

Winking World 104 Supplementary



The Lost Years
(Pre-pandemic)

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Preliminaries

Editorial

Katherine Drew

Welcome to the first of two ‘Lost Years’ supplementaries to *Winking World 104*, which together aim to eliminate the backlog of tournament write-ups caused by a certain editorial hiatus. Those of you who were paying attention to *WW 103* will have already noticed that I haven’t delivered what I had promised on pages 4 and 5. I trust that thirteen years of a Conservative government have left you able to handle this kind of disappointment.

Nevertheless, I hope that your disappointment at finding out that these write ups exist as an insert to *WW104* rather than having their own dedicated issue does not majorly hinder your enjoyment of what is otherwise a very fine collection of write-ups. Though I have tried to do some chasing for tournaments that didn’t have a write-up, I have not been too diligent on this and so some tournaments just have a results table. This seems to have been the right decision, given that this first supplementary is longer than the actual issue.

This insert covers the gap between the events of *WW103* and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which means that some of these were written over four years ago. I hope it’s been worth the wait.

Tournament Write Ups

NATwA Individual Pairs

Somewhere in the US, 2nd March 2019

I can't seem to find a record of the full results, so you'll just have to trust me when I say that Larry Khan won.

National Handicapped Individual Pairs

Ely Cathedral Centre, 9th March 2019

Alas there's no write up for this one either, but congratulations to Ed Brown on his very convincing victory.

Pos'n	Name	H'cap PPG	H'cap	PPG
1	Edward Brown	5 7/12	1	4 2/3
2=	Alan Dean	4 5/12	6	4 1/2
2=	Harley Jones	4 5/12	4	4 1/2
4	Patrick Driscoll	4 1/4	6	5
5	Molly Birch	3 7/8	1	3 7/12
6	Katherine Drew	3 2/3	0	2 2/3
7	Stew Sage	3 1/3	2	3
8	Andrew Garrard	3 1/6	5	2 5/6
9	Geoff Thorpe	3 1/24	4	3 7/12
10	Nick Inglis	2 23/24	6	3 1/3
11	Sarah Knight	2 7/8	3	3 1/6
12	Patrick Barrie	2 17/24	7	3 1/3
13	Michael Higham	2 1/12	1	1 2/3

Campbell Park Invitational

Hunt residence, 23rd March 2019

Nick Inglis

The first Campbell Park tiddlywinks tournament was held, by kind invitation of Tim Hunt, in the luxurious venue of the Hunt residence in leafy Milton Keynes on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

Sarah and Nick arrived too late on the Friday to partake of the evening pub-crawl and curry, but I'm sure it was very good. We did discover the difficulties of finding suitable parking outside the Premier Inn and once this was resolved Nick had to stagger into the nearest Wetherspoons for a calming pint.

Breakfast was an opportunity to sample to wide variety of Hunt-made jams and marmalades. Suitably refreshed, we unrolled the mats and got down to business. Kat and Harley generously offered Nick a pot out, which he somehow failed mess up. Sarah swiftly potted five of her winks, then callously missed the sixth a few times to dangle a little hope in front of the opponents before following in for the 7*. Meanwhile Patrick Barie had taken 6 points off Sick Boy and Timmy.

Another round of winks ushered in the opportunity for a generous lunch of soup, bread, cheese, salads and, of course, beer.

The afternoon began with Sarah taking 1 ½ off Patrick Barrie and Nick, while Harley and Timmy potted out against Kat and SiBo. During the afternoon's proceedings it became clear that Timmy's pandas (a form of honest dice, with an alarming resemblance to Andrew Garrard), had hidden themselves among the various plants around the flat (the pandas had last been seen at the Cambridge Open, so how they made their way to Milton Keynes is a mystery).

As the afternoon progressed and the assembled company continued to make inroads into the beer supply, Harley and Nick wittily contrived to secure a 3 ½ - 3 ½ tie against Patrick Barrie.

This allowed Nick to enjoy afternoon tea and cake with an apparently intimidating 6 point lead over the field. His hypocrisy was strangled at birth by a subsequent 2 - 5 loss partnering Kat against the two Patricks. Timmy potted out for 7* against Harley and Sarah, leaving him half a point behind Patrick Barrrrrie and a further 3 points behind Nick. Almost exciting, but Nick tediously squeezed out 3 points in the final round to win the tournament by half a point from Patrick Barrrrrie. More exciting was Nick's achievement of having a ppg that reduced after every round.

Timmy treated us to some splendid lasagne (carnivorous and vegetarian) and visitors assisted with the production of salsa and apple crumble. The repast was washed down with wine and the assembled company decamped to indulge in games and beer.

In the morning, survivors made an assault on the assorted preserves and headed for a walk in Campbell Park, followed by a visit to The Lie of the Land exhibition in Milton Keynes Art Gallery.

A good time was had by all and we are very grateful to Timmy for hosting this splendid event.

Player	Total after round							Position
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Patrick Barrrrrrrie	6	9	14 ½	17 ½	21	26	31	2
Patrick Driscoll	1	5	6	11	17	22	26	4
Tim Hunt	1	7	13	15	18 ½	25 ½	27	3
Nick Inglis	7	13	18 ½	23 ½	27	29	32	1
Harley Jones	0	3	9	13	16 ½	16 ½	20 ½	6
Sarah Knight	7	11	12 ½	14 ½	15 ½	15 ½	21	5
Katherine Drew	0	1	2	5	6	8	9 ½	7

World Pairs 44: Driscoll and Rose vs Khan and Lockwood

Selwyn College, 26th April 2019¹

Harley Jones

This was an exciting match, so I took random notes at the time. Readers may be interested in the timestamps that I took inconsistently.

Game 1 – started 13.20

Rose penhaligoned to win the first squidge-off. Lockwood brought in well, Driscoll squopped him early, Kahn squopping Driscoll in turn. ‘There’s a lot of disaster potential when you bring in’ – Driscoll comments to Rose.

Rose still had all his winks free but distal after 20 minutes, so started potting. Missed the fifth in round 5 from an awkward surrounded position. Game ended 2.20ish.

Game 2 (using Keith’s timer)

Squidge off won by Driscoll. Tough on Larry, etc. Rose penhaligons again! Dave brought one in poorly and sent another off. Rose pots four of remaining five – last one lands near Dave but he misses the squop! Poor following in from all. 7*-0*.

Game 3 - started 2.47

Dave won squidge off. Some early squops – squopping sort of game. Rose tried a funny pot-style boondock which scrunged a big red (Kahn), freeing another red. Larry missed the fifth pot but Dave freed him quickly – pot out to Kahn. Driscoll followed perfectly. 6*-1*. Game ended 15.20.

¹ From the Editor: I have received write ups for this tournament from three different people, so clearly those involved felt compelled to share their version of events. Whether they should have is up to you. I have arranged them from most to least coherent.

Game 4

Early squops from Dave and Larry – low on tempo as a result and few winks in the playing area. They got onto the pile a few times but it was too well guarded. Larry got 4 out and potted them, Driscoll likewise. 5-2.

Game 5 – started 4.30

Larry won squidge-off. Dave penhaligoned in the bring-in stage which was of generally high quality. Larry and Dave took control but Driscoll had 6 pottable. Missed the first which Larry squopped. Then a tense battle over his remaining winks. Dave had 6 free in rounds but didn't fancy the pot-off. 6-1. Game finished 5.37.

Game 6 – started 5.44

Larry won the squidge-off. Dave and Larry both went off early on. Driscoll with 6 free – still not potting! Faster pace of play in this game – does Driscoll have his eyes on the pot? Quite scrappy – no big piles all game. 'My primary aim is to get it up' – Dave. Nobody can pot in rounds! 5-2.

Game 7 – started 7.00

Somewhat Inglisish – Blue and Red (US) have a territory with Yellow and Green (UK) nibbling at the edges. Few squops. Driscoll cracked and went for the pot with negative consequences. Still lots of flat winks in round 1. Scrunge in round 1 for Dave! Rant rant rant. You could cut the atmosphere with a knife, or whatever the saying is. Dave, Matt, Larry all missed in rounds 4-5. Very tense. Dave pots 3 under great pressure in round 5. Larry follows in well but is very awkwardly positioned – so 5*-2* only. Game ended c8.15.

This was an epic match, filled with excitement and tension that mere words can't convey. I strongly recommend spectating world pairs matches, when available – it's much less stressful than playing them. (Did I ever tell you I used to be world pairs champion?)

Match score 22-20 Larry-Dave. Dave's turn. Fifth round. 7th game. Two turns left in the game. Dave and then Matthew.

Dave has three in and three up (one squopping). Matthew has four in and two up. Patrick has third place locked up.

Dave's three are at 4", 1" and 2.5". Dave can clinch the match by potting all three but starts from a losing position. Before Dave's first shot, Matthew was ahead of him 14-12 in tiddlies for first; the game score at that point stood at 5-2 which was enough for Patrick and Matthew to win the match, 25-24. Matthew needs to get sole first for their 5-2 game and match win. Tying Dave for first was not enough.

The outcomes from Dave's turn range from certain loss to certain win.

Number of Dave's Winks Potted in round 5	Match Position
0	Patrick and Matthew win the match. Larry and Dave win probability, 0%.
1	If Matthew pots 1, they win. If he misses, Larry and Dave win. L&D win probability, ~25%
2	If Matthew pots 2, they win. If he misses either the first or the second, L&D win. L&D win probability, ~65%
3	Dave has potted out. Larry and Dave win probability, 100%. Guaranteed at least a 27-22 match win.

Dave took a long time to pot the three. Perhaps 5-10 minutes. They went in.

Patrick Barrie

Author's note: this report was written many months after the match without the help of any notes.

Game 7. Round 5.

Three of Dave's winks in the pot. Just three winks to pot to win the World Pairs title. All at a perfect distance.

Deep breath. Lean down over the wink.

Why on earth did I miss the pot in the previous round? The match would have been done and dusted if I'd potted it then, without round 5 pressure.

And I have to pot this wink else the match is lost – Matthew is ahead with 4 winks already in the pot.

Hand wobbles.

Stand up.

Deep breath. Lean down.

Come on. It's only a two inch pot. Hell, I used to pot 1,000 winks from this distance every day before breakfast.

Mind you, I've missed two inch squops throughout the match. Some hurt. Particularly in game 2.

Focus. Put squidger onto wink. Slight tremble of hand.

Stand up again.

Deep breath. And another deep breath. Why is everyone looking at me? Okay. Lean down. Address the wink.

Come on. These three pots for the title. It's been 18 long years since I've held a world title (and 21 since I last won the World Pairs). This is my chance.

Pause. Contact with wink. Stroke back.

The wink struggles up, clips the front rim of the pot, but settles safely inside it.

Phew. Joint first with Matthew. And Larry's ahead of Patrick, so we'll win if Matthew misses the pot.

I don't want to rely on him missing. Hell, if Matthew gets both pots, then he will have potted out and that would be that. And he might get them, even if they are some way from the pot.

Let's get wink number 5.

Deep breath. Lean down.

We've come back from behind in the match. All I need to do is complete it.

Concentrate. Pause.

I know what to do. Pressure on wink. Come back smoothly without stopping. Let's do it.

The wink flies gracefully into the centre of the cup.

Great. Outright first. But Matthew still has a chance. I've got to pot the sixth wink to be safe.

Deep breath.

This for the title. It's been a long time. I've travelled a long way.

Deep breath.

Lean down.

Get the direction. Get the distance.

If I miss this and lose the match, I'm going to be so pissed off. Better not miss it.

Stand up again.

I can still do it. I'm not a has-been. It's just a simple pot.

Deep breath.

Another deep breath.

Lean down.

Focus.

Get the direction.

Get the distance.

Concentrate.

Pause. Another pause. Another another pause.

Move squidger.

The wink is in the pot.

Primal roar!

On NPR radio in America, Larry reported the result of the match. “Dave potted three winks!” exclaimed the presenter. But there was more to it than that.

You can listen to the NPR radio broadcast by clicking the “listen” button at <https://www.npr.org/2019/04/21/712201836/>¹

¹ From the Editor: Or you can scan this QR code. You’re welcome.



National Singles

Downing College, 27th - 28th April 2019

The National Singles, won by Patrick Driscoll:

Pos'n	Player	Points
1	Patrick Driscoll	33½
2	Patrick Barrie	29½
3	Jon Mapley	28
4	Larry Kahn	26
5	Nick Inglis	25
6	Alan Dean	22
7	Dave Lockwood	16½
8	Paul Moss	15½

The Geoff Thorpe Trophy (Novices' Singles), won by Natasha Holmes:

Rank	Player	Games	Points	PPG
1	Natasha Holmes	6	26	4⅓
2	Sophie Brawn	5	20	4
3	Andy Suggitt	6	16	2⅔





A whole lot of exciting thinking takes place

The Plate, won by Ed Green:

Pos'n	Name	PPG	Played	H'cap	Orig H'cap
1	Ed Green	4 1/2	3	4½	4
2	Marie Moss	4 1/6	5	3½	3
3	Andrew Garrard	4 1/6	4	8	7
4	Sarah Knight	4 1/24	3	4½	4
5	Katherine Drew	4 1/40	5	1	1
6	Natasha Holmes	3 55/72	3	2½	2
7	Harley Jones	3 91/120	5	6	6
8	Andy Suggitt	3 5/8	4	1½	1
9	Edward Brown	3 2/5	5	5	5
10	Keith Seaman	3 17/120	5	5½	6
11	Stew Sage	2 23/24	4	3½	4
12	Tim Hunt	2 23/24	3	6½	7
	Susan Ellicott	2 3/8	1	1	1
13	Phil Buckham-Bonnett	2 1/10	5	1½	3



A compilation of exciting and varied photos from the Singles

NATwA Pairs

Somewhere in the US, June 22nd - 23rd 2019

Unfortunately it looks like Andrew's excellent record keeping doesn't extend to anything stateside so I also couldn't find any kind of results table for this one either. However, I suspect no-one will be surprised to learn that it was won by Larry Kahn and Dave Lockwood.

Ithaca Teams of Five

Ithaca, 1st July 2019

Alan Dean

This event was held in the late afternoon of Sunday June 22nd, under the glass roof of Centre Ithaca in Ithaca, NY, where Jordan Mathews has his barber's shop.

The team comprising Alan Dean and Nick Barry (Yellow), and Ferd Wulkan, Dylan Myler and Jeremy Sauer (Green) were victors by 5-2 over Jordan Mathews and Aiden Foley (Red) and Severin Drix, Patrick Yuan and Justin Heitzman (Blue).



By way of a warm-up, a number of other matches were played earlier in the weekend (not that being warm was a problem, with the bright sunshine streaming down on the contestants). The results of these games were:

Justin Heitzman (solo)	4	-	3	Michael Kassabov/ Nick Barry
Ferd Wulkan/ Jeremy Sauer	5 1/2	- 1 1/2	Jordan Mathews/ Dylan Myler	
Larry Kahn/ Michael Kassabov	4	-	3	Dylan Myler/ Jeremy Sauer
Severin Drix/ Arthur Santelli	5	-	2	Alan Dean/ Nick Barry
Kristen Tauer/ Alan Dean	6	-	1	Jeremy Sauer/ Dylan Myler
Alan Dean/ Jeremy Sauer	4	-	3	Mac McAvoy/ Dylan Myler
Michael Kassabov/ Arthur Santelli	4	-	3	Jordan Mathews/ Nick Barry
Arthur Santelli/ Nick Barry	5	-	2	Dylan Myler/ Michael Kassabov
Alex Whitehead/ Michael Kassabov	5	-	2	Nadia Testut/ Dylan Myler
Bob Hennings/ Arthur Santelli	5	-	2	Ferd Wulkan/ Nick Barry
Dylan Myler/ Nick Barry	6	-	1	Michael Kassabov/ Kristen Tauer
Jeremy Sauer/ Nick Barry	4 1/2	- 2 1/2	Kristen Tauer/ Dylan Myler	
Dylan Myler/ Jeremy Sauer	4	-	3	Justin Heitzman/ Aiden Foley
Alan Dean/ MP Rouse	6	-	1	Severin Drix/ Patrick Yuan
Justin Heitzman/ Jeremy Sauer	6	-	1	Dylan Myler/ Nick Barry

Other than the recognisable old-timers, most of these players were current Ithaca High School students. An exception was Kirsten, who left IHS some years ago, and now works for a New York journal. She came to do some filming as well as play a few games. The other was MP, who once again renewed her entry in the ratings by playing her only game of the year. Her 6-1 win partnering Alan last year was achieved whilst playing with a broken hand, but she went one better this year by doing the same thing with a broken hand and three broken ribs.

There were also two other games that cannot be rated, as two players shared a colour:

Justin/ Dylan and Jeremy	5	-	2	Tilden/ Nick
Justin/ Nick	5	-	2	Jeremy/ Tilden and Dylan

Between joining in some of the above games, a small subset of those present took part in another small sideshow - the 2019 US Pairs. There was one pair fewer than the previous year. Only seven Americans were brave enough to compete in this, and a solitary Brit made it up to four pairs: Alan, partnering Severin, making them next-to-last seeds behind the reigning champions, and Bob/Ferd. Alan was keen to get back ahead of Bob in the ratings, and his play on the Saturday guaranteed that this would be achieved. In the first game on Saturday morning Larry and Dave had a convincing 6-1 win over Alan and Severin. When

they next played, first thing on Sunday, Alan and Severin captured several of Dave's winks, which prompted Larry to try for a difficult pot-out. He missed his final wink, giving Alan a half chance to capture it by playing off a pile from about six inches away, but the shot wobbled wide.

The final placing was almost decided as the final games of the all-play-all-three-times began. The only result that could affect the placings was if Alan and Severin beat Larry and Dave 7 - 0, which would give them the title, finishing a sixth of a point ahead of Larry and Dave, so there was only one way to play that game. Alan went for the pot first and when he got one of his winks squopped Severin took over as the potter. Eventually, after much chasing around, getting caught and rescued, Severin found himself, late in rounds, with five winks in and one small one squopped. Alan tried to knock Severin's wink free by clicking a large one of his own off a pile from about a foot away. He didn't achieve the knock-off, but his large wink came to rest solidly on top of the pile, which had no guards, and his next shot delivered Severin's wink into a perfect potting position about two inches from the pot, with no other wink anywhere near it. Alan's four unpotted winks were all near the pot, and the enemy winks were scattered further away, so a 7-0 was looking a distinct possibility. Dave was looking very worried at this point, but Severin missed the pot. Dave might have been able to win the game by potting all his winks in round five, but a miss over the pot would risk freeing Alan's only squopped wink, so he played safe by not trying to pot, thus losing the game 6-1 but ensuring he and Larry retained the title for the third successive year.

2019 US Pairs	Larry/Dave	Bob/Ferd	Severin/Alan	Jordan/Mac	Total	Posn
Larry Kahn/ Dave Lockwood	-	2 1/3, 6, 4	6, 6, 1	7*, 5, 6	43 1/3	1st
Bob Hennings/ Ferd Wulkan	4 2/3, 1, 3	-	1, 1, 3	5, 3, 6	27 2/3	3rd
Severin Drix/ Alan Dean	1, 1, 6	6, 6, 4	-	5 1/2, 6, 6	41 1/2	2nd
Jordan Mathews/ Mac McAvoy	0*, 2, 1	2, 4, 1	1 1/2, 1, 1	-	13 1/2	4th

One of the more unusual shots seen in the tournament was when Ferd played a large wink in from the baseline, bouncing it

off the pot, and almost completely subbing it under one of Alan's large winks, which was an inch or so from the pot.

The reason for the five-a-side match: when Larry went home with his two mats, there was only one mat left in the building, and ten people looking for one more game. How to refer to the teams? Severin explained: 'When we have three players as partners we call it either a persimmon or a kumquat. A persimmon is when they go in turns and therefore each player plays one colour one round and another the next. Fair, but confusing. A kumquat is when one player always plays one colour and the other two alternate playing the other colour. Simpler, but not 'fair'. The names derive from the fact that these are not pairs (pears) but more exotic fruit.'

There are no agreed terms for what happened in this game, but Severin suggested a kiwi for the pairs sharing a colour, and a starfruit for the triples sharing a colour.

Here's looking forward to next year, when hopefully the Pairs will be combined with an international match. It will be ten years since the last one.

World Pairs 45: Kahn and Lockwood vs Barrie and Jones

Washington DC, 20th July 2019

Patrick Barrie

Game 1. Harley had a pot out attempt with blue. Lovely knock off by Patrick. Harley kept missing the sixth and landing on a wink which made the next attempt hard. Once flat, the sixth wink was squopped by Larry. Sufficient time had elapsed that it was easy for Patrick to keep two winks of each colour under singletons. 4-3.

Game 2. A close game. Harley missed a pot with a small red three times which would have given joint first had it gone in. As it was, 2-5.

Game 3. Another close game. Good attacks by Patrick, but well defended. Eventually Harley got on the pile and had a favourable pile break. Became potting battle between Patrick and Larry. They joint first which was enough for 4-3, which made the score 10-11 going into lunch.

Game 4. Larry and Dave gained an advantage after Patrick subbed to give them a tripleton. However, a good Bristol onto the pile by Patrick recovered the situation. It proved hard to hold the pile against good attack, but eventually Patrick potted well enough to get 1st place. 4-3, taking it to 14 all.

Game 5. Harley potted six. Indistinguished scrap for 2nd place. Should have got 7. Happy with 5.

Game 6. Dave and Larry started badly but gradually got the advantage. Towards the end, Larry made series of remarkable shots, eventually getting five of Harley's winks under a single big wink. Patrick managed two pots in round 5 to go ahead of Dave and secure 2nd place. 2-5, 21 all.

Game 7. Two early separate doubletons for Harley and Patrick (one from a baseline sub and one from a bristol). Not possible to hold though. After 12 minutess, winks were all over the mat with just a couple of singletons. There was then some good play by Harley and Patrick and a couple of misses by Dave. Would Patrick be able to equal Larry's pots? Solid play, with both potting and bringing in, or potting and boondocking. Even though Dave got one long squop, Patrick had enough for joint 1st if he made a simple pot in round 5. In the end Larry missed his round 5 pot. Dave then had a 3 foot squop to win the match by preventing Patrick's pot... and missed by 5mm. Patrick declined a pot attempt in round 5 for a bigger win. 4-3.

Kahn and Lockwood	3	5	3	3	2*	5	3	24
Barrie and Jones	4	2	4	4	5*	2	4	25

Exmouth Open, Part 1

Alan Dean's House, 26th - 28th July 2019

Paul Moss

For those not familiar with this tournament, it is enthusiastically hosted by Alan Dean, with a warm welcome also from his wife Barbie, at their Devon home, and is held over two weekends, this year in July and September. Participants need not attend both weekends, or even all of either; the winner is simply the player who gains most rating points through their participation. Diversions from the 'winks are also customary, and have included Go, Hex, country walks, and visits to the beach.

Marie (last year's winner!) and I were able to attend only the first of the 2019 tournament's two weekends. Driving south after work on the Friday meant that we had already missed a day's play in which Alan, Keith Seaman, Harley Jones and Kat Drew played all three pairs possibilities twice. The scoresheet reveals that Alan & Keith beat Kat & Harley 6-1 twice, Alan & Harley beat Kat & Keith 6*-1* & 5-2, and Alan & Kat first beat Harley & Keith 4 1/2-2 1/2 and then suffered Alan's only defeat of the day 3-4.

When we arrived, winks had been superseded by bridge. Harley & Kat soon had to leave for the evening, so there were four winkers left. Alan offered Marie and I a practice game, but Marie's "in for a penny" enthusiasm tempted us into a tournament game. I was drawn to partner Alan against Marie & Keith; I remember very little of this game, but Alan and I prevailed 5 1/2-1 1/2.

Harley & Kat rejoined us Saturday morning, and Marie & I first played the three combinations with them whilst Alan & Keith occupied themselves with other pursuits. In my game partnering Harley, he brought in splendidly and expressed a confident preference to go immediately for the pot-out, to which I agreed. Reality fell short of ambition, however, and after several attempts the pot-out was not well-advanced. By now I was also

well-placed, decided to try the pot myself, and duly ran all six winks; Harley followed in for the 7*-0*. This pleasing potting form stayed with me most of the weekend: I believe I didn't miss a single pot until late on Sunday. By contrast, my squopping and positional play were mostly appalling all weekend, although I do seem largely to have got away with this.

Harley & Kat had to leave for other entertainments, but we were joined by Go-player James Taylor, whose previous experience of winks was minimal, but enthusiasm admirable; his improvement through the day was impressive. When we were partnered against Keith and Marie, a memorable moment saw James attempt a pot to fail short but land neatly on an opposition doubleton to turn the course of the game and ultimately give us a 5-2 win.

On Saturday evening, after James had left to leave the four of us to play the rest of the weekend, Alan drove Keith, Marie & me to Salcombe Regis for a short circular walk to the coast before dinner. Recognising a grassy rise just a little further along the coast, we were reminded of the late Geoff Thorpe, reflecting that it was only in September, during the Part 2 of last year's tournament, that we were accompanied by Geoff on a similar excursion, during which he joked about having been in training since finding the Part 1 walk a little too strenuous.

Saturday's play also entertained us with some prospective winking neologisms. A proposal to "take the blue for now" coined the "bloofer"; an attempt to place a brought-in cat amongst the pigeons of a potentially imminent pot-out threat suggested the "cattermonger"; and the trivial and unnecessary shot played solely to avoid passing was the "Eliza" (do little).

In between a visit to the beach and rocks at Sidmouth, and a very pleasant lunch interlude at a nearby garden centre, we concluded the winkend by playing the three available combinations plus a randomly-drawn bonus round, Marie & I having been persuaded to play one more game before heading home. I first partnered Alan to my second 7*-0* of the weekend, though by now I was making rather heavier weather of the potting. Playing with Keith versus Alan and Marie was rather closer at 4-3; and in my game partnering Marie, just a little more

competence on my part in the final round could have seen us to victory rather than our 2 1/2-4 1/2 loss.

All-in-all we enjoyed sociable and relaxing weekend, and our thanks go to Alan and Barbie for their hospitality.

The Exmouth Open 2019, Part 1 - Scores

Pair 1	Score	Pair 2
Alan & Keith	6-1	Kat & Harley
Alan & Kat	4½-2½	Harley & Keith
Alan & Harley	6*-1*	Keith & Kat
Alan & Keith	6-1	Kat & Harley
Alan & Kat	3-4	Harley & Keith
Alan & Harley	5-2	Keith & Kat
Alan & Paul	5½-1½	Keith & Marie
Paul & Marie	4-3	Harley & Kat
Paul & Kat	5-2	Harley & Marie
Paul & Harley	7*-0*	Marie & Kat
Paul & Marie	3-4	Keith & Kat
Paul & James	5-2	Keith & Marie
Alan & James	1-6	Keith & Marie
Alan & Marie	6-1	James & Paul
Alan & Paul	7*-0*	Keith & Marie
Alan & Marie	3-4	Paul & Keith
Alan & Keith	4½-2½	Paul & Marie
Alan & Marie	2*-5*	Paul & Keith

The Exmouth Open 2019, Part 1 - Standings

Player	Change in rating points
Paul Moss	+41
Alan Dean	+15
Keith Seaman	+3
Harley Jones	-13
Kat Drew	-18
James Taylor	-20
Marie Moss	-35

York Open

The Black Swan, 3rd - 4th August 2019

Pos'n	Name	PPG	Played	H'cap
1	Phil Buckham-Bonnett	4 4/5	10	1
	Christine Barrie	4 1/4	1	2
	Katherine Drew	4	7	1
	Anne Everett	4	2	0
2	Sarah Knight	3 19/20	10	2
	Patrick Driscoll	3 4/5	5	7
3	Dannish Babar	3 7/9	9	3
4	Tim Hunt	3 31/40	10	6
5	Stew Sage	3 23/40	10	2
6	Sophie Brawn	3 19/36	9	1
7	Patrick Barrie	3 17/40	10	7
8	Greg Melia	3 13/32	8	0
9	Marc Mills	3 3/16	8	0
	Alan Dean	3 3/28	7	7
	Christian Gowers	3 1/24	6	2
	Harley Jones	2 6/7	7	4
10	Nick Inglis	2 7/10	10	6
	Ben Fairbairn	2 3/7	7	2
	Josie Monaghan	2	2	0

Imagine having the audacity to win a tournament that you've organised, and then not even write about it for Winking World.

London Open

The Turk's Head, 7th September 2019

	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total
A: Harley Jones & Katherine Drew		1-6	1-6	5-2	1½-5½	2-5	10½
B: Sarah Knight & Tim Hunt	6-1		2-5	5*-2*	4-3	4-3	21
C: Nick Inglis & Graham Hancock	6-1	5-2		3-4	2-5	3-4	19
D: Patrick Barrie & Steve Harbron	2-5	2*-5*	4-3		1-6	6-1	15
E: Ben Fairbairn & Andrew Garrard	5½-1½	3-4	5-2	6-1		3-4	22½
F: Edward Brown & Dave Smith	5-2†	3-4†	4-3	1-6	4-3		17

†: Edward Brown playing singles



Here I am rethinking my life choices



Exmouth Open, Part 2

Alan Dean's House, 4th - 6th October

A further 17 games were played with just four competitors: Keith Seaman, Tim Hunt, Rupert Wilson, and Alan Dean. After these matches, the final tournament standings were as follows:

Pos'n	Player	Rating change
1	Paul Moss	+41
2	Rupert Wilson	+30
3	Keith Seaman	+23
4	Alan Dean	+11
5	Harley Jones	-13
6	Katherine Drew	-18
7	James Taylor	-20
8	Tim Hunt	-22
9	Marie Moss	-35

World Singles 71: Barrie vs Kahn

Presumably Patrick's Office, 18th October 2019

Harley Jones

More random scribblings in my notebook. I took better note of the timings this time, as well as other details like how many tiddlies each colour got.

Game 1 – 2pm. Larry, green, won the squidge-off.

Very high quality bring in. Patrick took a big tripleton – Larry knocked it off. Larry squopped a red to stop the pot out. Larry noses ahead in the squopping battle. Couple of bad shots from him makes it more even when time runs out. Red scrunged – red pots! Lots of potting in rounds. 4-3 to Larry. Game ended 2.50.

Game 2 – 2.56. Patrick, yellow.

Larry squops from the baseline. Larry brought in better and has a threat with red. Patrick not attacking brilliantly? Bit unfair. Blue defending well. red squops green – sacrificial lamb theory. yellow knocks a red off a blue...

Red threat is the main thing here. Larry faffing, trying to get a red out while keeping a yellow. Green takes red doubleton! Blue follows, green knocks off – Patrick fighting back. It's pile play like this etc. Pile faff into round 1. Patrick trying to free a yellow tripleton. He pile breaks to end 3. Everything everywhere. Green pots in 4 – red pots – more faff. 4-3 to Larry. 3.38.

Game 3 – 3.43. Patrick, red.

Patrick gets the lucky squop this time. His winks are very tightly areated – red especially. Larry takes red tripleton but completely surrounded. Patrick takes and breaks. Green threat is also on – Larry missed the second. Red takes green, yellow knocks off, blue misses green. Green runs three, misses near red who squops. Piling on. Green on top, misses pot-off, freeing another green and squopping red! Same again. 5th green in. Patrick squops up – fiddly though. Blue runs 4 after time. Click-dock

worked well – 5th blue out and potted. Red fails to free last blue so 4-3 to Patrick. 4.15.

Game 4 – 4.19. Patrick, green.

Patrick worried about blue pot-out threat. Green pots one out of trouble but brings one in among the blues – then squops a yellow – looksn't to be a potting game any more. Yellow has two in reserve... Quite scrappy. Patrick has the upper hand slightly. Colour order generally good. Larry squopping well – very well. Still scrappy. Lots of Larry's winks on the edge. Very lucky pot by Larry – Patrick down to three free yellows. Think he's had it. Larry squops up. Patrick knocks two yellows out! Doesn't last, Larry with 6 free turns in rounds. 6-1 to Larry. 4.50.

Game 5 – 5.00. Patrick, red.

Colours mixed in the bringing in stage. Patrick started well in the early squops. Somewhat scrappy but I think there's a chance of a big pile here. Patrick subbed a big Blue – 'confusinger and confusinger...' Larry doubledocks with poor result. Patrick dominating the area. Still 6 winks to bring in with 5 minutes to go! Larry knocks stuff off – Patrick retains some control. Plenty of umpiring action. Patrick potting in rounds, Y all under and G not great. 6-1 to Patrick. 5.40.

Game 6 – 5.43. Larry, red

Red went off – first one of the match. Patrick bringing in a bit better – aggressive – wants to pot. Misses the first. Now it's a squopping game – Patrick winning. Unfortunate sub. Lucky butt-over by Larry. Patrick subs again! Larry now doing better going into rounds. Pile reconstruction! Yuck. Patrick seems to be doing better, though Larry has marauding blues. Red goes off ending 2. Patrick frees some yellows. Misses first pot – gets some in with both colours. Larry needs a blue in in 5 – gets one. 5-2 to Patrick. 6.34.

Game 7 – 6.41. Patrick, red.

Pile developing quite early. Bit scrappy again – no clear leader yet. Larry sends a yellow off at an inopportune moment. Patrick

now ahead slightly. In round 1 Patrick firmly on top – Larry managed to free a couple of greens. Patrick missed the pot. Patrick takes doubleton of yellows in 2 – Larry gets a knock-off in 3 and red subs! Yellow misses the pot. Blue pots and squops. Green all out on 0 in round 5 – yellow needs to get green some points otherwise match is lost – it is now! 4-3 to Larry. 7.15.

Total – 25-24 to Patrick. Another nail-biter.

National Pairs

Downing College, 19th - 20th October 2019

Larry Kahn

This has always been my favorite tournament, so at this year's singles I asked Jon Mapley if he'd like to give it a go for two reasons. One, he's really good, and two, he hadn't played in the pairs for quite a long time and perhaps I could entice him to come. I'm not sure we had ever played as partners before, certainly not in any pairs tournament. But our styles are pretty similar so I was convinced we'd do well.

8 pairs showed up, so format was all play all twice. Patrick Driscoll was openly rooting for an additional pair which would have cocked up the schedule a bit, but it didn't happen. There was a noticeable split between the top and bottom four seeds, although 5th seed Kningles was not one to be trifled with.

The first day went more or less according to form, and the Kningles pair was indeed a pain in the ass for some of the top seeds, getting a potout 5 against top seeds Barrie and Jones and a 3 from Driscoll and Harper (also a 2 off of us). Dean and Hunt had a difficult first day against the other 3 top seeds, getting just 4.5 points from three losses. By round 7 Jon and I had yet to lose a game and were a couple of points in the lead. In the final Saturday game we managed to pull a bit further ahead with a hard fought 4.5-2.5 against top seeds Barrie and Jones. Meanwhile, Driscoll and Harper had potted out against Dean and Hunt to pull ahead of them into third. Saturday ended

mostly according to the original seeding, but with 1 and 2 swapping places, as did 3 and 4.

Starting out Sunday with a 5.5 lead our first goal was to make it through the first four games without any slip-ups. Well, that was certainly easier said than done. Kat and Natasha played outrageously well against us for the first half of our game and had they been able to maintain it they would have certainly beat us 6-1. However, we ultimately wore them down and escaped with a 6-1 of our own. And then we had to escape with just a 4-3 win over Garrard and PBB. Meanwhile, Kningles were continuing to be a pain, getting 5 off of Driscoll and Harper, and a 3 from Dean and Hunt.



Wooo go Tash!

Going into the final 3 rounds appeared to be a two horse race barring unforeseen circumstances. Round 12 (against Alan and Tim) was my favorite game of the match, maybe the year. After getting off to a horrible start, we pulled out a 4.5-2.5 win after I made what must have been half a dozen critical squops of at least 12 inches. This left Tim banging his head on the mat in complete despair. Alan also made a few outrageously good squops, and probably would have made more if his partner had

stopped yammering just as Alan was lining up a shot. In the other top 4 game Driscoll and Harper got a 5 from Barrie and Jones, pulling them closer to 2nd, which would be worth a challenge if Jon and I won.

Then in the next to last round we were unable to counter Driscoll's many free winks halfway through the game and ended up with the likely 3 when Patrick made his pots in rounds, while in the other game Barrie and Jones matched that score with a 4 from Dean and Hunt.

So the final game meant Patrick and Harley needed 7. Patrick has been excellent in these situations so we couldn't relax. After an early potout miss by Harley (also sending the underneath wink off), Patrick was poised to attempt a non-trivial, but gettable, potout of his own. Instead of having Jon try a longish squop, we decided to have him bring his farthest wink closer in, so that in case Patrick succeeded both red and blue would be considerably ahead of yellow in the race for second. And that's exactly how things unfolded. Patrick ran his six but despite missing a pot or two we captured second (and third) to claim the title.



Some Jubilee Matches: Dean vs various

Various locations, various dates

Alan Dean

Two more Jubilee matches were completed over the long weekend around the Pairs. Harley and I played the first two games of his latest challenge during the first half of the Exmouth Open, at the end of July, and I won 5-2 then 4-3. We had planned to complete the challenge during the York tournament, but didn't manage to play any more games there.

Meanwhile, Tim Hunt had issued another challenge, and I had arranged to stay with him on the way to the Pairs, so an 'if' match was agreed, which would make the official record only if I later went on to defeat Harley. Four games were played on the Friday evening. Tim won the first game 6-1 with a pot out, and then got another 6-1 in the second. Tim played well, and I was definitely below par, but I got my act together by after this, and fought back with wins of 5.5-1.5 and 6-1, leaving me on a point behind going into the final game. This was played on the Saturday morning before leaving for Cambridge, and I won it fairly comfortably, squopping Tim up for a 6-1 with the final shot of round 5.

Game three of the match against Harley was played during the Saturday lunch break at the Pairs. Harley played very well, and took a 6-1. He also looked dangerous at the start of game four, after bringing all his green winks into pottable positions, but I then made a series of good long squops to capture them all before achieving a controlled pot-out of my own. However, that probably cost me a point, because my poor potting with the second colour allowed Harley to get second and third places.

The final game was played during the Sunday lunch break. Harley didn't bring in very well, and I was able to take a comfortable 6-1. Harley's has now challenged me 15 times, starting in 2012, so full marks for perseverance. At the time of writing there were no pending challenges.

National Handicapped Individual Pairs

Selwyn College, 23rd November 2019

For two years running, Ed Brown both won this tournament and failed to write anything about it at all, which I believe demonstrates an extreme moral deficit.

Pos'n	Name	PPG	Played	H'cap
	Zach Bond	5 1/2	1	1
1	Edward Brown	4 3/4	6	2
2 =	Andrew Garrard	4 1/4	6	6
2 =	Patrick Driscoll	4 1/4	6	7
4	Stew Sage	4	6	2
5	Rupert Wilson	3 3/4	5	3
6	Katherine Drew	3 3/4	4	1
7	Toby Proudfoot	3 5/8	4	0
	Marc Mills	3 1/2	2	0
	Alexei Newton	3 5/12	3	0
8	Tony Ren	3 1/3	6	0
9	Harley Jones	3 1/4	6	5
10	Sophie Brawn	3 5/24	6	1
11	Sarah Knight	2 23/24	6	3
12 =	Alan Dean	2 17/24	6	7
12 =	Nick Inglis	2 17/24	6	6
14	Alex Fairclough	2 11/16	4	0
	Adam Wolowczyk	1 1/8	2	0

NATwA Singles

Somewhere in the US, December 7th - 8th 2019

Once more, the only information I have about this is that it took place. No prizes for guessing that Larry Kahn emerged victorious.

Somerset Invitational

Old Down Inn, 2nd - 5th January 2020

The Old Down Inn Parrot

'Elo. Ting, ting. Ker-squop, erp. K-k-k, k-k-k. 'Elo.

Tedious clarifications from Tim:

1. Since I have won this tournament a few times in a row, I decided to delegate this year's write-up to the pub's parrot, who I think you will agree is a far wittier raconteur than I am.

2. However, I was then unable to refrain from adding a few tedious facts of my own, unless the Editor will spare you and delete this bit?¹

3. The parrot still does not say "E-up", despite PBB's prompting.

4. There were 6 players (Stew, Timmy, Andrew Garrard, PBB, Harley & Kat) so we played the 15-round things with a singles and pairs game in each round.

5. Steph was also present, knitting, and helping with the drinking and non-winks games.

6. Scores (in the Traditional order):

Pos'n	Player	Total
5=	Stew Sage	42
5=	Katherine Drew	42
4	Phil Buckham-Bonnett	47
3	Harley Jones	52 ½
2	Andrew Garrard	57
1	Tim Hunt	74 ½

¹From the Editor: Nope; I've already entertained enough of your outrageous demands.

7. Alternative analysis of the scores:

Winker	Singles	Pairs	Ratio
Stew	10	32	3.20 ↑ More of a team player
PBB	12	35	2.92
Kat	12½	29½	2.36
Harley	16½	36	2.18
Andrew	23	34	1.48
Timmy	31	43½	1.40 ↓ More of an antisocial loner

Jubilee: Dean vs Hunt

Milton Keynes/Cambridge, 24th - 25th January 2020

Tim Hunt

As has become traditional, Alan was spending the evening before a winks tournament in my flat. We have a symbiotic relationship where he gets accommodation and I get transport to and from Cambridge. As is almost as traditional, we played a Jubilee match. Alan gave me every chance by agreeing to play on my mat, and not taking any time to acclimatise before the games started.

We played two games after dinner on the Friday evening, and I won the first 6–1 then Alan won the second 4–3. Thus I held a 9–5 lead when we resumed the next morning. We played two more games before we had to leave for Cambridge: 6–1 to me, then 5–2 to Alan, bringing the score to 17–11.

We arrived in the Selwyn Diamond with time enough to play the deciding game before the Cambridge Open started, so we did. As is often the way, when one player needs seven points, the game is completely distorted, and so the final score (a 6–1 to me giving 23–12 for the match) is not a true reflection.

As a bit of trivia, the squidge-off winner lost each of the first four games. Also, a possible interpretation of the scores is that I won, or at least got to an almost unassailable lead after four rounds, by scoring more points when losing.

Cambridge Open

Selwyn College, 25th - 26th January 2020

Andrew Garrard

Spoiler alert: I didn't win this tournament - but I was sufficiently in contention that I volunteered to take one for the team¹ and do the write-up.

Saturday started with a pretty good Cambridge Open attendance, which I got to see by untraditionally turning up before the first round without even being frantically out of breath. I did manage to arrive on two hours of sleep, however, which meant the mat tended to spin whenever I leant down to play a shot. I always knew the world revolved around me; I normally put it down to gravity. There were in fact even more present than the 17 entered in the round - new prospective Varsity players (Madeleine and Patrick Moore, and Emily Hampson) arrived, and Zach excused himself for the morning to teach them to play.

Like most of my games over the weekend, my first was pretty fraught: myself singles against Ed Green and Paul Moss, also meaning quite a disparity in speed of play. I was on top of piles near the pot and looking at a solid win going into round five. Ed managed some heroic potting to put himself in the lead in the penultimate turn. I potted three winks off piles in the last turn to reclaim first place, inspired somewhat by how smug Ed was at his own potting.

Molly and Sophie joined the next round, increasing the number of full foursomes and reducing the average player height

¹From the Editor: I think you mean 'I volunteered to take the honour and privilege...'

somewhat. I was initially too tired to register when Molly asked me whether she could Dave Taylor, but being the round before lunch, I had no objection - especially since most of the pots went straight in and our opponents lost tempo chasing her. Patrick and Tash scrambled well, and my attempts to rescue Molly didn't quite work - we were playing with Alan's personal winks, and since they're probably less scratched than most ETwA winks, I found myself sliding off a lot. Fortunately, in counter-potting, Patrick needed to dock Molly in order to be able to pot out; it went badly wrong, and Molly successfully potted her freed final wink. With Patrick's head start I wasn't going to be able to follow, but Tash's position left my pots easier. It turns out that Dave Tayloring can be quite hot if all the winks go in the pot. My own early lunch was delayed by wanting to ensure the room was locked, then discovering that the Red Bull weren't willing to let us use chairs in case any of their bookings turned up early, but we coped eventually. Oxford were taught some drinking games and serenaded with the ETwA anthem by Rupert Knight, while the rest of us tried to persuade him that a busy pub wasn't an ideal concert venue.

Back from lunch, I strategically decided that feeling very unwell and taking photos for Winking World¹ was more important than a 100% attendance record - although this took us back to a maximal number of three-player games. The Oxonians and Zach joined in, although there was a little of the traditional post-lunch attrition. Ed Brown notably maintained his strong PPG.

Slightly recuperated by game 4, I joined Marie in taking on Kat and Thomas. Not inclined towards anything strategic, we potted when the chance presented itself - and Marie demonstrated an ability to pot that I would have done well to remember later in the tournament. The game included one of my winks bizarrely subbing into a pile while being supported by the pot - not a failure mode I'd seen before. Any smugness I may have felt at this was knocked out of me in game 5, when Timmy and Ed Brown turned around a game that Sophie and I were winning at the start of rounds. Not the first time that Timmy has been my nemesis in a tournament, and it wasn't going to be the last - especially with him coming off a strong Jubilee performance.

¹ From the Editor: See caption on page 39 regarding this matter.

In round 6 (squeezed in at 5pm) I at least got revenge on Ed Brown, in one of the traditionally confusing arrangements: Ed Green and Ed Brown, with Ed Brown playing green. Marc joined me, and has significantly improved since last I played with him. Both Eds have been dangerous to me in the past, so I was glad we made the 5.

I was too occupied by Burns Night for the dinner, but Harley advises me that what he could remember involved a heroic amount of port, and it appears that Terry Jones was suitably honoured in a mint-off.

Sunday dawned with double the amount of sleep but not much more feeling of competence - and a predictably reduced attendance. Although I left Stew some distant potting to do, he and I successfully stomped on Steve and Christian to start the day. The game before lunch saw some amusing logistics: Patrick Driscoll partnered me in round 8 against Marie and Christian, who succumbed to the second 6-1 in a row against me. Because Patrick had missed two games on Saturday to my one, this allowed him to overtake me at the top of the score table - an outcome I could have avoided by strategically losing. Since Patrick had indicated the Cambridge Open was the only major he'd not won, I wasn't expecting him to choose not to return from Sunday lunch, but I should remember his drinks/winks priorities. Alexei and Ellery turned up just before lunch, with odd timing. As on Saturday, I hung around to ensure the room was locked, with the Moss/Barnett-Sage/Barrie game ending significantly after all the others, contributing to lunchtime comments that Paul tended to take ten minutes to pick the wrong shot (sorry Paul, but name and shame - I've been there).

Back from lunch (with tournament attendance balanced between those who had recovered from the Dinner and attrition lost to the pub), Christian and I had Harley and Alan to deal with - which was always going to be tough, especially since I could barely squop. We were squopped up fairly briskly, although it did lead to Alan amusingly mis-counting and forgetting that none of Harley's winks were on mine when it was time to free. Rather than attempt a knock-free, Harley was just asked to pot some winks for points, in the sadly-correct belief

that there was only so much damage I could do with a nominated wink. By this point in the tournament winks fatigue had hit me, and I was missing a lot of easy squops.

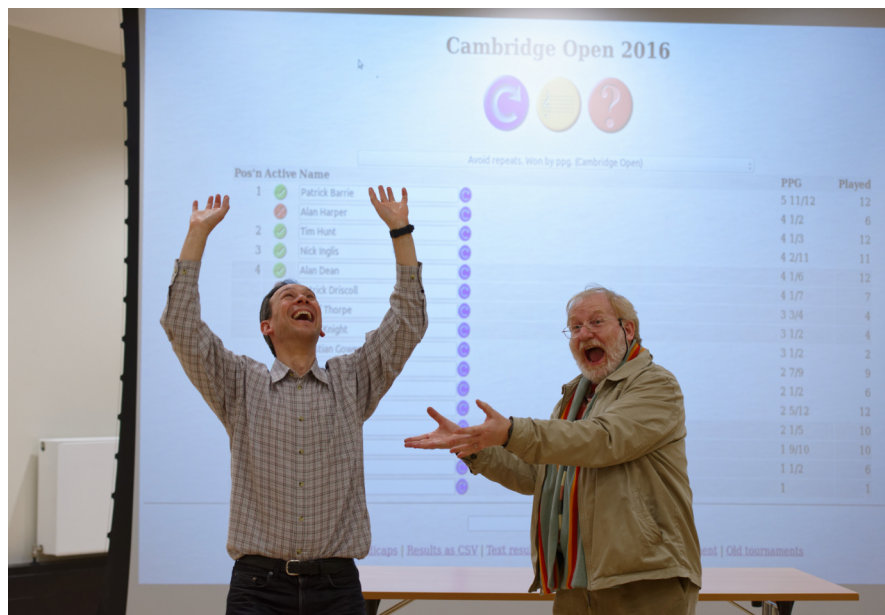
Round ten: Toby and I pulled off a 6-1 we didn't really deserve against Ed Brown and Steve - there was some frantic hassling in rounds, and a slightly tactically dubious final shot (in my opinion) that gave away points. I felt bad that the Mosses had told me they wanted to be in this round, but were excluded for taking slightly too long; I suggested that they play singles and have the game included. However, the recent decree that Ed Brown should be deemed CUTwC co-President in order to facilitate room bookings caused a constitutional crisis about who had the authority to choose whether to allow the game to count. In the end, their singles game took longer than the doubles games, so it was excluded in the interests of not delaying the tournament.

Unfortunately, there was still the last round to go. I partnered Alexei against Timmy and Marie. I brought in dreadfully - Timmy much more competently, and he took the opportunity to run at the pot when my suicidal bring-in to his area in an attempt to contain him rolled off. Since Tim missed near us repeatedly, it's frustrating that Alexei and I also missed every easy shot on him: it was one of those pot-outs where the team being potted out against deserved the outcome more than the potter, and the game could have gone strongly the other way with the slightest shift in competence. More to my frustration, Marie potted very well at range, and I didn't (although I was a little smug at denurdlng myself deliberately with a bring-in, at least). Alexei was, like me, left trying to chase with distant winks because our tempo had been spent on Timmy, and Marie punished us.

I was then well out of contention for the win, but had a tiny chance of retaining second, especially when both Alan and Patrick wanted to know what score they needed. (Answer: both games were still in progress, so it was hard to tell.) What we had worked out was that less than 4 1/2 for Alan would give me second place. Sadly for me, by the time he came to ask, he was already looking at a six; he went for a seven and ended up with

only a five (a good effort by Ellery against Ed), but still enough for second. Patrick had his own problems - he and Sophie managed only 2 1/2 against Steve Phillips, with Sophie apparently struggling under the stress of affecting the tournament result, but 2 1/2 points was the extent of Patrick's tournament winning margin.

All in all, a good turn-out (only nine players in enough games to qualify, but 33 total). CUTwC are getting quite strong, at least selectively. Marie and Molly can pot these days. Stew had the highest multi-game PPG. One bug and one feature request in the draw program (now added), although I may have rewritten it by next year anyway. Yet again, my form crumbled at the end of the tournament - I need some endurance training. No sleep seems less detrimental to my performance than arriving late; this may explain why almost all of my games could have gone either way down to the last few shots - being lucky seems to work better for me than learning how to make a game secure. At least it led to interesting games, and (except for the last round, grr) an enjoyable tournament. CUTwC should consider holding it again!



I don't know what Andrew did with the photos that he allegedly took but they're not on Pot Shots, so here's a random picture from 2016

Campbell Park Invitational

Hunt residence, 29th February 2020

Tim Hunt

Is it a terrible social faux pas to win the tiddlywinks tournament you are hosting? Well, manners have never been my strong suit. At any rate, eight witty people gathered at my flat in Milton Keynes for some individual pairs winks. That's the tournament format where you partner everyone else once.

Only a few key moments from the winks lodge in my memory. Immediately after lunch, Kat and I were playing Patrick and Nick, and we both rolled off on consecutive turns. This was bad because it gave Nick two turns to skilfully squop a doubleton from about a foot away. That proved irrelevant, however, because Patrick had brought in 6 winks near the pot, and he potted them, despite leading the squopping game. He did miss once, just to dangle a chance in front of us, but we could not take it. Then, even though Kat and I had multiple winks on the edge, Nick showed no mercy and ran six with devastating accuracy to get the only 7*-0* of the tournament. At least it was a Septic seven-nil, and so we earned fizzy wine as an aperitif for dinner.

I was playing in at the table in the kitchen for most of the afternoon while great hilarity and enjoyment seemed to be happening on other mat in the hall. I never managed to get a fully coherent explanation of the causes. There was something about Patrick having to hide under the table because Sarah was so scary. That might have been related to squopping winks from the baseline, but accounts are garbled.

Going into the final round, it was quite tight at the top, and not just because most of us had been sampling a wide range of Milton Keynes and York beers all day. The other game in that round finished quite quickly with a 5* to Patrick (actually, that might have been another of the bits of excitement in the hall) when Tash could not follow-in against Alan and Kat. That meant I knew I only needed 2 to secure the tournament, so it seemed obvious for Sarah go for the pot-out she had nicely lined up. She

competently potted the longer ones then missed. We eventually got to the five-in stage (with the help of a pleasing knock-off I played to rescue one) but finally the last green was squopped and guarded. However, Harley and Nick had less than five minutes to get the counter-pot they needed. Nick came very close, but his missed pot of a small in Round 4 landed nurdled, so the final scores were:

		Score partnering							
Pos		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2=	A Patrick Barrie	-	1	7*	6	5	3	5*	4
5	B Alan Dean	1	-	4	6	6	6	1	2*
2=	C Nick Inglis	7*	4	-	6	5	6	2	1
1	D Tim Hunt	6	6	6	-	6	2	5½	0*
4	E Harley Jones	5	6	5	6	-	3	1	1½
6	F Sarah Knight	3	6	6	2	3	-	1	1
7	G Natasha Holmes	5*	1	2	5½	1	1	-	1
8	H Katherine Drew	4	2*	1	0*	1½	1	1	-

Perhaps the most skilful winkers were Christine and Andrew, who forewent all the squidging nonsense and simply joined us for dinner (venison and prune stew with chestnut mash). Since my memory for the winks seems rather limited, I thought I would pad this write-up with another of the day's recipes, one of the soups we had for lunch:

Ingredients

These are all very approximate, so don't worry and vary to taste

1 large butternut squash	2 medium onions
3 cloves of garlic	2 teaspoons curry powder
200g red lentils	1 litre chicken stock*
Olive oil	Salt and pepper

Method

1. Roast the squash. That is, peel the squash and remove the seeds. Cut into chunks, place on a baking tray, coat in olive oil and sprinkle with black pepper. Roast in a hot oven (180°C fan, 200°C conventional) for about 45 minutes. During that time, it is worth opening the oven a few times to let the steam out, and perhaps shoogles the pan to stop the squash from sticking.

2. While the squash is roasting, roughly chop the onions and put in a large pan with some olive oil to fry gently.

3. Add the curry powder and garlic and fry a bit more.

4. Add the lentils and the stock, and simmer for about 25 minutes until the lentils are cooked. The lentils will be cooked at about the same time that the squash has finished roasting.

5. Add the roast squash to the pan, and blend everything to a smooth consistency and you are done. This is best done in the pan with a stick blender.

This soup often comes out quite thick. I suggest you enjoy it like that (and call it a purée if anyone quibbles, a trick I learned from a posh restaurant menu). Alternatively, you could add more stock, or even some water.

* This is what I call a vegetarian soup à la Catherine, in memory of my grandmother. She would feed vegetarians soup like this without telling them, and was frequently complimented on how tasty her soups were in comparison to other veggie soups. In this case, I cleared it with Harley and Sarah first. You can of course substitute vegetable stock.

Cambridge vs Oxford Varsity Match

Wadham College, 29th February 2020

Andrew Garrard

The Varsity match. The pinnacle of a university club's sporting calendar. Unfortunately, Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club (CUTwC – www.cutwc.org) have been lacking an opponent in recent years – although the tiddlywinks Varsity match dates to 1958 and was contested annually for decades (with CUTwC winning most), there has been a dry spell since 2013. To the delight of the winking establishment, Oxford sought to compensate in 2020: they would host a match on February 29th (thus only one “annual” match had been missed), and they brought two more players than were strictly necessary, breaking the automated score table and making the room excessively cosy. Fortunately, everyone had the chance to get chummy in the pub beforehand, and the games got under way once the delicate balance of beer and caffeine had been achieved.

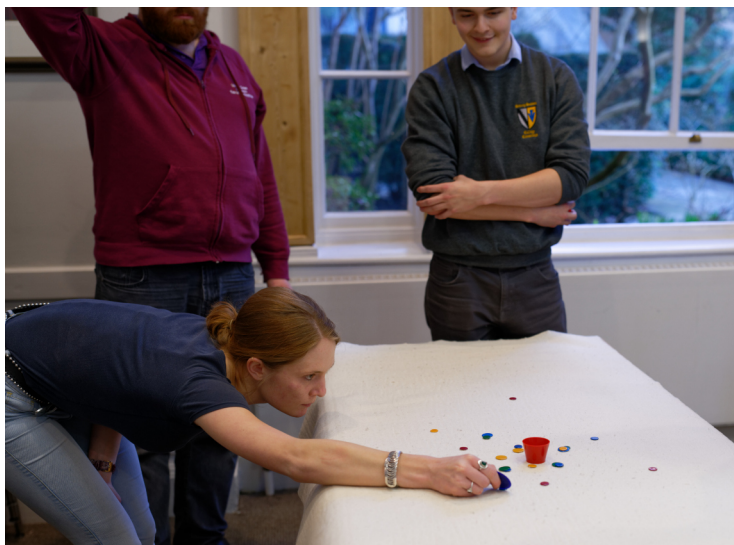
Tiddlywinks is a complex sport, comprising delicate shot play, capturing (squopping) opponent winks, building defended piles of winks, and strategic area control. Sophie Brawn, the always-cheerful President of CUTwC, supported Molly Brawn in showing none of this to Oxford: Molly exclusively employed the risky “Dave Taylor” approach of potting each wink as soon as possible rather than getting embroiled in tactics, and Oxford, lacking experience, could not counter – especially with Sophie on rescue duty.

Madeleine Moore, Master of the Winks at Oxford, had a personal stake in the match: her brother, Patrick, was on the CUTwC team – partnered by the highest-rated player in the tournament, Edward Brown. Their cousin, Cate Moore, also represented Oxford. A sibling grudge game narrowly went the way of CUTwC in the final round; all this CUTwC pair's games were tactically complex, and needed to be engineered to their high scores.

Zach Bond, a long-term CUTwC member in his last chance for a Varsity Quarter-Blue, partnered Marc Mills through some closer games. Oxford were sometimes untrained in basic tactics, but they had clearly practised their shots, and were able to hold this Cambridge team to narrow wins.

Finally, Ed Green, the most experienced player on the CUTwC team and the only member already holding a Quarter-Blue, was partnered with Ethan Lees – a late substitute. The gap in experience perhaps told: all of their games were very close. This pair gave Oxford their only game win, in the final round – but perhaps they were just being sporting.

In all, CUTwC maintained its dominance in collegiate winks with an $82\frac{1}{2}$ - $29\frac{1}{2}$ win, but a novice Oxford team acquitted themselves well: by the end of the first round they had scored as many points as one year's team did in the entire match. If they can be tempted to ETwA national tournaments, this bodes well for the future of the game. A good time was had by all; team photos were staged, CUTwC remembered to bring the trophy so it could be presented to them, club anthems were sung (in the traditional mix of keys), and everyone retired for beer and curry – what more can we ask for?



A member of the Oxford team gets close to the mat so that she can more efficiently soak it with her tears

Apparently on 29th February 2020, Cambridge played a Varsity match against Oxford. Also apparently, I was CUTwC president at that time and therefore captain of the Varsity team. Also also apparently, that means it was my job to do a write up for it for Winking World.¹ Unfortunately no one bothered to draw this to my attention until March 2023 (though I'm not sure how much credence I would've given it at the time as I had started to suspect Winking World was merely an urban legend passed on by old nargs, much like Santa Claus or the NHIPper trophy). So let's ignore the fact that it was over 3 years ago, that it occurred weeks before the most traumatic and heavily repressed period of most of our lives, and that I am infamous within my own family for my appalling autobiographical memory - the Winking World editor has asked for a write up so that is what they shall get.²



Here is a blatant attempt to placate Sophie

¹ From the Editor: So it turns out that when I was pestering Sophie for a write-up of the Varsity match, Andrew had actually sent in one months ago. At any rate, she has done a brilliant job so I maintain that I did the right thing.

² From the Editor: Excellent attitude. Everyone else: take note.

The Cambridge coppers team consisted of Sophie Brawn, Molly Birch, Zach Bond, Edward Brown, Ed Green, Marc Mills, Patrick Moore and Ethan Lees who heroically stepped in on the day when Alexei Newton was unwell. At least 6 of those people I still remember what they look like now so that's promising. People were paired based on their world ratings such that 1st partnered 8th, 2nd partnered 7th and so on, which seems like a sensible idea so I'd like to take credit for it.



A helpful reminder for ex-Prezzy B, unless the person she can't remember is Marc, who is hiding in the back

We travelled there in two cars; I was driven by Toby though uncharacteristically we made it there and back without breaking down. The other car got lost on the way there. I can't remember the details but I have a vague inkling it was Edward's fault so I'm going to confidently state that it was. We arrived at Wadham college and then went somewhere for pizza and then went back to Wadham to play winks.

The tournament was fixed pairs with each team having 4 pairs and playing all the pairs in the opposition team, then all the points being added together (I don't know the fancy way of writing any of this). Oxford had 10 players which was very sneaky of them but we didn't think that would affect our strategy of winning so we let them, and so one of their 'pairs' was a rotation of 4 people (as in they rotated between matches, not within a match, that would be insanity). Oxford were captained by Madeleine Moore, who is Patrick Moore's sister, and their cousin Cate Moore was also on the Oxford team. Perhaps there was some animosity there, let's assume so for the drama.

I was partnered with Molly and we decided to adopt the most deplorable strategy of all - Dave Tayloring - partly because it is Molly's preferred strategy, partly because we were expecting opponents of a lower level than ourselves and partly because it avoided having to think. I remember us being successful and the results agree. Molly potted out in our first 3 games and remarkably I managed to pot out in our final game which was a very careless thing for Oxford to allow. I was Red in all 4 games which Andrew remarked was annoying as he was trying to get a good photo of me potting a wink and it clashed with the pot. This has subsequently fostered in me a deep, intense and maladaptive preference for Blue and Red such that I'm not convinced I've won a game playing as Green and Yellow since.

I don't what happened in the other games because I wasn't in them. Edward and Patrick did next best for Cambridge, perhaps to be expected as Edward was the highest rated player in the tournament. Oxford managed 1 victory out of the 16 games which we graciously granted them in the hopes it would sow enough seeds of hope for them to pursue further Varsity matches in the future. A comprehensive breakdown of the scores can be seen below in an image I nicked from the CUTwC website, unless of course the Editor fancies turning that into a table in Word...¹

¹From the Editor: Absolutely not.

Oxford		Gideon Lewis Cate Moore Fred Hudson George Heywood		Thomas Weald Emily Hampson		Will Chappell Madeleine Moore		Owen Smith Will Roberts		Totals
Cambridge										
Molly Birch		0*		1*		1*		0*		26
Sophie Brawn	7*		6*		6*		7*			
Zach Bond		3		1		2		3		19
Marc Mills	4		6		5		4			
Edward Brown		2*		1		2		0*		23
Patrick Moore	5*		6		5		7*			
Ed Green		3		3		3		4½		14½
Ethan Lees	4		4		4		2½			
Totals		8	6		8		7½		29½	82½

Afterwards some people went to the pub and apparently weird things happened involving watermelons, but I wasn't one of those people so I can't tell you about it. That probably would've made a more interesting article.

Of course if you want to know what actually happened in the Varsity match, you should read the match report Andrew wrote that got published in Varsity a few days after it happened. Or check the CUTwC website. Both of which were the primary sources for any information in this article which happens to be correct.

Anyway given I got this submitted before the next 29th February, I consider it to be on time.¹

¹ From the Editor: In case anyone needs a reminder, the deadline for submissions for Winking World 105 is actually the next 29th February.

*Thank you to Alan for the photo
accompanying the Ithaca Teams of Five
write-up, and to Andrew Garrard for the rest*

