

# Winking World 100

July 2017

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# Preliminaries

## Editorial

*Edward D. Green*

The past couple of years, and especially the last few months, in Tiddlywinks (certainly in the UK, at least) have been characterised by a remarkable successful streak. The student clubs have seen a rise in membership and in existence, with the relatively new STUY (Society for Tiddlywinks, University of York; pronounced ‘Stewie’) increasing the number of UK University clubs by 100%.<sup>1</sup> We have also seen a flurry of media attention, with our Glorious Leader, Dr Knight, appearing on television and radio to talk about our “bid to have Tiddlywinks included in the Olympics” (a fictitious bid, invented by the press before they contacted us, as far as I can tell). I can only assume that our fortunes will continue and our numbers increase, but we all know what happens when we assume. I look forward to writing in my next editorial that *Winking World* will be forced to be issued monthly to keep up with the volume of ‘winks-related news.

In a sense, it’s fitting that there hasn’t been an issue of *Winking World* to contain accounts of the 2016 tournaments, because it has meant that Issue 100 is to be a bumper edition. However, it has been necessary to exercise caution lest WW100 become altogether **too** bumper, thereby damaging the long-armed stapler. Happily, however, some of the tournaments were either never written up, or the write-ups never made it to me, and readers may notice that some tournament entries consist only of results tables. Notably, I have not received anything at all about World Singles 70, so if anyone has the results or a write-up I would appreciate them for inclusion in WW101.

The first issue under a new editor is the perfect occasion for a change of format, but I don’t really know what the format was, so I might be doing exactly the same thing. In future issues, I would like to include as much of a variety

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<sup>1</sup>I couldn’t tell you the foundation date; perhaps PBB will write in.

as possible, gathering information about every part of the global Tiddlywinks community into one publication. If that's not what *Winking World* is for, then it has a stupid name.

Given how bumper this issue is (as mentioned above) it has been necessary to cut down certain articles, which sadly has meant an enforced reduction in literary merit. Let the reader understand that these articles were for the most part better before I edited them. I do hope that none of our three authors are offended by the cold, determined pragmatism I have exercised in butchering their work.

## Submissions for Winking World 101

Submissions are requested for *Winking World* 101. Although rather a lot of Tournaments have been reported in the current issue, the frequency with which we intend to publish future issues will mean that there is more space for Local News and Occasional Articles.

To that end, I would like to make two requests. Firstly, if you are involved in the running of a local Tiddlywinks group or local events, please send in your news, and if you are not, I challenge you to start something new. If anyone bothers, then the organiser of the best-attended new event shall receive from the Editor a pint of beer or cider, so long as they send in a written account of the event.

Secondly, while articles on any theme related to 'winks or to the winking community are very much welcome and encouraged, I will be running an essay competition. Entries should address the question "what would most improve the sport of Tiddlywinks?" (the question may not be used as the title). The winner of the competition shall receive from the Editor a pint of beer or cider.

All articles, including tournament write-ups and competition entries, should be sent by email to [winkingworld@gmail.com](mailto:winkingworld@gmail.com).

A style guide will be provided on the ETwA website ([etwa.org](http://etwa.org)) shortly after the publication date of the current issue.

**The deadline for submissions for WW101 is Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. Submissions received after this deadline may not be included.**

# National and International Tournaments

## World Singles 69 (April 2016)

Location Forgotten, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

*Larry Khan*

This was the ninth meeting between Patrick and me (with a possible tenth in the works); getting to be a bit tedious but at least Patrick is a speedy and enjoyable opponent to play against.

### Game 1

This was your typical feeling-out (not up) first game of a World Singles that evolved into a standard squop game. Larry gained the upper hand with slightly better play and was able to fend off all of Patrick's attacks. 6-1 to Larry.

### Game 2

Andy popped in briefly to say hello and act as umpire until Alan Dean could arrive. Both players had early pot-out threats, Larry (red) had all 6 close but 2 were single squops on greens very awkwardly placed for potting purposes. Yellow also had 6 fairly close, but one of the smalls was exactly totaling a blue (both players estimated the probability around 50%). Larry chose to wait and Patrick then gave it a go; the first 5 went in easily but the 6th missed over the pot into Larry's area. Patrick was able to free it one time but Larry only had to make a short squop to retake. He eventually worked the pot-out for another 6-1 win.

### Game 3

Alan finally showed up and got to see one of the critical points in the match. Larry (green) had potted his first big wink bring-in so was immediately behind. Each player brought in to their own area to set up possible blitz threats with green and red. At the critical juncture, blue had tried to squop a green that was threatening a big red and Larry had to make a decision take the blue-red double in a relatively isolated area, but with blue-red a bit closer, or go for the pot-out with 3 somewhat close and the other 2 at 8-10 inches. Red had an immediate threat that was easier than the greens. After pondering this, Larry (perhaps atypically) went for the pot-out and made it; final game score 5-2 and a big overall lead of 17-4.

### Game 4

Patrick had a big edge in bring-ins, with Larry rolling off with blues twice. Early on, Patrick made the sensible choice of taking a blue triple (set up by the loss of turn) in an area where he already had some defenders instead of trying a non-trivial pot-out. Larry was forced to attack and did so very well, getting on top of the pile several times and finally managing to blow it up. As often happens in games where one side has lots of enemy winks under fewer of theirs, if the pile gets blown the numbers advantage is reversed. Thats exactly what occurred and Larry took advantage for a 6-1 win.

### Game 5

Patrick didn't go into desperation pot-out mode and a squop game soon developed. It was very similar to the other 2 squop games with Larry playing a bit better overall, and able to respond to all of Patricks attacking shots (which went quite up to Patricks usual standards). A 5-2 win, for a final match score of 28-7.

Overall, it was a fairly well played match despite the final score. I did play consistently well and have seen Patrick have better days, but he did make quite a number of good shots throughout. The turning points were probably the two pot-out games; they could both have easily gone the other way.

## ETwA National Singles (April-May 2016)

Location Forgotten, 30<sup>rd</sup> April & 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2017.

ETwA National Singles 2016: Results by position

	Player	Total	PPG
1:	Larry Kahn [A]	68½	5 <sup>17</sup> / <sub>24</sub>
2:	Patrick Barrie [B]	60	5
3:	Patrick Driscoll [E]	59	4 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>12</sub>
4:	Alan Dean [D]	54	4½
5:	Nick Inglis [F]	50	4⅙
6:	Matthew Rose [C]	48	4
7:	Paul Moss [H]	41	3 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>12</sub>
8:	Harley Jones [I]	38½	3 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>24</sub>
9:	Geoff Thorpe [G]	37	3½
10:	Stew Sage [J]	26	2⅙
11:	Ben Fairbairn [M]	25	2½
12:	Ed Green [L]	20	1⅔
13:	Sarah Knight [K]	19	1⅞

ETwA National Singles 2016: Results by game

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
A:	4-3	4-3	5½-1½	6-1	6-1	7*-0*	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
B:	3-4	4-3	5-2	4½-2½	4½-2½	6-1	6-1	6*-1*	3-4	6-1	6-1	6-1
C:	3-4		1-6	2-5	4½-2½	6-1	1-6	2½-4½	6-1	6-1	6-1	7*-0*
D:	1½-5½	6-1		1-6	4½-2½	6-1	6-1	5*-2*	6-1	6-1	6*-1*	4-3
E:	1-6	5-2	6-1		5½-1½	5-2	6-1	7*-0*	7*-0*	2*-5*	6-1	6-1
F:	1-6	2½-4½	2½-4½	1½-5½		6-1	4-3	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
G:	0*-7*	1-6	1-6	2-5	1-6		2-5	5*-2*	7*-0*	6-1	4-3	7*-0*
H:	1-6	6-1	1-6	1-6	3-4	5-2		6-1	2-5	7*-0*	6-1	2-5
I:	1-6	4½-2½	2*-5*	0*-7*	1-6	2*-5*	1-6		7*-0*	6*-1*	7*-0*	6*-1*
J:	1-6	1-6	1-6	0*-7*	1-6	0*-7*	5-2	0*-7*		6-1	4-3	3-4
K:	1-6	1-6	1-6	5*-2*	1-6	1-6	0*-7*	1*-6*	1-6		3-4	3-4
L:	1-6	1-6	1*-6*	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-6	0*-7*	3-4	4-3		3-4
M:	1-6	0*-7*	3-4	1-6	1-6	0*-7*	5-2	1*-6*	4-3	4-3	4-3	



The Singles was won by a rank outsider.

## ETwA National Singles Plate (April-May 2016)

**Location** Forgotten, 30<sup>rd</sup> April & 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2017.

*Andrew Garrard*

Having made my way to Cambridge to delay the abnormally-early Congress, I had the enviable position of being allowed a lie-in on Sunday morning while the main tournament participants had to rouse themselves for a 9:45 start. Due to my jet lag, however, I arrived while the first round was still in play, and in time to be almost continuously involved in umpiring decisions (tight and, frankly, obvious). Eventually things settled down enough to let me set up the computer and projector, and get the scores entered electronically, in the expectation that the combined count of degrees in the room has historically proven to be incapable of adding fractions. Harley also took the time to show me his phone was broken. With my technical training and years of experience at a phone manufacturer, I agreed.

Just as people were heading to lunch, and while I was doing my umpirely duty and waiting for the last games to finish, Daniel Barnett turned up. He announced that he couldn't play after lunch, so if there was to be a Plate at all, I'd have to play him before lunch. Using the recommended handicap scheme from the ETwA site, Daniel and I were allocated handicaps of 1 and 6, respectively, making the game a challenge. One that I promptly failed to meet, in part due to a spectacular inability to pot. I worked my way to a 5-2 win, which translated to a 2½-5½ win for Daniel after handicap transfer. I headed to lunch, to drown my sorrows and, as it turned out, learn a strange Roman drinking game from Harley and Ed.

CJ was kind enough to take me on after lunch, getting handicapped 0. The game proceeded in a fairly tight manner until Harley indicated that his game had finished early, and that he was keen for more; this prompted me into a rash run at the pot, for which CJ didn't punish me quite as much as I deserved. I scored 7 (unconvincingly), which resulted in a 4-3 to me after point transfer.

The draw randomly decided that CJ should take me and Harley on next, but we elected by mutual agreement that CJ and I should team up against Harley, who was awarded a handicap of 4. The ensuing game was extremely tight, with my attempts to keep Harley from running at the pot only barely successful. CJ potted in rounds - his potting again showing that he needed treating with



respect. I pulled off a round five pot and squop to turn a draw into a  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ , which became 5-2 with point transfer, and elevated the working handicap of both CJ and myself by a half, and lowered Harley's accordingly.

CJ was amenable to one more game, which I needed to win  $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  to draw. I brought in poorly, and found CJ threatening enough to run at the pot. Well, "crawl" would be more accurate, but fortunately I avoided CJ's squops for just long enough to pull a 7\*-0\* out. It never looked all that convincing, though.

Harley finished his last game from the Singles early, having had an exceptionally potty tournament, and decided he was willing to have one more game. A  $5\frac{1}{2}$  would have still resulted in a loss to me after handicap transfer, so I was obliged to be aggressive. Harley attempted to hold me down while CJ ran at the pot, and I concentrated on trying to ensure that Harley couldn't counter-pot. Fortunately some of CJ's winks started at a distance from the pot, which gave me breathing space that disappeared rapidly as he potted well. Fortunately I managed to take out his last wink, after more attempts and with less time left than was good for my blood pressure, and eventually managed to keep Harley from rescuing him. I made as sure as I could of following in, giving myself a head start over Harley before potting out. CJ gave me a chance at the 7, but all of us were a bit unconvincing in potting at this point, and he followed in. Fortunately my head start counted against Harley.

Patrick later confided that, since we were playing on his mat, he hated it and blamed it for his World Singles defeat. I wish I could claim my misses were anything but incompetence - I'd actually done some practice for once in the hope of recovering some of the damage the last year had done to my rantings. While I had just enough moments of smugness to let me practise my Phil Scarrott grin, I certainly wasn't reliable, and I'd have been roundly stuffed in the main Singles; all my opponents acquitted themselves better than the scorelines reflected. Still, I'm happy that my ranting improved somewhat, but a bit guilty that CJ suffered a bit, because his potting has genuinely improved.

Anyway, thus passed another Plate, with losers only by personality, not by having been knocked out of the Singles. If only we could get CUTwC to turn up.

## Singles Plate 2016 Results

Pos'n	Name	PPG	Played	H'cap	Orig H'cap
	Daniel Barnett	4½	1	1	1
1	Andrew Garrard	3 <sup>17</sup> / <sub>20</sub>	5	6½	6
2	CJ Barrie	3 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	4	½	0
	Harley Jones	2 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	2	3½	4

## Exmouth Open (June/July 2016)

## Exmouth

*From the Editor: I am very sorry that this fantastic tournament does not seem to have a proper write-up. Perhaps it's my fault; there was a point at which it looked like I might win, so I was mooted as a possible writer-upper. However, I did not win. If anybody has a write-up which I never received, or which I have since lost, I would be thrilled to be able to publish it in WW101. Here I provide the results table and a two-sentence write-up from Alan Dean, the tournament's host.*

## Exmouth Open 2016: Results

Position.	Player.	Games.	Change in rating.
1.	Rupert Wilson.	31.	+160
2.	Keith Seaman.	30.	+52
3.	Ed Green.	21.	+27
4.	Harley Jones.	21.	-3
5.	Alan Dean.	47.	-10
6.	Geoff Thorpe.	14.	-35
7.	Andrew Garrard.	13.	-38

We only managed 52 rounds because walking, Go playing and croquet also occurred. On one day there was a four hour lunch break featuring Beer (walk along the cliff path from).

## NATwA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (August 2016)

Common Hall, Montague, MA, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2016.

*Alan Dean*

The fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the North American Tiddlywinks Association was celebrated over the weekend of August 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> with a reunion and informal tournament, held at the Common Hall in Montague, Massachusetts, a small town some ninety miles east of Boston. Ferd Wulkan, who lives next door, made the arrangements. Sadly, there could be no international match on this occasion, as I was the sole representative from ETwA. Even my wife decided to give this trip a miss, as I would be winking for four days, over consecutive weekends, and with her limited eyesight she finds it difficult in busy and unfamiliar places. I packed everything I needed for the twelve day trip into a small rucksack, and flew from Exeter to Boston, including an overnight stop at Manchester, where I stayed with my sister. Bill Gammerdinger flew in from The Cayman Islands, via Miami, and arrived at Logan airport around the same time as Margaret Small (from Chicago) and myself, and he had a hire car, which we were happy to share. I kept them waiting a while, because it took three hours for me to get through Immigration Control, due to the large number of arrivals and the small number of officers on duty.

Ferd put me up for three nights and, as a guest of honour I was given a bed, in the study. Many other winkers stayed there, and it was good to see them all, but I was ready for an early night by 21:30 on the Friday (or 02.30 in UK money) and I slept well. A pair of socks belonging to one of the women guests was found on my bedroom floor next morning, a mystery later explained by Ferd: one of the cats was fond of moving things around!

The event was timed to coincide with the towns annual 'Old Home Days festival, which took place just across the road, in the hope of attracting in any interested members of the public, and notices were placed outside of the hall inviting people in. We arranged a rota of pairs of volunteers to be on duty at various times to welcome any casual visitors, and introduce them to the game.

Many participants were no longer active players, primarily there to meet old friends, so an informal kind of tournament was arranged, to allow everyone to play as much, or as little, as they wished. Attendees, including a number who came in off the street were Larry Kahn, Mary Kirman, MP Rouse, Ferd Wulkan,

Bob Henninge, Rick Tucker, Dave Lockwood, Marg Small (sister of Bob Henninge), Bill Gammerdinger, Sunshine, Tim Schiller, Severin Drix, Mick Muller, Charles Frankston, Jordan Matthews, Scott Hirsch, Chris Wise, Allison Pohle, Carolyn Hoffman, Nan Severn, Fred Shapiro, Daniel Sachs, Bill Renke, Jo Sachs plus sons Daniel and Jeremy, Fred Shapiro and his wife, mother and daughter Rosanne and August Thomas, Mik and Chris Wise, Lee Wicks, Leslie Lomasson, Deb Huisken, Nicole Nemec, Addie Rose Holland, Dan Rosenberg, Adele (a friend of Carolyn's and Sunshine's), Dave York, Dean Solomon (former HYTH), Nan's husband David, Scott's wife Claire, L (Richard Hussong), Steve Krasner (former Somerville), Jake Solomon, and Bonnie Allen a (friend of Sunshine and Ferd), and myself

To kick of the proceedings we sang from the NATwA Songbook, and Scott and Bill G. gave us a rendition of a new winks anthem (*Winks reunion here at last.*), which I believe can be found on the NATwA website.

A celebration meal was held on the Saturday evening at the motel and restaurant, where some of the winkers were staying, and a reduced price had been negotiated on the agreement that there would be just three main courses on offer, and that each delegate would select one of these in advance. Nine people had chosen each dish so these lists were used to determine the three teams for the tournament: 'Chicken', 'Fish' and 'Pasta'. The idea was that when someone wanted to play a game they should find a partner from the same team, and two opponents from one of the other teams, and get on with it, but even this loose arrangement was too formal for most of us. We just played with whoever we fancied, regardless of which teams they were in, or even if they were not in any team at all. I invited the Boston.com journalist, Allison Pohle, who had arrive to report on proceedings, to join me in my first game, and she happily obliged. A table shortage at this point meant we made it a triples game, and I persuaded Larry Kahn to be our third team member. Marg Small was on the opposing team, but we could not later recall who her partners were, and the game was not on the scores submitted to Patrick Barrie, but I do know that we won 6-1. Allison played another game later on, partnering me to a 1½ 5½ loss against Marg and Jordan, so she got a world rating, a fact she has since proudly added to her Twitter headline! Her article of the event can be found at <https://sports.good.is/tiddlywinks-champion-tries-to-save-sport> and it contains a photo of me which Marg later said was her favourite memory of the weekend.

The legendary Bill Renke was there. He beat me 29-6 in the first World Singles match in 1973, and I can't recall ever seeing anyone play as well as he did then. Larry has won far more titles, but I have beaten him a few times, and I was a stronger player in the 70s, so Bill was probably, if only briefly, the strongest player of all time. I really wanted to play a game with him, but he could not be



Allison's famous second head is the spitting image of Rick Tucker. Photo by Marg.

persuaded to play, not being in the best of health. Here he is, at Ferds place, recounting the tale of the final match in the 1980 Continentals, in which his team needed eight points from the final three games, and word reached them, well into the game, that the other two pairs on his team had scored zero and one. This meant that he and his partner Bill Gammerdinger needed a 7-0, to win the championships, which they achieved after Renke potted out in the final turn of round five!

A reporter from the Western Mass News, Mary Cate Mannion, was also there on the Saturday. This link to a video that she made of the event, includes the first use I have ever heard of the word squibbing!

<http://www.westernmassnews.com/story/32804373/celebrating-a-milestone-in-the-history-of-tiddlywinks>

After the meal on the Saturday evening, at The French King Motel and Restaurant, by the Connecticut River, some of us spoke in memory of departed friends. Yan Wang, Richard Nowogrodzki (aka Fitz) and Richard Garson were remembered, and I spoke of Pam Knowles (the only woman ever to win a major title the NATwA Singles of 1980, during my first trip to the USA), and my long time good friend and winks partner Charles Relle.

At one point a mother and daughter, Rosanne and August Thomas, came in off the street and Dave Lockwood and I persuaded them to join in a game. We drew lots for partners and I got the daughter, August, who turned out to be much more capable than her mother. This helped us to an easy 6-1, but the ratings algorithm would obviously have no way to distinguish between them, so I gained a few cheap rating points over Dave.

My penultimate game, partnering Bob Henninge against Severin and Ferd, was the first ever 200-year game, in which all four participants have played the game in every one of the last fifty years. That one was hard fought, and we eventually won it 5-2.

In my final game I got to partner Ferd, who was to be my partner a week later in the NATwA Pairs. We played the brother and sister pair of Bob Henninge and Marg Small. I thought we were heading for a reasonably comfortable victory, until Ferd missed easy pots in each of the last three rounds. Marg potted extremely well, but we managed to limit the damage to a 3-4 loss by my potting two and taking a squop in the final round. This was the third time I had lost to Marg: she was also on the winning side in a couple of practice games against me at Ferd's place. Ferd later told me that he was normally a very good potter, but I made him nervous!



Sunshine is on the right, and sitting on the left is Jordan Matthews.

The official result was Pasta 30½, Fish 28, Chicken 25½, but most of the matches played did not contribute towards the final scores because at least one of the pairs were not both from the same team. I didnt list the teams, as they were not very significant: let me just say that I was a Pasta!

Dave York took his drone with video camera and posted a video on YouTube, of the area around Ferds house and the Common Hall, with a Simon and Garfunkel backing, the final song being, fittingly, *Old Friends*, as the drone descended into Ferds garden towards a waving group of winkers, and a cat about to pounce. I didnt know about this until afterwards, as I would have liked to have joined the group in the garden.

In feedback after the Montague event, Jo Sachs reported that probably his biggest disappointment was the paucity of discussions. He had been expecting to hear a lot more reminiscences of the past fifty years, and also maybe some oral presentations of winks history. A “panel discussion” had been advertised. He added that it also would have been nice to take the opportunity to speak of the current status of winks, and things to do for the future. He added that ‘had he had his wits about him’ he should have nominated Rick Tucker for “winker of the millenium” for his numerous contributions to the game, as IFTwA Secretary General, editor and publisher of Newswink, Yahoo email group administrator, tiddlywinks.org webmaster, Facebook group administrator, primary organizer of the 2006 reunion, winks collector, archivist and historian. He also added that Bill Renke had raised the issue that people in possession of winks artifacts should start thinking about the disposition of such objects “when the time comes”, and it would be useful for us to share our thoughts and plans with each other.



## Results of Pairs Games

Mary Kirman & MP Rouse	6 - 1	Sunshine & Bill Gammerdinger
Dave Lockwood & Tim Schiller	6 - 1	Rick Tucker & and Charles Frankston
Bob Gammerdinger & Jordan Matthews	4 - 3	Ferd Wulkan & Marg Small
Alan Dean & Bill Gammerdinger	6 - 1	Scott Hirsch & Severin Drix
Rick Tucker & Mick Mullen	4 - 3	Bob Henninge & Chris
Dave Lockwood & Ferd Wulkan	5½ - 1½	Alan Dean & Severin Drix
Larry Kahn & Rick Tucker	4 - 3	Tim Schiller & MP Rouse
Jordan Matthews & Marg Small	5½ - 1½	Alan Dean & Allison Pohle
Alan Dean & Tim Schiller	5 - 2	Larry Kahn & Jordan Matthews
Alan Dean & August Thomas	6 - 1	Dave Lockwood & Rosanne Thomas
Severin Drix & Bonnie	6 - 1	Ferd Wulkan & Carolyn Hoffman
Alan Dean & Marg Small	4½ - 2½	Nan Severn & Bob Henninge
Alan Dean & Severin Drix	6 - 1	Bob Henninge & Charles Frankston
Alan Dean & Larry Kahn	6 - 1	Bob Henninge & Rick Tucker
MP Rouse & Mary Kirman	4 - 3	Tim Schiller & Ferd Wulkan
Bob Henninge & Scott Hirsch	6 - 1	MP Rouse & Mary Kirman
Larry Kahn & MP Rouse	5 - 2	Rick Tucker & Jordan Matthews
Fred Shapiro & Ferd Wulkan	4 - 3	Tim Schiller & Scott Hirsch
Alan Dean & Charles Frankston	4 - 3	Severin Drix & Daniel Sachs
Alan Dean & Bob Henninge	5 - 2	Severin Drix & Ferd Wulkan
Charles Frankston & Bill Gammerdinger	4 - 3	Mary Kirman & MP Rouse
Bob Henninge & Marg Small	4 - 3	Alan Dean & Ferd Wulkan

## NATwA Pairs (August 2016)

Chez Khan, nr. Washington DC, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

*Alan Dean*

There were six pairs, plus Marg who had expected to partner Geoff Thorpe, but Geoff failed to arrive, without explanation, so Marg played solo.

My email to Ferd about two months before the event, asking if he would partner me, arrived about half an hour before one from Severin Drix, making a similar request. I was very pleased that he accepted my offer, particularly as I felt I had not played particularly well partnering him during a previous trip. The confirmation was a long time coming, so presumably Ferd must have been undecided for a while! Four members of the Lockwood family were competing. Dave partnered Larry, so they were the top seeds. Max and Jon played together, and were seeded fourth, with Ben and Jordan Matthews as fifth seeds. Ferd and I were seeded second, just ahead of Severin and Bob Henninge.

The agreed format was all-play all, with the top four to go through, carrying their points through into a further all-play all.

The crucial game from day one, from our perspective, was the one against Larry and Dave. Larry's play in practice games had been quite outstanding, so we were rather dubious about our chances in a squopping battle, and we had decided that if a reasonable opportunity for a pot-out attempt came up we would go for it. It did, but I only potted two or three before missing, and Larry took the resulting nine inch squop that I left him. Then Dave started potting, and he too missed after getting a couple in, and I took the squop, of some four or five inches. Ferd got a guard in near to Daves squopped wink, and Larry attacked and got on to the pile. Before my next shot Ferd confirmed that he was happy to retake the pile with Dave at the bottom, so I attacked the pile where I was squopped, and got onto it. Then Ferd missed re-taking Larry, so Larry broke up the pile, and Dave potted well, to complete the pot-out. After some misses, and just as Larry got his remaining winks into fairly easily pottable positions I managed to pot six in a row to take second place, but that 1\*-6\* loss left us in third place, six points off the lead, and two points behind Bob and Sev, who had earlier beaten us 4-3 in a closely fought game. This was the situation at the end of the first day's play.

Situation at Close of Day 1

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
A	Larry Kahn & Dave Lockwood	6*	3	5	6	7*	6	33
B	Ferd Wulkan & Alan Dean	1*	3	5	6	6	6	27
C	Bob Henninge & Severin Drix	4	4	6	3	6	6	29
D	Max Lockwood & Jon Lockwood	2	2	1	4	5	5	19
E	Ben Lockwood & Jordan Matthews	1	1	4	3	2	4	15
F	Marg Small	0*	1	1	2	5	1	10
G	Rick Tucker & David Solomon	1	1	1	2	3	6	14



Ben plays, watched by David Solomon, Rick Tucker and Jordan Matthews.



Max and Jon apparently both playing at the same time whilst Jordan's back is turned!

Ferd reported thus on the day two events: ‘Seven pairs (actually, seven entities since Margaret played singles) had been winnowed down to the top four in a round robin on Saturday. Dave and Larry, the favourites, were about three points ahead of Bob and Severin and six ahead of Alan and Ferd. Max and Jon were a more distant fourth. In the first of three rounds, Alan and Ferd quickly gained control through excellent squidge-ins and beat Severin and Bob 6-1. Jon and Max put up a very good fight against their father, getting 2 points the same result as the previous day.

‘In the second round, against Dave and Larry, just as in Saturdays game, Alan was in a pretty good position to try to pot out. He soon, however, found himself with 3 in the cup, two squopping, and one squopped, while Dave was also free and heading for the pot. This is not so different from Saturday when Dave in fact ended up potting and Larry and Dave won 6-1. This time however, players on both sides made good squops such that neither Alans nor Daves pot-outs was imminent. As the game headed toward the time limit, there was a moment when all four players were going for the pot before getting more entangled. Ferd, who had had major psych-out issues while potting in earlier games (such that he asked Alan to leave the room while he tried to pot), managed to pot 4 and a 6-1 win seemed within reach. This would have left the two pairs tied going into the final round. Instead, Larry and Dave, scratched out an addition, important, half point, resulting in final tiddlies of 14-13-13-8 and a final score of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  -  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . Bob and Severin meanwhile handily defeated Max and Jon, leaving three pairs with a reasonable chance of winning the tournament with one round remaining.

‘The two final games started at the same time, and the two leading pairs, separated by one point, wanted to know what was happening at the other table since their strategy could be affected. Specifically, Alan and Ferd, when they heard that Dave and Larry were doing well in the early going and might get 6 against Severin and Bob, had to think about trying a pot out to get 7. Ferd, being the weaker potter, would be the best candidate to try, so that Alan could hopefully pot his winks before either Jon or Max. Alan and Ferd got control fairly quickly, but most winks were in a fragile pile that was hard to solidify with just Alan’s winks. Ferd seemed in a position to pot as Jon and Max were repeatedly squopped out. After he got two in and was positioning for the final assault, Jon, on his fourth or fifth try, succeeded in bombing the pile with fairly dramatic results. The pot-out was no longer on the immediate agenda, the game was drawing to a close, and word from the other table was that Larry and Dave may only get four points. While Alan and Ferd were able to squop most of the recently-freed winks, Jon had two that he was able to pot, one quite dramatically from between the piles. We had taken pictures of the winks before his shot and the time it took to accurately reconstruct a small pile which Alan was likely to want to play to get one of his squopped winks out, was valuable in garnering



Another 200-year game being played at the start of day two.

additional information from the other table. Four points seemed likely, but not certainly, the most Dave and Larry would get. Our game came down to the final turn. Ferd and Alan had 5 points for sure which could lead to a tied match and a final playoff game which they very much wanted to avoid. Alan could pot one for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  points, and then piddle the reconstructed pile for 6. His shot hit the back rim of the pot but instead of dropping in, it circled partway around the rim and fell out of the pot and the final score was 5-2. Despair overtook Alan, but as they moved across the room to the other table, they saw Bob pot a third wink, leaving Dave and Larry at 3 points with one turn remaining. If Dave made a fairly long pot, he could then blow up a small pile, freeing enough of his winks such that he would take first and Larry would tie for third for a final score of  $4\frac{1}{2}$   $2\frac{1}{2}$ , which would win the tournament by half a point. It was a hard shot, and Dave missed, so Alan and Ferd took the title, with a final one point lead over the top seeds.

Bob's thoughts on his and Severin's final game with Larry and Dave: 'It was one of those games—you all know the kind—where Larry and Dave had better bring-ins, and we fell into a couple early squops, and were just trying to stay





Professor Brad Schaefer (co-winner of the Gruber prize in Cosmology for the discovery of Dark Energy) puts his sharp eyesight to good use in adjudicating a possible squop.



alive and keep kicking. They were not flawless and allowed us to hang around and, as sometimes happens, the time clock favoured us in that, although they were basically in control of the field, at the time limit their squops and small piles were messy, all tangled up with mostly Sev's winks, while I wound up with three free winks in potting distance plus a pottable squop on Larry. Significantly, Larry, who went last of course, was the most entangled. I made my pots and in the fourth round chose to stay on Larry instead of potting off him; he promptly squopped me from 4 inches with his last free wink, reducing me to 9 points but leaving it basically to Dave to try either a 16-inch pot or a pot off the top of a messy pile in the last round. Dave was straight, but long. Larry tried an unlikely jab-pot-and-hope-to-free, and we won 4-3.'

Bob also commented thus, on the earlier games: 'In the first round games the "unseeded" pairs often played tenaciously, and one of them, Jordan and Ben, pulled out a 4-3 win over me and Sev, which was the only real upset in the first day, where the four non-heavyweight pairs finished with 19, 15, 14 and 10 points. Margaret, playing solo, got the 10, though I would wager anyone would report that her technical play was quite good, and she won her final game.'

This was my first US title from four attempts, two each in their Singles and Pairs, and it leaves the NATwA Singles as the one of the Big Six that I have never won. The ratings were updated very speedily, and by Monday morning Patrick Barrie had emailed me to congratulate me on my excellent US results and to point out that I had regained third place in the World ratings, for the first time in 28 years! This achievement was to last just two weeks, until the London Open, when Matthew Rose regained the number three slot. Maybe a new, longevity, record should be introduced: the number of years between winning the first and latest Big Six titles. That would put Ferd in first place with 46 years he won the first US Pairs in 1970 any myself a close second with 45 years, as our first national championship was the Singles, which concluded in 1971.

Another record that I thought I had a chance of breaking was the highest number of match games played over a twelve month period ('PastYear Games' in the ratings), with 117 following the US trip, greatly assisted by my 47 games from the Exmouth tournament. Only Harley Jones had managed to achieve more than half that number in the current listing. However, I learned from Patrick Barrie that I was not even close to the record. Andy Purvis played 152 tournament games in calendar year 1993 (Cambridge Open, Oxford Open, Scottish Pairs, ETwA Pairs, NATwA Singles, London Open, NATwA Individual Pairs, NATwA Pairs, Teams of Four, ETwA Singles, World Singles 38 and 39 and four Marchant Trophy games. As of 21 Nov 1993, had Patricks ratings program been in operation it would have reported 172, because it would have included

Final Scores

	Prelim.	A	B	C	D	Total	Position
A	Larry Kahn & Dave Lockwood	33		3	1½	5	42½2 <sup>nd</sup>
B	Bob Henninge & Severin Drix	29	4		1	6	403 <sup>rd</sup>
C	Ferd Wulkan & Alan Dean	27	1½	6		5	43½1 <sup>st</sup>
D	Max Lockwood & Jon Lockwood	19	2	1	2		274 <sup>th</sup>



Figure 1: We expect the collection to be listed by UNESCO within the next few years.

the 1992 Singles tournament in the counting. Not much hope of catching that one then!

The few of us who were still around on the Sunday evening travelled across DC to Rick Tucker's place, to see his amazing collection of winks memorabilia, which two rooms in the basement. Figure 1 is just one of the photos that Marg took there. You can see several more via the following Dropbox URL, which cover both weekends:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ge7cfgxmetpvugd/AAAgYRBsyMEKz8CxfLBWC47Ba?dl=0>.

Back at Larry's place on the Sunday evening, Brad Schaffer challenged me to a game. In fact we played two and, although I eventually won them both 6-1, he played rather well, and made me work very hard for the victories. Despite his denial, Larry strongly suspected that Brad had been practicing hard! We also played together against Larry, and were comprehensively beaten 5-2.

I changed planes in Iceland on the way home, emerging at 05:30 into the cold and rain, still dressed for the heat of DC, before flying on to Gatwick. Three train and two bus rides later I was back home, feeling very pleased to have won my first US title, as well as having met old friends, and made some new ones. I shall be back next year: there is a title to be defended!

## Jubilee Trophy: Dean vs Driscoll (September 2016)

Cambridge, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

*Alan Dean*

Game one was closely fought, with both players playing quite well. Patrick took it 4-3. In game two Patrick tried for an early pot-out, but Alan was able to prevent it and went on to pot out himself. Patrick took second and third places. The third game was probably the best of the match, with both players on excellent squopping form. Alan played really well, but Patrick was phenomenal, and he took the game 6-1, giving him a 12-9 lead over lunch. Patrick's wife, Emma, and their baby son joined us for lunch at the local deli.

Resuming the match after lunch Alan took the next game 5-2, to level the scores with one game to go.

In the final game both players brought in well, on opposite sides of the mat. Alan then decided to use a wink of his less well placed colour to attack one of Patrick's better placed colour. It subbed, but only by a miniscule amount, making it necessary to play an air shot if Patrick wanted to attempt the pot off it. He decided it was too dangerous so just brought a wink nearer to the pot. Alan decided to bite the bullet and go for the blitz, and all six went cleanly in. Patrick took second and third places again, but Alan had managed to retain the trophy one more time (the fifteenth successive successful defence, as Patrick Barrie pointed out in an email after receiving the result).

Alan had quite a narrow escape, despite having had much more recent match practice than Patrick, with his 47 games in the Exmouth Open, and two weekend of winks in the USA. Patrick Barrie pointed out that this was Alan's fifteenth consecutive successful defence of the trophy, and the fact briefly appeared in the 'New' section at of the ETwA website. Harley Jones had a further challenge pending, and Patrick also added his name to the list, so one of them may well be the holder by the time you read this!



The Jubilee match was so exhilarating that they took a photograph.

Scores (Alan first): 3-4, 5\*-2, 1-6, 5-2, 5\*-2 [19-16]

## London Open (September 2016)

Exmouth Arms, London, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

*Andrew Garrard*

Sunday brought an unexpectedly bright sunny day, perfect for spending indoors. I turned up at the (correct) Exmouth Arms around 9:45 as a consequence of enthusiastically mis-reading Google travel directions and ending up on what wasn't the last train that would get me there. This invoked some discussion about modifying the previous formula for correlating my hair length and arrival time to allow for the length of my beard. Not expecting the pub to be open, I ended up frantically stuffing a sausage roll in my face before I felt I could go in; it turns out

that Alan was already there.

We then investigated the playing options. We've had situations before where the conversation has gone "we have a booking"/"what booking?" but I believe this was the first time we've managed "we've booked a room"/"what room?" Nonetheless, it turned out that four tables had been reserved for us, three of which were actually rectangular. More excitingly, they were all exceedingly under-sized and about 18" higher than normal, adding a frisson to proceedings. We set about rearranging them to make the best of the situation (and trying to add stability by wedging things under the feet when necessary), though some shots still required kneeling on benches by those who believed that being able to see over the pot wasn't cheating. One table in particular retained a jaunty angle, to mix things up even further.

We waited a while for people to finish drifting in, and established that many had not pre-arranged partnerships. I'd been claimed in advance by Alan Dean (against his better judgement); team Kninglis elected to display marital harmony, and Harley had bagged Dr Barrrie - but the rest had a free-for-all. In the end, Timmy and Ben formed team mathmo, SiBo and Matty paired up, and there was a Team Dan. We'd been warned of Ed's impendingness, and in the interests of getting on with it we decided to give him the bye in the first round - in the expectation that we could handle latecomers best that way. Ed seemed inexplicably cross about this when he arrived. At least it avoided the need for Matt's weird nine-player option.

Alan and I had a vaguely competent first game that involved sitting on Patrick and narrowly stopping Harley before he got all his winks in. The follow-in was less convincing, but five against one of the stronger teams (especially in a pot-out scenario) was a much better start than I expected from recent tournaments. Alan and I had a bye in the next round, and were assured of a third before lunch, so we spent it taking photos for Winking World and mildly interfering.

In the end, the round took so long that we did go straight to lunch, involving yet more table rearrangement and my attempts to get some input on the new trophy for the occasion being made in Charles's name. The previous trophy had actually been brought up to date and cleaned as much as proved possible in a non-industrial environment; at the time of writing it has been handed to a specialist for re-plating, in the hope that they can find something more effective than Brasso, dishwasher tablets, washing up liquid, a steam cleaner and a knife when it comes to removing old beer stains. The menu was largely burglary, including a number of mild innuendos, and was supplemented by some mystery beer as we alternately drank them out of some options and they failed to find tap labels for others. Deborah turned up just in time to talk weddings and have





The Two Dans are bound to impress audiences at the next Edinburgh Fringe.

pork consumed at her, meaning that the choice of a Sunday tournament had succeeded in drawing both locals who had to rule out Saturdays, which is nice.

Harley, Ed and I went off to talk Rules Subcommittee thoughts for a while. We have some. Expect trouble.

After lunch, on the sloped table, I demonstrated the level of competence I'd refined at recent tournaments by going off three times from the baseline and once with a squop, against Timmy and Ben. Alan fought fiercely and so entangled the opposition that we were never in danger of a pot-out, but the few chances we had were scuppered by my inability to manage even simple squops. Deborah returned herself to the Rantings by partnering Ed for a round which seemed to take a long time.

Restored to a singleton, Ed had us next, and ended up being sat on, just about. Alan and I couldn't turn it into a pot-out, though. We then had the two Dans, who got ahead in the first few shots and... well, played so slowly that there was no time for Alan and I to recover. Which was a bit frustrating to play against, even speaking as an historical slow player. They claimed rustiness for their slowness,



Team Kninglis play to win.

and since I've not noted them as guilty of this particular crime I've put it down as a bad tournament for them - others had similar complaints. Still, full credit to them for winning. At least by this point we had locals standing outside the door and fumigating us with smoke, which wasn't improving my mood.

Next up, team Kninglis. Nick was typically cheery about being squopped up, and Alan and I were securely in charge of a squopping game... until Sarah managed a last-minute rescue that we failed to stop. Such is the curse of a squop-up - given long enough, it'll always go wrong, at least if I'm involved.

Finally we had the tournament leaders, in a game which SiBo seemed not to be enjoying very much. Matty wanted to leave early, so the obvious thing was to grind out a tedious 4-3 win that seemed likely to have that scoreline from well before the end. This at least left me with some hope that the day might not have done as much damage to my rantings as I thought - but, alas, I should have stuck to my pessimism. For their sake, fortunately SiBo and Matty had such a dominant lead that a minor loss to us didn't affect their tournament win. Sarah meanwhile had also run away after only a few minutes of the horror of playing Harley and Patrick. The Dans hung around sociably during their bye, however.



## London Open 2016: Results

1	Patrick Driscoll and Matthew Rose,	31 points
2	Harley Jones and Patrick Barrie,	24½ points
3=	Andrew Garrard and Alan Dean,	21½ points
3=	Nick Inglis and Sarah Knight,	21½ points
5	Tim Hunt and Ben Fairbairn,	19 points
6	Dannish Babar and Daniel Barnett,	16 points
7	Ed Green,	13½ points

SiBo and Matty effectively presented the (old) trophy to each other (as London Tiddlywinks Collective representatives),<sup>2</sup> and Matty ran off to have a social life. The rest of us settled in for a small amount of beer, with disappointingly few holding out for a curry. On the plus side, at least the rumours of a minimum spend on beer that I'd been spreading turned out to be misinformation, so at least the venue didn't seem cross with us. In general, with the proviso that the table configuration seemed to have a radical effect on shots, the consensus seemed to be that it was a pleasing venue who were much less offensive than the Crosse Keys had been. We may well be back.

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<sup>2</sup>Editor's note: I would like to point out that, if you double my score (because I was playing singles), it puts me in second place. The moral victory is therefore mine.



Self-congratulation is an important life-skill.

## ETwA National Pairs (November 2016)

ETwA National Pairs 2016: Results by position

	Partnership	Total	PPG
1:	Matthew Rose & Patrick Driscoll [A]	48	4 $\frac{4}{5}$
2:	Alan Dean & Andrew Garrard [B]	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
3:	Nick Inglis & Sarah Knight [C]	40 $\frac{2}{3}$	4 $\frac{1}{15}$
4:	Patrick Barrie & Jonny Ruffell [F]	34 $\frac{1}{3}$	3 $\frac{13}{30}$
5:	Stew Sage & Phil Buckham-Bonnett [D]	26	2 $\frac{3}{5}$
6:	Harley Jones & Ed Green [E]	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{17}{20}$

ETwA National Pairs 2016: Results by game (part 1)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
A:		4-3	5-2	7*-0*	6-1	4-3
B:	3-4		4-3	6*-1*	6-1	2*-5*
C:	2-5	3-4		4-3	6-1	4-3
D:	0*-7*	1*-6*	3-4		6*-1*	1-6
E:	1-6	1-6	1-6	1*-6*		2*-5*
F:	3-4	5*-2*	3-4	6-1	5*-2*	

ETwA National Pairs 2016: Results by game (continued)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total
A:		5-2	3-4	6-1	5-2	3-4	48
B:	2-5		3-4	5-2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7*-0*	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
C:	4-3	4-3		3-4	6-1	4 $\frac{2}{3}$ -2 $\frac{1}{3}$	40 $\frac{2}{3}$
D:	1-6	2-5	4-3		6-1	2*-5*	26
E:	2-5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1-6	1-6		6-1	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
F:	4-3	0*-7*	2 $\frac{1}{3}$ -4 $\frac{2}{3}$	5*-2*	1-6		34 $\frac{1}{3}$



The Tournament Organiser sits in prayerful meditation, waiting for the Holy Spirit to tell him what's going on.

## The XXX<sup>th</sup> Somerset Invitational (January 2017)

Chilcompton, Somerset, January, 2017.

*Harley Jones*<sup>3</sup>

The wingers who made their way to Somerset this year did so with some sadness, as it was known that Vince, the landlord of the Somerset Wagon for the last few years, was moving on during the course of this year, and so this looked like the last time we would be at this traditional venue. The confusion started almost immediately as Stew and I were waiting for PBB at Bristol doodah station, when PBB texted to say he'd be a few hours late. Fortunately Dr Nick was already in the Old Down Inn (where we were all staying) and so came and got us. We arrived to find the place in darkness save for one corner of the bar, where the staff had gone out leaving Sarah, Nick, Timmy and Ed in charge of the building with a few pints to be going on with. To try and help PBB on his way we had to find out the address of the pub, which we had the good idea of looking in the Good Beer Guide for, as it wasn't obvious from inside the building. As the evening drew on Stew remarked that they knew what they were doing in this pub, the staff having only laid 7 places for us in the knowledge that Andrew would be late.

The rooms situation in the Old Down inn is that there aren't enough for one each even with only 8 wingers present. Andrew drew the short straw; I can only apologise to him again (the first evening of the Somerset never goes well for me, I can't imagine why; I blame the mushroom stroganoff).

Given that it's now April when I'm writing this, I can't as such remember much about the winks, except that there were only two tables needed, or anything else really. As this was the 30th Somerset Stew decreed that the winner of the 8-player individual pairs would be the winner, but that we have two more games because we had plenty of time to do so. Therefore I was able to win in the now-traditional ETwA way, by coming second; Andrew just overtook me in the last two games.

Other than to report that Nick still hasn't managed to get the parrot to pronounce 'Jacob Rees-Mogg' effectively, that Timmy's mum's quiz is still as wide-ranging and difficult as ever, and that Ed has preserved the original Whitebait

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<sup>3</sup>Editor's note: Andrew Garrard has provided an "interesting" account of the draw system for this, which for the sake of space is being saved for WW101.





The fun they were having is almost evident in this picture.

### Somerset Invitational 2017: Results

Pos'n	Player	Total
1	Andrew Garrard	44½
2	Harley Jones	43
3	Ed Wynn	38½
4	Tim Hunt	37⅔
5	Nick Inglis	35⅝
6	Phil Buckham-Bonnett	30½
7	Stew Sage	26⅙
8	Sarah Knight	23⅝



It was all a blur for Dr Sage.

Marker<sup>TM</sup> with nail varnish and removed it for safe-keeping, that concludes everything I can remember about Somerset. I think I echo the thoughts of many regular invitees when I say that I hope we can find a good alternative venue for next year; as you can tell from my memories of this year's, it is an extremely fine event and long may it continue.

## Cambridge Open (February 2017)

Cambridge, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

### Cambridge Open 2017: Results

Pos'n	Name	PPG	Played
1	Patrick Barrie	4 $\frac{7}{8}$	12
2	Alan Dean	4 $\frac{9}{11}$	11
	Tim Hunt	4 $\frac{3}{5}$	5
	Christian Gowers	4	1
	Geoff Thorpe	4	1
	Patrick Driscoll	4	1
	Harley Jones	3 $\frac{4}{5}$	5
	Andrew Garrard	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	4
	Ed Green	3 $\frac{5}{8}$	4
	Nick Inglis	3 $\frac{3}{10}$	5
	Daniel Barnett	3 $\frac{1}{6}$	3
	Sarah Knight	3	3
3	Phil Buckham-Bonnett	2 $\frac{19}{22}$	11
	Elinor Macnab	2 $\frac{2}{3}$	3
	Marie Moss	2 $\frac{2}{3}$	3
4	Zach Bond	2 $\frac{5}{8}$	12
	Toby Bruce	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
	CJ Barrie	2 $\frac{1}{9}$	9
	Paul Moss	2	2





The Tournament Organiser uses a torch to remind himself of the difference between yellow and blue.



The economic impact of Brexit is already being felt by CUTwC's Trophy Department.

## ETwA National Handicapped Individual Pairs (April 2017)

Ely Cathedral Tiddlywinks Centre,<sup>4</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

*From the Editor: Embarrassingly, it was my job to write this one up and I forgot. Given the enormity of this issue, however, I'm going to stand by my decision not to remember to do anything, apart from to say that this was an excellent event in terms of participation; we had a contingent from STUY, and for many of us this was the first time meeting any of them, and we also had a resurgence of participation from the Anglia Ruskin crew (and their parents). The venue is also fantastic. Anyway, enjoy reading the results table. If anyone would like to comment that my handicap was unreasonably low, I shall refer them to my results in every other tournament in this issue.*

### NHIPper 2017 Results

	Name	PPG	Games	Exp	H'cap
1	Ed Green	5 $\frac{1}{8}$	6	Nov	1
	Megan Vaughan	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	Nov	0
2	Harley Jones	4 $\frac{35}{72}$	6	Int	3
3	Nick Inglis	3 $\frac{11}{12}$	6	Exp	6
4	Stew Sage	3 $\frac{9}{10}$	5	Int	3
5	Toby Bruce	3 $\frac{7}{8}$	6	Nov	0
6	Andrew Garrard	3 $\frac{2}{3}$	6	Int	4
7	Sarah Knight	3 $\frac{19}{30}$	5	Int	2
8	Alan Dean	3 $\frac{5}{8}$	6	Exp	7
9	Matthew Rose	3 $\frac{5}{8}$	4	Exp	7
10	Eleanor Drinkwater	3 $\frac{11}{20}$	5	Nov	0
	Sophie Sorkin	3 $\frac{3}{8}$	2	Nov	0
11	Frances Drachenberg	3 $\frac{1}{5}$	5	Nov	0
12	Patrick Barrie	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	6	Exp	7
13	Phil Buckham-Bonnett	3 $\frac{1}{12}$	6	Int	3
	Michele Sorkin	3	2	Nov	0
14 =	Rupert Wilson	2 $\frac{23}{24}$	6	Int	3
15	Ferd Wulkan	2 $\frac{11}{12}$	6	Exp	5
16	Keith Seaman	2 $\frac{8}{9}$	6	Int	4
17	Jonny Ruffell	2 $\frac{4}{5}$	5	Nov	0
18	Bob Henninge	2 $\frac{31}{72}$	6	Exp	7
	Anthony Sorkin	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	2	Nov	0

<sup>4</sup>Editor's note: I may have misremembered the name of the building.





Megan Vaughan and Sophie Sorkin (of CUTwC and Anglia Ruskin) with Eleanor Drinkwater (of STUY) and an international delegation.



SEPTiC getting their claws in early with Frances Drachenberg and Eleanor Drinkwater (both members of STUY).





I recall ranting on and on about how badly it was all going.

## ETwA National Singles (April 2017)

ETwA National Singles 2016: Results by position

	Player	Total	PPG
1:	Patrick Barrie [A]	63	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
2:	Larry Khan [B]	61	5 $\frac{1}{12}$
3:	Patrick Driscoll [D]	57	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
4:	Nick Inglis [E]	50 $\frac{1}{3}$	4 $\frac{7}{36}$
5:	Tim Hunt [G]	48 $\frac{2}{3}$	4 $\frac{1}{18}$
6:	Alan Dean [C]	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{23}{24}$
7:	Geoff Thorpe [H]	47	3 $\frac{11}{12}$
8:	Jon Mapley [F]	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{5}{24}$
9:	Harley Jones [I]	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{17}{24}$
10:	Ed Green [M]	29	2 $\frac{5}{12}$
11:	Phillip Buckham-Bonnet [K]	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{7}{24}$
12:	Stew Sage [J]	25 $\frac{2}{3}$	2 $\frac{5}{36}$
13:	Sarah Knight [L]	18 $\frac{1}{3}$	1 $\frac{19}{36}$

ETwA National Singles 2016: Results by game

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
A:	1-6	6-1	1-6	5-2	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1	7*-0*	6-1	7*-0*	6-1
B:	6-1	4-3	6-1	5-2	5½-1½	1-6	1½-5½	6-1	7*-0*	6-1	7*-0*	6-1
C:	1-6	3-4	4-3	4-3	1-6	6*-1*	5½-1½	5-2	5-2	6-1	6-1	1*-6*
D:	6-1	1-6	2*-5*	5*-2*	5-2	2*-5*	3-4	6-1	6*-1*	7*-0*	7*-0*	6-1
E:	2-5	3-4	2*-5*	1*-6*	6*-1*	2½-4⅔	6-1	5½-1½	5*-2*	5½-1½	4-3	7*-0*
F:	1-6	1½-5½	2-5	1*-6*	4-3	3-4	2*-5*	2-5	6-1	1-6	6-1	7*-0*
G:	1-6	6-1	5*-2*	4⅔-2⅓	5*-2*	4-3	1-6	6-1	5-2	6-1	4-3	5*-2*
H:	1-6	5½-1½	4-3	1-6	5*-2*	6-1	2-5	5-2	7*-0*	5-2	6-1	0*-7*
I:	1-6	1-6	1-6	1½-5½	5-2	1-6	2-5		3-4	5-2	4-3	6*-1*
J:	0*-7*	0*-7*	2-5	2*-5*	1-6	2-5	0*-7*	4-3		4-3	4⅔-2⅓	5-2
K:	1-6	1-6	0*-7*	1½-5½	6-1	1-6	2-5	2-5	3-4		6-1	3-4
L:	0*-7*	0*-7*	1-6	3-4	1-6	3-4	1-6	3-4	2⅓-4⅔	1-6		3-4
M:	1-6	1-6	1-6	0*-7*	0*-7*	2*-5*	7*-0*	1*-6*	2-5	4-3	4-3	





This would have been a very different picture had the photographer been standing slightly farther to the left.



The clock may have said it was 4 o'clock, but to many of us, in a strange way it felt very much later.

## ETwA National Singles Plate (April 2017)

Downing College, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017.

*Andrew Garrard*

Those who stick, year in, year out, to the tedium of the main Singles tournament may need to be reminded how the Plate works. It is a handicapped tournament, meaning that there is a point transfer in each game of half the difference between the average handicap of each team. If the post-adjusted score is 5-2 or greater, the handicap of the winner (or winners) is raised by a half, and the handicap of the loser (or losers) is reduced by a half. This has traditionally caused some burning of the score sheets, people to be accused of winning when it turns out they had not, and, eventually, to me deciding it would be a really good idea if we left the handicap system to a computer. This, if nothing else, should become clear as I try to explain what happened. Astonishingly, I think I've worked it out.

Sunday morning, I turned up surprisingly conscious, and finding a willing CJ and no-one else (despite waiting a little) we settled into a singles game. My recent run of form left me and CJ with respective handicaps of 6 and 1 (according to the ETwA guidelines), meaning that there was definitely something to play for, but I could confidently expect to stuff CJ in every game.

So we played. In my case, very badly. In CJ's case, pretty well. I remember, perhaps with rose-tinted glasses, the days when CJ could be relied upon to miss a six-inch squop, and I could be relied upon to get a one-inch one; alas, those days are gone. I did manage to eke out a win, which I vaguely remember not deserving, but it was only 4-3. Officianados of the handicapping scheme will realise this translated into a  $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$  win for CJ, and very little cause to argue from me. My handicap dropped to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ; CJ's rose to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . Some muttering later, I had a quick practice. I concluded, unlike the day before, that the new mat (at least on a fluffy table) was a bit more fond of loft than reach - winks tended

### Standings after Round 1

Player	Total	Games	New H'cap
CJ	$5\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Andrew	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$

## Standings after Round 2

Player	Total	Games	New H'cap
Daniel	6½	1	3½
CJ	12	2	2
Andrew	2	2	5
Ronit	½	1	½

## Standings after Round 3

Player	Total	Games	New H'cap
CJ	14½	3	2
Daniel	6½	1	3½
Andrew	6½	3	5
Ronit	½	1	½

to go straight up in the air rather than forward. Sometimes I succeeded in compensating for this. Sometimes I didn't. To wit, the next game.

Daniel rolled in (getting handicapped 3), bringing Ronit with him. Ronit was a novice (handicapped 1), and was partnered with me against Daniel and CJ. I attempted to take advantage of my obvious winking superiority to tie up Daniel and CJ so that Ronit could run at the pot. Unfortunately, we established that she wasn't a secret potting merchant around the time I was reaffirming my opinion of the mat by getting soundly squopped up. I resorted to trying to chase Ronit's winks with a view to lurching her, but failed in that, too. Daniel and CJ had free access to the pot, and were firmly sitting on a 6-1 well before the end of the game. Handicappists will realise this made for a 6½ - ½ win, and more fun of messing with the handicaps (Daniel and CJ rising to 3½ and 2, Ronit and me falling to ½ and 5). Emboldened by this complication, even if it was handled by a computer, we went to lunch - Daniel promising to return later.

After a precariously balanced lunch and an attempt to bribe CJ with OJ, we pootled back. No Daniel, nor any other obvious suspect, so CJ and I settled down to settle the score. This time I expressed a little more competence (although I confess to little recollection) and pulled out a 6-1 win, pronounced 4½ - 2½ in post-handicap speak. Thank goodness for the earlier point transfers, of which there were, for once, none in this game. Still, CJ was looking awfully hard to beat in the tournament.

Daniel returned with the goal of doing just that, bolstered by the fact that CJ was to partner me; my role had been reduced to deciding the winner. It still

## Final Standings

Player	Total	Games	New H'cap	PPG
CJ	19½	4	2½	4⅞
Daniel	8½	2	3	4¼
Andrew	11½	4	5½	2⅞
Ronit	½	1	½	½

wasn't the most convincing of showings, but we managed to take a 5-2 off Daniel, which was still a 5-2 after handicapping (and resulted in more adjustments of handicaps, for possibly the most mutant Plate I can remember in a while).

And lo, I dropped two places in the Rantings (partly because of the surprise resurrection of Jon Mapley in the Singles proper) and CJ jumped 37 places and 190 rating points, which can't have been a bad weekend for him. Daniel also rose four places in the rankings, which I imagine will soften the blow of his loss in the last round.

I bought one of the new mats off PBB that weekend. It's still sitting in plastic in my car. I've yet to decide whether to learn to play on it, or just to set fire to it. But I'm not bitter. Well, I'm not MORE bitter.

## Jubilee Trophy: Buckham-Bonnett vs Dean and Dean vs Hunt (April-July 2017)

*Alan Dean*

### April to July 2017

I defeated PBB 19-9. The first three games played at the Nat Pairs were 1-6, 6-1, 6-1 (my scores first). The fourth game was played at PBB's place, in Murton, near York, on July 1.

### June to July 2017

I defeated Tim Hunt. The first three games were played at Tim's place in MK on June 30th, and I won them 4-3, 5-2, 6-1. Tim played very well. I thought I was going to lose the first game, but I somehow managed to hold on and sneak a narrow victory. In game three, going into round Tim got onto the very top of a big pile, containing many of his winks, and I thought he would get a big win if he broke it up. I had nothing close to attack with, apart from a small pile a few inches away, but felt there was nothing to lose by firing that pile at his

controlling wink, in the hope that something would land on it. It did, and colour order then allowed me to take the other of his winks that I had just freed on the pile, and I went on to get the 6-1.

Next month - the following morning - we resumed after an early swim, and Tim played extremely well, but I managed to contain the size of my defeat to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  -  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , leaving a Tim needing a 7-0 in game five, to take the match to an extra game. I left one of his colours free, to encourage a pot-out attempt, and made sure that all my winks of both colour were in close porting positions, in case Tim managed the tricky pit-out. He didn't - getting only four in - and after squopping the other two I potted out myself for a 5\*-2, taking the match 22.5 - 12.5.

The match against Tim was only to be counted if I was victorious against Phillip, but it was more convenient for me to fit the Tim match in between games 3 and 4 of the PBB match, because my return to Exmouth was via Manchester, where I collected my mother, who is still staying with us for a few days.

I didn't go all the way to York for just one game. After a couple of friendlies against a PBB we were joined by four more York winkers, Nick and Frances Drachenberg, Eleanor Drinkwater, and a Stuart, whose surname I don't know. We played a mini Pairs tournament. I partnered Stuart, as he had only played one game before in his life. Luckily we got the first round bye, and he was a quick learner, so I was able to coach him to a standard that helped us to get big wins in both our games. Phillip and Nick just avoided finishing last, with 5 points against  $4\frac{1}{2}$  for the Frances and Eleanor. Phillip provided an excellent vegetarian lasagne for dinner, ably supported by Frances who supplied the sweet course.

I must also thank Tim for his excellent hospitality, providing me with dinner, bed and breakfast. He also beat me at Go, despite giving me six stones which, for most of the game, was looking like too generous a handicap, but I bungled at the end, and lost a corner.



## NATwA Pairs (May 2017)

**Ithaca, NY, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.**

*Alan Dean*

The tournament venue, arranged by Jordan Mathews, was a small shopping mall, Ithaca Centre, where Jordan's barber shop is situated. Jordan bought two additional tables for the occasion, so this excellent venue looks likely to be used for future tournaments. We were unable to use the adjacent car park on the Sunday. It was free on that day, but tickets were still required, and the ticket machines were empty!

There were only five pairs in the main tournament, and the format was an all-play-all twice. It never looked likely that Ferd and I would successfully defend our title, especially after we learned that Sev and Bob were not playing together this time (they beat Larry and Dave 4-3 twice in 2016, which helped us to sneak through as winners by a single point). In the event, our challenge ended much sooner than expected. Our first game was against Dave and Larry, and they won it 6-1. As second seeds, it should have been our last game, but the schedule was rearranged to give the first bye to Mac and Jeff, because they were late arriving, following late night which was caused by tyre problems during their journey. We had not warmed up much by our second game, in which Severin and Rick beat us 5-2.

Although he was planning to take the day off, Jordan did succumb to one urgent request for a haircut, from a man who was just about to get married.

Of special interest to those on this side of the pond were two of those who turned up for the odd game: Cecila Yearsly will be going to Cambridge University, to read Classics, in the Autumn, and Amin Saied is actually British, coming from somewhere in the Midlands, and he will be returning to the UK after completing his Harvard course next year. MP Rouse showed up on the Sunday, and she agreed to join me in a game against Ferd and, despite not having played for almost a year, and having a broken bone in her winking hand, we still won 6-1. The random games were rated, so my rating went up, and Ferd's went down. This one game had a drastic effect on MP's rating: she went up 142 points, and nine places, to make it into the top 20 (with an incredible tournament rating of 3039). CT Chua and Thereeis Choo also played one game, and they shortly return to Singapore, so maybe will get winks started over there.



Ferd's top tip for a free haircut: "Pretend you're getting married."



Results

First Half						
	A	B	C	D	E	Total
A: Dave Lockwood & Larry Kahn		6	6	5	7*	24
B: Alan Dean & Ferd Wulkan	1		2	4	6*	13
C: Severin Drix & Rick Tucker	1	5		5	5	16
D: Bob Henninge & Jordan Mathews	2	3	2		5	12
E: Mac McAvoy & Jeff Tokman	0*	1*	2	2		5
Second half						
	A	B	C	D	E	Total
A: Dave Lockwood & Larry Kahn		4½	4	5½	7*	45
B: Severin Drix & Rick Tucker	2½		1	2	5	26½
C: Alan Dean & Ferd Wulkan	3	6		5	6	33
D: Bob Henninge & Jordan Mathews	1½	5	2		6	26½
E: Mac McAvoy & Jeff Tokman	0*	2	1	1		9
						Pos
						1 <sup>st</sup>
						3 <sup>rd</sup> =
						2 <sup>nd</sup>
						3 <sup>rd</sup> =
						5 <sup>th</sup>

So this time, Larry and Dave made no mistakes. They both played well, and deserved their victory. After the first day, which included playing two games from the second half, they had a virtually unassailable lead, which prompted Dave to tell Larry that he could 'kick him in the nuts' if they didn't win this time. That prompted me to ask if I could announce the final result, which I did in the style of PriceWaterhouseCooper at the Oscar's presentation, saying that I had counted and verified all the scores and had the name of the winners in my envelope. Opening it, I looked surprised, showed in to Sev, who was to present the (imaginary) trophy. The names on the piece of paper were Bob and Jordan! But the mistake was rectified before Larry was able to deliver the promised blow.

I was returning home the same way I came, starting with a bus to NYC on the Monday morning, so I was able to enjoy walks with Severin on Sunday afternoon and with Severin and Pam on Sunday evening, after a refreshing pint of Dirty Butt at the Two Goats brewery. During the afternoon walk along the gorge in Ithaca, Severin pointed out the spot where he and Pam had their first kiss. Sev had not played very well in the tournament, especially in the second game against Ferd and me, and he was talking about perhaps giving up the game. He was persuaded to change his mind after I asked him to partner me in next year's NATwA Pairs (Allison Pohle had decided that she no longer wished to play) and he was further encouraged when, late on Sunday night, we played a friendly game on an old-style 1970s mat, which he won 6-1.

Returning to Boston I missed my 4pm bus connection in NYC, due to heavy traffic, but managed to rebook on one that left at 7pm, which still got me to Boston shortly before the metro closed down for the night. After enjoying a further day and a half exploring Boston I headed to the airport for my Wednesday evening flight back to Gatwick but, after announcing numerous delays, the flight was eventually cancelled due to a mechanical problem which they finally decided, at about 1am, could not be resolved without a part from Seattle. At 3:30am I checked into the TwinTrees Hilton hotel, where I also spent the following night, at the airline's expense.

I got back to Keith's at around 01:30 UK time on Saturday morning, but it felt much earlier to me, so after a shower and a cup of tea, I drove home, arriving in daylight at 04:45. After a couple of hours sleep I kept my appointment to play Go, winning both games. The next night I slept for a solid eleven hours!

# Local News

## CUTwC

### Roundup of 2016-17

*Zach Bond*

The highlight of the year was certainly the cupper's tournament. 9 teams applied to take part and entered the first round of three leagues of three. Once completed the winner of each league and the overall runner up went through to the knock out semi-final leaving CUG&S to battle against the tersely named "Excelleg Esteemed Association Croquet Society of the King's College of Our Lady and Saint Nicholas in Cambridge Elite Tiddlywinks Squadron First Team [sic]" who went on to win the cuppers trophy and the 4 bottles of gin kindly donated by Chase Distillery. With winks played in departmental tea rooms and talked about by college teams this tournament helped to raise the profile of 'winks and the committee are keen to run it again next year. An excellent annual dinner was enjoyed with all of the usual frivolities. Whilst the usual tournaments were played out during Michaelmas and Lent terms, in Easter term the Wednesday meetings descended into more silliness than usual one highlight being the game played on three mats with twice as many winks with the term brought to a close by the election winks special, won by Labour with the aid of some tactical voting by the green party. The AGM was held in the castle, the sideways Mars bars washed down by a curry to congratulate the, mostly absent, new committee.

The focus of next year will be encouraging new members to join, starting with the fresher's squash (at which any help available would be very much appreciated). There may also be another run of CUTwC branded squidgers available to all new members.

## The Nick Ashley 2015

Harley Jones

The year 2015 in CUTwC saw the revival of the Nick Ashley Singles Ladder, a move that was welcomed by the club. I quote the then President Daniel Barnett's email incorporating the rules of the tournament:

*"For the next four weeks, matches played in Wednesday winks meetings will contribute to players' league standings. Matches are not handicapped. In order to incentivise playing as many matches as possible, the winner will be the player with the highest total points, with PPG (or equally, games played) used as a tiebreaker. For the duration of these four weeks (i.e. from the evening of 11th February until the evening of the 4th March), winkers are encouraged to meet at other times and play matches, whose results should be reported to me for inclusion in the overall standings\*\*.*

*However, in order to discourage obvious cheating ("I played PBB 711 times this week, and I scored 4540 points"), and because the tournament is intended to be some sort of round-robin, you may only play each person  $n+1$  times per week, where  $n$  is the minimum number of times players attending the previous meeting had played any other player - for example, if both I and Harley were present at a meeting but didn't play each other, no-one could play any other player more than once that week and have their further results count towards the tournament. If you are not present at a meeting, you can probably assume that the maximum number of times you can play anyone during the subsequent week\*\*\* is either 1 or 2, although feel free to play more times - the results just won't be counted. Results from matches taking place not at Wednesday night winks meetings may only be submitted, in person, to me, the following Wednesday.*

*By all means, pounce on ambiguities in the rules if you feel it necessary, but be aware that as the President I have full say over what happens in this tournament, so I'll just overrule you anyway....*

*\*\*This is optimistic.*

*\*\*\*I continue to consider this somewhat hopeful."*

This was clear as anything is these days, so in week 1 a field of seven played and Patrick took an early lead. It was further clarified by the President that should there be a tie not only for total points but also for ppg the number of pots-out would be also taken into account, in a net manner (number of pots-out minus number of times potted out against), thereby encouraging everyone to pot like mad.

## Scores at the start of the final meeting

Pos'n	Player	Points	PPG
1.	Mr Daniel Barnett	65½	47/10
2.	Mr Harley Jones	47½	44/5
3.	Mr Ed Green	42	41/5
4.	Mr Joe Cooper	25	2½
5.	Dr Patrick Barrie	12	6
6.	Mr Rob Byron	9	3
7.	Mr Nick Jarman	7½	34/5
8.	Mr Andrew Garrard	4½	4½
9.	Mr Jake Humbles	3½	14/5
10.	Miss Elinor Macnab	3½	2/5
11.	Mr Francis Wragg	3	3
12.	Mr Fergus Riche	1	½

The first week did end with an incident that is perhaps of rules significance; while Joe and I were arguing about some aspect of our game, Ed packed our table away and so we couldn't continue. The President declared our score at the time of the interference to be what we should receive, and also gave Ed a 0† as penalty. This would of course only affect his tournament standing in the event of a tie.

Attendance was sufficiently high that n never rose above 0, but this didn't stop the President who promptly took advantage of his status as a fourth-year engineer in Lent term (viz., has acres of free time) to organise plenty of extra-Wednesdal games with other members of the club, and by also using the underhand tactic of competence managed to pull out into a lead by some considerable margin during the week before the final meeting.

However, he had failed to take into account his non-attendance at the final meeting of the tournament owing to Purim being that evening. Owing also to a clash with the Selwyn NatSci Dinner, the only attendees at that meeting were myself, Ed Green and Patrick Barrie.

Patrick, you will note, had not been to the intervening weeks' meetings.

Now Ed and I have jobs, which precluded our playing quite so many extra-Wednesdal games as the President's leisure permitted; and having done as much as we could up to this point were understandably annoyed, even angry. Sadly this affected our play, and so incensed were we that our first seven games of the meeting ended in daggered scores:

The first seven games of the final meeting

HJ	7†-0†	EG
HJ	0†-7†	EG
HJ	7†-0†	EG
HJ	0†-7†	EG
HJ	7†-0†	EG
HJ	0†-7†	EG
HJ	0†-7†	EG

The remaining nine games of the final meeting

HJ	1½-5½	EG
EG	5*-2*	PB
EG	5*-2*	PB
PB	1-6	HJ
PB	1-6	HJ
PB	7*-0*	HJ
PB	6-1	EG
EG	1-6	PB
HJ	5½-1½	PB

Patrick was naturally acting as umpire only until we had calmed down.

The following nine games were very interesting, and lots of potting was done. It seemed that following our seven previous games, and with Patrick having not played for three weeks, we were able to defeat him – at least to start with. Of course with only three present we could only play two-player games, as there had to be an independent outsider lest there be any foul play. The results of the remaining games are given above.

By this time we'd been playing for well over an hour, and so we decided to call it a tournament and head to the bar.

To our very great shock, not to mention surprise and alarm, when I submitted the results to the President for input to his spreadsheet, it transpired that Ed and I were now tied in all parameters in first place.

Final results

Player	Points	Games played	PPG	Pot-out difference
Edward Green	87½	22	4	4
Harley Jones	87½	22	4	4
Daniel Barnett	65½	14	4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	4
Dr Patrick Barrie	38½	10	3 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	-1
Joe Cooper	25	10	2½	-4
Rob Byron	9	3	3	-1
Nick Jarman	7½	2	3 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	0
Andrew Garrard	4½	1	4½	0
Jake Humbles	3½	2	1 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	0
Elinor Macnab	3½	8	2 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	-6
Francis Wragg	3	1	3	0
Fergus Riche	1	2	½	0
Nicky Collins	0	0	0	0

Comments from the President included “Managing to play 15 [sic] games, daggering the first seven, and Patrick being potted out against twice in a row and losing four in a row sounds eminently plausible”, “outrageous”, and “makes sense”.

Moral: By all means design a tournament so that you’ll win; just make sure you do, otherwise you’ll look silly.



# Occasional Articles

## Vas Autem Fictile

*An Encyclical of Pope Versimilitude I.*

Verisimilitude, by the grace of God Pope and Patriarch of the Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club, to the beloved brethren around the world:

“And every earthen vessel, whereinto any of them falleth, whatsoever is in it shall be unclean; and ye shall break it (Lev. 11:33).” Thus was the Law given to Moses, and through him were the people of Israel taught to avoid the early pot-out, for it has ever been considered the humbler and wiser act to dominate ones opponent in a squopping game.

For if one’s opponent’s winks are cast into the pot, they will not be destroyed, and if three of their winks are in the pot there shall be a fourth (Dan. 3:25). Therefore, we shall not cast our own winks into the pot, but rather, in a spirit of Love and fellowship, attempt to squop our opponents up in rounds.

However, Our Lord tells us: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil (Mat. 5:17).” In fulfillment of the admonition to squop, Jesus neither abolishes our abstention from the pot, nor upholds it as necessary for salvation; for Man is justified by faith alone (Rom. 3:28).

Go out, therefore, and spread the good news among the Nations, that the Lord our God is merciful in all things, and that henceforth his pot shall overflow. For, as Saint Paul said, “slow play is still ruining the game.”<sup>5</sup>

*+ Versimilitudo pp.*

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<sup>5</sup>I think a page is missing from my Bible, because I can’t find the reference for this quote. I’m sure it’s there, though.

# The Use of Chairs in Tiddlywinks

*Harley Jones*

**“I like sitting: its my favourite thing.”**

*Francis Wragg*

~

**“I really do think all chairs should be banned.”**

*Dr<sup>2</sup> Stew Sage*

One feature of the game of tiddlywinks that really can mystify spectators and beginners is that some people are sitting down and some aren't. The issue of to sit or not to sit is one of the key points of contention in the game today, along with slow play, which pub is most convenient for Downing, and whether there really was a reversage or not when the pigs are going the same way as the dice.

In large venues, such as the Selwyn Diamond, it doesn't matter a huge amount as there is usually plenty of room around the tables; however, at the singles 2016 in the smaller Tim Cadbury and Music rooms in Downing they were something of a problem (and not merely because I received an electric shock every time I touched them).

The geography of these rooms is such that there is a relatively narrow space between the two rooms, where a sliding door can become a partition if necessary, and the tables had been set up such that one was in this doorway; while there were chairs in use nobody could get from one room to the other, which led to much grumbling.

So why do some people use chairs to bring in and some not? It is clear to everyone that chairs are a great inconvenience: finding them, moving round them, getting rid of them after the bring-in, and the potential of knocking the table with them are all good reasons not to use them. They really get in the way.

It's all to do with individuals' bringing-in styles. There are two basic styles of bringing in, pot-style (qv Stew) and squop-style (qv Patrick). The pot-style method is regarded as being somewhat old-fashioned these days. The squop-style bring-in can be more accurate, but presents a greater risk of rolling off; I have

on occasion switched to bringing in pot-style after a couple of roll-offs for this reason. And the pot-style bring in can be effected very accurately, with practice.

The real appeal of the squop-style bring-in is that the eye is brought down to just above table level, which allows you to see the wink you're playing and the target area all at once. I have observed three distinct stances employed regularly for this style of bring-in: sitting (on a chair); squatting; and Patrick Barrie's method, which I find very strange: his body makes almost a 90 degree angle to his legs, such that his head is brought down to the level of the playing area without bending his knees. I have also occasionally seen a winker kneel to bring in squop-style.<sup>6</sup>

So why would people choose to sit, rather than squatting or doing something else? More experienced winkers can be afflicted with joint problems, which renders squatting, presumably once an option for them, uncomfortable over the course of a day's winks; I myself use this excuse, as my knees give me great trouble if I put my weight on them in a bent position, if you see what I mean. But I am not aware of any such difficulty being experienced by some of the younger winkers who enjoy sitting. Squatting isn't terribly comfortable at the best of times, though, and kneeling is not any friendlier to the knees than squatting.

We should remember, too, that there was a time not so very long ago when winks was not played on tables at all, but on the floor. I am sure that nobody would want to return to that, but it is clear that in doing so all manner of uncomfortable body positions must have been required as a matter of course throughout the game.

In my mind there is nothing to be done about chairs; those of us who use them all the time will continue to do so, and those who don't will continue to grumble about how unnecessary they are. However, I do think that it would help if we trained beginners in such a way as to minimise their dependence on chairs. Encouraging the pot-style bring-in is a very good way of doing this, and has the added advantage of being less prone to sending winks off, a very off-putting occurrence for novices. This is now becoming more prevalent in the Cambridge beginners, due mostly to Zach's new squidgers that have been given to lots of people, which are not really very good for squop-style shots but can do a pot-style bring in very nicely. I hope that this will continue to be encouraged; while I have no wish to demonise the chair user, being one myself, in my opinion the fewer people using chairs in small rooms, the better.

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<sup>6</sup>Editor's note: As a good Anglo-Catholic, I have in recent months adopted a genuflexion-style bring-in.

## New Moves in an Old Drinking Game

*Harley Jones*

**This is a response to Andrew Garrard's article in WW98, in which is described the fine game of trappist Squop-Bristol-Category, though it develops a different theme therefrom.**

If we extrapolate from existing data, it is clear that an Arbroath Smokie is a dead entity, and that its meaning in the game of squop-Bristol-Lennon-Penhaligon-kipper-herring-jings-crivens-m'chte me-help ma bob-Arbroath Smokie is to send 'it' back one place alphabetically by Scottish name.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, recent discussion has suggested that a living Scottish fish be developed to act as the equivalent of a herring. Name a living Scottish fish, I asked, and the obvious reply came: Nessie. If any Scottish players of the game should exist and know of a more traditional alternative, do let me know; I won't care enough to alter the theoretical practice, but at least I'll be informed.

A further development that is being worked on by Ed and myself has occurred as a result of a pair of coincident mistakes at a recent game. Firstly, the usual novice error of getting confused after an odd number of Penhaligons of swapping the hand action that goes with squop and Bristol; second, Ed getting confused and playing a hand action from a different area of life, one commonly used by him and me when we were sharing a flat the other year: the stuffed mushroom. This is played by raising the hand, fingers and thumb curved upwards from the palm, and moving it straight downwards, as if it were a stuffed mushroom descending onto your hors d'oeuvres plate. We postulate that it have the effect of swapping the hand actions that pertain to squop and Bristol, such that after an odd number of stuffed mushrooms a Bristol is pronounced Bristol and is accompanied by the hand action that looks like a squop. This is particularly recommended for the trappist variant of the game.

What we now need is to know who to send it to. Our original idea was reverse alphabetical by penultimate letter, but this may get confusing at some point. Another thought was seniority within the club, but that isn't clearly defined outside of the committee. If anyone has a good idea that doesn't consist of nipping further developments in the bud because we can't cope anyway, please

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<sup>7</sup>It is suggested that players choose a separate name for the purposes of the Scottish moves, and that this be different from their names for the purposes of the English rules. Alternatively, that they be the names they are already using with the prefix 'Mc', which wouldnt change the order, sadly.

let us know. We also presumably will need an opposing move that goes the other way, in whatever dimension we're moving in.

## Book Review

***Awful Auntie* by David Walliams (HarperCollins, 2014; 411 pages, hardback, 12.99)**

*Harley Jones*

Winks biographies are not known as a genre of book that fills the shelves on your local high street bookshop, and so when I heard that Walliams had written such a work, about the later life of one Alberta Saxby (1868-1933), I approached with interest. It seems that the likes of WHSmith have filed this work under 'Fiction 5-9' rather than the 'Biography' section, partly due, no doubt, to the charming and characteristic illustrations by Tony Ross which accompany the text. However, upon reading I discovered that this was indeed the market at whom Walliams had targeted his work – wisely, I think, this being the field in which his previous writing work has taken place.

Saxby's early career as a failed high-stakes winker in Monte Carlo and elsewhere, her childhood love of the sport, and her interest in ornithology serve as a background to the events covered, dealing with her attempts to thwart her neice, in line to inherit Saxby hall. As such her winking career is mentioned in little detail; but her drive to win and her lax approach to the following of the rules are sufficiently imparted to the reader that when these are of import to the historical events – and they turn out to be crucial – one is not surprised.

Although as a narrative of a significant event of local history the work is of some value, and may well enthuse young readers, as a work of tiddlywinks history it is of lesser value. However, Walliams mentions an early work on the sport in Alberta's library, *The Tiddlywinks Rulebook* by Professor T. E. Wink - no doubt this was uncovered in his researches; from the narrative it can be dated to c1880, before the patent was filed, and would therefore be a fascinating source for any winks historians. He also tabulates the various shots of dubious legality that Alberta had devised for her own personal use, which I reproduce below that modern winkers may be wary of such antique underhand tactics.

All in all this is an enjoyable work for all ages of winkers, and, I believe, now available in paperback. Walliams is to be congratulated to some extent for men-

tioning tiddlywinks in this popular work; anything that brings the sport to the minds of more people can only be good for publicity.

### Alberta Saxby's Foul Shots:

**Whipple-scrump** – to eat an opponent's squidger.

**Gnash-gnosh** – to bite your opponent's hand while they try to play.

**Knicker-knocker-glory** – hiding all your opponent's winks in your knickers.

**Boom-shack-a-lack** – to fire your winks into the pot with an air rifle.

**Winkferno** – to burn all your opponent's winks.

**Knee-thumper** – to make the tiddlywinks table shake when it's your opponent's turn by bashing it with your knee.<sup>8</sup>

**Snatcheroo** – when your opponent's wink is in mid flight and a highly trained bird of prey catches it in its bill.

**Stickywink** – gluing your opponent's winks to the table.

**Gigantopot** – when your opponent is not looking, replace the pot with one that is much taller making it impossible for them to fire any winks in.

**Poot** – to break wind on your opponent's squidger, thus rendering it unusable for a short while.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Editor's note: I'm sure nobody among the readership of *Winking World* can imagine this one happening in a real tournament.

<sup>9</sup>Editor's note: This one, on the other hand...