

# THE WINKING WORLD

The Official Journal of the English Tiddlywinks Association

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## CONGRESS 1970

It is with great pleasure and with a certain amount of relief that I report that Congress 70, after a lengthy and difficult gestation, has at last been delivered into the unsuspecting world. It will take place in the Manchester University Union Building on Saturday and Sunday the 18th and 19th April. Bed and breakfast will be bookable at the University Owens building and the weekend promises to be cheaper than the Warwick Congress was. Full details will be circulated shortly.

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## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

In the last edition of WW (July 69) three proposals for constitutions were outlined and intended to help solve the International problems posed at Congress 1968. These problems still exist and it is the responsibility to the coming Congress in April to clarify the position. The three proposals provide the basis for discussion and it is worth refreshing our memories of those. The first was an Irish proposal for a Constituted and powerful International Federation.

The second was for a British Tiddlywinks Association to exist beside an Irish Association and a North American Association in mutual cooperation and recognition without an overall Federation.

The third was for an English Tiddlywinks Association to again stand beside other National Associations in mutual recognition.

All three proposals are valid and it is the responsibility of Congress to determine the most valid and viable structure, from those three or from any alternative proposal.

May I suggest the following form of discussion for Congress, bearing in mind the nature of this Congress and the voting procedures laid down at Council and Congress Meetings in 1968 (see WW 13).

Congress should first consider the desirability of an International Federation. IFTWA as it now stands should be dissolved and reconstituted on the lines of the Irish proposal or an amended form of it or not at all. If a Federation is accepted Congress must then work out the details of such a body and the purpose of Congress will be fulfilled.

If an International Federation is not desired the principle of mutual recognition and cooperation must be discussed. If this principle is not acceptable Congress must look for another solution. If this principle is acceptable Congress should choose between a British Association to stand with Ireland and North America, or separate English, Welsh and Scottish Associations, again to stand with Ireland and N America. Having made the choice Congress must then work out the details and its purpose again will be fulfilled.

Finally, Sir, I would like to endorse the admirable comments

on the three constitutional proposals made in WW15 and to make one or two further personal comments.

I do not consider an International Federation a viable structure. I have attempted to be Secretary General of such a Federation for some years and have come to this conclusion reluctantly but firmly, particularly since the emergence of a strong North American Association.

I feel that the way forward is by mutual cooperation as first put forward by Charles Relle in his "Towards a Constitution for the English Tiddlywinks Association". However I also think that the time is still not ripe for Scotland and Wales to stand equal to what I can only now call the Big Three and therefore I propose a British Association based on Charles Relle's principle. This was intended as an interim measure to allow the game to spread in Wales and Scotland under the influence of a strong body able to provide services to members in the countries not provided at present by their own Associations, while allowing them some degree of National autonomy. At the same time I have no strong views on this and I am confident that Congress will make the best decision. My constitutional proposal will do for either a British or an English Association. I would though strongly recommend certain detail changes to Charles Relle's proposal, indicated in my proposal in WW15, which should save some confusion and anomalies in the future.

I strongly urge everyone to read WW's 13, 14, 15 and this one carefully, to weigh up the situation, and to come to Congress and Vote. The future of the game is in your hands.

N G Shepherd

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### IRISH WINKS

The dormant season of the winking year was shattered this year in Northern Ireland by vast numbers of the population attempting their own out-of-doors version of the game. Paving stones were used as winks, and whole streets took the place of mats. The idea rapidly spread throughout the larger urban areas, and soon several matches were to be seen taking place between neighbouring districts.

The enthusiasm often led to the abandonment of the more formal rules; time limits were forgotten, and games went on until the early hours of the morning, aided by the light of petrol flares. Rather sadly, many of the public houses which had acted as baselines, owing to their corner positions were accidentally burnt to the ground, but the army was called in, and it laid new lines in these areas.

With the arrival of the colder weather, this unique Ulster version of the game seems to have been abandoned, and a return has been made to the more conventional indoor form. Some sort of organization appears to exist still, and arrangements are in hand for the IRTWA A.G.M. to be held in mid-January.

Although it is now known that at least one leading winker, the chairman of the St Mary's club, was forced to leave his home district at very short notice during one of the summer's more hotly contested encounters, it is felt that sufficient numbers survived to enable the Northern Ireland Knock-out Competition to be resurrected during the Spring term. Acting upon the suggestions put forward in an article in WW15, the IRTWA committee have agreed to a scheme wherein singles matches are to be included in each tie. It hopes to be able to present the results of this experiment to winkers in other countries at the next Congress, and will therefore be keeping a careful watch upon its progress.

Once again many efforts to spread the official form of the game have been thwarted because of the name. One listener claimed that where he was brought up, to play "tiddlywinks" with a member of the opposite sex was to indulge in a rather different pastime from that which our associations are promoting, and recommended that a new name be rapidly thought up.

Whatever you may like to call it, however, should you know anyone who plays this squidging-squopping-potting game

and who lives somewhere in the Irish Republic, would you mind sending his (or her) name and address to the IRTWA secretary (Martin O'Shea, 51F Downshire Avenue, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland), as southern Irish winks haven't left their baselines for far too long now.

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PRINCE PHILIP SILVER WINK 1969-70

In spite of the unfortunate non-outcome of last year's Silver Wink competition, there was a 50% increase in entries this year. The 21 teams provided the usual geographical brainteaser of reducing the total traveling distance required to a reasonable limit, without condemning the four London based clubs to play one another, or falling to the temptation of putting Aberystwyth, Queen's Belfast, and Dundee in the same quarter of the draw. The entries were thus as usual divided into four regional groups with some interesting matches resulting.

Manchester IST won their group last year but this year in Group 1, are up against four unknowns in the shape of York, Queen's Col. Belfast, Dundee and Hull. None of these clubs actually played in the Silver Wink last year in the general confusion, but any of them could have the capability of coming out winners.

In Group 2 Aberystwyth know better than I how big a threat Bangor is to them while Cambridge in Group 4 has no impossible matches.

In Group 3 the crucial first round match between Oxford and Southampton has yet to be played, but three of the semi-finalists could well be Cambridge, Southampton and Aberystwyth.

THE DRAW

<u>PRELIM</u>	<u>ROUND 1</u>	<u>ROUND 2</u>	<u>GROUP WINNERS</u>
<u>GROUP 1</u>			
YORK	} _____	}	} _____
MANCHESTER I S T			
	Q C BELFAST	} _____	
	DUNDEE	} _____	
	HULL		
<u>GROUP 2</u>			
	MANCHESTER U	} _____	} _____
	WARWICK		
ABERYSTWYTH	} _____	}	
NOTTINGHAM			
	BANGOR	} _____	
<u>GROUP 3</u>			
OXFORD	} Oxford (W O)	}	} _____
IMP. COLL. LONDON			
	SOUTHAMPTON	} _____	
BATH	} _____	}	
BRISTOL			
	UNIV COLL LONDON	} _____	
<u>GROUP 4</u>			
WESTF COLL LONDON	} Essex (82-30)	}	} _____
ESSEX			
	UNIV LONDON UNION	} _____	
	KENT	} _____	
	CAMBRIDGE		

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## WINKS IN AMERICA

There is not too much to report since the first issue of 'Nëwswink' but the teams of last year seem to be thriving and Cornell and Harpur are certainly bigger and better than they were last year. They played a match in mid-October which Cornell just won. The championship team MIT are still doing well as far as I can gather.

On the weekend of Feb. 22nd there will be the annual Washington's Birthday "Continëntals" i.e. the North American Tw Championships. In addition to last year's teams one has been started in Hartford, Connecticut by Phil Villar (ex-England) and from what I gather it has reached a high standard already and should do well at the 'Continëntals'. The Ottawa team is in the process of being reorganised and will definitely be present at the Continëntals, but so far this year we haven't made contact with Toronto or Case Western Reserve.

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## THE STATE OF WELSH WINKING

Winking in Wales is mainly centred on Bangor and Aberystwyth in the north. There is very little interest in winking in South Wales, except for a club at Deans School in Monmouthshire. Bangor University has a small but active club which plays with other, mainly University, clubs. The Winks Club in Aberystwyth consists of both University students and pupils from Ardwyn Grammar School. We have a hundred and eighty members, which is almost a hundred per cent increase in numbers over last year. Besides playing matches with other clubs we organise an internal League Championship each year. This year we have four divisions in the league with eight teams in each. But apart from these clubs there is very little organised winking in Wales at present.

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## SCORECARDS

In WW15 I drew out a possible plan for a scorecard, and offered to sell duplicated copies of the scorecard at 1d each. However Steve Drain has managed to get several hundred copies of this layout printed free, and so I can give these away to anyone who makes a reasonable request for some.- Editor, address elsewhere.

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## WORDS FOR WINKING

Tiddlywinks is an ancient game, and as such should have colourful ancient terms. It is sad that tiddlywinks has so small a glossary.

However, by poaching and invention I have collected the following to test the reactions of winkers.

Tiddlywinks	The game
Mat	Playing surface
Winks	Counters
Pot	
Squidger	Playing counter
wafer	very thin
saucer	2" diameter
ha'penny	1" diameter
Squop	Cover an opponent's wink
Lay	Cover partner's wink
Play for the pot	Start of the game
Elder player	Winner of the above who begins and ends the game
Drive	Shot from the baseline

Approach	Shot into a potting position
Pot out	Put all 6 winks in the pot
Temp	Place wink near an opponent's
Pile	2 or 3 winks together
Mound	4 or more winks
eg. a mound of five	
Flat	All winks horizontal
Pair, tierce, quart, quint	2,3,4,5 winks covered by 1 wink
Bunker	Self squopping shot
Cannon/bomb shot	Attempt to break a mound by dropping a wink onto it
pot cannon	
squop cannon	
Matted	All winks squopped
Bisques	Free turns
Baulked	Too close to the pot to pot
baulk pot	
Chase	Last of 6 winks to be potted
Lift	When a wink is turned over
Disect	Pile is manoeuvred into 2 or more parts
Burst	A violent desquop
Walk	Pile moves bodily
Holed	Potted by an opponent's play

Please let me hear your comments and suggestions - there are many more situations to describe.

Steve Drain

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#### MARCHANT TROPHY

On Nov 2nd the Marchant Trophy was once again taken down from its place of honour in the room of the President of Cambridge U Tw C and dusted off. The challengers this time were Southampton, who were very hopeful of victory as they had won all their matches this season. They had even produced a cartoon of Snoopy (the "Peanuts" dog and their emblem) in a highly confident mood.

Their optimism (and Cambridge's usual pessimism before big matches) was short lived, however, as Cambridge, playing consistently and in good form, required only 1½ points from the final round to retain the trophy. Not surprisingly Southampton switched from their normal double-squop to pot-squop tactics in a last desperate bid. Mick Wiseman and Les Want potted out 7-0 against Tony Hoare and David Carrington, a unique achievement against Cambridge's long-standing first pair. However, Southampton won the round only 15-13. Cambridge thus won 67½-44½, Phil Tepper and Jeremy Shepherd scoring 24 points for Cambridge, and Snoopy making some unprintable comments to Southampton.

Altrincham are next on the list to play Cambridge for the Marchant Trophy, but as there is no one else on the list except Southampton, who re-challenged, now would be a good time for interested clubs to challenge for the Trophy. Challenges should be made in writing to Jeremy Shepherd (secretary of Cambridge) and Charles Relle (secretary of E Tw A) - addresses in WW16, elsewhere

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#### THE NAME OF THE GAME AGAIN

In WW14 I tried to push the idea that the time will be ripe at Congress to change the name of our game to Winks. Charles Relle tried to criticise this article in "A letter to the Editor" in WW15 (and also put an entirely superfluous paragraph into his proposed constitution for ETWA - Section 14, last four lines).

I, in my turn, would like to challenge his criticisms by making a few points.

1) In my article I suggested using the name Winks so that our

game could easily be publicised as, and be seen to be, different from the various nobby and nursery games called Tiddlywinks. The whole purpose of Mr Relle's article is to tear down the idea of having two different names for the different kinds of games and yet he finds it necessary to use two different names himself - "higher-level Tiddlywinks" and "lower-level Tiddlywinks".

2) He says "we should demonstrate and portray higher-level tiddlywinks for what it is, a better game than most people suppose,". True, but surely easier if higher-level tiddlywinks has its own name.

3) He says "Let us ... preserve for ourselves the ancient name of the game". Winks is a new game, why use the ancient name of an ancient children's game to describe it.

4) "...our game is inseparable from its origins". I thought the whole point is that we want to sever all connections between our game and nursery games, not push our game as a new, improved target-tiddlywinks.

5) "Whenever a tiddlywinker appears in the public eye it is his plain duty ...to pour scorn on the manufacturers of these absurd nobby sets who thoughtlessly bring a good name into disrepute." The name Tiddlywinks belongs to nobby sets and nursery games by right of prior use, It is we who, at the moment, are trying to make good a disreputable name. Surely it is better to start afresh with a new name.

6) "Attack is the best form of defence". If our game was called Winks and not Tiddlywinks we would not have to be on the defensive.

If I might now make another point of my own, an interesting analogy is perhaps that of rugby. This has its origins in football, when a public school kid fell on a football and squashed it, but it is now considered a completely different game to football and has its own name.

Also Mr Tom Heaney (a Northern Radio newshound of some repute) has shown some interest in the proposed changeover of name. He has twice contacted me personally since he read the article in WW14, asking for details of the Congress at which the matter will be discussed.

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#### ANOTHER LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I have noticed recently in WW correspondence concerning changing the name of the game of Tiddlywinks. I would make one point - a change of name without accompanying change of nature of some concrete form is futile.

May I make an analogy. The public, with whom we seem to be concerned in this matter, are no strangers to euphemism. If rat-catchers were suddenly to call themselves rodent-operatives in an attempt to "improve their image" and for no other reason, then the public would recognise the ploy and dismiss it for what it was, and if any change resulted at all the rat-catchers' image could only tarnish. If however rat-catchers were, say, to form a register and institute a test and to call anyone who was registered a rodent operative, then the public would take note and be able to distinguish between a qualified rodent operative and a mere rat-catcher.

This is surely the aim of changing the name of Tiddlywinks, to distinguish between our game and "nobby winks". We have at the next Congress our only opportunity in the foreseeable future to change the name, because only then can we say to the public - look, we have set up a new structure for the game with whatever that entails and the members of the new organisation will call their game "t----". This surely will be accepted by the public and may be counted a small step in the right direction. A change of name at a later date will be merely another euphemism. So act now, or forever hold your peace and get on with playing the game instead of talking about it.

Personally, I think it is all a pointless discussion; the game by any name would smell as sweet.

N G Shepherd

## ADDRESSES

WW15 was concocted by two people in different parts of the country. Somewhere along the line the list of addresses of National Winks Association Secretaries was inexplicably altered. The following is, I hope, a more accurate list than the one finally printed in WW15.

IFTWA Nigel Shepherd, 18 Meadow Bank, Timperley, Altrincham, Ches.  
E Tw A Charles Relle, 2 Denmark Road, Cottenham, Cambridge.  
Ir Tw A. Martin O'Shea, 51F Downshire Avenue, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland.

NATWA Mitchell Wand, (address unknown - moved since WW16)  
ScoTWA Adrian Grant, Drig-brack'sweth, 20 Springfield, Dundee.  
WTWA Linda Lake, Glengower, Victoria Terrace, Aberystwyth.

The address of the Editor (until Congress) is  
Jeremy Shepherd, 18 Meadow Bank, Timperley, Altrincham, Ches.  
and any letters, articles, news, views or comments should be sent to me. I will pass them on to the next Editor for WW17.

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## NORTHERN JUNIOR Tw C

This year's competition attracted 30 pairs, 5 more than last year, It was held on Dec 30th and Jan 2nd at Manchester University Union. As in previous years the championship received extensive press coverage.

There were no surprise results in the preliminary round but this was not so in the first round. Kirk and Wild (AGSTWF), a pair new to the game only a few months before, beat the highly-rated 3rd seed Goodwin and Lewis (AGSTWF). In another game Jones (Alt Tw Assn) and Munn (MGS) a pair of great experience but lacking practice beat Atkinson and Bolton (AGSTWF). Experience also paid in the next round when they beat Goffin and Gould (AGSTWF).

In the quarter-finals the two remaining female pairs were drawn against each other but the skill of L Jones and A Phillips (SGGS) proved too much for H Brentwood and R Newton (AGGS).

In the semi-finals Wynn and Blears played Jones and Phillips whilst Jones and Munn played Kirk and Wild. Both results were completely unexpected, the former champion and his partner losing 11-10 to Jones and Phillips after the score had stood at 7-7. In the other semi-final Jones and Munn found themselves trailing 9½-4½. In the last game Jones had a chance to level the scores, but nerves overcame him, as has so often been the case, and he failed a simple pot shot on the last go of the game.

In the final Jones and Phillips kept to their potting tactics but some fine aggressive squopping by Kirk and Wild gave the latter a well deserved 6-1 victory in the first game. In the second game Kirk sensing victory started to pot-out and rapidly Sale's title hopes faded.

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## SELNECWA

At the beginning of the school year the Northern League/Manchester Winks Association was revamped to form the Selnec Winks Association, and in its new form has proved to be as successful as ever. Five clubs are represented in the Association and there is hope of another three joining in the near future.

With its present personnel SelnecWA intends to make its mark on the future of winks organisation. Both the organising ability and high standard of winks in Selnec were shown when they arranged for Aberystwyth to visit Altrincham with two teams. Aberystwyth 1st team lost to AGSTWF by 60½-51½ and Aberystwyth 2nd were beaten 61½-50½ by a team comprising a pair from each of the other 4 Selnec clubs.

The Association then went on to organise the Northern Junior, perhaps not quite as successfully as it might have done. This was because the organisers were relying on the cooperation of old contacts which was not forthcoming, but undaunted they got down to work and the Championship was held.

At present SelnecWA is gathering its ideas together in time to put them forward at Congress. They are a progressive movement and I am sure this is what we need to keep winks alive.

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