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Editorial I

Welcome to 'Winking World 97 - I hope you enjoy this edition. This is my first ever stint as 'Winking World editor so please be gentle in highlighting all errors "whether falling under the denomination of mental, typographical, or accidental"¹. Whilst my previous experience of mis-organising events as Tournament Organiser to the ETwA has certainly served as good preparation for being at the epicentre of a vortex of ranting, I still hope that most people will find the humble contents of these few pages acceptable.

So, what's in store for you, the reader, of this edition of 'Winking World? In terms of tournament write-ups we have discussions of the recent world matches from Patrick Barrie and Matthew Rose whilst I discuss the events of National Singles from the same 'winked as well as the Teams of Four and the most recent Somerset Invitational. Regarding the less/fewer serious (more important?) tournaments we have Sarah Knight's take on the most recent Varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge; Nick Inglis' overview of last summer's London Open whilst Larry Kahn gives an overview of NATwA's most recent significant tournaments.

Other contributions to this edition include some thoughts of the new Tournament Organiser, Alan Harper, discussing his take on how to fulfil his new role. There is also an extraordinary discussion of how to become a national tiddlywinks champion from Patric Driscoll.

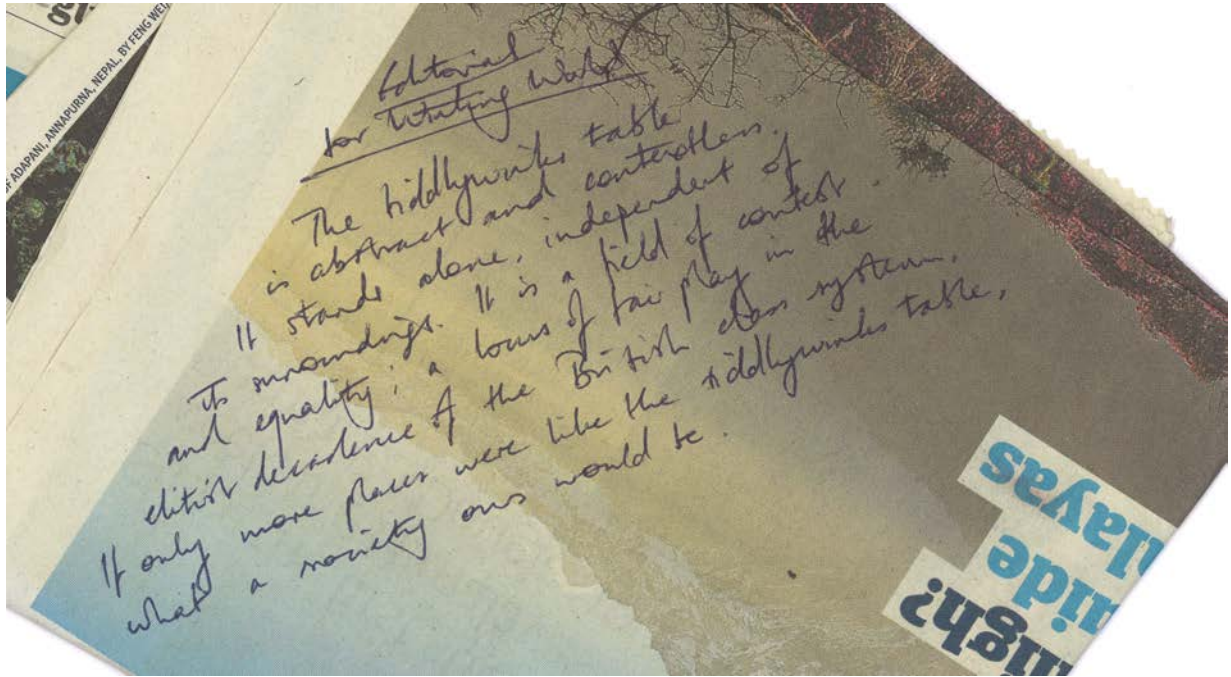
Finally, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all of those who have provided contributions to this edition of the 'Winking World. In addition to those already mentioned I wish to say thank-you to Matthew Fayers for assisting with typesetting this edition (i.e. giving me access to his old L^AT_EX files for the job) and to my predecessor, Andrew Garrard, for his sterling work in producing earlier editions of this publication and the photographs that have been used in this edition.

Ben Fairbairn
'Winking World Editor

¹Preface to the first edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, 1771

Editorial II

Editor's note: this was the very first submission the current editor received to 'Winking World and in his opinion it seriously loses some of its charm when transcribed from its original 'scribbled on an advert in the Guardian at the Cambridge Beer Festival' format.



Patrick Driscoll

World Pairs 41 - Larry Kahn and Matt Fayers (holders) v Andy Purvis and Matthew Rose (challengers)

25th October 2013, Emmanuel College, Cambridge

This was the third time that we had met - in the same venue in consecutive years. The last game went to a 7th match where Matt's pot-out led to a 25-24 retention for him and Larry.

Since that weekend Andy and Matt had played little 'competitive' winks and this showed in what turned out to be a gruelling contest where the fact that many of the quartet were so short of match practice led to very long games as none of us had any instant strategy or tactics any more! Many of the games became 'Inglis' games partly due to position and partly in my view due to relative caution. It's only the World Pairs - who needs these characteristics? - it's stamina and endurance you need nowadays.

We were under a bit of time pressure - both Andy and myself could not stay beyond Friday and Matt's work commitments meant we could not start until two - which in practice was closer to three due to the presence of a cameraman and various publicity filming shots.

Beforehand I thought that if we could make it to a final game we would have a chance in the hope our relative lack of matches would become less significant as a match went on.

Game 1

Matt and Larry generally brought in better and were always looking good for first place with Larry having squopped many winks. Going into rounds Andy and Matthew managed to claw back a chance of second place (despite Matthew suffering an unfortunate scrunge) and when Larry missed a round five pot it gave the chance for stealing an extra point by securing third as well.

Larry and Matt 4 - Andy and Matthew 3

Game 2

This was similar to the first at the start although Andy and Matthew fought back well to look in with an outside chance of winning (again with Andy scrunging this time).

However Matt had a superb round five by potting two difficult winks and from the baseline freeing two of Larry's to render Andy's last turn meaningless and securing a 5-2.

Larry and Matt 9 - Andy and Matthew 5

Both games had swung probably at least a point in the last round.

Game 3

This was very much the reverse of Game one in that Andy and Matthew were slightly up and remained generally in control, with Matt failing to pot well in rounds this game, with Andy and Matthew doing so and securing a 6-1.

The three games had taken nearly three hours mostly lost by mistakes rather than great play (bar Matt's round five in game two). There was then a short break to recharge batteries.

Larry and Matt 10 - Andy and Matthew 11

Game 4

Yet another where Matt and Larry's bring in gave them the advantage and maintained it throughout but could not kill off the opponents. Again another excellent round five saw Matt pot two and squop one of Andy's potentially potable winks, giving a $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ win.

Larry and Matt $15\frac{1}{2}$ - Andy and Matthew $12\frac{1}{2}$

Game 5

Guess what - Larry and Matt brought in better (Matthew went off twice in the bring in) and it ultimately came down to a Matt vs Andy potting race. Ending round 5 Matt again potted well and potted off superbly to gain first place and a 4-3 that extended their lead.

Larry and Matt $19\frac{1}{2}$ - Andy and Matthew $15\frac{1}{2}$

Game 6

Perhaps a slight change of fortune? This game saw Larry bring in distantly from the pot and Andy and Matthew much better. Probably too enthusiastically (with one still on the base line) Matthew tried a pot out and missed with the second but the game stayed close. Andy had a number of winks free and managed to get 5 in by the end of round four, with Matt potting four and having a difficult pot off to secure at least a share of first and a 4 that would have made the match almost dormie. This time it did not quite go in and Andy and Matthew's 4 kept the game alive.

Larry and Matt 22½- Andy and Matthew 19½

Game 7

A hybrid - Matt brought in really well and Larry again distantly, with Matt having five very close to the pot and one around four inches away. Andy and Matthew failed to squop Matt who put two in but missed the third which was squopped - however the game seemed to move on quickly for once and Andy and Matthew struggled to make the advantage count, until just before rounds Larry subbed twice into a pile and started to run short of winks. Andy and Matthew looked good for first place with one colour and a 5-2 and tie looked quite probable for much of rounds. However some colour order play enabled Andy and Matthew to free some winks and have a chance to get at least two of each colour in the pot to try to beat Matt. This duly happened but Larry still had a few chances to try to knock off and free at least one of Matt's winks. When the final chance to do so was narrowly missed in round five this became a slightly fortunate 6-1 to Andy and Matthew to avoid the tie and extra game that I am sure we would all have relished after seven full games.

Larry and Matt 23½- Andy and Matthew 25½

Overall

A long and tiring contest that ended after 9pm - I cannot remember playing in such a full match without anything getting really close to a pot out for some time - clearly Matt's attempt in the last game looked a fair chance but it was not to be. It was a match of relatively little potting generally. Despite some flashes of brilliance Larry overall seemed not quite as sharp as usual, perhaps after a seven game World Singles the previous day, and all games were tight with none over before the final rounds and I cannot remember any free turns in the whole match.

As I said at the start those without as much match practice probably benefited from this going the distance.

After a number of failures it was pleasing also to break a personal hoodoo of previously losing four World matches in Patrick's office, although scores had been increasing each match.

Victory to the mid-late 40 somethings again!

Matthew Rose

World Singles 67

24th October 2013, Emmanuel College, Cambridge

This time it was Patrick Barrie's turn to have a go at ending Larry Kahn's recent run of victories. Patrick was on home territory, but even local knowledge was insufficient for him to open his office window – the problem was only solved after the maintenance department had been summoned after the first game.

By that stage Larry had already gained a 6-1 lead following a successful blitz with yellow. Patrick had chosen to squop an easy green with blue and so only had one chance to squop a yellow. His red wink missed from four inches, while Larry's winks didn't miss.

Larry was ahead for most of game two and looked certain for first place in rounds. However, two good long squops by Patrick gave him a chance. Larry potted well, so this left Patrick needing to pot winks in round five. Two went in, but the pot off a singleton for a 5-2 win hit the rim and stayed out.

A professional photographer named Nigel Farrow was present throughout the match. He describes himself as ethical because he only takes live pictures of sports action, rather than anything posed. The result is an interesting account of a newcomer's impressions of the game which can be found on his website blog. His comment on the photo taken at the conclusion of game two: If you ever want evidence that theres drama in tiddlywinks, this is it.

Larry now had a 10-4 lead, so it was important that Patrick got some points in game three. As it turned out, Patrick got all seven with a successful blitz to get right back into the match.

In game four, Patrick squopped well and got Larry down to a single wink. Unfortunately, even one wink can cause damage and rescue others. Rounds were close, but solid potting by both players gave Patrick a 4-3 win.

Game five was close throughout. In rounds, one of Patrick's colours was firmly last, but his other colour had a high chance of first place. However, Patrick missed a pot in round four and so only had joint first place in round five, and not even that after Larry played a delicate green shot that freed a yellow to end the game. The match score was now 18-17 to Larry, with both players knowing the consequences of a big win in the next game.

Game six had wild contrasts. It started with Larry bringing in well and Patrick rolling two winks off. It continued with Patrick getting some long squops and taking over Larry's area completely. However, a series of missed squops by Patrick then let his opponent off the hook and gave Larry control of the game. Then Patrick managed to work four winks free of one colour and potted them in rounds to gain potentially first place. Larry missed a simple pot with his best placed colour, red, in round five, but did manage to get three blues in the pot to gain joint first place. Larry now had a 22-20 lead. Patrick needed at least 4½ in the final game.

Larry brought in well again in game seven, and even tried an awkward early pot-out but missed with the first wink. Patrick played a series of good squops and was threatening to dominate when Larry, not for the first time in his career, was able to get high on a pile with one of his few remaining winks. Early in rounds it looked like Patrick would get first place with blue, and had chances of second or third place with red. However, Patrick's bristol with blue to save the pile failed by going over the target wink. Larry was forced to blow the pile because of the match situation, which released the only blues that had been squopped. Patrick potted two threatened blues and paused. The choice was between an easy doubleton, which might be enough to win the match, or to carry on potting. Reasoning that trying to pot out with blue would help red by distracting Larry, Patrick continued potting. Satisfyingly, the winks all went straight in the middle of the pot. I was particularly pleased with the final shot it was off a singleton from exactly the same distance as the miss captured on camera earlier in the match.

After the match, I reported to the journalist that I was "pleased and relieved" to have won the match. While it's my 7th World Singles win, it's my first ever World Singles victory against Larry after six glorious, or not so glorious, failures spread over eighteen years.

Patrick Barrie

Player	Scores							Total
Larry Kahn	6*	4	0*	3	5	4	1*	23
Patrick Barrie	1*	3	7*	4	2	3	6*	26

Editor's note: the wonderful photos of this match as mentioned by Patrick in this article are well worth viewing if you have a few moments to spare at

http://nigelfarrow.photoshelter.com/gallery/World-Singles-67-Tiddlywinks/G0000IJy4MRj_TEW

The ETwA National Singles

26th-27th October 2013, Diamond Room, Selwyn College, Cambridge

Like most recent years we once more gathered we for the National Singles in the now traditional venue of the The Diamond, Selwyn College, Cambridge. Unlike most recent years the 2013 tournament was slightly odd owing to the absence, for a variety of reasons, of a number of top players. This had two interesting consequences that made this year's tournament somewhat unusual. Firstly, those of us more 'middling' players stood an unusually good chance of doing well. Secondly, we were a sufficiently small cohort that the usual 'one day of qualifying; one day of the finalists battling it out' was abandoned in favour of an all-play-all format. Not unknown, but unusual all the same. Indeed, all those present agreed that this format was in a strange way better. Without the 'pressure to perform', games were generally much more interesting; everyone was pitted against a greater variety of opponents and of course, the extended lunchtime on the Sunday all added up to a particularly fine 'weekend'.

This curious format and the absence of The Good and The Great meant that there was suddenly everything to play for. For example I'm not known for being much of a pot-out merchant but even I suddenly found the impetus to pot-out in no fewer than three of my fourteen games (including one game against Nick Inglis no less!)

Another notable and welcome presence at the tournament was an Oxford winker - Michael Higham who had come to see what a proper tournament is all about, having previously only played in the Varsity Match against Cambridge. The fact that he didn't end bottom or even second from bottom suggests that Oxford stand a better chance at a future than many of us would like - certainly something to look forward to.

Unfortunately there was also the small matter of The Plate which in the traditional 'qualifying day' format would be held from the beginning of the Sunday onwards, as had been announced in advance. The all-play-all format taking more than one day did not allow for this. Fortunately, only one novice, Daniel Barnett, turned up expecting to play in the plate. By the end of the Sunday lunchtime (or should that be chaotic petering out of lunchtime?) Few were interested/willing/able to participate in such an event, so unfortunately Daniel had to go away empty handed. Hats off to him for trying and shame on the rest of us for being so dismissive of what to many is easily one of, if not *the*, best tournament in the calendar.

Ben Fairbairn

Rank	Player name	Points	Rank	Player name	Points
1	Patrick Barrie	84	8	Andrew Garrard	51 · 167
2	Larry Kahn	77	9	Stew Sage	43
3	Alan Harper	67	10	Ben Fairbairn	41
4	Charles Relle	65	11	Francis Wragg	39
5	Patrick Driscoll	64 · 5	12	Sarah Knight	29
6	Nick Inglis	62 · 5	13	Michael Higham	26 · 5
7	Tim Hunt	53	14	Harley Jones	24 · 333
			15	Joe Cooper	8



Oxford v Cambridge Varsity Match

4th May 2013, Saskatchewan of Exeter College, Oxford

I had expected to be far too old and dead and hapless with a squidger to be invited to play in the Varsity Match this year. However, as I was still officially a student in May, and haplessness was thankfully not considered sufficient grounds for disqualification, I found myself, along with a bunch of younger, sprightlier and more proficient winkers, heading to Oxford. (I think this makes me the only winker to have played in a Varsity Match whilst also Chair[wo]man of ETwA, although please correct me if I'm wrong.) The team was captained by then-CUTwC President Ed Green, and also included Nicky Collins, Harley Jones, Fergus Riche, David Storey, Eddie Demelza Tindall and Francis Wragg. Andrew Garrard joined us as Senior Umpire.

As in some recent years (e.g. 2011), the resurgence of OUTS was almost entirely down to the efforts of one enthusiastic winker in this case, Michael Higham, a friend of Harley (this is not a euphemism). As far as we could make out, he had almost single-handedly recruited his team, arranged for equipment to be purchased and provided some basic winks training. Sadly, the names of his keen and cheerful fellow Oxonians have escaped me; however, I am hoping that the scorecard will be able to fill in the gaps in this regard.

Given the relative lack of experience amongst the Oxford players (most had been trained by Michael, but a few had barely picked up a squidger before), we spent the morning playing some warm-up games, partnering each Oxonian with a Cambridge player. It soon became clear that, their novice status notwithstanding, the Oxford team were in a position to pose a decent challenge.

Dutch courage was needed after this unnerving discovery, so the teams departed en masse for a pub lunch. This allowed CUTwC to ensure that their counterparts would end the day not only with a better grasp of winks, but also with the ability to play violent Pigs. At some point during lunchtime, Andrew Garrard arrived, although not as early as his food did.

The Varsity Match proper commenced after lunch. The general atmosphere was tense, but I'm afraid to say that, at the time of writing, the details of the games themselves have long since been lost to me. I do recall, however, that the final scorecard did not do justice to the efforts of the Oxford team. There were a large number of Cambridge pot-outs, it's true; but these were by no means all smooth and straightforward. The Oxford players fought back with well-judged squops and (in some

cases frightening) counter-potting, and there was many a sweaty palm and a shaky hand amongst the Cambridge team during the course of the afternoon. As far as I can recall, there was only one serious umpiring judgement required, as the time of which Andrew was nowhere to be found; however, he eventually reappeared, and the problem was resolved.

ETwA are planning to hold the National Handicapped Individual Pairs (NHIPer) in Oxford in March 2014, with help from Michael Higham, so we hope that the link with Oxford will continue for at least a few more years, and that we will be able to support and encourage OUTS during that time. If this year's Varsity Match was anything to go by, they'll be tough opponents by next May.

Sarah Knight

	Michael Higham / Ashley Cooper	Sonia Morland / Alex Ekserjian	Lucas Selemy / Kostantinos Chryssanthopoulos	Crawford Jamieson / Joe Price	Total
Ed Green / Sarah Knight	7* 0*	7* 0*	7* 0**	7 0*	28
Harley Jones / Nicky Collins	5 2	7* 0*	7* 0*	7* 0*	26
David Storey / Eddie Tindall	5* 2*	6 1	7* 0*	6* 1*	24
Fergus Riche / Francis Wragg	7* 0*	7* 0*	7* 0*	7* 0*	28
Total	4	1	0	1	106

Key

Round 1	CUTwC
Round 2	CUTwC
Round 3	OUTS
Round 4	OUTS



London Open

7th September 2013, The Crosse Keys, London

Morning

The 2013 London Open took place in the Crosse Keys in Gracechurch Street on Saturday 7th September. I arrived exactly on time (but with nothing to spare), to discover that the room had changed in the years since I last took part. There was no sign of winks on the ground floor, but I met Matthew Rose and Paul Goodman emerging from some stairs to the basement and proceeded down, only to discover that this merely housed the facilities. On emerging from the depths and climbing to the first floor, I located the new venue and arrived just after the draw had been made without me (neither Matty nor Paul having seen fit to inform anyone of my presence). As there were now nine players I took part as a singleton, and was cordially invited to have the bye in round one. I had just sat down to enjoy my first pint and fritter away the first round reading the newspaper, when Ben roped me into writing up the tournament. I therefore find myself, months later, with some uninformative hieroglyphics which I shall endeavour to decode.

The participants were four pairs: Tim Hunt and Ben Fairbairn; Charles Relle and Andrew Garrard; Matthew Rose and Paul Goodman; and Alan Harper and Patrick Barrie; together with one singleton: me. We decided to start with an all-play-all and then think what to do.

In the first round Matty and Paul played Timmy and Ben and seemed to be heading for a 3–4 loss after a failed break-up by Paul, but Timmy and Ben couldn't remember seeing Paul pot ("sounds like: Pol Pot") and Paul steered his team to a 4–3. On the other table Charles' yellow winks proceeded to get buried after Andrew had missed a pot to a nurdled position. The result was a comfortable 6–1 to Alan and Patrick.

In round 2 Timmy played many gazunder shots to lead his pair to 1 point against the leaders. Elsewhere I felt I had the game against Matthew and Paul in control (and heading to a 6–1) before missing a pot at risk. Paul then potted-off to hand me a 3–4 loss: SPWP!

Revenge of the Blob

At lunch we were greeted with the most epic wardrobe malfunction of all time as Timmy, sprawling legs akimbo on a low sofa, permitted one of his gonads more

freedom than is customary in polite society. Not only had his trousers developed a gaping opening (the result of chub-rub, perhaps), but the testicular orb had escaped whatever meagre second line of defence there was. Somehow we still managed to force down our lunch with the assistance of the usual card games (though Timmy failed to tempt us to play Sex Nymph).

Afternoon

Round three saw Alan and Patrick hammer me in a routine 6–1, while Charles and Andrew took 4¹/₂–2¹/₂ in a game that seemed to go on for ever.

In round four, Matthew and Paul tried to bore Alan and Patrick to death and almost succeeded, gaining 3 points in the process (this was the best result all day against the runaway winners). Meanwhile I made a scruffy failed pot-out attempt against Charles and Andrew, but managed to end up with five in the pot for 4 points.

The final round of the all-play-all saw an early lunch by Timmy and some lucky late play by me to help obtain a greasy 5–2. The other game was quite exciting, with Andrew winning a potting race against Paul to help his pair win 5–2.

After the all-play-all, it was very close for 2nd place with Charles and Andrew half a point ahead both of Matty and Paul and of me, with Timmy and Ben some way behind, and Alan and Patrick ahead by a country mile. It was decided to play a couple more rounds (and decide places on p.p.g.).

Playing against Matty and Paul, I found myself in a tight, interesting game until Matthew's break-up shot gave me a trebleton, which I used to help myself to 6 points. On the other table Alan and Patrick took 6 off Charles and Andrew in a game in which winks was the loser.

Alan and Patrick had obviously won, so were excused the final round which saw Timmy and Ben take 2 points off Matthew and Paul. Meanwhile, I failed another pot out against Charles and Andrew and a 3–4 loss was the inevitable result.

After the presentation and other formalities, most of the assembled company decamped to the Doric Arch, where, mercifully, Timmy was able to contain his misbehaving appendages.

Partnership	Points	Games	p.p.g.
Patrick Barrie & Alan Harper	28	5	$5\frac{3}{5}$
Nick Inglis	22	6	$3\frac{2}{3}$
Matthew Rose & Paul Goodman	19	6	$3\frac{1}{6}$
Charles Relle & Andrew Garrard	$18\frac{1}{2}$	6	$3\frac{1}{12}$
Tim Hunt & Ben Fairbairn	$10\frac{1}{2}$	5	$2\frac{1}{10}$



The ETwA National Teams of Four

23rd-24th November 2013, Room N1, Selwyn College, Cambridge

For complicated reasons Stew had regained his recently refurbished rooms in Selwyn College but had yet to move back in. Thus an abode unusually devoid of furniture, or indeed any form of ornamentation, provided the perfect venue for a 'winks tournament and at precisely the right time for an unusually early Teams of Four to be held. Thankfully the newly switched kitchen and bathroom situation caused less confusion than anticipated.

To add to the confusion one participant had declared that they could only play on the Saturday whilst the another had declared that they could only on the Sunday creating the mass confusion of a rotating fivesome.

This was a particularly memorable 'winkend for a couple of reasons. Not only did I turn 31 on the Friday but the news of the ETwA Char[wo]man's engagement to Nick Inglis break (eventually - myself, Stew Sage and Rupert Thompson were playing Yogi's whist with the for not inconsiderable amount of time before Andrew pointed out the ring). Naturally this called for a pub crawl and so the Hither Mill Road leg of The Crawl was completed on the Saturday - yes, all nine pubs of it (whilst it was widely believed that The Man on the Moon it turned out that it had simply been taken over by the people who run The Cambridge Blue and re-opened as The Blue Moon). Most players were a little worse for wear on the Sunday of the tournament as a consequence making memories of this tournament particularly hazy. One of the few things I do remember, however, is the pairing of Stew Sage with the novice Joe Cooper who performed particularly well.

Awkwardly I appear to be unable to track down a table of scores for this particular tournament but I am lead to believe that the team consisting of Andrew Garrard, Alan Dean, Charles Relle and Geoff Thorpe, also collectively known as "Team Eh?", were ultimately victorious scoring 88 points. This put them ahead of the other two teams named "Goodbye Kitty" (consisting of your roving reporter, Nick Inglis, Sarah Knight and Alan Harper), who ended on $82\frac{1}{4}$ points, and "Stew's Spoilers" (consisting of Joe Cooper Harley Jones and Daniel Barnett/Ed Green-Ed Green/Daniel Barnett-combo), who ended on $81\frac{3}{4}$.

Ben Fairbairn



The XXVIIth Somerset Invitational Tournament

2nd-4th January 2014, The Somerset Wagon, Chilcompton

Despite the weather's best attempts to drown the entire population of the county of Somerset, the XXVIIth Somerset Invitational Tournament was successfully held in what is perhaps the most traditional 'winks venue of them all, namely The Somerset Wagon public house in the village of Chilcompton in, you guessed it, Somerset.

Despite Joe Cooper's efforts to rock the boat by condemning us to an all-play-all with just eleven players the ever-heroic-but-hasn't-been-seen-in-far-too-long Danish Barbar stepped up to the challenge at what was practically the last minute to give us what many would argue is the perfect Somerset number of players.

Despite having the perfect number for mat rotations to be unusually helpful, there was still much ranting on the matter with Nick Inglis heavily advocating the use of such a rotation and everyone else not really caring enough to rant back.

Despite Alan's 'I was never confused' moment wandering into my hotel room in the middle of the night wearing nothing but his underwear, the England cricket team still managed to throw away the fifth test in Sydney making for very predictable breakfast table chatter throughout the tournament.

Despite Alan Harper's best efforts to smash up the entire pub one Christmas decoration at a time (the end result of which is pictured on the following page) by knocking a giant bauble from the ceiling some 'winks was successfully played.

Despite the pub having served us well for many years and much of the 'winkend an unfortunate piece of bad planning forced us to decamp to a different pub down the road namely The Old Down Inn for some excellent Faggots and some Cards Against Humanity on the final evening but only with the aid of Sarah Knight's frog to guide us through the darkness.

Ben Fairbairn

Rank	Name	Score
1	Ed Wynn	58 $\frac{1}{2}$
2	Alan Harper	51
3	Nick Inglis	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
4	Tim Hunt	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
5	Stew Sage	40 $\frac{5}{6}$
6	Sarah Knight	39 $\frac{2}{3}$
7	Andrew Garrard	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
8	Ben Fairbairn	35 $\frac{1}{3}$
9	Harley Jones	31
10=	Nicky Collins	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
10=	Nick Jarman	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
12	Danish Barbar	25 $\frac{1}{6}$



The NATwA Singles and Pairs

9th-10th November 2013, Somewhere in the USA

Due to the diminishing attendance problem, we decided to have both tournaments on the same weekend (hopefully this is just a one year anomaly but I'm not optimistic). About half the attendees live a long way from the DC area so getting everyone together can be a problem. Patrick Driscoll came the furthest (both distance-wise and culturally), from Salt Lake City, Utah, which is basically the home planet for Mormons. Format for both was all play all once, and then an extra game between the top two if necessary.

All the good stories had nothing to do with the actual results. The pace of play for the singles was quite fast (we would have had time for a top 4 playoff) but the result was the usual I ended up winning again without even needing the playoff game. It could have easily been different if Patrick had potted his sixth wink from about 10 inches and gotten a likely 7 instead of ending up with a 2. Bob summed up the day nicely when Cathy asked how things were going and he replied, "Everyone is sucking except Larry."

Saturday evening Rick took a bunch of winkers for a tour around some of the monuments on the mall, and then we all met to stuff our faces at a Vietnamese restaurant. Patrick had never eaten frog legs, so despite my warning that they were just OK and nothing special, he ordered them. His comment was, "I could have just ordered chicken and it would have been a lot cheaper." When we asked the waiter where they got the frogs from, he said Amazon, but it was the website and not the river.

Sunday was the pairs, and Dave had convinced (harangued) us into forming pairs via a "draft"; the lowest ranked player would pick their partner, then the next lowest, and so on. There were 10 people including 3 of Dave's kids. We had been discussing how to 'even up' the tournament anyway, so just agreed to this. Dave was playing with Samantha, so Ben was next to choose, but he and Jon had already decided to play together despite Dave's surprise and attempts to discourage them. Talk about being hoist with your own petard. So the two main contenders ended up Larry-Patrick and Bob-Ferd.

Patrick came up with an interesting variation combining the Thorpe limbo rule for shooting yourself off with the NATwA perimeter rule, in which you don't lose a turn but your own wink goes back behind your baseline as if never brought in (and loses the tiddly until re-entered). It was implemented in exactly one game, sort-of.

Turns out that right after the discussion the rule was agreed on for a Bob-Ferd game, and in round 5 Bob tried to pot from the edge and rolled off. He was as annoyed as I've ever seen him when it was announced he just lost a tiddly, having forgotten by that time that they had agreed to try out the rule for that game. They ended up with a 4 instead of a 5, but its not clear that the game wouldn't have ended in a 4 anyway since the opponents would have had a final shot (not now needed) that could have gotten the 3-4. Bobs comment "Well, thats the end of THAT rule"

The final playoff game between Larry-Patrick and Bob-Ferd was a bit anti-climatic since L-P had a large enough lead to only need a 1 (they got 2.5). Midway through the game when they looked at the timer it read 23 minutes left. What had happened was that 2 minutes into the game the CD that was playing had ended and the clock was stopped to put a new one in. Someone forgot to restart the timer. We ended up solving this by going back and totaling up the times for the song tracks that had already been played, adding half the track that was currently playing, and the original two minutes. Is this the i-pod future of game clocks?

Larry Kahn

The Fable of the Prodigal Son; Or, How I overcame my bad-boy attitude to become a National Tiddlywinks Champion

You may or may not know that I recently moved to Utah. Utah is a land of revelations and visions. I want to tell you about a vision that I had recently. It was a real Road to Damascus moment. I give this vision exclusive credit for enabling and empowering me to win the 2013 NATwA National Pairs (as you may read elsewhere in this excellent magazine). I want to share with you all one of the seminal experiences that helped make me what I am today.

Shortly after the ETwA National Singles, I found myself in the Mill, a well-known public house in Cambridge. For reasons that are now unclear, I briefly entered a trancelike state, which made me more receptive than usual to receiving messages from the other side. One moment, I was spending Sunday afternoon in the pub; the next, wavy lines began to appear before my eyes. The Voice of Destiny spoke to me - or some other factor may have been at work. The vision I saw was as follows:

THE LOST (BRICK) SHEEP

One day when many humanities students and other outcasts came to the pub to play drinking games with Stew Sage, the teachers of mathematics and the serious winkers murmured, saying, "This man welcomes outcasts and even drinks with them!" So Stew told them this parable. "Suppose Patrick Barrie has an hundred tiddlywinks titles and he loses one of them - what does he do? He leaves the other ninety-nine tiddlywinks trophies on his shelf and he goes looking for the one that he has lost until he recaptures it.

"When he recaptures the World Singles Championship, he is so happy that he puts the trophy in his backpack and he cycles home with it. Then he calls his friends and his clubmates together and he says to them, 'Rejoice with me; for I have recovered the title I lost! Cheers!'

"In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in CUTwC over one drinking games player who wins a major winks tournament than over ninety-nine trophies hoovered up by professionals like Fayers and Patrick Barrie. By the way, have I ever mentioned that I'm a National Champion?"

THE LOST SMALL GREEN WINK

"Or suppose a woman who has four small green winks loses one of them - what does she do? She lights a torch and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it.

"When she finds it, she calls her friends and her clubmates together, and she says to them, 'Rejoice with me; for I have recovered the small green wink that I lost! Now I won't have to use one of the substandard replacement sets from Italy where the small green winks are all too small. Cheers!' "In the same way, I tell you, the members of CUTwC will rejoice over one drinking games player who wins a major tiddlywinks tournament.

"I carried Matty Rose to that Scottish Pairs title, you know."

THE LOST PLOT

And Stew Sage continued, "What's that I'm saying? It's important to know what's going on at all times. "I'll just have a lie down here. You go into town without me."

Patrick Driscoll

Team-up with or against the TO

Having displaced Dr Fairbairn from his position as Tournament Organiser, I suppose it would be natural that he would look to enact a small modicum of revenge on me in the manner most befitting by asking me to write a small article on the truly dull subject of my thoughts as the new TO. The temptation is there to bore the pants off you all with a detailed mathematical analysis of what is the optimal length of lunchtime, or an epic poem extolling the virtues of Swiss-format tournaments. But instead I thought I'd take the opportunity to publicly air my ideas for a new team tournament format to replace the Wessex Trophy.

The idea behind this grew from when I was lucky enough to represent England against America in the 2010 international match. Apart from slaughtering the American menace, I think what I remember most was how often people in the team remarked on how much they missed being part of teams playing in either Varsity or Silver Wink matches. These matches brought a camaraderie with everyone in your team, unlike that generated in the transient and artificial teams that are formed for the fours or the Wessex. The lack of handicapping in these tournaments meant that the performance of both the novice and the superstar player were key to the team success. This means that everybody cheers everyone in their team on, and gees them up when they are down. Similarly, if you are gaining points after transfer there is simply not the same desire or pressure to try to win games that you probably should lose. This is a magic that is lost to players after their university days, unless they are selected to play in a rare international match. Therefore I would like to try to introduce an annual team match on the ETwA calendar to try to recreate the lost pleasures of the large team format.

I'm open for suggestions on how to go about this, but as a basic proposal I was playing with the idea of introducing a (somewhat arbitrary) geographical divide in which to separate players into teams. Players would get a chance to decide which side they wanted to play for on the basis of either where they currently reside or where they were born, with the hope being that everyone would remain affiliated with one team such that bragging rights are on offer each year. These teams would then contest a match with a format similar to that of the international or varsity match with defined partnerships playing against all other partnerships, with a game of singles before and after these games. Each year, a different captain would be selected to lead their team by choosing the pairings in their team as well as the order of play in the singles rounds. The format could be made to be flexible so that everybody who wanted to play would likely be able to be incorporated (as long as there wasn't

a gross mismatch in numbers between teams).

I am hoping to try this format out in 2014/2015 but to do this we need to decide how to split UK-based players into two geographical regions. To try to work out how best to do this I'd like to gather information from people about their place of birth and/or current location (depending on which location you identify with most, or both if you have no preference). Therefore if you are interested in taking part in the future and I didn't take your details at the teams of four, please email me the addresses of the places you'd consider yourself affiliated with. I'll then bring a marked-up map to the ETwA congress so people can see the plan and discuss whether we introduce this in the future or not.

Alan Harper

Su'winku

To complete each Su'winku simply fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box indicated by the thick lines contain the each of the nine distinct letters of the word TIDDLYWINKS precisely once.

Difficulty Rating: One inch squop

		K	S	W	I	N		
	I						T	
N			D		T			K
I		W		N		T		D
T			I		Y			N
Y		N		D		S		I
S			N		D			T
	N							D
		T	Y	I	L	K		

Difficulty Rating: Bristol

S		N			L			
			I			D	L	
I			S		W		Y	
	T	K		S		L		D
			W		K			
W		S		L		Y	I	
	Y		K		D			L
	K	I			S			
			L			I		W

Difficulty Rating: Penhaligon

K		D		T				
					K		N	
T		L		Y				
			D		Y		T	
N		T				Y		D
	L		T		N			
				S		L		T
	W		Y					
				N		I		Y

ETwA Council 2013-14

Chairman: Sarah Knight

Treasurer: Stew Sage

Secretary: Andrew Garrard

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Tournament Organiser: Alan Harper

The rules sub-committee consists of Patrick Barrie, Matt Fayers, Andrew Garrard, Tim Hunt and Larry Kahn.

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