

THE WINKING WORLD

The Official Journal of the English Tiddlywinks Association

JULY 1971

PRICE 5p

NUMBER 19

CONGRESS '71. NEWS AND COMMENTS

The ETWA Congress which took place at UMIST on April 3rd and 4th 1971 certainly lived up to its 'less talk, more winks' billing. Whether it did so entirely satisfactorily is, I feel, questionable. In the event, the number of matches in the various tournaments that had to be completed left no time whatever for the traditional formal meeting, and it was only at the last possible minute that a meeting of the ETWA council was arranged. This was convened and held to the background accompaniment of furious activity on the mats, and without the ETWA secretary, who was engaged in one of his innumerable competition games at the time.

In addition to the semi-finals and final of the Prince Philip Silver Wink, and to a couple of international matches, the final rounds of the Open Singles Championship were played at Congress. This turned out to be one of the causes of the ensuing fixture congestion, as one match quite often had to be held up while team members finished another. Another such cause lay in the fact that games, undeniably, are getting longer. While acknowledging the right of a partnership to deliberate over their next move, recent examples have shown some players carrying this to excess, to the justifiable annoyance of their opponents, and to the detriment of the game's development. There would seem to be a need for some sort of control here; chess clocks unfortunately are expensive. Time restrictions could be relaxed at the end of the 20 minutes time limit, and it might be interesting to experiment by say, shortening the time limit to 15 minutes and having 6 'rounds', or to set a half-minute limit between shots, this to apply for the first ten minutes only.

The outcome of matches played at Congress was that England beat Ireland in a Bombay Bowl (or Guinness Trophy, if you prefer) challenge match, Ireland defeated Wales in a friendly, a talented Bristol University team took the Silver Wink from the holders, Southampton University, and Alan Dean confirmed his status as an outstanding player by becoming the first Open Singles Champion of England.

We were pleased to see Tom Heaney of the B.B.C. at Congress; he recorded a short discussion with Bungy Wells and Phil Tepper on the subject of the Tiddlywinks v Winks saga. Violent disagreement never flared up, despite Tom's entreaties! The recording was broadcast on "Today" around 7.30 on the Monday morning following Congress, perhaps too early to influence world opinion!

It was good to see so many familiar faces at UMIST, some of which (attached of course to familiar arms, legs and bodies) had travelled long distances to attend, whether playing or not in tournament matches. While on the subject of long distances, it might be mentioned that ETWA was particularly delighted to see the Irish contingent arrive once again. Their enthusiasm in coming over was welcomed, involving as it does considerable expense and time, and the makeshift comforts of the sea crossing, and is in itself a good reason for hoping that next year's IFTWA Congress does indeed take place in Northern Ireland. Slightly disappointing, however, was the fact that very few local school winkers turned up. Still, shortcomings in publicity may have been responsible here.

At the ETWA Council meeting which took place on the Sunday afternoon, the Secretary's report was delivered in his absence by Geoff Cornell, and after various rude remarks about the Secretary's spelling, was passed. It was then resolved to raise the price of Winking World to 5p. The justification for this abrupt 100% price increase is simply that WW was selling at 6d ten years ago, and the intervening period has seen proportionally spectacular increases in the cost of stationary, and particularly in postal rates. It is plainly absurd to charge a reader 2½p for a copy of WW, when it costs at least that to send it to him through the post. It was decided to take this step to counteract the ever-increasing losses suffered by Winking World, to halt the drain on the ETWA coffers,

and to allow WW (and ultimately, of course, ETWA itself) to survive and expand. In future, Winking World will cost 5p, plus second-class postal rates, if ordered by post. This of course does not apply to ETWA members or to affiliated clubs, who continue to receive their copy free of charge.

Membership rates remain unchanged, and are as follows:

Individuals £2.10 for life membership
£0.25 for 1 year

Clubs - affiliation fee of £1 per year for senior clubs
£0.25 per year for junior, i.e. school clubs.

Members (individual or clubs) receive one copy of Winking World each for the duration of their membership, in addition to all other documentation sent out by ETWA. It can be seen that membership is more worthwhile now that the price of WW to non-members has risen. An advantage of ETWA membership that is worth repeating is that it often enables someone who enjoys the game to find fellow players or clubs in their district, and thereby to continue playing after their student days are over. All queries about membership should be addressed to the ETWA Secretary (address elsewhere in this issue).

SILVER WINK MATCHES PLAYED AT CONGRESS, APRIL 1971

Semi-final. Southampton University v Cambridge University

<u>Southampton</u>		<u>Total</u>
1. A. Dean (capt.), M. Mooney	2 $\frac{1}{2}$, 6, 6, 6	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
2. K. Seaman, D. Baker	6, 6, 1, 6	19
3. H. Goyder, J. Mach	5, 2, 3, 6	16
4. N. Knowles, R. Kirby	1, 6, 2, 1	10
<u>Cambridge</u>		<u>Total</u>
1. J. Shepherd (capt.), B. Evans	4 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 6	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
2. R. Bently, M. Lyscom	1, 1, 5, 1	8
3. N. Barton, S. Boyes	1, 6, 4, 5	16
4. T. Smith, A. Lednor	1, 1, 1, 6	9

Southampton won by 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 46 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Semi-final. Bristol University v Manchester University

<u>Bristol</u>		<u>Total</u>
1. H. Mendel, M. Grebenik (capt.)	2, 6, 6, 2 $\frac{1}{3}$	16 $\frac{1}{3}$
2. P. Richards, N. Bowen	1, 6, 6, 6	19
3. I. Hopkins, P. Freeman	3, 3, 6, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. I. Ingles, G. Parry	1, 4, 1, 6	12
<u>Manchester</u>		<u>Total</u>
1. T. Stamp, J. Harman (capt.)	5, 6, 4, 6	21
2. B. Mawby, A. Austyn-Price	1, 1, 4, 3	9
3. R. Peckham, C. Reynolds	1, 1, 1, 6	9
4. S. Grant, D. Joughin	4 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Bristol won by 61 $\frac{5}{6}$ to 50 $\frac{1}{6}$.

THE FINAL Bristol University v Southampton University

<u>Bristol</u>		<u>Total</u>
1. H. Mendel, M. Grebenik	6, 6, 4, 6	22
2. P. Richards, N. Bowen	1, 6, 6, 6	19
3. I. Hopkins, P. Freeman	3, 4, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. I. Ingles, G. Parry	1, 5, 1, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>Southampton</u>		<u>Total</u>
1. A. Dean, M. Mooney	1, 6, 4, 6	17
2. K. Seaman, D. Baker	1, 1, 3, 2	7
3. J. Mach, H. Goyder	3, 1, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$, 6	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. N. Knowles, R. Kirby	1, 1, 3, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$

Bristol won by 66 to 46.

THE RULES - NEW PROPOSALS

At Congress this year we noticed a blinkered approach to tactical play in that however favourable the conditions, some pairs did not attempt to pot out to gain the extra points. In addition, many double squop games were played so slowly that they had barely developed at the finish and the result depended only on a momentary control, not on superior play.

It was suggested that a minimum number of rounds should be played, but this can lead only to an even longer game and matches would suffer.

Alternatives are to change the rules to encourage a decision before time, or to give a good pair a chance to take control sooner.

The rule to transfer one point to the potting-out pair is inelegant but has worked well; but during matches, with pressure on, it seems that the risk is too great and double squop is still the common tactic.

The proposal from Ireland to score on the basis of the time points is more clumsy, and might reduce the game to a race for the pot, a step backwards. Matches would become very difficult to assess.

If however a player were to receive an extra shot if he potted any wink, the consequences could be far-reaching.

- i) A premium is placed on skilful potting shots.
 - ii) Potting an opponent's wink has long been a workable tactic for gaining early control. This would be encouraged.
 - iii) Two shot approaches to a pile would be possible, again assisting early control.
 - iv) The risk exists if too many winks have been potted for tactical shots, the opponents may pot out if control is lost.
 - v) Similarly, if control is weak and parity in the pot is not gained by the finish, the opponents will win on time points.
- Thus skilled play would lead to early control, but weak play might give the game to the opponents.

Three further modifications to the rules are suggested.

- a) "If any wink is sent off in a shot a player loses a turn". This encourages more skilful desquopping and discourages heavy ugly shots which are often open to arguments of legality.
- b) "A player must, if required, indicate before playing a pile his intended shot, and this may be challenged".
- c) "If a shot is illegal, winks remain or are replaced at opponents' discretion - they are not played again". This would discourage the use of illegal shots when it is known no penalty is involved if they are spotted.

Only a couple of games have yet been played under the first proposed change, but owing to lack of skill, did not demonstrate any advantages or disadvantages. More experience is necessary and comment from those who have used this would be very helpful.

STEVE DRAIN

ALAN COOK

+ with reservations as to the first proposed change, BUNGY WELLS

Taking each of the three suggested amendments in turn:

1. Sending winks off the mat

I agree wholeheartedly that a player should be penalised for sending any wink off the mat, as this should stop the heavy-handed, and usually illegal smashing of piles.

2. Potting any wink

This is more tricky and at first sight we thought this a good idea, however after much trial of this rule at Southampton - as well as many casual games the club ladder tournament was based on these new suggestions - I feel that it would not be beneficial to adopt this rule. This change in fact simplifies the game. When a player is in trouble he simply pots a convenient enemy wink (it's not difficult) without having to work out the pros and cons (they are all pros, assuming the player is reasonably competent at potting). Previously much thought was required as to whether a shot could be spared in order to obtain this extra wink. In several games played with this rule almost half the winks had been potted by the end of rounds, leaving a much simplified position.

3. Foul shots

Though I agree that the present rule is not wholly satisfactory it would seem to be the most practical unless the game becomes much more professional in outlook and has official referees etc. The suggested rule, though excellent in theory, would not work in practice and would be bound to cause bad feeling. The decision of whether one shot was legal or not - which could never be proved one way or the other - could very easily turn the result of a game, whereas a replay of the shot does seem a reasonably fair way of resolving the situation.

N.P.KNOWLES

--ooo000ooo--

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The first K.O. county championship, for teams of six, attracted ten entries. Two of these, Middlesex and London have withdrawn because they were 'unable to raise a team'. The draw thus reduced to Kent v Hampshire, Essex v Berkshire, Lancashire v Cheshire, and Cambridgeshire v West Midlands. The only result available at the time of going to press was a win for Cheshire over Lancashire (report in next WW). Any players interested in being considered for County teams, or forming new ones for the next championships, should write to the ETWA Secretary. The qualification to play for a County is birth or normal residence.

--ooo000ooo--

INTERNATIONALS

In addition to the matches at Congress referred to on the front page, a Wales v England match (challenge for the Guinness Trophy) was played on May 22nd in Aberystwyth, England winning 85½ - 26½. Unfortunately space does not permit reports or scorecards of these matches, and they are held over until WW20.

--ooo000ooo--

WINKS

With reference to complaints about badly shaped winks (WW18), Mr. Rudd of Marchant Games points out that the winks are supplied by another manufacturer, who slices coloured rods of plastic with a most inaccurate cutting machine, and (this firm) cannot guarantee improved accuracy even if prices are raised. When they arrive at Marchant Games (or rather at Ilkeston Toys), the winks have to be sorted into sets by hand, and it is here that some bad specimens get through, to Mr. Rudd's regret. He invites people to send bad winks (not the whole set) to him at Ilkeston Toys Ltd., Rayosol Works, Goldings Hill, Loughton, Essex, and will be glad to replace them and refund postage. A word of warning - he mentions that there will almost certainly have to be a price increase after September 1971.

--ooo000ooo--

TIES

ETWA ties are available from Alan Dean, price 90p each. If you qualify for, and would like an England Team tie, please send £1 to Jon Mapley at 7 Hornbeams, Vigo Village, Meopham, Kent. A batch of these ties will be ordered as soon as we can afford to pay for them, and only a few such payments will be required. The actual cost of the ties should be under £1, and the difference will be refunded with the ties.

--ooo000ooo--

ADDRESSES

ETWA Secretary: Alan Dean, 9 Firs Avenue, Failsworth, Manchester. M35 0AN
(until August 27th 1971)

11 Khartoum Road, Highfield, Southampton. SO2 1NY
(from August 27th 1971)

WW Editor: (to whom all contributions should be sent)

Phil Tepper, 30 Edenfield Road, Prestwich, Manchester. M25 8EE

Winking World 20 is scheduled to appear next January, so contributions should reach the editor before New Year's Eve.

MARCHANT TROPHY

The following report was contributed by a nostalgic Jeremy Shepherd, 1970/1 President of Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club.

This year, notwithstanding rude comments in the last WW, Cambridge have met three challenges in nine months - the legal limit.

Essex were the first to meet the champions and were much feared, as they had retained, and presumably improved many of their team of the previous year. Also, because of a mix-up of dates and venues of a Silver Wink match with the Marchant match, Cambridge agreed to play away from home. However the match never lived up to expectations and Cambridge steadily built up a convincing lead, winning $68\frac{1}{2}$ - $43\frac{1}{2}$.

Altrincham Tiddlywinks Association were next in line to visit Cambridge. This is, officially, a team based on the Altrincham area, but presently it consists entirely of schoolboys from the local grammar school, as older local players are at universities (2 at Cambridge). The team itself is of a very high quality, containing at least three internationals, in spite of being in something of a winking backwater. Unfortunately, in spite of offers of accommodation for the team overnight in Cambridge and, I believe, use of a school minibus and driver, they withdrew. It seems a shame that such a young and brilliant team should never manage to play in the only major competition open to them, for want of a small amount of time and effort by their leader; this is the second time they have withdrawn in such circumstances.

The last, and era-shattering confrontation occurred one Sunday in the early part of the Summer term. Cambridge had just been convincingly beaten by Southampton in the Silver Wink semi-finals at Manchester, but both sides had been below full strength. Now battle was to be joined again for the Marchant Trophy.

Southampton had achieved match fitness by breaking their journey to Cambridge on Saturday night in London, coolly demolishing the best team they could lay their hands on, and then relaxing in a night club.

Cambridge prepared by having the annual team photograph taken before the match, so that the Marchant Trophy (filled with daffodils) could feature on it.

So came the day of the match. The sun was shining on the Backs and the daffodils were still fresh in the trophy. The match was fierce and short, and in three rounds the daffodils were Southampton's; Alan Dean had led his men to a crushing $56\frac{1}{2}$ - $27\frac{1}{2}$ victory over the best Cambridge could offer. A token fourth round won by Cambridge with two pot-outs could do little to salve the pride of those Cambridge players who stayed long enough to see it.

Messrs. Dean and Mooney scored 19 points (out of 21) and the top Cambridge pair scored less than the bottom Southampton pair.

Thus ended Cambridge's hold on the All-England Trophy, which has lasted many a year now, and should be recognised for its true worth. To keep a top-class team going continuously, replacing star players as they leave with equally good new ones, is truly an achievement, when kept up for so long.

However I fear most of CUTwC's exploits over the next year or so will be performed in the bar and discotheque, as most of their team is leaving. They have no star player left, no Alan Dean to conjure a new team phoenix-like from the ashes.

So Alan Dean took the Marchant Trophy (yet another one for his Southampton home) and the Southampton mascot collected the daffodils, the yellow of the flowers matching the blue of her eyes and the yellow of her hair (what if Cambridge had a mascot like that - perhaps they could be spurred on to greatness again.....).

<u>Cambridge</u>		<u>Total</u>
1. J. Shepherd (capt.), M. Lyscom	3, 7, 1, 5	16
2. D. Carrington, A. Grayer	6, 3, 0, 3	12
3. E. Smith, A. Lednor	$5\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 1, 1	$8\frac{1}{2}$
4. N. Barton, S. Boyes	1, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 3	$6\frac{1}{2}$
<u>Southampton</u>		
1. K. Seaman, D. Baker	4, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 66	$12\frac{1}{2}$
2. J. Mach, H. Goyder	0, 4, 6, 6	16
3. A. Dean, M. Mooney	6, 7, 6, $5\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{1}{2}$
4. N. Knowles, R. Kirby	2, 4, 6, 4	16

Match played at St. John's College, Cambridge on May 2nd. 1971.
Southampton won $56\frac{1}{2}$ - $27\frac{1}{2}$ etc. Final score 69 - 43.

MARCHANT TROPHY (continued)

The story is now taken up by Rog Kirby, Southampton U.W.C's 1970/1 secretary.

Now that we had the trophy, we decided that it would be an idea if it were played for more often than in the past. The next challengers were Quesh (the Old Sotonians team), and since they were coming down anyway on May 22nd, this was made a trophy match. Before the match started a spot of sabotage was attempted by a member of Quesh - while buying your reporter a glass of coke in the pub at lunchtime he happened to put a double run in it. I won't embarrass him by saying who it was, or else he might not do it next time, and that would be a shame. At this match, the Southampton team was missing A. Dean (who?). He had decided the match might be a bit tough for him and had run off for an easy game against Wales at Aber (see elsewhere in this issue for an enthralling report*).

Quesh consisted of 7 players only, since one of their number had been spirited away to a health farm!

Southampton won the first round by $14\frac{1}{2} - 13\frac{1}{2}$, and then the second round by $23 - 5$. This left $18\frac{3}{4}$ for us to win - however we only managed $15\frac{3}{4}$ in the third round, and eventually won $71\frac{7}{12} - 40\frac{5}{12}$. As Quesh were one short, the rules were adhered to regarding the transfer of points from the solo player to the opposing pairs. However, we would have won $65\frac{1}{3} - 46\frac{2}{3}$ if this had not been so; we won fairly! I think this result shows the need for constant practice, which of course certain members of Quesh are not getting these days. Otherwise they would be invincible.

We were able to find one more team to challenge us before the end of the university year - our old friends from Bristol. No records are available at present for this match, and I apologise in advance for any errors there may be. The match was played in Southampton on the afternoon of Wednesday June 16th, and afterwards at a local hostelry. Southampton were missing Hugh Goyder, unavoidably detained by a maths exam. Bristol won the first round $17-11$, and the second $18-10$, so it looked as though we were going to lose once more to Bristol. However our captain (Keef) had a wonderful idea and showed them the trophy that they were challenging for. Southampton won the third round $17\frac{1}{2}-10\frac{1}{2}$, and the last $22-6$, giving $60\frac{1}{2} - 51\frac{1}{2}$, and we retained the trophy.

Incidentally, Southampton have played Bristol five times this year, with the following results.

	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>B</u>
31 - 10 - 70	Bristol	30	82
17 - 2 - 71	Southampton	$55\frac{1}{2}$	$56\frac{1}{2}$
7 - 3 - 71	Bristol	59	53
4 - 4 - 71	Manchester		
	(Silver Wink Final)	46	66
16 - 6 - 71	Southampton	$60\frac{1}{2}$	$51\frac{1}{2}$

Our only excuse for the first result is that most of our team hadn't learnt much by then. It looks as though Bristol won over the year, but we'll get our revenge! The next Marchant Trophy match has been arranged provisionally for mid-October, Oxford being the challengers. After them come Manchester.

* Thanks for the compliment - Editor.

ETWA MEMBERS

The following is a list of amendments and additions to the address lists on page 7 of Winking World 18.

Charles S. Shackerley-Bennett (lately known as Stuart Bennet), Sanspit, Queen Charlotte's Islands, British Columbia, Canada.

Guy Consterdine, Midelney, Fairfield Lane, West End, Woking, Surrey.

Robin Glasscock, 6 Beechlands, Belfast 9.

Tony Herbert, 157 Church Road, Birmingham, B26 3TT.

Robin Jefferis, Hilfield Castle, Aldenham, Watford, Herts.

Stephan Jefferis, same address.

Roger Kirby (new member), 8 Oldfield Lane, Greenford, Middlesex.

Charles McLeod, Perran, Beaconsfield Road, Claygate, Surrey.

Roger McGovern, Apt. 1210, 30 Lakeshore Road, Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada.

All the above are life members.

THE ALL-ENGLAND SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Results from the 1970/71 competition:

Round 3

					TOTALS
<u>John Harman</u>	v <u>Phil Tepper</u>	2 ¹ / ₃ - 4 ² / ₃	6-1	6-1	14 ¹ / ₃ - 6 ² / ₃
<u>Chris Reynolds</u>	v <u>Terence Stamp</u>	6 - 1	2 ¹ / ₃ -4 ² / ₃	1-6	9 ¹ / ₃ - 11 ² / ₃
<u>Bob Wilkinson</u>	v <u>Jeremy Shepherd</u>	1-6	5 ¹ / ₂ -1 ¹ / ₂	1-6	7 ¹ / ₂ - 13 ¹ / ₂
<u>John Hopper</u>	v <u>Geoff Cornell</u>	2-5	1-6		3 - 11
<u>John Mesher</u>	v <u>Keith Seaman</u>	6-1	3-4	2-5	11 - 10
<u>Colin Joseph</u>	v <u>Alan Dean</u>	1 ¹ / ₂ -5 ¹ / ₂	1-6		2 ¹ / ₂ - 11 ¹ / ₂
<u>Harvey Orrock</u>	v <u>Mick Still</u>	3-4	4-3	2-5	9 - 12
<u>Mike Nash</u>	v <u>R.Gannaway</u>	default			

Round 4

<u>Mick Still</u>	v <u>Jeremy Shepherd</u>	1-6	6-1	6-1	13 - 8
<u>Geoff Cornell</u>	v <u>Mike Nash</u>	4-3	4-3	1 ¹ / ₂ -5 ¹ / ₂	9 ¹ / ₂ - 11 ¹ / ₂
<u>Terence Stamp</u>	v <u>Alan Dean</u>	1-6	2-5		3 - 11
<u>John Mesher</u>	v <u>John Harman</u>	6-1	4 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	0-7	
		play-off	5-2		15 ¹ / ₂ - 12 ¹ / ₂

Semi-finals

<u>Alan Dean</u>	v <u>Mick Still</u>	1-6	6-1	6-1	13 - 8
<u>Mike Nash</u>	v <u>John Mesher</u>	1-6	5-2	5-2	11 - 10

Final

<u>Alan Dean</u>	v <u>Mike Nash</u>	4 ² / ₃ - 2 ¹ / ₃	5-2	6-1	15 ² / ₃ - 5 ¹ / ₃
------------------	--------------------	---	-----	-----	--

It was unfortunately not possible to play the final at Congress, because Alan Dean was involved in the Silver Wink final. The singles final was played immediately after Congress, in the UMIST Union, and resulted in a relatively easy victory for Alan after his very tough semi-final against his ex-Southampton team-mate, Mick Still. Mike Nash is from Essex University.

The 1971/72 Competition

This is just getting under way. Entries were surprisingly down on last year. Once again the early round pairings have been made on geographical considerations, and the preliminary and first round draw is as follows. Home player is first named.

Preliminary (Games to be played before August 14th).

A. Barry Savage (Middleton)	v Alan Shearman (Wakefield)
B. M. Pound (Burnley)	v Terence Stamp (Bradford)
C. Peter Hudson (Middleton)	v P. Shearman (Wakefield)
D. David Beaman (Oldham)	v Alan Dean (Manchester)
E. Simon Caldwell (Manchester)	v Ian Hopkins (Bolton)
F. Ian Alexander (Manchester)	v Bob Wilkinson (Milnrow)
G. Peter Bell (Bowdon)	v Howard Mendel (Preston)
H. Stephen Chandler (Sale)	v Phil Tepper (Prestwich)
I. S.J.Melton (Ely)	v David Rose (Dereham)
J. John Harman (Farnham)	v Roger Kirby (Greenford)
K. Neil Carne (Farnham)	v Keith Seaman (N.Harrow)
L. Mick Wiseman (Hayes)	v Jeremy Shepherd (London)

First Round (Games to be played before October 9th).

1. A v B	
2. C v D	
3. E v F	
4. G v H	
5. J v K	
6. I v Geoff Cornell (Kettering)	
7. Steve Drain (Helston)	v Alan Cook (Birmingham)
8. Dave Joughin (Darlington)	v Nigel Knowles (Tynemouth)
9. Linda Knighton (Abingdon)	v Idwal Jones (Reading)
10. Phil Richards (Darlaston)	v Julius Mach (Derby)
11. Mick Mooney (Ilford)	v Colin Joseph (Ilford)
12. Steve Grant (Sidcup)	v Martin Newland (Folkestone)
13. Hugh Goyder (Brentford)	v Mick Still (Baling)
14. Ian Bewick (New Romney)	v Jon Mapley (Meopham)
15. Dave Baker (Watford)	v L.
16. Ray Mears (Aldershot)	v Mike Grebenik (Staines)

FAME AT LAST?

Broadcasting history was made on the morning (very early in the morning) of Saturday April 29th 1971, when the B.B.C. Radio 4 programme "Today" put out live the first ever Intercontinental Winks match, between the English Champion, Alan Dean, and Rosie Wain of Canada. There is no singles championship of Canada but Rosie and her partner Andy Tomaszewski are the pairs titleholders.

As one of only two spectators to the final of the first English Singles Championship, it is perhaps appropriate that I should report on A.D.'s latest encounter, again played under somewhat unusual conditions (the Singles final had of course been played in the entrance hall of the UMIST Union building).

The match took place in a small studio in the depths of Broadcasting House with an audience consisting of Mick Still the (impartial?) umpire, one completely baffled commentator, and myself (and about seven million listeners). Fortunately the Canadian version of the game is very much the same as ours, though across the Atlantic 25 minutes rather than 20 is the accepted time limit. The players were also in agreement on the blue - green - red - yellow colour order (unlike some people). One 'killer' game had to decide the contest in order to fit in with the programme schedule.

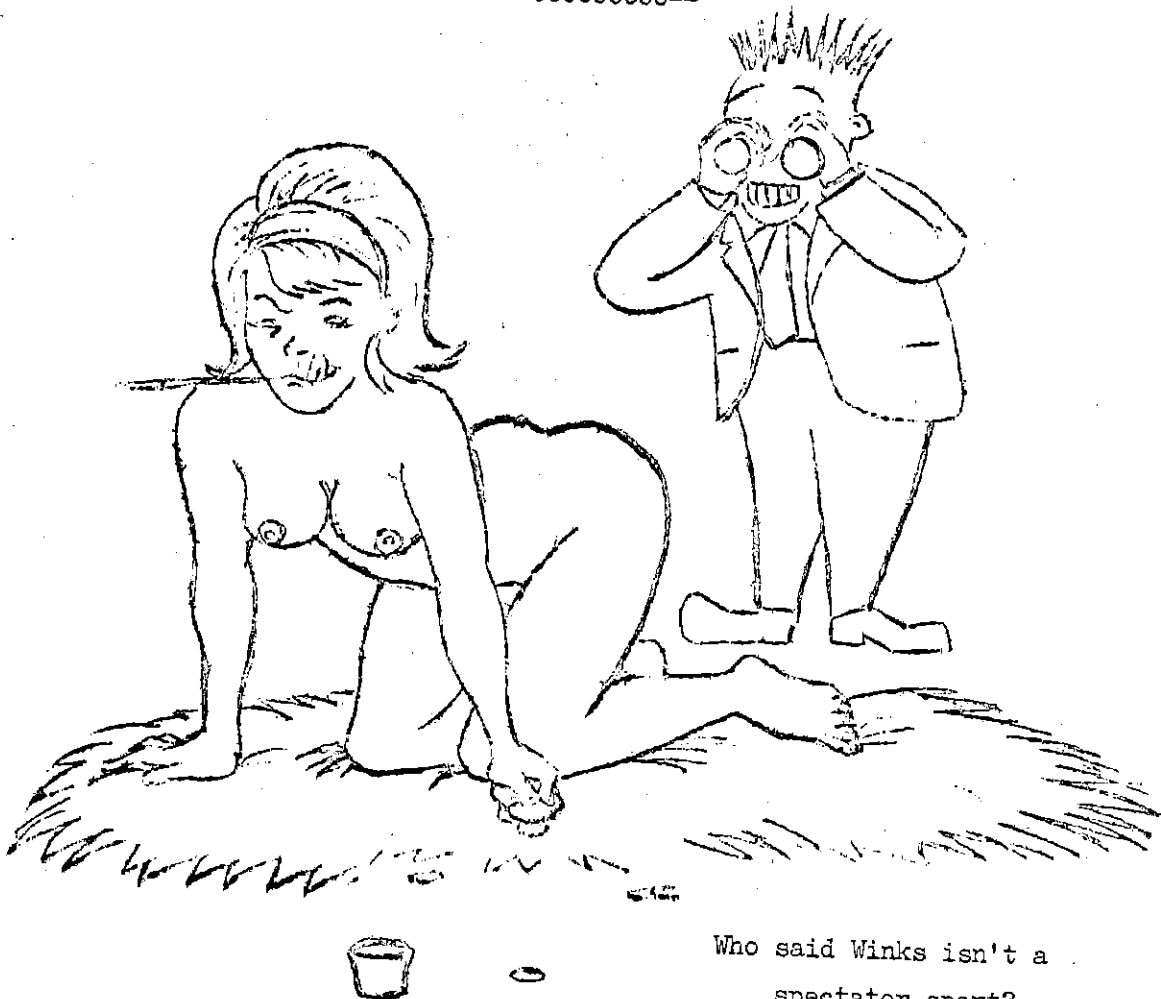
Rosie started well, getting some good squops, and was also assisted by Alan sending one of his winks off the table, but she was soon suffering and Alan had gained control by the half-way stage. Several times during the game the reporter, Dennis Frost, discussed the state of play over the air with Mick Still, who explained that the object of the game was not just to pot the winks (nor even to flick the counters into the egg-cup).

Alan duly went on to win the game 6 - 1 (the score was never reported on the radio) and the two players then faced an interview with Michael Aspel. He was sure it was unfair to have a match of a man against a woman, though as Rosie observed, "Sex doesn't matter!".

Everyone at the B.B.C. was most friendly and kind and we were very grateful for the chance to see the workings of the corporation from the inside, and for the opportunity to give Winks some nationwide publicity. Let's hope this is the start of a new upsurge of interest in the game.

Nigel Knowles.

--ooo000ooo--



Who said Winks isn't a
spectator sport?

MANCHESTER OPEN WINKS CHAMPIONSHIP, JAN 2ND 1971

This year, for the first time in over ten years, a Northern Junior has not been held at the beginning of January. This sad break with tradition was mainly a result of a lack of available local organising talent in November and December. To try and make up, for the loss of the Northern Junior, an Open Championship was arranged for Saturday January 2nd. at short notice. In spite of a reasonable show of interest by many people, Cup football, parties and early university terms resulted in a small entry, so a system of leagues was devised to increase participation. Two leagues were formed with the top two pairs from each league to go through to semifinals in a World Cup style competition.

In the first league, Ian Looker (Bath) and Bob Wilkinson (Essex) did not drop a point in coming top while Stephen Chandler and Peter Bell (Manchester G.S.) came a comfortable second. All games in the league were 7-0 potouts, quite a refreshing change in these days of defensive play.

The second league was a more fiercely contested affair, but after some close games Jeremy Shepherd (Cambridge) and Nick Harris (Imperial College) were top and after a play-off Alan Bolton and Simon Gould (Altrincham G.S.Tw.F) also went into the semi-final.

Scores for the semi-finals and final were then

Semi-finals

Bolton and Gould	13	Looker and Wilkinson	8
Shepherd and Harris	11	Chandler and Bell	3

Final

Shepherd and Harris	11	Bolton and Gould	3
---------------------	----	------------------	---

Shepherd and Harris were perhaps lucky to win by such a large margin against these promising Altrincham players, as they twice played out of bad initial positions by a mixture of lucky and flukey shots.

The competition was well enjoyed by the few who participated, and given a better date next year, could become a valuable annual event in the Winks calendar, especially as it is becoming increasingly obvious that Winks must stop its older players 'dropping out'.

Anyone interested in competing in next year's event (on or about Jan 3rd in Manchester University Union) who might not otherwise be informed of the details at the time should contact Jeremy Shepherd at 18 Meadow Bank, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire).

--ooo000ooo--

THE THIRD HAMPSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ten pairs, made up of players from Essex, Southampton and 'Wesh', took part in a Swiss tournament of five rounds. The championships were held at Southampton University on Sunday February 21st 1971, and Rog Kirby was the organiser. The scores were

	<u>Total</u>
1. Alan Dean (S), Geoff Cornell (Q)	27½
2. Julius Mach(S), Dave Hughes (S)	21½/6
3. Keith Seaman (S), Nigel Knowles(S)	20
4. Bob Wilkinson (E), C.Smith (E)	19½
5. Mick Mooney (S), Hugh Goyder (S)	16½/6
6. Mick Still (Q), Mick Wiseman (Q)	16½
7. Dave Hull (Q), Les Want (Q)	15
8. Mike Nash (E), Brian Rowlatt (E)	14
9. Jim Hall(Q), Geoff Rawlings (Q)	13
10. Rog Kirby (S), Hilary Swan (Q)	11½

All the Southampton players except Rog Kirby, Keith Seaman and Alan Dean had been playing tiddlywinks for less than six months at the time of the tournament. The performance of Julius Mach and Dave Hughes was thus rather remarkable; even the international pair from Essex only managed eighth place!

One might have expected a better result from Mick Still and Mick Wiseman, who were beaten in a play-off in last year's competition, but as Mick Still cycled from London, and both Micks played squash just before the tournament, their placing in the final table is understandable.

Geoff Cornell and Alan Dean have now won all three Nants. Opens.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

Steve Drain's item in WW16 listing a number of tiddlywinks words and definitions reminded me of the "Selection of Definitions from the 'Tiddlywinks Dictionary of Lesser Known Terms' ", published in WW5 (March 1964). The said dictionary was entirely fictitious, needless to say, but the terms quoted were all in use at least occasionally at that time in the Unuversity of London Tiddlywinks Club.

Some of the terms covered things or situations not catered for in Steve Drain's list:-

Crimewink	Practice contravening the rules.
Field of Play	Area of mat on which interesting things are going on.
Hoodwink	(Noun) A deceptive shot. (Verb) To out-psyche the opponent.
Kickshot	A shot in which the wink is potted after bouncing on the mat.
Push-shot	An illegal shot in which the wink is pushed, not squidged.
Winkfield	The range of effective influence of a wink; the wink's 'field of force'.

There were also a few terms in the list in WW5 which have the same meaning as a different word in Steve Drain's list.

<u>ULU word</u>	<u>Definition (as in WW5)</u>	<u>Drain's word</u>
Seduce	To tempt the opponent into trying a chancy shot	Tempt
(Hence: Seduction)		
Distance	Distance most likely to seduce the opponent; the distance at which the chance of successfully squopping is 50-50	
Squabble	A connected pile or group of winks	Pile (2 or 3 winks) Mound (4+ winks)
Squabblesome	Liable to get involved in a squabble or squabbles	
Crud	To bomb or violently disrupt a squabble	Cannon / bomb shot

Another collection of winks terms (though this time probably invented for use on only one occasion) can be found in WW4 (October 1963). They come from a Glossary to the Rules of the 1962 Hull Guildhall Tiddly Wink League, and include :

Nurdled	Counter so near the beaker that it is not possible to flick it in
Spunned	When an opponent kneels or stands on your counter
Scrunged	When a counter bounces out of the beaker

The Glossary also gave choice definitions of such winking (sic) terms as Brewer's Elbow, Plumber's Wrench and Cobbler's Mallet, together with the ruling that "Breathing on opponents' spectacles will incur a penalty".

Yours sincerely,
GUY CONSTERDINE

Dear Sir,

We are sorry to read (WW18) that Miss Jones is having trouble with her "irregularities in thickness and badly twisted surfaces". However, we feel that this may be a case of an inadequate maintenance of her equipment.

In the meantime, we hope that with more experience and practice the young lady will acquire such technique and singlemindedness of purpose to overcome her obviously deepfelt frustrations.

Yours faithfully,
MIKIS VON QUESH

Dear Sir,

This year's Congress bore the Alan Dean hallmark of 'less talk and more winks' - a good thing but it meant that little thought was given to the stagnating state of winks in this country and the fact that the last ten years have seen no increase in the number of schools and youth clubs playing the game.

The mass media were there in force and so, one would think, this was a tremendous opportunity to fire the imaginations of the many millions of potential winkers who don't know it yet. In fact, most of the national dailies carried only a small paragraph about the event and no-one listens to Radio Manchester anyway.

One reason for this could be the much lamented passing of the mini-skirt; rear views of young ladies bending over tables to take their shots always used to guarantee a fair amount of exposure - in every sense of the word! The main reason, though, must surely be that we are all incredibly ordinary, boring, common or garden people. We aren't idiots. We aren't mad. No, Rev. Shepherd, it's no good trying to inject the game with something of the respectable gentility of the boat race; after all - how many winkers started playing, thinking it was a serious game?

Changing the name isn't the answer either. Last year's Congress decided that the only better alternative names in order to attract more people to the game were 'Sex' and 'Football', both of which, if implemented, presented certain problems. For instance, the 'International Rules of Sex' would almost certainly be banned and quite what the 'Prince Philip Silver _____' trophy would be is anybody's guess!

No, winkers, we're presenting the wrong image. We must be mad. We must be idiots. Winks is a silly game anyway. Let's start treating it as such - at least whilst we're under the glare of publicity.

The public already laugh at the game and trying to tell them they're wrong to do so is like running up an escalator which is going down. So let's change direction and then, maybe, more people will start taking to the mats, because only if they come to realise for themselves what a great game Winks can be, does the winking population of the country stand any chance of increasing.

Yours etc.,

SENOBOT

(name and address supplied)

* Supplied to whom?? - Editor

Dear Phil,

Speaking of my contemporaries, I was very interested to read in WW17 the articles by Guy Consterdine (my old London and England partner), Martin O'Shea and Stuart Clark, all of whom either deal with, or touch on, the subject of the future of the game. Reading the articles made me think about the subject and I would like to express my opinions, as an 'inside' outsider - if you see what I mean!!

I found Guy's article very interesting and well thought out - I agree wholeheartedly with much of what he says. However I feel we should look at the fundamentals of the question and ask 'what exactly do we want to happen to the game?' I'm quite sure now that those who look for unnatural publicity for the game (and I was one of these in the mid-60's) are, inadvertently maybe, those who are perpetuating the image of tiddlywinks being a nursery game. They are, in fact, admitting that 'here is something a little eccentric and amusing which we take seriously but expect others to laugh at'. I believe that the only publicity for the game at this stage in its development should be designed to attract people to play the game, particularly at Grammar School level - only in this way will we ensure a constant stream of players who, we hope, will continue to play (if the facilities exist) after commencing their working life. When you consider how few people in the U.K. play tiddlywinks, we can hardly expect the newspapers and the B.B.C. to look upon international matches, conferences etc. as serious news events. An international match in a sport which is played in maybe 2 or 3 countries outside of the U.K. (and that is stretching facts!) and in which the participants of each team are selected from a mere handful of good players cannot be expected to be of any news value except as a bit of a joke. When there are hundreds of thousands of players in the country, then it will become a news event naturally - not in a manner where we phone the Daily Mail and plead with them to give us two lines on page 8.

Reading Winking World over the years, it is very apparent that the game is not progressing very greatly at all, outside University circles. This leads to the question of whether the majority of the people who play, actually want to change the image of the game. If they did, then the first, imperative step would be to do as Guy suggests and change the name - and I would go further than Guy in proposing that a completely new name be decided upon - even 'Winks' has dubious connotations.

I have a very shrewd suspicion that most of the active winkers at any time, although they are serious about the game, actually approve of the 'joke' aspect of the game. If this is so, then that is the way the game will naturally be, and we can hardly expect it to flourish into a nationwide sport. It is my opinion that this is the way the majority of players have viewed the game and this has been borne out by the fact that very little progress has been made since I left U.C.L. (there is still trouble organising a Southern Junior Tournament!) and also by the fact that the last Congress voted to keep the name unchanged - a suicidal blow against progress.

To my mind, another piece of muddled and useless (but it seems, generally accepted) thinking about the game is that more and more tournaments will help the game to flourish. Far from flourishing, this could possibly serve only to boost the egos of a small band of accomplished players and deter anyone else from bothering to participate. I agree that tournaments are necessary to provide a means of improving skills, meeting good opponents etc. but they surely will not attract new players to the game. At the first Southern Junior Championship at U.L.U. in 1963 (?), I remember seeing several hopeful but unaccomplished pairs (some of whom had travelled from some way away) being mercilessly crushed in the first round in two minutes flat by players from Bancroft's (Jon Mapley included) who only days before had been playing against some of the best players in the country. I wonder how many of those 'likely lads' are still in the game? I think that tiddlywinks should be compared with other indoor games (rather than sports) which require a small number of players and considerable skill - bridge and chess for instance. These games have a large number of followers throughout the country but, although there are many tournaments available for the more accomplished players, the vast majority play at club level and at home. This is the direction I think that tiddlywinks should head - it surely isn't a spectator sport except maybe to other expert players, as in chess and bridge.

Firstly must come the complete change of name and secondly a concerted effort by all concerned to get as many people as possible playing the game. The more that play, the more easy it is for players to continue in the game after their university days - people will not travel 50 or 60 miles (even for chess and bridge!) on a regular basis. Any money that ETWA has, should be used to promote the playing of the game in new schools, new colleges and new areas of the country. If this is not done then I fear that in 1990, in WW75, we shall read that "Recent figures show that in the year ending 31st July 1989, total sales of winks sets were a new record for the decade - 73 sets being sold in that time by Ilkeston Toys Ltd. - 55 of them to India".

If you find these comments of sufficient interest to use in Winking World, please do so - if not, at least pass my letter to Guy!!

Wishing ETWA and yourself success in 1971.

Yours sincerely,

ROGER MCGOVERN

* ETWA acknowledges with gratitude a donation of £2 from Roger.

OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED INTERNATIONAL MATCHES - A LIST

1. 8 - 6 - 59	Victoria Rooms, Bristol	England 78	Wales 34
2. 7 - 5 - 60	Edinburgh Castle Esplanade	Scotland 39	England 73
3. 28 - 10 - 61	Onward Hall, Manchester	England 80	Scotland 32
4. 2 - 3 - 63	McEwan Hall, Edinburgh	Scotland 42	England 70
5. 29 - 2 - 64	Bristol	England 69	Wales 43
6. 22 - 3 - 64	Manchester University Union	England 77½	Scotland 34½
7. 20 - 3 - 65	Edinburgh University Men's Union	Scotland 20½	England 91½
8. 24 - 4 - 65	Newadd Rendell, Aberystwyth	Wales 43½	England 68½
9. 26 - 3 - 66	Manchester University Union	England 91½	Ireland 20½
10. 26 - 3 - 66	Manchester University Union	Scotland 52	Wales 60
11. 27 - 3 - 66	Manchester University, Woolton Hall	Ireland 54	Wales 58
12. 27 - 3 - 66	Manchester University Union	England 70	Wales 42
13. 2 - 4 - 67	University of Warwick	England 67	Ireland 45
14. 17 - 6 - 67	Aberystwyth	Wales 44½	England 67½
15. 25 - 11 - 67	University Union, Belfast	Ireland 45½	Wales 66½
16. 6 - 4 - 68	University of Warwick	Wales 82	Scotland 30
17. 7 - 4 - 68	University of Warwick	Ireland 72½	Scotland 39½
18. 7 - 4 - 68	University of Warwick	England 59½	Wales 52½
19. 18 - 4 - 70	Manchester University Union	England 67½	Ireland 44½
20. 19 - 4 - 70	Manchester University Union	Wales 60½	Ireland 51½
21. 19 - 4 - 70	Manchester University Union	England 58½	Wales 25½
22. 3 - 4 - 71	UMIST	England 79	Ireland 33
23. 4 - 4 - 71	UMIST	Ireland 65	Wales 47
24. 22 - 5 - 71	Aberystwyth University	Wales 26½	England 85½