

THE WINKING WORLD

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WARWICK CONGRESS 1968

The fifth International Tiddlywinks Congress was held on Saturday and Sunday, April 6th and 7th, 1968 at Rootes Hall, University of Warwick. An open invitation was offered to anyone interested in Tiddlywinks to attend and more than eighty people accepted, making surely a record attendance at such a Congress. The object of the Congress was to discuss and to play Tiddlywinks and plenty of opportunity was provided for both. On Saturday afternoon Congress met under the Chairmanship of Pat Bonham of the English Tiddlywinks Association (E Tw A) and on Sunday afternoon a second open meeting was held with Nigel Shepherd of the International Federation of Tiddlywinks Associations (I F Tw A) and organiser of Congress in the chair. The Councils of E Tw A and I F Tw A also met later on on Sunday afternoon.

On Saturday evening Congress took to the mats to play the semi-finals of the Prince Philip Silver Wink Competition and an international match in which Wales beat Scotland 82-20. The Silver Wink semi-finalists were Queens University, Belfast; Cambridge University; Nottingham University; and Oxford University. Cambridge were drawn against Belfast and won 61½-50½. Oxford beat Nottingham 62½-49½ but were only able to field seven players which led to some controversy when Cambridge came to play Oxford on Sunday morning in the final. Cambridge said Tiddlywinks was a game for four pairs and since Oxford could only raise three Cambridge claimed the 28 points for the games against the absent pair. Oxford said they could not play in the final on those terms since Nottingham did not have the chance of claiming 28 points in the semi-final. Had they done so Nottingham would have been in the final 62½-49½. Oxford would put the position to Nottingham as soon as possible and determine the rightful finalist. The final would be played at the beginning of next term. Two internationals were played in the morning instead. Ireland beat Scotland 72½-39½ and in a challenge for the Bombay Bowl Wales closely lost to England 52½-59½.

Reports on some of the meetings and matches appear below. Congress was greatly indebted to Mr S C Ware and the staff of Rootes Hall for making a very enjoyable Congress possible.

Minutes of E Tw A Congress

The Congress opened in the presence of 38 people. It was pointed out to delegates at the start that Saturday was to be devoted to E Tw A business and Sunday to I F Tw A. The minutes of the last Congress were then read and approved. They were only readable to the secretary, being in his writing. He informed those present that he had been preparing a typescript version the day before when he was called away by the BBC to appear on regional television and that a typescript copy would be made.

There were several matters arising from the minutes. First discussed was the discontinuation of Guinness scorecards and members were requested to submit new designs. The printing of scorecards and their cost were also discussed.

The decision that WW should in future be produced by I F Tw A was confirmed.

Mr Cooper was questioned about the national pairs competition he had offered to run. He said he had been very busy with exams and that no club offered to organise regional heats and that in these

circumstances he had been unable to get it going.

The secretary told delegates that Waterloo University had cancelled their tour by telegram and had not communicated further.

Mr Wells then raised the matter of Mr Drain's design for a tie for E Tw A. The secretary told him that no other designs had been submitted, but that Mr Drain's design had not been placed on order by E Tw A. Discussion as to whetherto adopt Mr Drain's design was hampered by the fact that the secretary had left it at home.

Mr Crick's donation of £5 was discussed. The secretary announced that during the year Mr Crick had sent another £5 and expressed his willingness that the money should go to a Southern Junior Tiddlywinks Championship Trophy.

Mr Relle then read his secretary's report which was accepted unanimously.

The treasurer Mr Mapley then read his report, the salient features of which were that WW had cost nothing except postage, commission from Marchant Games had been £7-3-9, that there had been an increase in the number of individual members, and that our balance now stood at £49-3-9.

A question was asked about the commission and its origin. The secretary said that before E Tw A had been set up the commission had been offered by Marchant Games to Cambridge U Tw C to offset the cost of distribution and the expense of doing on a smaller scale what E Tw A did now. While Mr Relle was secretary of C U Tw C and Mr Peter Downes secretary of E Tw A, the commission had been transferred by mutual agreement at the suggestion of Marchant Games.

The report was approved unanimously.

Mr Josiph and Mr Mesher asked when the next E Tw A congress would be held, and after some discussion it was agreed that the congress would be held in a year's time.

Elections to fill vacant places on the E Tw A council then took place. These were caused by the extended visits to Canada of Patrick Bonham and Allen Astles. Stuart Clark was elected Chairman to replace Mr Bonham by general consent, and of the 4 candidates for the vacant place on the council Mr Alan Cooper was elected.

The draw for the semi-finals of the Silver Wink competition was then made with the results given above.

Mr Toye said that the E Tw A constitution would be violated if WW were produced by anyone else. The constitution could not be changed immediately as notice was required. No conclusion was reached on this point.

Finally it was decided to order ties to the design of Mr Drain. There was no further business.

MINUTES OF CONGRESS UNDER I F Tw A

Congress reconvened on Sunday afternoon. The meeting was introduced by the Secretary-General who then read the minutes of the last meeting of the Council of I F Tw A. The only matter arising not to be discussed later was a world cup. Pat Bonham suggested a sponsor might be found for this. The question was shelved for the time being.

It was then agreed that in future International Congresses should be organised by a Congress Secretary under I F Tw A since the organisation was a full time job in itself.

WW was then discussed and it was agreed that this should be produced as previously twice a year by an Editor, but that the Editor should now be responsible to I F Tw A Council. The constitutional difficulties of E Tw A on this point were recognised but these could be resolved in due course.

It was proposed by Lee Cousins and seconded by John Worth that the Council of I F Tw A should consist of the Secretaries of the constituent National Associations and a Secretary-General and also that the Congress Secretary and the Editor of Winking World should have seats on Council but not have voting rights. The motion was passed nem. con.

It was considered that future changes to the International Rules should be determined by open discussion at Congress of proposals made in writing 14 days before Congress met. Stephan Jefferis proposed and Peter Toye seconded that the changes should be put into effect by a simple majority vote on the basis of one man one vote at Congress. There were 24 for this motion and one against.

A motion was then proposed by Mike Baker that the open meeting of Congress be terminated and that authority for organising Tiddlywinks

pass into the hands of the Council of I F Tw A. He said that this would be a much more efficient way of conducting the business of I F Tw A which had now become rather complex. The motion was seconded by Charles Relle and the voting was 29 for, 7 against. The meeting closed.

E Tw A AND I F Tw A COUNCIL MEETINGS

There now followed two council meetings which ran simultaneously. The minutes of these meetings have been split up so as to represent the events in chronological order.

E Tw A Meeting

After the I F Tw A Congress a council meeting of E Tw A was called to discuss its implications. It was thought that the situation which left the control of Tiddlywinks in the hands of an ill-defined body of national secretaries, with no conditions of admission or rejection, was most unsatisfactory, especially as any country could claim to have a Tw association and demand to be represented, or any individual could claim to be a national secretary. Also since E Tw A had more clubs and members than any other association, it was felt that E Tw A should have a larger say in policy-making than was possible on such a committee.

It was therefore decided to instruct the secretary to go to the I F Tw A council meeting and put the following points: 1) that Scotland should not be represented as she had no national organization; 2) that at the next congress a British Tiddlywinks Association be set up to replace the present organisations; 3) that E Tw A should provide a congress secretary, and a public relations secretary to organise the next congress, and continue to provide an editor for and produce WW; 4) that when the time came, rules should be made in open congress, and that 14 days' notice in writing of any proposed change must be given. If the I F Tw A committee's answer was unsatisfactory E Tw A would secede from I F Tw A and invite clubs from other countries.

I F Tw A Meeting

Those present were Roy Adams, Secretary of Ir Tw A; Lee Cousins, acting secretary for Scotland; Charles Relle, Secretary of E Tw A; and Nigel Shepherd, Secretary-General of I F Tw A.

Charles Relle opened the meeting by saying he had just been present at an E Tw A Council meeting at which he had been directed to put certain points to I F Tw A. These were as follows; 1) that E Tw A challenged the presence of Scotland on I F Tw A Council since Scotland had no organisation or constitution; 2) that I F Tw A Council be abolished and that instead a British Tw A be formed with the same constitution as E Tw A and with officers as on E Tw A Council, including the Editor of WW; 3) that future Congresses should be organised by two secretaries, one to arrange the matches and the publicity and the other to arrange the bookings and the finance; 4) that in future changes to the rules should be proposed in writing 14 days prior to Congress and that they should be discussed openly at Congress as previously.

He said that if these proposals were not accepted E Tw A would withdraw from I F Tw A. In the discussion that ensued the following points emerged.

I F Tw A was trying to run before it could really walk since the international situation was not ripe for federation, some National Associations being very weak. It was agreed that the principle of one body to run Tiddlywinks was a good one, but that England in the form of E Tw A should be the body was an unacceptable suggestion. There were other countries and interests to be considered besides England, and threats of secession were no way to encourage the spread and strengthening of Tiddlywinks. The Irish Association particularly was very strong and its constitution and organisation were outlined. The English Association was assured a future under the new Tiddlywinks body and details would be worked out in due course. Charles Relle agreed to withdraw his objection to Scotland for the time being.

The new organisation was considered. It was insisted that the title of British Tw A be changed as Britain did not include Northern Ireland or Eire, and would only recreate divisions in the future. The name should be the International Tiddlywinks Association, I Tw A. It was agreed that a new constitution be drawn up for I Tw A and that

the E Tw A constitution should be used as a starting point. In particular Clause 2 should stand with only the appropriate change of name. In Clause 3 "any English club" should become "any constituted club". The voting arrangements at Congress, Clause 5, should be changed, as things stood individual members did not have a vote at Congress and E Tw A elections had been therefore held unconstitutionally since 1963. The remaining clauses should be revised in the light of experience and as appropriate to the new Association. Ireland would start the ball rolling and then contact Wales.

It was proposed 1) that I F Tw A appoint two secretaries to run Congress next year; 2) that all members and member clubs of any Tiddlywinks Association should have a vote at this Congress; 3) that before Congress a new constitution be drawn up and circulated to all such members; 4) that I F Tw A should appoint an Editor for WW to run it for the next year under E Tw A as at present but to make it more international in outlook and 5) that I F Tw A should appoint the organiser of the Silver Wink as before.

Charles Relle then wished to know if I F Tw A would now dissolve itself. I F Tw A said it would not. I F Tw A had the full authority of Congress for the administration of Tiddlywinks and it would exercise that responsibility until Congress next year particularly in the drawing up of the new constitution. The day to day running of Tiddlywinks would lie with E Tw A as before and the English Secretary was asked to return to his Council to determine officers for next year which I F Tw A would approve on his return to the I F Tw A Council meeting.

E Tw A minutes cont.

The answer obtained (from I F Tw A) was satisfactory. The secretary reported back saying that the I F Tw A council had dissolved itself. The following points had been made: 1) that a better title might be International Tw A; 2) that next year's Congress should be convened by E Tw A, but that all members and member clubs of all national associations should have votes; 3) that E Tw A should continue to arrange the Silver Wink competition; 4) that national secretaries should draw up a constitution for the international organisation to submit to congress.

With reservations on the first point, this was accepted. It was decided that Stuart Clark and Alan Cook should collaborate to arrange next year's congress, and that Jeremy Shepherd should edit WW. The council then dispersed.

I F Tw A minutes cont.

On returning to the Council Charles Relle said that E Tw A accepted "everything". Congress next year would be run by Stuart Clark and Alan Cook and WW edited by Jeremy Shepherd. The next Silver Wink would be run by the club who won this year. I F Tw A approved, and endorsed a Joint Congress in 1969 of all four Tiddlywinks Associations to be convened by E Tw A to bring into being a new International Tw A. The meeting then closed.

Editor's Note

I make no apologies for giving so much space to this year's Congress as it was one of the most complex ever. There were in fact 4 important different meetings instead of the more normal 1 or 2 and the decisions made in them will radically alter the future of the governing bodies of Tiddlywinks.

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INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

England v Wales

Wales played England for the Bombay Bowl on the morning of Sunday 7th April at the Warwick Congress. England had a team made up of pairs from various clubs as usual. Cambridge, Exeter and Altrincham each provided a pair and Charles Relle and Jon Mapley made up the fourth pair. Wales, on the other hand, relied on a team entirely from Aberystwyth.

The start of the match was delayed by the confusion over the Silver Wink final but when the teams involved in it agreed to postpone it, England gained an invaluable pair from Cambridge in the form of

T. Hoare and D. Carrington.

The first round went slightly better for England than the last match between these countries might have suggested. England won all four games and was leading by 20-8 at the end of it.

In the second round, however, the Welsh team got down to business, recovering perhaps from initial nerves due to playing in hostile territory. They reduced England's lead by winning the round 15½-12½. England just managed to retain the third round 15-13 but in the last round Wales produced the best round score ever against England winning it 16-12.

The overall score was thus 59½-52½ to England who won by their narrowest margin ever and if it had not been for the first round score of 20-8 to England they must surely have been beaten. Wales, moreover, only needed three of the team which did so well last year against England to give them this success and their top pair M. Codd and I Burgess was undoubtedly the best pair from either team as they scored 20 points against England, while C. Relle and J. Mapley, England's top pair only scored 19 points against Wales.

In the future England must only field the top pairs from the top universities, or previously proven players who are still in practice. The idea of giving everyone a turn must cease or else the Bombay Bowl will be lost.

Ireland v Scotland

Coventry, England, may perhaps seem a rather strange venue for a match between these two sides, but this was the least of the worries facing any true nationalist. Two brothers were playing - on opposite sides; almost half of the players were born outside the country that they were representing; and two of the players had turned out for different national sides in the past.

This was the first meeting between the two countries, even though plans had been made for such an event as long ago as 1963. The realisation of these plans finally came about on the Sunday morning of the Fifth International Congress, but not surprisingly the squidge-off was delayed by half an hour while efforts were made to get some of the participants from their beds.

The Scots may well blame the absence of porridge on the breakfast menu for their slow start in the match, drawing one and losing three of their first round games. One was tempted, however, to wonder if there was any significance in the fact that their totals improved in each succeeding round. In round two their captain, Lee Cousins, and his partner Graeham Harris, scored the Scot's first and what later turned out to be their best win. The Irish nevertheless took the round, and at the half-way stage led by a comfortable 40-points to 16.

After the interval the Irish set their sights on victory; this was the third international match that they had played, with defeats by both England and Wales, by almost identical scores, during the previous twelve months. This time they were rewarded, for by the end of round three they had secured victory by just half a point. Now knowing this, many spectators went down for lunch, leaving the teams to conclude the final round with a score similar to that of round three.

Top scorers of the match were John Campbell (at 16 the youngest player) and Martin O'Shea, of Lurgan Technical College, who in scoring their 23 points were the only undefeated pair. Jim Craig (Queen's) and Raymond Montgomery (Cambridge) scored 21 points, losing just one game, as did the leading scorers for Scotland, Lee Cousins and Graeham Harris (Aberdeen) with 15½ points on the card. Altogether Ireland won ten games, Scotland five, and one was drawn.

Scotland v Wales

The match took place on Saturday evening at Warwick Congress. As might be expected from the result of the Welsh - English match, Wales gave no quarter to Scotland's team, and after two rounds had built up a commanding lead of 45-11.

Surprisingly Scotland counter-attacked in the next round and only lost it 13½-14½, but this improvement did not last and in the final round they scored only 5½ points, losing overall 30-82.

Wales had six of their first team playing, giving match experience to two new players from the Dean's Club, and though they were not top scorers - P. Hogley and N. Hall were with 24 points - they

did nearly as well as this,

Scotland had their full first team with six players from Aberdeén University, one from the thriving club of Dundee and one from Glasgow. Their top scorers were R.Foad and Stuart Clark with 9½ points.

Ireland v Wales

Wales travelled to the student's union at Queen's Belfast on Saturday Nov. 25th, 1967 in order to play this match. The result of the match was very interesting as both teams had lost to England by virtually identical scores in the previous season, Wales having conceded 67½ points and Ireland 67.

After the first round Wales were leading by 17½-10½ and won the remaining three rounds in a similar fashion to prove that they were England's greatest challengers for the Bombay Bowl. The final score was 66½-45½ and this suggests that 67 must be a magical score for Tiddlywinks as otherwise the odds against three successive internationals having virtually the same score must be very great. M.Codd and I.Burgess were Wales best pair-with 21½ points-as they were later against England (they did not both play against Scotland).

The top pair on Ireland's team, which was based on players from Queen's Belfast and Lurgan Tech, was J.Campbell and N.Morrow with 14½ points.

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THE PRINCE PHILIP SILVER WINK 1967-68

The early stages of the competition were played out in regional groups, on much the same lines as last year. By geographical misfortune three of the stronger teams - Aberystwith, Exeter and Oxford - were in the same group, and so only one of them could go through to the semi-finals. One of the most surprising results was Exeter's 43½-68½ defeat by Aberystwyth. Exeter, finalists last year, were expected to put up a strong challenge again this year. Aberystwyth were subsequently knocked out by Oxford, by only 2 points, in an incredibly close match. Group I was played in Bristol, as last year.

In Group 2, with six teams, matches took place seperately, as an attempt to arrange a play-off in the top half failed to materialize. London's match with South ampton produced a rare tie, which the captains resolved by playing an extra round, drawing pairs to play each other. Cambridge were given no opposition until the third round, when they comfortably defeated South ampton to reach the semi-finals once again.

Nottingham, as expected, reached the semi-finals again from Group 3, beating Hull and Manchester on the way.

Group 4 was something of an experiment, in that the distant teams were asked to get together for a play off to avoid last year's situation in which Belfast reached the semi-final without any opposition. The matches were played in Lancaster, but Aberdeen were unable to get there, and since Belfast had booked their passage over by this time it had to proceed without Aberdeen. Belfast played a very attractive style of winks, with much open play, and pegged up a 92 point win over Lancaster. They were well on the way to another mammoth win against York, who conceded after three rounds.

The semi-finals and final were arranged to take place at the E TWA Congress in Coventry in April. Cambridge were drawn against Belfast and won 61½-50½. Oxford only had seven players at Congress but Nottingham, their opponents, agreed to let one player play double, and Oxford thus won. On the following day, however Cambridge refused to allow Oxford to do this against them, so the final was postponed. Moreover, Oxford decided that if Cambridge wanted 28 points for Oxfords missing pair, Nottingham should also have been given the advantage of them. Since these 28 points could easily have given Nottingham victory in the semi-final, Oxford decided to give Nottingham a replay.

Since Congress there have been several developements, but the championship has not been decided. For this reason I shall not print a report of the semi-final and final until next issue of WW.

THE DRAW COMPLETED TO SEMI-FINAL

ROUND I ROUND 2 ROUND 3 SEMI) FINALS

GROUP 1

Oxford	W.O.)	OXFORD 87½)		
Loughborough	)	Belfast 24½)	OXFORD 57)	} OXFORD
	)	Aberystwyth 68½)	ABERYSTWYTH 55)	
	)	Exeter 43½)		

GROUP 2

London	66)	SOUTHAMPTON)		
Southampton	74)	SOUTHAMPTON 40½)		} CAMBRIDGE
Surrey	Scr.)	EAST ANGLIA Sc.)		
East Anglia	)	Cambridge WC)	CAMBRIDGE 71½)	
	)	Leicester)		

GROUP 3

		Nottingham 7½)		
		Hull 39½)	NOTTINGHAM 60½)	} NOTTINGHAM
		Manchester 83½)	MANCHESTER 51½)	
Bangor	)	BANGOR 28½)		
Sheffield Scr.)			

GROUP 4

Aberdeen	87)	ABERDEEN Scr.)		
Dundee	25)	YORK 13)		} BELFAST
)	Lancaster 10)	BELFAST 71)	
)	Belfast 102)		

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THE MARCHANT TROPHY

Cambridge, the present holders, have defended the Trophy three times since details of these matches were last printed in WW.

The first time was against Bancroft's school and I am afraid I have no details about this.

The second match was played on Sunday February 11th at Christ's College, against Altrincham Tiddlywinks Association. This club is open to anyone from Altrincham and so old boys of the school were able to play. Because of this Altrincham were able to field two good teams, the second playing a friendly match.

Altrincham decided to rely on experienced players to win the Trophy, but unfortunately the majority of these had had no match practice for a long time, while Cambridge's team had played regularly against good opposition. This showed in the first two rounds, where only the Shepherd brothers won their games. Thus Cambridge were 35-21 up at half time.

In the third round however, there was a complete reversal and Altrincham won it 19-9 with three 6-1 victories. In the last round Atkinson and Wilkinson, who had by now returned to form, won 6-1 to make themselves top pair from Altrincham with 17 points. The other three pairs lost their games though, and Cambridge won the round 16½-11½ and the match 60½-51½.

For Cambridge Hoare and Carrington scored 21 points and Orrock and Rose 19, a success that they have repeated many times. Cambridge did not fair so well in the second team match as

Altrincham confidently beat them by 75½-36½.

Oxford also played Cambridge for the Marchant Trophy, but they only turned up with six players. Oxford seem to be making a habit of doing this for important matches this year. As a result Cambridge took 28 points and went on to win the match seventy one and a sixth to forty and five sixths.

Cambridge have received challenges from Sussex and Altrincham again and these will be met soon.

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THE VARSITY MATCH

This year's Inter-Varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge was played on the 24th of February in the Seminar Room of University College Oxford, and resulted in a win for Cambridge, who thus repeated their success of last year.

Cambridge fielded three internationals as against Oxford's two, and Cambridge's international Pair One contrived to finish bottom pair, perhaps preferring to cast aside thoughts of personal glory in favour of their less distinguished colleagues.

Oxford began competently, and led 15½-12½ after the first round, but the second round contained a crucial result in the 5-2 defeat of Joseph and Mesher by Jefferis and Nokes, as well as a 7-0 by Hoare and Carrington, and the round went to Cambridge 21-7.

In the third round, Cambridge consolidated their advantage to the tune of another 21-7, all their pairs winning, in particular Griffiths and Tepper crowning their highly successful Varsity Match débuts by rallying in a fine game to beat Joseph and Mesher 6-1, finding inspiration no doubt in the victory of Jefferis and Nokes in the previous round.

Finding themselves trailing by 29½-54½, some of the Oxford pairs embarked on more or less suicidal potting missions, but Cambridge were able to quell these rebellious tactics, to win the round 21-7 and the match 75½-36½, one of the largest margins recorded in Varsity matches.

Top scorers were Allen and Edwards for Oxford with 11½ points, and Griffiths and Tepper for Cambridge with 24 points.

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THE NORTHERN LEAGUE

The League has now nearly finished its first season, which has been very successful. Only one unfortunate occurrence marred the rosy outlook: Manchester High withdrew from the League, though we hope only temporarily. Sale girls G.S. joined, however, so making up the numbers. They started their matches a few months late as they were given some time to practice first because they only started playing in October. They are bottom of the league by about three points but they have so far played the top three clubs and should improve their position considerably when they play the rest of their matches.

Another new club is starting at Chadderton girls G.S. and if more clubs start as frequently as they have this year the future will be bright. Another new innovation introduced by the League Committee is a mixed-pairs-only knockout competition which should take place in July.

The League itself, with four matches left to play, has already been won by Altrincham G S Tw F first team and their second team is second overall. Altrincham's first team, led by Shepherd and Greenwood, could be said to be made up of four equally good pairs. In one match there was only one point difference between the top pair and the bottom pair and the team as a whole consistently scored over 90 points against all opponents, except other teams connected with their school. Altrincham, with five internationals, have some unusual quirks of fate to deal with. For example this year three of the Northern Junior finalists were only on the second team.

Manchester G S, famous for things other than Tiddlywinks, are lurking in third place this year, but next time they might improve on this, as Altrincham are losing six of their best players, although Altrincham's wealth of young talent should do well.

League Table To Date

Team	Pl	W	L	Pts	For	Against	Av	Pos.
ALTRINCHAM Ist.	6	6	0	553½	118½	92.25	1	
ALTRINCHAM 2nd.	6	5	1	438	234	73.00	2	
MANCHESTER G S	5	3	2	284½	275½	56.90	3	
CHADDERTON G S	5	2	3	242½	317½	48.50	4	
ALTRINCHAM GIRLS G S	5	1	4	167	393	33.40	5	
NORTH CESTRIAN	4	0	4	129	319	32.25	6	
SALE GIRLS G S	3	0	3	89½	246½	29.83	7	

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ESSEX V SURREY

The second County Winks match took place at Bancroft's School, Woodford Green on Sunday, 10th December 1967. Surrey arrived three players short, so one of the Essex winkers was recruited to their ranks, and the match became a six-a-side affair. The rest of the Surrey team were Aviawink players, and Essex were all Old Bancroftonians.

Although Essex were probably stronger on paper, it was obvious after ten minutes of the first round that the match score was going to be very close. The first round ended all square at 10½-10½, and Essex led by 22-20 after the second. When two games of the third round were completed, Hoare and Wilsher were informed that they needed a 7-0 win from Mesher and Joseph to clinch the match for Surrey. As they were deep in a double-squop game and into the five rounds this was hardly possible, so they took the game 6-1, and Essex were victorious by one point!

Final Scores:-	<u>Essex</u>		<u>Surrey</u>	
	Mapley and Hogg	14	Hoare and Wilsher	13
	Mesher and Joseph	5½	Baker and Smy	11
	Orrock and Rose	12½	Jupp and Weavers (Essex)	7
		32		31

Everybody concerned thought the match a resounding success-County winks appears to be here to stay.

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TIDDLYWINKS IN WALES

This year has been most successful for Tiddlywinks in Wales with the principality winning two out of three internationals. Last November Wales beat Ireland 66½-45½ in Belfast and followed this up by beating Scotland 82-30 at Congress. The team were then narrowly beaten by England 52½-59½. This is the nearest Wales have ever been to capturing the Bombay Bowl, and the nearest England have ever been to losing it. Only by compelling their opponents to abandon their "Rules in Welsh" did the English retain the trophy.

Competitive winking in Wales has been confined to only two associations: the Dean's Club, Monmouth, and Aberystwyth Tw A, though the sport is still practised in Bangor, Swansea, Carmarthen, Llanelli and a number of schools. At last, however, Wales has been represented by non-Aber. players, with two members of the Dean's Club playing in the match against Scotland. Although the first eight is still entirely composed of Aber players, the Dean's Club will certainly be featuring in teams of the future.

In Aberystwyth this year teams have competed in a 4-a-side league competition (organised like the World Cup) and there are over 200 students playing winks in the college. The high standard of the players in this competition is shown by the ability of the Aber first eight to run the best in England so near to defeat, when representing their mother (Tiddlywinks-wise) country.

To improve the organisation of W Tw A the Aber Tw A committee has undertaken the responsibility of setting W Tw A on a sound "democratic" footing and the secretary of A Tw A shall henceforth be the secretary general of W Tw A. (The new sec. gen. of W Tw A

is Mr Barry Ellis, Padarn Hall, Aberystwyth).

Next year England will be bringing the Bombay Bowl to Wales, and the home of the filed-down squidger; which belongs to Aberystwyth in particular, and so they had better get the trophy polished as they can bet their last unquopped wink that they will not return home with it. For Wales is going to avenge itself of those six defeats at the squidgers of the English. Beware England! We shall win the Bombay Bowl and we shall keep it!

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NORTHERN IRELAND TIDDLYWINKS LEAGUE

In view of the growing interest in winks throughout Ireland, especially in the north, it was decided in Belfast last October that a league should be formed. For the two proposed divisions, a total of twelve sides were nominated, with the teams consisting of four players each.

Into the first division were placed the leading two Queen's University teams, a couple of teams from Armagh, the main Lurgan team, (which became known as "Craigavon" after the new city being built there), and a side from R. Trvero-Morgan, Ltd., led by former international Patrick Dick.

In the second division were two other Lurgan sides, one other from Armagh, a Queen's Ladies team, an independant side captained by Mike Gadd, and a team from the Standard Telephone Cable Co. Ltd. at Monkstown, which had been started by Welsh international B. Tomlin during the summer.

By Christmas, with some fifteen matches already played, it had become apparent that S T C and R T M would be unable to field sides, and they both subsequently withdrew from the league. In spite of this, with some matches involving a round trip of over 80 miles, it has not yet been possible to complete all the fixtures. Below, however, are the league tables as they stand at present:-

DIVISION ONE

Team	Pl	W	D	L	For	Against	Points
CRAIGAVON	6	6	0	0	117	51	12
QUEEN'S 1st.	5	3	0	2	78	62	6
ROYAL ARMAGH	7	2	0	5	89	107	4
QUEEN'S 2nd.	4	2	0	2	47	65	4
ARMAGH CITY	6	1	0	5	61	107	2

DIVISION TWO

LURGAN	6	5	0	1	121½	46½	10
QUEEN'S LADIES	4	3	0	1	60	52	6
YOUNG LURGAN	6	2	1	3	74	94	5
GADD'S ASSORTED	3	1	1	1	44½	39½	3
ARMAGH	5	0	0	5	36	104	0

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CORRESPONDENCE

Wanted

Has anyone got a copy of the Northern Junior Tw Champ. 1959 (the first one)? If so could they please send it to me. I will make a copy of it so that the original can be returned. Also does anyone know the scores in the quater-finals to finals of the 1966 N J Tw C?

A Question Of Distance

I received the following question about the rules.
 "Rule 8 states that 'No winks ... may be replaced nearer than 4 inches apart'. This latter figure was chosen because the official box-lids were of that breadth, and would therefore provide easy measures. The latest batch of boxes to come from Marchant Games have reduced dimensions, being only 3½ inches wide. Do we all have to grow half inch thumbs, or do we permit the winks to edge that little bit closer to each other?"

In my opinion i.e. the Editor's, if a $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch box-top is used, then the edges of the winks nearest the other wink will be $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart, and so the centres of the winks will be $3\frac{1}{2}$ plus five eighths inches apart (five eighths is twice the radius of a little wink - for a big wink the value would be slightly bigger). This means that the winks will be approximately 4 inches apart if the distance between the centres is considered, instead of the distance between the facing edges. Provided that you agree to such a bending of the rules, then the new box-top need cause no problem.

Seven-a-side?

John Griffiths of Christ's College, Cambridge sent me this letter.
Dear Editor,

As you already know, the final of the Silver Wink was not played at the E Tw A Congress, as had been arranged, owing to complications arising when one team could only produce seven players. This problem has arisen before, but never at such an important level, I believe. For the sake of future winking, it seems that some solution to this problem should be found, and in this respect I should like to propose one solution upon which readers may care to comment, and E Tw A to act accordingly.

Firstly, I may say that in a major competition such as the Silver Wink, it would be reasonable to expect teams to be complete, and to bring a reserve to cover such mishaps as one player being unable to attend at the last minute. This however has severe practical limitations, and anyway would not be realistic at lower stages of competitions in many cases. It is obviously ridiculous that the erring team concede 28 points, as this reduces their chances of victory virtually to nil. Therefore I would suggest the following solution:-

If a team consist of only seven players, the opposing team be awarded 14 points on commencement of the match. Thereafter games concerning the player who is playing alone be contested for only half the points- i.e. $3\frac{1}{2}$ points. Thus a "6-1" would become $3-\frac{1}{2}$, and so on.

This means that the single player can only make good the penalty by winning all his games $3\frac{1}{2}-0$. On the other hand, if the opposing team score four $3-\frac{1}{2}$ victories, the effective score of the solitary player will be 26-2 against - a similar margin to four "6-1"s against a pair. In practice, not many players are better playing alone anyway. This arrangement would thus have little if any disadvantage to the complete team, but would impose a penalty on the erring team which by the extremely good play of their single player they could wipe out, but no more.

I think that some such solution must be considered, as when teams are assembled to play it can cause considerable expense and difficulty to re-arrange the fixture - in any case it only gives the team originally at fault another chance to field a full strength team, so imposing no penalty at all on them.

I would invite comments or criticisms of my suggestion, as I am convinced that it would be bad for the game if this year's situation be allowed to happen again. A ruling must be made, and urgently, on this technical point, for the good of all teams,

Yours faithfully,
John R Griffiths
(President, Cambridge U Tw C)

Wanted

Reports of important events, comments on the rules and articles of general interest. If you think something has not been reported that ought to have been, write an article and send it to me, and if you are organising a Tiddlywinks event of interest make it your job to see that someone writes about it, and sends the article to me, Jeremy Shepherd, 18, Meadow Bank, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Guinness scorecards are not being made any more and so it will be necessary to design a new one, if everyone is not to use different ones. Also if I Tw A comes into being next year it will need a special tie for members. Please send any designs to me.

LONDON LEAGUE

The final of the League, which is between the champions of the two divisions, has not yet been played at the time of writing (23rd May). However here are the final tables for the divisions.

Northern	Pl	Conceded to	W	D	L	Conceded against	Points	Score
OLD EALONIANS	5	-	5	-	0	-	10	201 1/3
GRADWINK	4	1	2	1	1	1	7	221
U.C. 2	6	-	3	1	2	-	7	182 1/3
EALING 2	3	1	1	-	2	-	4	154 2/3
BANCROFTS	2	-	2	-	0	1	4	78
WESTFIELD	5	-	1	-	4	-	2	129 5/6
INTERWINK	5	-	0	-	5	-	0	103 5/6

Southern

U.C. 1	5	-	5	-	0	-	10	232 1/2
ROYAL HOLLOWAY	4	1	2	-	2	-	6	180 1/2
U. OF SURREY	3	1	1	-	2	1	4	188 1/2
EALING 1	2	1	1	-	1	-	4	123 1/2
PHILIPPA FAWCETT	3	-	0	-	3	-	0	74
GIPSY HILL	1	-	0	-	1	2	0	5

Notes on Southern Div.

1. One point was lost in the Philippa Fawcett v. Royal Holloway match, the final score being 26-36. It is traceable on the scorecard to a 4-2 game, not an error of arithmetic. Very strange.
2. The Philippa Fawcett v. Surrey match was a 4 by 4 match (final score 26-86).

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NORTHERN JUNIOR 1968

After a bad year last year with only 39 entries and nearly as few the year before, there were 52 pairs in this year's championship. This improvement was because all the established clubs except the two Manchester ones had increased the number of pairs they entered. Two new clubs had entries, and several other pairs entered from schools which have no clubs.

The championships were held on Jan 2nd and 3rd at Manchester University Union. There were many mini-skirted pairs from three girls schools this year, but surprisingly this affected the nerves and concentration of the male players less than the flashes from the few press photographers who appeared from time to time.

There were no major upsets in the large preliminary round, but in the first round Jones and Barton from Sale Girls G S, a new club formed only a few months before, beat Twiss and Bernstein, a pair of great skill and experience from Manchester Girls High School.

In the second round Atkinson, playing with Lyons, a player new to the game only a few months before, beat Greenwood and Shepherd in another surprise win, thus thwarting the latter pair's championship bid. They thus had to mend their injured pride by winning the accuracy and speed competitions. In the quarter-final there were thus 6 Altrincham G S Tw F pairs and one pair from each of the new clubs, Chadderton G S and Sale Girls G S, but both these then lost to Altrincham pairs, the former in a very close match.

In the semi-finals Atkinson and Lyons just beat Jones and Ireland 11-10 in an exciting finish and Reid and Wynn beat Howell and Blears in a very convincing manner.

The final too was convincingly won by Reid and Wynn 15-6.

It should be noted that Atkinson has now won the Northern Junior twice and been runner-up three times, on four of these occasions playing with Wilkinson, - quite a record!