy for competition between teams representing England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland - though no Irish team has yet challenged for the Bowl. It was presented by Guinness and Co. in 1960 when England first played Scotland, on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. England at present remain unbeaten.

Scores of previous International matches are :

England v Wales, June 8 1959 : 78-34.	England v Scotland, May 7 1960 : 73-39.
England v Scotland, Oct 28 1961 : 80-32	England v Scotland, March 2 1963 : 70-42.
England v Wales, Feb 29 1964 : 69-43.	England v Scotland, March 22 1964 : 77½-34½

THE SILVER WINK

The closing stages of the Silver Wink have now been reached. Penny Gardner, in the Aberystwyth side that won the Silver Wink last year, and now organising this year's competition, reports several teams entering for the first time, including a confident side from Sussex University which came close to a surprise victory over London in the first round, and the new Strathclyde University which overcame Edinburgh. Penny writes : ' we were disappointed to see the response from some of the established colleges, though some are notable for their geographical eccentricity, e.g. Ireland and Wales. The latter has only one active team, Aberystwyth, although we almost had competition from Swansea and Cardiff. The north of England also seems to be short of winking colleges (perhaps deterred by the weather - rheumatism of the squidging thumb, or arthritic-squop maybe !) as there are no teams in Durham, Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, or Keele. '

Progress so far is shown on the following chart :

			Belfast		
		Aberdeen 61 $\frac{1}{6}$	Aberdeen		
Edinburgh 40 $\frac{1}{2}$]—	Strathclyde 50 $\frac{5}{6}$			
Strathclyde 71 $\frac{1}{2}$			Aberystwyth		
		Bristol 47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Exeter		
		Exeter 64 $\frac{3}{4}$			
		Hull 75	Hull 44 $\frac{1}{2}$		
		York 37			
		Manchester 69	Manchester 67 $\frac{1}{2}$		Manchester
Nottingham 84 $\frac{1}{2}$]—	Nottingham 43			
Sheffield 27 $\frac{1}{2}$			Oxford 61		
		Oxford 71			
		Leicester 41			Oxford
Cambridge 92 $\frac{1}{2}$]—	Cambridge 66			
Norwich 19 $\frac{1}{2}$			Cambridge 51		
		London 59 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Sussex 52 $\frac{1}{2}$]—	London 46			

Prince Philip donated the trophy for this annual universities' competition in 1960-61. Past winners are Oxford, Bristol, London and Aberystwyth.

ALTRINCHAM GS FARM THE WINKING

To the soothing strains of 'Where Sheep May Safely Squidge' (Bach, arr. Securiveitch) 120 junior winkers (including four Derbyshire thoroughbreds all the way from Heanor) flocked to the University of Manchester Union on January 4th to compete in the Northern Junior Tw Championship for the Manchester Evening News and Chronicle Challenge Trophy.

With Nigel Shepherd (appropriately enough) as MC, the tough battle-hardened winkers of Altrincham GS at once settled down to the grim task of winning the Championship for the third successive time. Indeed, only the wooliest-minded competitor could have conceived that anyone other than Altrincham pairs would get further than the quarter-final pens, let alone win. Seven first-round walkovers attest to the last-minute panic of other, less hardy breeds (called 'Attacking Players' and 'Novices') at the thought of contesting the lush pastures of Northern Junior winking with the dyed-in-the-wool squoppers of Altrincham.

There were twenty-one girl entrants in the field. They scrutinised the programme as they would the window of a gown shop, told me candidly that their entry fees had been a very dicey gamble indeed, and went gracefully to meet their doom at the hands of more experienced and cunning opponents. Hell hath no fury like a woman squopped; the nadir of male supremacy may be at hand.

We had a fleecing glimpse of Kershaw and Tattersall (the last of the Gentlemen in a world of Players ?) before they were clinically eliminated by an Altrincham pair. There were no surprises before the semi-finals but by then, as expected, Altrincham had made sure of the Trophy. Atkinson and Wilkinson (winners last year) and Greenwood and Williams seemed booked for the final but Championship contenders emerged, like wolves in sheep's clothing, in the form of Peter Cooke with Campbell Mackenzie, and Jonathan Jones with David Ireland.

The final was not a thrilling affair. Jones and Ireland scraped home 11-10, a victory won more by relaxed, consistent winking than by technical or tactical brilliance. Neil Sunderland said ' Winkers aren't what they used to be ' - and he should know.

[Continued at foot of page 3]

THINK BETTER, WINK BETTER

by Ken Veitch

Political Correspondent of The Winking World ¹

In my political dispatches my arguments will be developed along highly intellectual lines of course (motto : Think Better, Wink Better) and for readers educated in the wilderness of Science background reading is required. So my initial contribution will consist of a reading list, which comprises one standard work, TIDDLYWINKS AND POLITICS FROM THE FOUNDING OF ROME TO THE PRESENT DAY, ed. Veitch. (6 vols, with coloured maps, diagrams and cartoons, 25 gns.) This work has been very favourably received by leading journals, but some of the most interesting sections of the work, notably the engraved Roman score-cards, can be actually viewed only by arrangement with the Editor (myself).

READING LIST :

Tiddlywinks And Politics from the Founding of Rome to the Present Day

Edited by K.A.M.Veitch, F.R.Tw.Hist.S., M.Inst. Strategic Studies,
Dip.Wink.Tech. (1st Class Hons.)

H.M.S.O., 6 vols., 25 gns.

Vol 1: The Origins of Tiddlywinks

Selections from the Engraved Score Cards of Marcus Aurelius Clotticus -
Tiberius and the Crisis of the Double-Squopping Gladiators - Selected
Memoirs of Prehistoric British Bog Wardens

Vol 2: Renaissance and Revolution

Treatise on divers favourite pastimes in the bedde roome of kinge henry
(Sir Oliver Noggynne) - The Strategy and Tactics of Oliver Cromwell
(C.H.Firth) - Life of the Marquis of Queensberry

Vol 3: The Industrial Revolution and the Struggle for Empire

with especial emphasis on the March of the Blanketeers

Vol 4: Tiddlywinks and the Growth of Totalitarianism

Der Winkenblitz gegen England mit besonderen Squidgerhandler, 1945
(English sub-title : The Final Gamble), by kind permission of the
Berlinerkriegsarchiv. [and Kosygin)
The Political Consequences of Excess Winking (N.S.Kruschev, ed. Brezhnev)

Vol 5: The Fifties - Darkness in Politics, Rebirth in Tiddlywinks

Stand up for Britain's Free Squidger Industry (Aims of Industry pamphlet,
1951) - Life and Letters of P.J.Downes (with Plates in Full Art Colour)
- Guide to the Cambridge Squidger Repository (John Betjeman)

Vol 6: Down to the Present Day (in process of completion)

¹ Ken Veitch has recently been appointed to the new post of Political Correspondent of The Winking World, and besides regular contributions he will submit a Colour Supplement every 50 issues.

N J T w C (Continued from p. 2)

The NJTwC was conceived as a means of providing a couple of days' winking entertainment for all concerned ; this in turn would lead to the spreading of tiddle-interest throughout the North, and more and more schools and youth organisations would take part. But our advance to these broad sunlit uplands is being checked by the perverted lights of double-squop. The Altrincham Flock came, devoured the grass, and went. We salute the skill of the Altrincham winkers and the efforts of the vanquished, but if we are to achieve the wider entries on which the future of Northern Junior Winking depends, changes, possibly involving a handicap system, seem necessary.

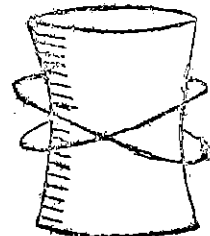
- Ken Veitch, Hon. Organiser, NJTwC

Southern and English Junior Championships

The Southern Junior Tw Championship will be held on Sunday 2nd May at the University of London Union, Malet Street. Patrick Bonham will be organising the event. The semi-finalists will go forward into the English Junior Tw Championship together with the semi-finalists from the Northern Junior. As last year, the English Junior will be organised by Allen Astles and held in the summer.

THE GENESIS OF MODERN TIDDLYWINKS

Tiddlywinks as we know it today can be dated from the winter of 1954-55. This article commemorates the passing of a decade since then, by relating how it all began.



C. U. T.W.C.

'' January 1955 was a momentous month. That was the month that the Vatican closed its jail because of a scarcity of law-breakers. Also President Eisenhower flew to Augusta and M. Jaques Soustelle went to Algeria. Of course, these portentousevents were overshadowed by the one occurrence that puts January 1955 in a class with July 1776 and July 1789. At Cambridge University, an English institution of higher learning, a club was formed for the sole purpose of playing tiddlywinks - for the first time in history. ''¹

'' The revived interest in tiddlywinks began when Bill Steen, a thin-faced undergraduate in chemical engineering at Cambridge, concluded with a friend's aid that, as they stood little chance of obtaining one of the University's coveted sports 'Blues', they might form a tiddlywinks club.'''²

Cambridge, the cradle of tiddlywinks, has been the birthplace of countless ideas of consequence to the human race, but few so intriguing as the one conceived in November 1954. Bill Steen describes the events of the Michaelmas term : '' R.C.Martin and I appreciated our chances of gaining a Blue but felt that if we could only represent the University at some sport it might help in an interview some time in our lives. Such remarks as ' I play rugger. I have played for the University ' would then be technically possible.

The idea of starting a new sport was the simplest way in, but what sport ? Surf bathing was too complicated to organise ; tree felling had its complications in the fen land ; camel racing had an attraction, particularly if the course was from London to Brighton, but the zoo does not like letting its camels out for this sort of thing. Then like a thunderbolt both Martin and I realised it must be tiddlywinks, a game we had both enjoyed greatly in our early life. This was November 1954.

Once the idea was formed we had to find out what sort of organisation there already was in this sport. So during that Michaelmas vacation R.C.Martin studied the archives in the University library to try and find out something of the history of the game. John Rilett, who had joined us, was to try and find a friend of his in the army who claimed to be the Junior European Champion to find out what organisation there was if any behind him. I was to try and find the official rules if any, by writing to the manufacturers. ''

Two replies to Steen's letters were penned on 9th December 1954. Neither were very helpful ; the journal The Sports Trader And Exporter said they were ' not aware of any official body for Tiddlywinks, or any authorised rules controlling this nursery game. ' J.W.Spear and Sons Ltd, of Enfield, said ' The Game is certainly very old but just how old it is we do not know. ' Similarly Gibson and Sons Ltd, writing a few days before Christmas, knew only that tiddlywinks ' has been produced for very many years and there has been no copyright in the game for a long time. ' On 4th January 1955 Marchant Games Ltd wrote that ' unlike most board games [sic] it is of English origin. This Ccompany has been manufacturing Tiddleywinks for over 100 years and I understand that we have never yet been requested to state where the game originated. '

Nevertheless, with these and other replies, Bill Steen found a great spectrum of games varying from mere target practice to something like the present-day International game, which Marchant Games were marketing. But John Rilett was unable to find his friend in the army, reputedly Junior European Champion. R.Carver Martin emerged from the University and British Museum libraries having found that the game had practically no recorded history. Cricket had its Fycroft, tennis its Marshall, and angling its Walton ; tiddlywinks merely had the Greater Oxford Dictionary describing the game's origins as ' Obscure, Unknown. ' But around 1870 there was apparantly, besides Tiddlywinks, a game called Tiddlywink (singular) which was similar to dominoes.

After these preliminaries, a gathering of enthusiasts was convened. So it came about that on 16th January 1955, six undergraduates and a chaplain assembled in Bill Steen's rooms in Christ's College, to found the world's first tiddlywinks club. Besides Steen, Martin and Rilett, the gathering comprised Lawford Howells, R. Parker,

¹ Joe Suir, New York Herald Tribune, May 18th 1958

² Sports Illustrated (USA), March 31st 1958

... (one from Christ's College, two from Trinity) and the Chaplain of Christ's, the Rev. J. Brown. The Club was christened The Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club, abbreviated to C.U.Tw.C. It was laid down that 'the aim of the C.U.Tw.C. is to play matches against other Universities and Establishments', and a challenge to this effect was sent to 'the other place', Oxford University. Bill Steen was elected C.U.Tw.C.'s first President, R. Carver Martin became Secretary, and John Rilett was made Assistant Treasurer. The Rev. J. Brown accepted the post of Senior Treasurer; he was the first of two Churchmen to be associated with modern tiddlywinks, the other being the Rev. Willis.

C.U.Tw.C. adopted the Rules of Marchant Games Ltd., 'with a view to modification as necessary'. In those days the Marchant Rules in full were :

'Remove the cup from the box and place it on a table covered with a thick cloth. Each player takes one of the large counters and all the small ones of the same colour. The latter are placed in a row at an agreed distance from the cup and players take it in turn to flip them into the cup with the large counter. If a counter is covered by one of an opponent's, it remains out of play until the opponent plays the covering counter and the player loses his turn if there is not another counter he can play. The player who first gets all his counters into the cup is the winner.'

It comes as a surprise to many that squopping, which is the really fundamental difference between modern winks and the nursery game, was incorporated into the Marchant Rules in the pre-Cambridge era. Thus C.U.Tw.C. did not invent the modern game ; but it took the Marchant game out of its childhood context, refined and breathed new life into it, and introduced it to a wide circle of university and school people, and to a lesser extent those in other spheres of life.

There was in January 1955 no regulation concerning the sizes of the counters to be used. Apart from the squidgers, there were three sizes of counter available. A ballot on the matter showed an equal number of votes in favour of the combinations 3 small + 3 medium + 1 large, and 4 medium + 2 large. The final decision was deferred for a future meeting.

Membership of the club was declared open to all members of the University, but it was thought wise to observe a limit on the number of members, and in practice the fair sex were not admitted ; to this day the C.U.Tw.C. remains strictly masculine. An annual fee of two-and-six was levied on all members, and it was carefully added that 'The Committee are not exempt from the fee'.

The club determined to send the Senior Proctor a letter requesting official recognition ; this was granted on January 23rd, dating back to the first meeting on the 16th.

These pioneers met for a second time on January 26th, and were joined by two new recruits, M. Hodge and D. Flinn. Of their arrival, Bill Steen wrote 'first there were six in the club, but very soon there were eight, thus it was fixed that eight should be the number in a university team.'

Steen proposed a sherry party to celebrate the inauguration of the club ; this was arranged for February 4th. The Minutes add that 'in order to meet the cost of the Sherry Party and to show a credit balance, the Hon. Assist. Treasurer [Rilett] proposed that the entrance fee should be raised to 10/- a head.' It was necessary for Rilett to show the accounting books before this proposal was passed !

It was at this, the club's second meeting, that the important decision was made about the sizes of the counters to be used. Article 10 in the Minutes sums up the proceedings thus : 'After some discussion, and some practice, a proposal that the counter sizes be 4 medium and 2 large was passed by 5 votes to 3.' Had this electorate of 8 not passed the motion, we might even today be playing with 3 small winks + 3 medium + 1 large.

The meeting ended with about 5 practice games, 'after the members had agreed to use a particular type of carpet as found in Christ's College'. The club now felt it had modified the Rules enough for the moment, and extensive practice must precede further modifications.

'At this time, January 1955 (writes Bill Steen) the Daily Express sent us a cheque for £2-10-0 for no apparant reason, but as an omen it was significant. From then on the flood gates of man's inner yearning for tiddlywinks were open, and something resembling a fairy story occured.'

The club's third meeting was the Sherry Party, held in Christ's at 4.30 p.m. on Friday 4th February. 'The entire club was present at the party', states the

Guy Consterdine wishes to express his gratitude to the C.U.Tw.C. for making freely available to him the club's invaluable Minute books, correspondence, press cuttings and other material, without which this article would not have been possible, and for permission to take quotations from these sources.

Minute Book, ' together with the Treasurer, Rev. J. Brown and a member of the Press, Miss Nuala Stanley. The Committee was in evening dress to mark the importance of the occasion. When the party had been under way for an hour, the President, W.M. Steen, rose to make the inauguration speech. He mentioned how the idea had appeared to him and the Hon. Sec. the previous term to form the club in an attempt to bring the game back into its true perspective. Evidently, he said, the game was quite well known in the middle of the nineteenth century in Europe, but that it had tended towards obscurity at the turn of the century. Even at the present time it is believed that a European Champion does exist and efforts were being made to find him. '

Nuala Stanley, of the Cambridge Daily News, reported the President as saying that ' This club aims at creating history for this much-neglected yet skilful game, a game which requires self-control, dexterity, and a keen sense of direction. It is a new venture and it will be difficult to find opponents. ' ¹

The Rev. J. Brown replied to the President's speech, paying tribute to the drive and efficiency of the founders of the club.

The third and final speech was made by Martin, who described the club's future programme. When a club is the only one existing in its particular field it has of course to coax opposition into existence, and accordingly the C.U.Tw.C.'s programme consisted chiefly of issuing challenges. Gordon Dennis of Christ Church Oxford was being cajoled to get a club going there, while certain foreign embassies, and R.C.A.F. North Luffenham, were to be challenged. In the event of a match materialising, the C.U.Tw.C. were to play in dinner jackets. Martin went on to assert that olive oil was necessary to keep the counters in good condition ², and he stressed the importance of all members owning their own tiddlywinks sets. ' These ' , he said, ' could either be purchased cheaply or alternatively ' borrowed ' from brothers and sisters for an indefinite period. ' In these present days of standard equipment there should be no resort to the latter expedient !

Martin's oratory concluded the formalities, but the party continued till about 6.15.

¹ This report was the club's first press cutting, the first of many, and it ' caused some rejoicing amongst the members ' .

² In 1965 such a statement would be made purely as a joke. But in 1955 there was perhaps an element of sound counsel in this joke, for not all the counters then in use were made of plastic; in all likelihood those made from bone and certain other materials might actually perform better when their rough surfaces were lubricated with olive oil.

AUNTIE GERTIE'S PROBLEM CORNER

Auntie Gertie is here to help you. Write to her about any personal winking problems on which you hesitate to seek the advice of your friends.

' Dear Auntie Gertie : I squidged off. My wink rose into the air, and landed on top of my squidger. What do I do ? ' - Trapped, Mayfield.

- As it was November when you wrote to me, you will by now have been trapped for a very long time. I expect the time-limit on the game has run out. However, one of the books in my library, ' Joseph Kneepad's Fifty Best Games, 1898-1906 ' , relates that when a similar incident occurred during a game at the Pot and Squidger Tavern in 1901, Kneepad had to miss his turns until either his partner freed his squidger or someone brought him a spare one. - Auntie

' While riding a water buffalo across the lower Sawād I came across a curious tribe of marsh-arabs who, with the aid of filed down brass squidgers, vied with each other, for a pint of araq oasis-water, in flipping an eight-ounce pebble into a bucket. On returning to the sanity of Cambridge not only do I find that certain persons also play with filed squidgers (one I know of brass and another of aluminium) but a new mini-winks without squidgers at all is played. Dear Auntie Gertie, what advice would you give in such perplexing circumstances? ' - Perplexed Traditionalist.

- Perhaps you should follow the example of Bill Steen, and emigrate ! Failing this drastic remedy, you could get your disconcerting problem debated at the forthcoming Congress. - Auntie

' Last year I succeeded in squidging a small green wink over Hadrian's Wall, but lost the wink in the long grass on the other side. What can I do to prevent this happening when I squidge over other walls ? ' - Sassenach Winkophile, Taunton.

- Sir Alan Potter encountered the same problem of lost green winks while squidging in the outfield during the 1944 Australian Grass Winks Championship (see WW5). His solution was to make his green winks radio-active, and employ a caddy to carry a geiger counter. - Auntie

WINKS EQUIPMENT - SOME MORE THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

by P.J. Villar

In the last issue of Winking World, 'Aeacus' wrote a most interesting article on Winks equipment design. This is of course a very large subject and one whose proper investigation leads deep into the intricacies of Wink Mechanics, a discipline that has hitherto been much neglected. It is here my aim to draw attention to the number of variables contained in the basic equipment.

1. THE PLAYING SURFACE. The following factors may be varied. Each has an optimum.
 - a) The surface on which the mat is laid. The main difficulty is in finding tables that are the right size. It surprises me that so few people mark the pot position and "squidge-off" positions (base lines) on their mats.
 - b) Mat Homogeneity. (Constancy of property with position). The standard mats are remarkably even. However, after only a little use, rubbing of the mat may cause sufficient unevenness to make a wink roll when properly squidged. This may be avoided by moving the wink before playing it if the squidger presses it down asymmetrically.
 - c) Isotropy. (Constancy of property with direction). Being of felt, the standard mats are excellent in this respect while other surfaces are usually not.
 - d) Firmness. The standard mats stretch very little and the surface does not move horizontally relative to the body as does for example a carpet pile.
 - e) Edge Correction. When a wink is pressed down, some of the mat round the edge of the wink is compressed as well as that directly beneath. This makes the wink effectively larger in radius (by a distance called the 'edge correction'). If this is large, the wink tends to spin more, an undesirable effect.
 - f) Modulus of Elasticity. (A measure of how the pressure on the wink increases with its depth in the mat). This greatly affects the angle and spin with which a wink takes off. If the modulus is too high, trajectories will be very low and result in little spin, making potting impossible. If it is too low, trajectories will inevitably be high, causing high unpredictability when the wink lands. I have no criticism of the standard mat on this account, but others may differ.
 - g) Limit of Compressibility. There is a limit to the depth at which the Modulus of Elasticity remains constant. To press the wink further into the mat requires much greater pressure. This limits the height to which a wink may be squidged, a fact of much importance in squidging out from the base.
 - h) Friction. How soon a non-rolling wink should come to rest after landing is debatable. I feel the shorter the better (high friction).

2. THE POT.

- a) Main Dimensions. Stated in the Rules. They make potting a challenge, but leave it possible for a good player to pot six winks consecutively from a fair range of distances. I feel that the base diameter should be sufficiently less than the rim diameter to make any wink barely touching the base just pottable. Because we use lentiform winks at the moment, this condition is satisfied.
- b) Retentivity. When a wink is flicked into an empty pot it may bounce out. Also winks are likely to bounce out when there are about twenty or more winks in the pot. This seems undesirable, and can be prevented by covering the bottom of the inside of the pot with felt, or steepening the top.
- c) Weight. At the moment winks hitting the pot tend to move it by amounts that may be crucial if a wink is close to it. For this reason, a heavier pot or one that grips the mat better might be more desirable.

(Guy ropes? - Editor)

[Continued overleaf...]

3. THE WINK.

- a) Dimensions. These were well investigated for the Cambridge Thesis and are laid down in the Rules. However, I feel that most winks are too thin, especially large ones. Furthermore they should be much more consistent in thickness. (I have found two small winks from the same set, one twice the thickness of the other). One can however select a good set from two or more boxes.
- b) Ellipticity. It is very important that winks be exactly circular, as any deviation may make them roll. I have come across no winks bad in this respect.
- c) Lentiformity. For some reason that I do not understand, all manufactured winks seem to be convexo-concave. As 'Aeacus' showed, any plano-asymmetrical wink (one not the same both ways up) may have to be turned over to obtain the best results with some shots. Both double concave and double convex winks are hopeless for potting at close range. This leaves only the plane faced wink ('Aeacus''s No.6) as being satisfactory.
- d) Cuneiformity. Many winks tend to range in thickness from one edge to the other. Such winks are best not played with. If you must use them, they are best turned so that the squidger plays off the thin end.
- e) Cylindriformity. Nearly all winks have an undesirable deformity as if caused by partially wrapping them round a rolling pin. This causes the winks to be more convexo-concave in one direction than in that at right angles to it. This may be useful as it enables the properties of the wink to be changed by turning it round. I always pot along the line of greatest flatness.
- f) Friction. The friction of a wink may be increased by abrasion or by the application of a sweaty finger. It may be decreased by cleaning (o.g. with plastic scale cleaner, or Fairy Liquid), and further decreased by the application of car polish. The optimum friction depends on the shot and the player. Too much friction due to finger grease is a common cause of catastrophe.
- g) Edge Profile. This is a much neglected subject, but one that a book might easily be written about. It is also of the utmost importance as all the horizontal component of motion is generated at the edge. An expensive optical projector is needed to examine edge profiles in detail. I have several profiles blown up twenty-five times. These show that the edges start to slope away about a wink's thickness from the outside and gradually increase in slope to about 45 degrees at the periphery, leaving about one third of a wink's thickness perpendicular. This seems satisfactory. However, experimentation might well prove worthwhile. I hope to make and try some winks with a larger and finally steeper edge slope. An important rule of good wink design is that no normal to the upper surface should cut the lower surface outside the area of contact with the mat, (otherwise the wink will flip backwards).

4. THE SQUIDGER.

- a) Diameter. According to the Rules, all squidgers must now be between one and two inches in diameter and be round. A small squidger is often necessary for difficult shots under the lip of the pot. (I have a squidger between 1.0010 and 1.0015 inches in diameter at room temperature). However such a squidger is useless for squidging out and potting. Standard squidgers are about 1.45 inches in diameter. However many players prefer squidgers of about 1.25 inches. Sometimes a smaller squidger gives more direct control of pressure and position. However it limits the angle of squidger incidence, and with vertical squidger squopping shots, it can bring one's finger or thumb in the way of the wink. This can be countered however by the use of a very convex faced squidger. When firmly held, a larger squidger gives better control of horizontal direction.
- b) Rigidity. Because in most shots it is only the edge of the squidger that touches the wink, the overall squidger thickness is of no importance except for its effect on rigidity and finger grip. Much experiment has been done with flexible squidgers. I have no doubt that the same effects can be obtained with more control with a lightly held rigid squidger.
- c) Edge Profile. The squidger's edge propels the wink and is therefore of the utmost importance. A square edged squidger will not impart appreciable horizontal motion to a square edged wink.

cont'd.....

c) Edge Profile (continued)...

Squidgors are at the moment each used at a wide range of incident angles. It therefore seems to me that squidgors' edges should be either wedge-shaped or circular in cross-section, so as to give properties independent of incidence. A wedge-edged squidgor relies entirely on the roundness of the edge of the wink to get its forward drive. With a circular-edged squidgor, the greater the radius of the squidgor edge section, the less important will be the wink profile. I have always used a circular-edged squidgor for potting. Most commercial squidgors however have roughly the same edge profile as that described for winks.

d) Friction. Squidgor friction may be altered in the same way as wink friction. In general the less friction the better. However, for potting from under the lip of the pot a squidgor rough or sticky on the underside is best as it can pull the wink away from the pot.

5. CONCLUSIONS.

Ideally all equipment should be specified and built to accurate limits set to decrease the amount of luck and increase the amount of skill involved in the game. At the moment commercial winks and squidgors leave something to be desired. A player can only select the best equipment available or manufacture his own. It seems that it will not be very long before players insist on using their own carefully selected winks and wide range of home made squidgors.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Dear Sir,

On 1st March we are having an attempt at the Marathon Wink Record. Unfortunately we have no knowledge of what the record is, who are the present or past holders, and another useful piece of information would be how long they took (in fact any information would be helpful).

- M.G. Westley, President, Squidgers & Squoppers, Bristol C.A.T.

Editor : There is no official marathon wink record, since the only records officially recognised by ETWA are Speed, Accuracy, and 4 Pot Relay (see International Rules book). But on delving through my files I have come across what seem to be the best performances in marathon winking. Both the following records were set up during Rag Weeks, in 1963. Two students from Leicester University winked non-stop for 50 hours, in a shop front in Leicester, against a succession of challengers (and won the majority of their games). Also, four winkers from the University of London Union club played each other according to full ETWA Rules for 40 hours non-stop, in a Regent Street shop window.

Dear Sir,

I would be very grateful if you could send me details of the rules governing an attempt to break the long-distance squidging record. Could you also please tell me what distance the present record stands at ?

- Bill Gregg, President, Leicester University Tw Club.

Editor : Again, there is no official long-distance squidging record, nor official rules governing it. There are, however, some unofficial performances. The distance between Bradford Town Hall and Leeds Town Hall is 10.4 miles. In 1964 students from Bradford Institute of Technology winked along the road in just over 19 hours. Then Leeds College of Technology students covered the same journey in 6 hours 58 minutes (excluding 20 minutes of coffee breaks). They used one-foot square felt-covered boards, the wink being squidged off the board into the distance; another board is placed beside the wink when it comes to rest and the wink is moved sideways onto the board and squidged again. A team of five did this, unsupported by vehicles, refreshments and spare winks being carried in a rucksack. They fractured two winks; three went down drains; one was lost in the grass, another in the dark, another in Leeds canal, and two more were cracked beyond use. The longest known single squidge was achieved in 1960 or 1961 by a winker in Hull, who squidged a wink 21 feet 1½ inches.

Further copies of The Winking World may be obtained from the Secretary of ETWA, price 6d (postage extra).

A D D R E S S E S

Secretary of ETWA : Guy Consterdine, 1 Effingham Rd, Lea Green, London, S.E. 12.
 Treasurer of ETWA : Stuart Clark, 97 Norton Road, Stourbridge, Wores.

The inclusion of a club in the list of addresses in any edition of The Winking World does not necessarily mean that the club has paid its annual subscription to ETWA. There follows a supplement to the list of addresses that appeared in WW6. Many of the clubs in this supplementary list have only just leapt into the hurly-burly and turmoil of tiddlywinks.

Abbreviations : Sec, Tw C = Secretary, Tiddlywinks Club ; S = School ;
 GS = Grammar School ; U = University ; C = College.

- ATC, 367 Sqdn. : R.C. Steele, 328 School Road, Sheffield 10, Yorks.
 Art Print Publicity : W.V. Coulbeck, Art Print Publicity Ltd., 152 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London, E.17.
 Aviawink : Geoffrey Wilsher, 12 Cyclamen Way, West Ewell, Surrey.
 Battersea C.A.T. : R. Bradbeer, Students' Union, Battersea College of Technology, Battersea Park Road, London, S.W.11.
 Banbury : Miss D. Eyre, 34 Horton View, Banbury, Oxon.
 Brentwood T.C. : Miss Angela Robertson, Students' Union, Brentwood Training College, Sawyer's Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex.
 Bristol C.A.T. : Vickie Chambers, Squidgers and Squoppers Society, Students' Union, Bristol College of Science and Technology, Ashley Down, Bristol 7.
 Bristol, Down End : K. Hoare, 31 Burley Crest, Down End, Bristol.
 British Red Cross (Reigate Division) : Mrs. D. Kington, 37 Waterlow Rd, Reigate, Surrey.
 Culham C. : G. Townsend, Junior Common Room, Culham College, Abingdon, Berks.
 Cumnor S. : M. Howard, Cumnor C.E. School, Cumnor, Oxford.
 Dundee (Queen's C) : Angela Herdman, Students' Union, Queen's College, Dundee.
 Essex County YFC : Mrs. A.D. Stevens, Rettendon Grange Farm, Woodham Road, Battlesbridge, Wickford, Essex.
 Essex U : Miss J.R. Hoad, Tw Soc, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester.
 Exeter U : G. Courtney, Mardon Hall, Streatham Drive, Exeter, Devon.
 Gradwink : Patrick Bonham, 98 Dale View Crescent, Chingford, London, E.4.
 Hyde County GS : Geoffrey Kershaw, 33 Corona Avenue, Hyde, Cheshire.
 Marjon : Sec, Tw C, College of St Mark and St John, King's Road, London, S.W.10.
 N.W.6 : a) Douglas Graham, 59 Sidney Boyd Court, West Hampstead, London, N.W.6.
 b) Miss L.M. Ward, Flat B, 86 Hillfield, West Hampstead, London, N.W.6.
 Oundle S : Adrian Grant, New House, Oundle, Peterborough, Northants.
 Philippa Fawcett TC : Sec, Tw C, Students' Union, Philippa Fawcett Training College, 94 Leigham Court Road, London, S.W.16. [Doncaster.
 Rossington Hall S : J. Payne, Rossington Hall Special School, Bawtry Rd, Rossington, /
 St Gabriel's C : Sec, Tw C, St Gabriel's College, 45 Cormont Road, London, S.E.5.
 Southlands C : Sec, Tw C, Southlands Training College, Wimbledon Parkside, S.W.19.
 Southport Youth Council : Miss D.J. Rawlinson, Education Offices, Pavilion Buildings, 99/105 Lord Street, Southport, Lancs.
 Strathclyde U : J.K. Porteous, 1185 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow, W.4.
 Ursuline Convent S : Miss M.C. Lawler, Ursuline Convent School, 15 The Downs, S.W.20.
 Westfield C : Sec, Tw C, Westfield College, Kidderpore Avenue, Hampstead, N.W.3.
 Weymouth Young Conservatives : Miss M. Bellamy, 36 Coombe Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset.
 Wyggeston Girls : Elizabeth Long, 49 Stanfell Road, Leicester.

There are the following alterations to addresses which appeared in WW6 :

- Altrincham GS : Alan Cooper, 44 Stamford New Road, Altrincham, Cheshire.
 Belfast (Queen's U) : Miss Rosemary McNeill, 55 Stranmillis Gardens, Belfast 9.
 Bolton S : Dave Chadwick, 117 Warrington Road, Leigh, Lancs.
 Cheadle Hulme S : P. Froebel, 36 Deneford Road, Didsbury, Manchester 20.
 Kingston C of Tech. : Mick Allport, Sec, Tw C, Students' Union, Kingston College of Technology, Penrhyn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.
 Leeds C of Tech. : H. Winfield, Leeds College of Technology Students' Union, Calverley St, Leeds 1.
 Manchester U : Peter Kenny, Woolton Hall, Oak Drive, Fallawfield, Manchester 14.
 NCFT : Chris Willsher, National College of Food Technology, St George's Ave., Weybridge.
 Oxford U : Miss Jennifer Smith, St. Anne's College, Oxford.

EQUIPMENT Sets of winks, 5/- each. Mats, 25/- each.
 Postage : Mats, and sets with mats, post free. Postage on sets on their own : 6d for 1, 9d for 2, and another 3d for each extra set, up to 12 post free.
 Knowledge of Rules helpful : booklets 2d each.
 Suppliers : MERCHANT GAMES LTD, GOLDINGS HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX.

YOUTH AT THE TOP IN LONDON

A League newcomer and last year's Willis Cup winners seem certain to be the Cup finalists on March 16th. Significantly enough, these two teams are the only school teams in the London League.

Division A had completed its programme by mid-February, headed by Ealing GS for Boys in its first season in the League. University College, last year's Cup finalists, and matting only one team this season, beat all but Ealing to come second. Interwink 1st team remained in third place; gone are their days of glory when they dominated the League for two seasons.

The crucial match in Division B (which, incidentally, is of the same status as Division A and is not a lower Division) was that between Bancroft's and Gradwink. Both sides came to the match with an average score in previous League games of about 52-11. Half the Gradwink team were International players, and the side took an early lead, but Bancroft's took the second and third rounds to win 35-28.

League tables so far (win = 2 points, draw = 1 point):

<u>Division A</u>				<u>Division B</u>			
	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Points</u>		<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Points</u>
Ealing GS	5	5	10	Bancroft's S	4	4	8
University C	5	4	8	Gradwink	3	2	4
Interwink 1st	5	3	6	Interwink 2nd	3	2	4
Westfield C	5	2	4	Battersea C	4	2	4
Bedford-Chelsea	5	1	2	Gipsy Hill C	3	0	0
Philippa Fawcett C	5	0	0	St Gabriel's C	3	0	0

[Note : C = College ; S = School]

The Willis Cup final is scheduled for Tuesday 16th March at 7 p.m. at the University of London, to be followed at 9 p.m. by the AGM of the London Tw Council.

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JUNIOR LEAGUE STARTS IN MANCHESTER AREA

Four northern clubs are competing in a new Tw League, which is setting out under the aegis of Nigel Shepherd. The clubs are Altrincham Boys GS, Manchester GS for Boys, Altrincham Girls GS, and Manchester High School for Girls. At a committee meeting on February 13th a League Constitution was established, and it was determined that the programme for this season would be a short competition between one team from each club.

It is hoped that next season a number of other school clubs, now taking up the game and increasing in strength, will be brought into the League. The chances of this happening will probably be increased if the suggestion is adopted that teams be 6-a-side instead of 8-a-side as at present. The experience of the London League, which has been 6-a-side from the outset, shows that many of the smaller clubs can rely on finding 6 players for any match but would frequently be unable to raise 8.

—oOoOo—

RANELAGH TAKES ON CAMBRIDGE FOR MARCHANT TROPHY

The Ranelagh Works Recreation Club (Tiddlywinks Section) unsuccessfully challenged Cambridge University for the Marchant Trophy on January 23rd. The match was held at the Jolly Waterman tavern in Cambridge, squidding off at 7.50 p.m., Ranelagh having come close to defeating Cambridge in their previous encounter: 53¹/₂ - 58¹/₂.

The games were generally double-squop, though the Ranelagh wins usually came by potting out. The bastions on which the Cambridge victory was founded in the first half were the double-squopping of the men on Mats 1 and 4: 5-2, 6-1, 6-1. By half-time Cambridge led 36-20, and there was a break for beer and food. Ranelagh fared better in the second half of the match, winning the fourth quarter outright, but were unable to capture the lead. Final score: Cambridge 67¹/₂, Ranelagh 44¹/₂. The teams were: Cambridge - Breeze and Halsey, 19¹/₂; Thomas and Belkins, 14; Cook and Smith/Heare and Chapman, 12; Bebbington and Joy, 22. Ranelagh - Last and Arndt, 13; Dockery and Dines, 10¹/₂; Mower and Brunning, 11; Double and Rumsey, 10.

To challenge for this All-England Champions' Trophy, a club must first submit a record of its recent match performances to the Secretary of ETWA, to prove itself a serious challenger. Holders are not obliged to defend the Trophy more than once a month. A defeated challenger or holder may not be the next to challenge, unless no challenge has been made within a period of 6 months, in which case the Secretary of ETWA is empowered to arrange a challenge match.

MEMBERSHIP OF ETWA

Affiliation fees to ETWA for 1965 are now due. This is ETWA's main source of income, since money raised from tiddlywinks events is donated to the National Playing Fields Association. Affiliation is of two kinds :

a) Club Membership - The annual subscription for clubs (consisting of at least 8 members) is 10/- for Senior clubs (members over 18 years) and 5/- for Junior clubs (members 18 or under).

b) Individual Membership - Individuals can keep in touch with tiddlywinks by taking up membership of ETWA, whether or not they are members of a club. Subscriptions are 2/- per year for any number of years, or £1 for Life. At the time of going to press, individual members are as follows :

Life : A. Astles, R. Bebbington, P. Bonham, S. Clark, G. Consterdine, A. Cooper, M. Crick, C. Flood, R. Glasscock, M. Halsey, Miss D. Jacks, G. Kurtz, M. O'Shea, J. Pick, C. Relle, N. Shepherd, K. Watson.

10 Years : P. Villar.

5 Years : R. Broomfield, C. Maddock, J. Rogers.

2^{1/2} Years : P. Laxton.

1 Year : C. Emery, R. Steele.

The Cambridge University Tw Club thesis of 1955 quoted on page one John Pick's erudite work, *The Phoenix Dictionary of Games* : 'To scorn Tiddlywinks because it is played by children is to refuse milk because it is the food of babies.' ETWA is delighted that John Pick is now a Life Member. His Dictionary has recently been published in paperback form.

AROUND THE WINKING WORLD

India - Pakistan - Wales - USA - England

Bill Steen writes from West Bengal : 'In India I am trying to master their more clumsy game. It is a Maharajah's sport. There are six aside and any number of sides depending on who comes. All players are mounted on elephants. The elephants have silver (now of course mild steel) shoes on their two front feet. These specially trained tiddlywinks elephants will stamp their front feet on being tickled behind the ears by the player who sits in the Mahout position, thus the front feet of the elephant becomes the squidger. There is only one wink in play. The wink is actually a large flat Degchi or saucepan, and the elephants by stamping on the wink can flick it. By careful manoeuvring - a form of elephantine rigger - the player can aim the wink towards the cup which in this case is a vat of soup which is drunk by the losing side after the match. The area of play is limitless. From this game the idea of squopping may have arisen since when a one-ton elephant stands on the wink due to a scrum around him the covered wink can not be moved. The noise of the trumpeting elephants, and stamping feet, the curses of the players, and the smack of hides, the spectacle of scores of elephants milling around a small round object with the dust rising in the scorching sun is thrilling : but really it's not Tiddlywinks - by Jove !'

Keith Watson, founder and past Secretary-General of the Scottish Tw Association, is now at Chittagong, Pakistan. Keith and friends have recently been winking in Agra and New Delhi, and during a game in India over Christmas Bill Steen and Keith decided that they would play a postal sub-continental match in 1965, using the BRS (Bonham Recording System). Their fears that the hieroglyphics passing over the Indo-Pak border may cause a diplomatic incident have proved groundless so far.

College Rag Days seem to inspire a good many offbeat unofficial records. The latest was an attempt to pot 10,000 winks from 18 inches in the shortest time on a standard surface. The attempt was made in a shop window in Aberystwyth on Friday 12th February by Allen Astles, holder of the world record of 26.5 seconds for potting 24 winks from 18 inches. The 10,000 winks record was set up using two tables with a pot and 30 winks on each. While Astles was potting the 30 winks on one table, someone else was setting up the winks on the other, so that Astles could squidge continuously. The 10,000 winks were potted in 3 hours 59 minutes, this time including about 15 minutes of resting. 'As a consequence,' Allen writes, 'I suffered from a stiff back, blurred vision, stiff left hand, and a sore and bruised thumb.'

Another group of our transatlantic cousins is beginning to play tiddlywinks : Michael Perel, of Pittsburg, USA, and friends have newly taken up the squidger. In addition, Michael Crick, late of London University, is currently in Boston, Mass.

Norman Bardsley, Secretary-General of IFTWA and a Council member of ETWA, was married at the end of 1964. Norman met his wife, Jackie, at a winks match, and Ken Veitch was best man, so the whole occasion had a winks flavour.

Tiddlywinks scorecards, printed by Arthur Guinness and Son, are available free from ETWA - but please send money or stamps to cover postage (each scorecard weighs about half an ounce).