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It is announced from Stourbridge, Worcestershire, that Congress 1969 finally passed away while still at the foetal stage on 1st June, when it was finally learned that the only accommodation that could be obtained was to the exclusion of all under-16s and with the provision of tables measuring only 5'x3' in a science laboratory.

Your Chairman consequently felt that he had no alternative but to refuse and to look forward until Easter 1970.

Congress had been beset by difficulties since its inception, for it was to rebuild upon the fiasco of Coventry 1968 when the small but thriving Etwa voted virtually for its own demise.

The major problem to be overcome was the satisfying of all interested parties as to time and place; when this was eventually settled to everyone's agreement, time was short and accommodation even shorter.

Congress 1969 will be missed, but we look forward eagerly to Easter 1970 and to an early announcement that Congress 1970 has been conceived.

S.C. CLARK CHAIRMAN

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM.

1969 was to have been the year when a congress was to sort out difficulties within Etwa, and to decide how to set up an international organization. No congress has materialised and the following matter is set out for the comment and consideration of readers. The proposals are tentative, and fall into three categories.

1. The Irish proposal. This aims at setting up an international body, and gives the control of Tiddlywinks in Britain to this body. It does not lay down any conditions for membership of this body, or any procedure whereby member nations shall admit or exclude applicants. It removes the making of the rules firmly from rank and file winkers, and does not face the economic difficulty of making a truly international association. The possibility that the very active North American Tiddlywinks Association might want to join is disregarded. The Irish proposal is as follows.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF I.F.T.W.A.

- (Name) I The Federation shall be known as the International Federation of Tiddlywinks Associations.
- (Membership) II The Federation shall be composed of National Tiddlywinks Associations.
The names of all member Associations shall be listed in schedule I.
- (Aims) III The aims of the Federation shall be —
(a) to promote interest in the playing of Tiddlywinks
(b) to sponsor and govern international competition
(c) to coordinate the activities of member associations
(d) to organize an annual convention
(e) to publicise its activities by means of a periodical journal.
- (Government) IV The affairs and activities of the Federation shall be conducted by a Council consisting of—
(a) A Secretary General
(b) One member of each association listed in Schedule I.
- (Amendments) V Any article of the Constitution, Laws or Schedules shall be repealed or amended on a vote in favour by a two thirds majority of the members of the Council provided that each member shall have received two weeks' notice of such amendments.
- VI The Laws and Schedules appended to this constitution shall be read as an integral part of this constitution.
- LAWS
- (Council) 1. The Secretary General shall be elected in accordance with Schedule II.
2. The secretary general shall ensure that all members of the Council are informed of all matters affecting the Federation

and shall be responsible for the implementation of all decisions made by the Council

3. The representative on the Council of each member association shall be the secretary except where otherwise determined by the association.
4. The Council shall annually appoint —
 - (a) an organizer for the annual convention
 - (b) an editor of the periodical journal
 - (c) a treasurer from among its members
 - (d) such individuals as it may deem necessary to implement the aims of the Federation.
5. The Council shall decide the annual fee for membership of the Federation.
6. The Council shall be responsible for any amendments to the International Rules of Tiddlywinks and for the ratification of records.

SCHEDULE I

Schedule of Member Associations

English Tiddlywinks Association
 Irish Tiddlywinks Association
 Scottish Tiddlywinks Association
 Welsh Tiddlywinks Association

SCHEDULE II

Schedule of election of Secretary General

1. The Secretary General shall serve for a term of one year from 10th March.
2. Any person wishing to be considered for the post of secretary general shall present his name to the secretary general before 10th February of the year in which he wishes to take office.
3. The Secretary General shall send a list of candidates to each member of the council to be received by council members before the 20th February.
4. The members of the council shall elect the secretary general by proportional representation on a system of the single transferable vote.
5. The votes shall be received by the secretary general before 1st March.

2. Nigel Shepherd's Proposal. This is for an association comprising English, Scottish and Welsh clubs. It assumes that as there are so few Scottish and Welsh clubs at present they would be content with the administrative machinery of Britwa, that their clubs would be members of the new association (Britwa) on the same basis as English clubs, and that they would wish one Scottish and one Welsh member to sit on the Britwa Council. The N.S. proposal also recognizes the difficulty of setting up an International body which will never meet in its entirety. It therefore assumes that each association now in being will recognize the others, and that if an association wishes to change the rules it will get in touch with the other national authorities, who will consult their own ruling bodies. This will make changes in the rules more difficult but not impossible. It also assumes some good sense on the part of associations now in being. This proposal is largely derived from 3 below, and is not printed in full. Clauses which are mutatis mutandis the same are indicated by the corresponding numbers of 3, clauses which are different are set out in full.

1.=1. 2.=2. 3.=3.

4.=4. with the addition of the following clause: Club membership shall be for one calendar year renewable indefinitely at the discretion of the club member and of Council. Individual membership may be for a number of years or for life.

5. THE BRITWA COUNCIL Council shall be responsible to Congress for the administration of Britwa. Council shall consist of:

An Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents, these to be elected for outstanding services to tiddlywinks and to be non-voting members of Council
 Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Congress Secretary, Public Relations Secretary, Editor of Winking World, plus three ordinary members of Council. Not more than three members of Council shall come from any one club. At least one voting member of Council shall come from a Scottish club and at least one from a Welsh club. Council members shall be elected at Congress and serve until the next congress. If a Council member resigns Council may co-opt a replacement.

6. Congress. Congress may be called by Council or at least one third of the club and individual members not more than once a year and not less than once every two and a half years. At congress every person present shall be entitled to one vote provided that he is an individual member of Britwa or a member of a club member of Britwa or a voting member of Council. Motions shall be carried on a simple majority of voters except for those on amendments to this constitution. The Chairman has a casting vote in the event of a tie.

7. ALTERATIONS. Any alteration to this constitution requires a two-thirds majority at Congress, and at least fourteen days' notice of any proposed alteration must be given to all club and individual members.

8. =7. without the last clause.

9.=8. 10.=9. 11.=15.

12. JOURNAL. Britwa shall publish its journal, the Winking World, at least twice a year.

13. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES. Britwa shall field teams representing England, Scotland and Wales. Qualifications for national team players shall be birth, nationality of one or both parents, naturalised citizenship or domicile of at least five years.

14.=11. 15.=13.

16. Rules. Changes to the International Rules of Tiddlywinks shall require the unanimous agreement of all mutually recognized National Tiddlywinks Associations at the time being. Proposals to change the rules must be made to Congress where a two-thirds majority is required for Britwa to adopt them provisionally. Notice of all proposed changes must be given to all club and individual members at least fourteen days before Congress.

17. = 17.

3. Charles Relle's proposal. This is for a new Etwa Constitution, rather than for an international body; the basis for this is the belief that international problems can be settled as they arise by mutual agreement, provided that articles 3, 12, 13 and 14 of this constitution are taken as a starting point. Similar considerations apply to the N.S. proposal. The C.R. proposal does not take into account special provision for Scotland and Wales; his view is that their relationship with Etwa is a matter for negotiation, and that if they wish to be associated with Etwa, a clause must be incorporated in the Etwa constitution making a special provision for them, but allowing them to dissociate themselves whenever they wish.

The C.R. proposal follows.

TOWARDS A CONSTITUTION FOR THE ENGLISH TIDDLYWINKS ASSOCIATION

1. NAME. The name of the organization shall be called the ENGLISH TIDDLYWINKS ASSOCIATION hereinafter called Etwa.

2. PURPOSES. To promote the playing and enjoyment of Tiddlywinks, and to raise money for charity where possible by matches and tournaments.

3. INTERNATIONAL LIAISON. Etwa shall recognize other national tiddlywinks associations if:

they recognize Etwa
they play to the agreed international rules in international matches
they have a constitution acceptable to associations already mutually

recognized at the time being

they select for international matches only those qualified by:

birth

or nationality of at least one parent

or naturalised citizenship

or domicile of at least ten years (N.B. N.S. reads five here).

4. MEMBERSHIP. Membership shall be of two kinds

club membership: open to any club in England with at least eight members

individual membership: open to anybody interested in Tiddlywinks whether a member of a club or not.

Members will receive all information concerning tiddlywinks published by Etwa. They agree to abide by the constitution of Etwa and to conform to the International rules of the game for tournaments and inter-club matches.

Clubs outside England where no organization exists may apply to Etwa for recognition. There shall be no fee for recognition, but a subscription shall be levied to cover the cost of distributing to recognised clubs the information published by Etwa.

5. THE ETWA COUNCIL. The Etwa Council shall consist of

Honorary President, Honorary Vice-President: these to be elected for outstanding services to tiddlywinks and to be non-voting members.

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer & Vice-Chairman, Congress Secretary, Public Relations Secretary, the Editor of the official journal of Etwa, and three other members. Not more than three voting members shall come from any one club.

Council members shall be elected by Congress and serve for two years. If a Council member resigns Council may co-opt a replacement.

6. CONGRESS. Congress may be called by Council, or by one third of its members whether clubs or individuals, not more than once a year and not less than once every two and a half years.

At congress all members and one representative from each member club shall be entitled to vote. Club votes shall count as 5 units, individual votes as one. Council members shall be entitled to vote as individuals unless they are club representatives. Voting on all matters not affecting this constitution shall be decided by simple majority. When voting is equal the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

7. QUORUMS. The quorum for Council shall be five voting members of Council. THE Quorum for Congress shall be a quarter of the members whether individuals or clubs. If this quorum is not attained the Congress shall not be dissolved, but its decisions shall not be binding unless ratified by Council. Council shall at discretion allow elections at such a congress or arrange a postal vote.

8. MINUTES. Minutes shall be taken at congress and at council meetings.

9. Committees. Special committees may be formed by council or congress for any purpose.

10. INTERNATIONAL TEAM SELECTION. ETWA'S selection committee shall consist of the Chairman, the Secretary, and three other persons appointed by council.

The appointment shall be for two years. This committee shall invite an agreed team to play in a given match.

11. RECORDS. Etwa recognises the three record attempts published in the International Rules of Tiddlywinks, including requirements for ratification. Records may be ratified by the Secretary of Etwa, subject to confirmation by Council.

12. JOURNAL. Etwa shall either publish its own Journal or agree with any other recognised national tiddlywinks association or associations to publish a joint journal. In the latter case Etwa shall agree through its Council in consultation with the other associations who the Editor shall be. If he is not a member of Etwa he shall have a seat on the Etwa Council but no vote.

13. Trophies. Etwa shall be responsible for the administration of the Marchant Trophy according to the terms of its presentation.

Through its council Etwa shall agree with the relevant associations terms for the administration of the Prince Philip Silver Wink and the Guinness Trophy otherwise known as the Bombay bowl.

14. THE RULES OF TIDDLYWINKS. Power to decide the rules of Tiddlywinks shall be vested in the Etwa Council provided that

it shall not finally adopt any change in the rules without the consent of the ruling bodies of a majority of recognised associations

and it shall not refuse to adopt any change in the rules sanctioned by a the ruling bodies of a majority of recognised associations

without a mandate from a four-fifths majority of its members and member clubs on a postal vote, votes to count as set out in paragraph 6.

ON NO ACCOUNT shall Etwa or the Etwa council sanction any change in the name of the game or any change affecting the size or existence of the pot or the number or size of the winks without consulting its members and obtaining their consent as set out above in this paragraph.

15. Finance. Subscriptions fall due in January each year and are determined by Congress or by council when there has been no congress in the previous year. The Treasurer shall issue an audited statement once a year. An auditor shall be appointed by congress or council. The council may at discretion make donations to charity.

16. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION. Any alteration to this constitution requires a two-thirds majority at congress, and at least fourteen days' notice of any proposed alteration must be given to all members. If a quorum is not present, a postal vote requiring a two-thirds majority shall be taken. Voting shall count as in paragraph 6.

17. DISSOLUTION. If Council decides by a simple majority that Etwa shall be dissolved, it shall inform all members and call an extraordinary congress at which a two-thirds majority for dissolution shall be necessary. Assets shall be disposed of at discretion and money in hand given to charity.

APPENDIX TO 6. Recognised clubs (see 4) shall not have a vote at congress.

None of these proposals is perfect, and since none has been officially adopted, none can be regarded as final. That fact that there is no congress this year makes it all the more imperative that the view of winkers everywhere shall be known and expressed. Then discussion can take place at the next congress on a firm basis. So since there is to be another issue of WW before congress, please, if you have any comment to make on any of these proposals, or proposals of your own, send them to the Editor. The form of the central organisation is the concern of everyone.

CORRESPONDENCE

Kent v Surrey

Roger Cuff writes that Kent beat Surrey for the first time in the annual match for the Fremlins Trophy. The score was $66\frac{1}{2}$ - $45\frac{1}{2}$.

Roger, who is the longest serving secretary of an E Tw A affiliated club, the New Elizabethans, disagrees with the move to change the name of the game to Winks - does age make people wise or reactionary fuddy-duddies (with apologies).

Marchant Trophy

Aberystwyth challenged Cambridge for the Trophy and a match was arranged, but just before the match was due to be played Aberystwyth's right to challenge was questioned and denied on the grounds that the Marchant Trophy is for English clubs only.

Patrick Hogley writes, "It has come to my notice that certain members of E Tw A have decided Aber Tw A is not eligible to compete for the Marchant Trophy. Since Aber. is a member of E Tw A we reckon she classes as an English club, for surely if she's eligible to join the "English" Association she must be an English club."

In fact, according to E Tw A's constitution, club membership is available to "...clubs outside England where no tiddlywinks organisation already exists." as well as to English clubs; after all membership of E Tw A can not alter the geographical location of Aberystwyth which is most definitely in Wales, making Aber. a Welsh club.

It is interesting that this same Aberystwyth team, which is so eager to prove itself ENGLISH forms almost the entire WELSH team. We thus find that the Welsh team (surely selected from Welshmen) consists almost entirely of Englishmen, and that Aberystwyth University Club (surely as Welsh as the ground it is built on, no matter what the country of origin of its members) wishes to be English.

E Tw A Members

The names of J R Hogley and P R Hogley were incorrectly omitted from the list of members of E Tw A in WW14. May I remedy that here and now and apologise for any misunderstandings or confusion this may have caused.

Canadian Visitors

Bryon Alexandroff of Toronto Tw Club finally replied to me a year after I wrote to him. He is coming to England during the summer to work at Weybridge for B A C and Mel Salmon, also of Toronto, is working in London. They are both keen to meet English Winkers to compare notes on play on each side of the Atlantic. Anyone interested contact me (address below).

Unofficial Records

Ray Mears of Aldershot (the only team to beat any Cambridge team this year - admittedly the second team) claims the record for the largest number of winks potted successively with legal shots without missing. He has potted 292 small winks and 382 big ones. Also he claims to have squidged 32 small winks onto an inverted pot with legal shots. Any better offers?

Scorecards

The following has been suggested as a possible layout for a compact scorecard. The visiting team can stay on the same mats and the home team pairs can move round cyclically or both teams can change mats between games. The small figures in the boxes for the points indicate the standard system used when both teams change mats.

(HOME TEAM)		V				(AWAY TEAM)	
(VENUE DATE TIME)	(AWAY TEAM)					TOTALS	
		1	2	3	4		
(HOME TEAM)							
(PLAYER 1)	1						
(PLAYER 2)		1	2	3	4		
(ETC...)	2						
		4	1	2	3		
	3						
		3	4	1	2		
	4						
		2	3	4	1		
TOTALS						T	
ROUNDS		1	2	3	4	T	

If there is a demand I can supply blank scoresheets of this type (or of another, if someone can suggest a better design) at 1/2d. each on either quarto (8 by 10 1/2) or octavo (5 by 8) sheets. My address is Jeremy Shepherd, 28, Meadow Bank, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Also any contributions for WW 16 should be sent to me at this address (won't somebody PLEASE write something without having to be asked, and surprise us all).

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INTERNATIONAL

A Bombay Bowl challenge match was arranged between England (the holders) and Wales for Feb 16th. It was to have been played in Aberystwyth but a large snowfall prevented the English from attempting the pass through the mountains. As so often in the history of that country the Welsh were saved a whopping at the hands of the English by their mountains.

No attempt has been made to rearrange the match as far as I know.

NORTHERN IRELAND KNOCKOUT COMPETITION 68-69

Last year the Northern Ireland Championships were run on a league basis but unfortunately the large travelling distances involved often caused matches to be cancelled altogether. Thus this year the competition has been reorganised on a knockout basis.

The Winking centres in Northern Ireland are Queen's University, the New University of Ulster in Coleraine, St Mary's C B School in Belfast, Lurgan Technical College and the Royal School Armagh; there are also a few assorted teams in existence. "Craigavon" which won last year's competition is now rechristened Lurgan I and so this team has made it two wins in a row. St Mary's however, with three teams in the semi-final, obviously presents a challenge to Lurgan's supremacy in the future though perhaps St Mary's I were lucky to earn a replay against Lurgan I in the final this year.

<u>ROUND ONE</u>	<u>ROUND TWO</u>	<u>SEMI-FINALS</u>	<u>FINAL</u>	<u>WINNERS</u>
Coleraine II } Queen's I }	Queen's I (23-5)	} St Mary's I) (15-13)	} St Mary's I) (20-8)	} Lurgan I (15½-12½) (Replay after 14-14 tie)
B D P } St Mary's I }	St Mary's I (W O)			
St Mary's 3 } Coleraine I }	St Mary's 3 (W O)	} St Mary's 3) (16-12)		
Lurgan III } Gadã's }	Lurgan III (23-5)			
Lurgan II } Armagh I }	Armagh I (17-11)	} Lurgan I) (19-9)	} Lurgan I (24-4)	
Queen's III } Lurgan I }	Lurgan I (23½-4½)			
Queen's II } Ballymoney }	Queen's II (W O)	} St Mary's II) (19-9)		
St Mary's II } Armagh II }	St Mary's II (19-9)			

Unfortunately Winks in Southern Ireland appears to be dead. Will anyone who witnessed the accident please contact the editor or I R Tw A who are keen to stage a resurrection. Especially, if anyone is leaving civilization behind and going to Southern Ireland in the future and is interested in forming a Winks club there or in performing lesser feats of valour, please do, and contact Martin O'Shea (addresselsewhere) for help, advice etc.

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NORTHERN WINKS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1969

The 12th Northern Junior Championship was held in Manchester at the beginning of January and was for the first time organised mainly by the Northern League Committee (which by the way has now reconstituted itself as the Manchester Tiddlywinks Association).

In a fit of youthful enthusiasm the committee booked a room in Manchester University Union for three days (one more than usual) and then found itself faced with an entry of only 25 pairs, the lowest ever. Given the impossibility of occupying three days with a knockout involving so few pairs the committee invented two futher contests: an inter-county match and an open championship.

The small number entering the Northern Junior is perhaps not as serious as it sounds. There is still a large winking

population around Manchester but the weaker players are now not so willing to enter only to be thrashed in the first round by international standard pairs. Because of the lack of weaker pairs the overall standard has risen and though Altrincham G S as usual dominated the last rounds Ryder and Rostron of Chadderton G S only narrowly lost to Howell and Blears, one of Altrincham's best pairs, in the semi-final and the future may see a strong challenge for supremacy of the North from Chadderton. The final was won 12-9 by Greenwood and Wynn, Wynn having won every championship he had played in up to this point.

Two Lancashire v. Cheshire matches were played after the Northern Junior and though both sides lacked a few top players who were working, they nevertheless managed to field 16 players each, all of a creditable standard --over half Cheshire's 1st team were internationals.

Cheshire won both matches - the first team by 70½-41½ and the second 74-28, Greenwood and Wynn being top scorers for Cheshire by half a point. This was not the runaway victory that would have been expected a year ago and Lancashire owes much to the highly improved Chadderton players.

It is interesting to note that Cheshire can field what must be the strongest county sides in the country. The first team would read like a Wink's Who's Who and enough internationals would be left to make up a very creditable second team.

The last day of the championships was taken up by an Open Tournament which attracted players from several university teams as well as the expected quota of internationals. Greenwood and Wynn, trying for the double, had a difficult draw having to play Cooper and Williams (ex Altrincham G S) in the first round, whom they beat 11-10. In the second round they played Taylor whom they beat ten and two thirds to ten and one third. The latter, a Chadderton based pair, claimed, several hours too late, that the score had been miscalculated and that they should have won. However by then the final was in progress and the claim was not pressed seriously. The final was again a close match for Greenwood and Wynn but this time the last rounds of the last game decreed that they should lose 10-11 to Shepherd and Shepherd of Altrincham, Cambridge etc.

The championships were well attended by press and T V, but the former especially seemed more interested in the immodesty of girls leaning over tables to play shots whilst wearing very mini-skirts than in the game itself (a third of the entrants for the Northern Junior were girls and that alone ought to guarantee a larger entry next year).

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WHY NOT SINGLE-WINKS?

Has anyone ever wondered why Winks is so confidently defined in the rules as a game for 4 players? It would seem to me to be much more satisfactorily played with two players; I mean still with 24 winks but with one person playing two colours - playing double as it is usually called.

The idea of and need for competition and struggle is deeply implanted in the human spirit and since the struggle for survival of the race has been won and civilization produced, at least in countries such as England, this need has to be satisfied by artificially created games and sports. On examining the popular games and sports, the ones which satisfy human needs best - hence their popularity- can be seen to fall into a very small number of categories. Games are played 'every man for himself' (very occasionally) or with two sides, and in the latter case the sides usually consist of one or many (more than ten) players. I would suggest that winks would also be better if played with one person per side as it would thus satisfy better mans needs as demonstrated by other sports. (Note that in matches while a person is playing for a side, in each individual game he is still playing on his own

and this, being more natural, should be more enjoyable).
Their are exceptions of course; croquet is usually played with two players a side, but then its grass roots lie in Victorian, garden tea-parties at the vicarage, the ultimate in repression of natural emotions and desires. Tennis also has thriving doubles competitions and doubles here is a faster, more entertaining game than singles. But such are mans built in drives and responses that singles is the more glamorous and rewarding game (look at Wimbledon). Perhaps tennis can be taken as an example to winks as far as the organisation of tournaments goes (singles, doubles, mixed etc).

I don't suggest for a moment abandoning doubles; when new to the game the moral support of a partner is normally helpful, though on the other hand if the partner is a good player then there is a feeling that if you win it is your partners doing and if you loose it is your fault and you will have dragged your partner down. This is not a healthy state of affairs and one designed to frighten off the more sensitive prospective player.

For team matches 8-a-side doubles is equivalent to 4-a-side singles in length and , for instance, the Irish Knock-out Competition is based on 4-a-side teams. I think they, and indeed any such team competition should seriously consider changing to singles.

I think that everyone who is interested enough in winks to be reading this, should experiment with singles and consider accepting it as the basic mode of winks. It must certainly be more worthwhile to do this than experiment with "squop".

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VARSITY MATCH 68-69

The 11th Annual Varsity Match between Oxford and Cambridge was played on Sunday 2nd March, in Cambridge. Both teams were very experienced, containing a number of Internationals and old Quarter-Blues (including one ex-Cambridge Quarter-Blue, P Toye, playing for Oxford!). C U Tw C started very confidently, winning the first three rounds quite convincingly, to lead 51½-32½, thus having the apparently simple task of obtaining 5pts. from the final round to win. This however did not take into account a spirited revival by O U T S who won the first two games finished in the final round 6-1 each, thus still leaving the result in doubt. Oxford could not, however, keep up this pace and, despite winning the last round by 19-9, they lost the match by 60½-51½.

Much of the credit for winning the Varsity Match for the third year running must go to D Carrington and A Hoare, of Cambridge, who won all four of their games to obtain 22 pts.

As the new C U Tw C President, I should like to thank all who took part, especially the challengers from O U T S, for making it a good and exciting match.

Keith Elliott

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WINKS IN AMERICA

It seems that the obituary to American winks that I published in WW14 was somewhat premature. In March Michael Crick of Cambridge, America and ex-London University, posted 122 copies of his new game "squop" to 61 addresses, many of them in England. Postage alone cost 50 cents a time across the Atlantic.

For those of you who escaped the broadside and have not heard of the game, squop is basically designed to be a more open version of winks, with 4 winks per person instead of 6, and with a decimalised American scoring system. I say decimalised because their are 10 points awarded per game instead of 7 and a match consists of 10 games (3 pairs a side play 9 games in 3 rounds

as expected then, in an arbitrarily introduced 4th round, the top scorers from each side play a tenth game while everyone else kicks their heels).

From the reports of the games I have heard about, an average game lasts five minutes and complete reversals are possible making the game more one of chance than is perhaps desirable. It seems to me to be a more lighthearted game than winks.

Anyone who has not got a copy of the rules and wishes to have one may write to Michael Crick, 19 Cottage Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, U S A. to obtain a full computer-printed copy. Michael wishes to hear of any "glitches" in his rules (a glitch is an inadequacy or inaccuracy etc.). Is the collective noun for a glitch a glut of glitches?

The rules of squop are being copyrighted - they contain large tracts of the rules of winks.

On a happier note Rosie Wain, who wrote most of the aforementioned obituary in WW14, sent me a copy of "Newswink", N A Tw A's official journal of which she is now editor, having rediscovered the winking fraternity. It was originally to be called "Winking Universe" but Rosie settled for the less pretentious title.

The N A Tw A Championships are now well established. In 1967 Cornell won them and in '68 it was MIT's turn. This year the championships were held at MIT. The teams present were from Cornell University, Harpur College Binghamton, Ottawa Canada, Case Western Reserve, Regis College and MIT (two teams). Toronto, a very keen side, were unfortunately unable to raise the 350 dollars required to cover their travelling expenses.

I quote, "The most efficient method of competition was a double elimination tournament, with the three pairs in each team playing only two games per match". Drawn out on paper the results look like the granddaddy of family trees with a few baby trees thrown in for good measure. Anyway MIT won beating Cornell 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$ in the last game.

"Newswink also mentions the latest attempt to get an American team across the Atlantic. A committee has been appointed to investigate the possibilities of finding sponsors (the estimated cost is 4,500 dollars) and to select the team. The idea is to send a team across this summer but I have heard of no final plans yet.

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THE SILVER WINK 1968-69

There were 14 entrants for this year's Silver Wink Competition. As in previous years the teams were separated into 4 regional groups for the first two rounds. Group 1 was won fairly easily by Aberystwyth, defeating a somewhat understrength Oxford team and then Exeter. The holders, Cambridge, won their group by defeating Warwick (their first year in the competition) and then Southampton, after a hard struggle. The only other team through to the semi-finals is Manchester, who defeated Bangor and Nottingham to get there. Group 4 (Belfast, Dundee and York) is as yet unresolved due to geographical difficulties.

As there was no Congress at Easter 1969, the competition has gone no further, but various attempts are being made to try to complete the competition, by the end of 1969 if possible. It is possible, for instance, that the finals may be played in Manchester some time during the summer.

K Elliott (Organiser)

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MARCHANT TROPHY

The list of challengers was incorrectly stated in the last WW and it should have read Aberystwyth University,

Old Bancroftians, Southampton University and Altrincham Association, in order of challenging.

After some confusion and a great wastage of time Aberystwyth was denied the right to challenge for (all England) Trophy. Old Bancroftians thus moved to the top of the list.

The Old Bancroftians team led by Jon Mapley, is based on the almost invincible Bancrofts School team of a few years ago and presented a fearsome prospect to Cambridge. In fact so convinced were Cambridge that they would lose the Trophy that they arranged for the annual team photograph to be taken before the match so the Trophy could be included on it.

The match was played on May 9th in Cambridge at a time when both teams were to some extent feeling the threat of impending exams. Revision should have taken the edge off Cambridge's skill rather than that of the Old Bancroftians, but the final score was 64-28 in favour of the former, to the 64-28 great surprise of all concerned. DCarrington and A Hoare with 20½ points and J Shepherd and R Montgomery with 17 were the top scorers for Cambridge.

Southampton are the next challengers and a match has already been arranged against them for November.

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OPENING IDEAS AGAIN — SOME ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES AND A PROBLEM by AEACUS

The principles here presented may appeal to beginners who have read the article 'Opening ideas' in WW14, but have noticed that even the first few moves can be problematic.

Accuracy is the first necessity of all successful opening moves. If you can not group your winks close together and close to the pot, you give away a great deal. Even in these days of double-squop, the pot is the focus of the game, and if the opponents can place their first winks closer to it, the threat that one of them may pot his first few winks and leave you an almost impossible task is so immediate that you will have to attack with your more scattered forces. If you fail to make an early squop at the first attempt, the initiative stays with the opponents whatever their general strategy. The area about 5 inches from the pot is of primary importance — winks placed in this area (on the same side of the pot) support each other. This means that if a wink is squopped it can be extricated and if a wink is squopping the position is guarded.

It is more important than that your own winks should be mutually supporting than that you should support your partner or he you. It is useful if the winks are interconnected, as sometimes the opponents can bring heavy pressure to bear on one position. This situation arises most often in the middle game, and in the early stages it is best if one partner remains unsquopping and unsquopped, preserving the threat to pot as long as possible. One partner should concentrate on squopping from the first; if an opportunity to squop each of the opponents, so much the better, but your main object is always the player immediately following you. This is the reason. Suppose you are South and you squop West. East comes and desquops. It is now your turn and you have the option of squopping West again. If you squop East and West rescues, East has the chance to squop you. Compass points are original starting positions at the corners of the mat, South being bottom right on an aerial view.

This brings me to a problem of which I have been conscious since 1961 but which I have never seen discussed in print. Writing this and my last article has convinced me that our legislators should make it the subject of an edict on match procedure. The advantage of playing North-South is huge, and this factor alone could influence decisively the result of a match between two evenly balanced teams. From the start West is in a dilemma. This and the following remarks apply also to East. Should West aim to cut off North, he has to squidge 4 feet and let South dominate the West-South side. Should he attempt to approach the pot in a direct line, he can be countered by South; if he attacks South he is engaging the 'wrong' opponent, and in both cases North is allowed too much room. Whether they win the start or not West-East are at a disadvantage. Match play should therefore always be regulated so that each side has N-S for half the match.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

O tempora . . . O mores. Let us rally round Roger Guff and preserve for ourselves the ancient name of the game. Several versions of the game called tiddlywinks do exist and are manufactured, as they always have been. Some of these have what Mr Guff calls "nursery connexions". But it is our concern that whatever connexions the manufacturers of "lower-level" — to use the late Mr Willis' term — tiddlywinks care to try to induce, we should demonstrate and portray higher level tiddlywinks for what it is, a better game than most people suppose, and one which has benefited from the standardisation of the rules and the formation of clubs and the national organisations.

Publicity is the key to the question. The Editor says quite reasonably in WW 14 that such publicity as we get is being used by manufacturers of a spurious game of the same name. This is unfortunate, but our game is inseparable from its origins. Whenever a tiddlywinker appears in the public eye it is his plain duty to make it clear what the nature of the game is, by whom, if possible, the official sets are made, and to pour scorn on the manufacturers of these absurd noddy sets who thoughtlessly bring a good game into disrepute. Attack is the best form of defence; it is wrong to give up the name of our game especially in view of its bastard offspring Squop's onslaught upon us.

Quo usque tandem abutere patientia nostra. Thus might I appropriately introduce my second topic. The reception you accorded to IRTWINK reminded me of the treacherous reviews that newspapers give to new books when they wish to increase the sales of the book and their own circulation. No-one who has read its slashing strictures on Etwa and on the members of the Etwa Council can "hope that it continues in like manner". To describe the impasse between Oxford and Cambridge over the Silver Wink Final as "the usual fruitless squabble" is to ostend publicly an ignorance of the good relations between Oxford and Cambridge which have to my knowledge existed since 1960. No less inaccurate is the statement that Etwa council members thwarted all efforts to set up a "truly international body" and that they "seemed to want complete and autocratic control of such a body". I can speak only personally on this matter, but I think it is perfectly fair to say that Etwa does not want a monopoly of international power, and that an attempt to set up a self-disant international body to which anyone who called himself a national representative could without scrutiny claim right of attendance and participation, and which does not take into account the vigorous and well-organised North American Tiddlywinks Association is, in my view, ill-conceived. Let us by all means try to set up an international federation or possibly an international secretariat if we can, but let us first consult the Americans.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,

M.A.C. RELLE, 2, Denmark Road, Cottenham, Cambridge.

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Here are some addresses:

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THE OFFICIAL MANUFACTURERS OF WINKS AND MATS ARE :

MERCHANT GAMES LTD RAYOSOL WORKS GOLDINGS HILL LOUGHTON ESSEX.