

# THE WINKING WORLD

The Official Journal of the English Tiddlywinks Association

---

JULY 1975

No : 25

## GRAND ECONOMY ISSUE.

Last night a hushed House of Commons was addressed by the Prime Minister. His speech spelt out the crisis facing Britain today. "The wink is falling as against other games and sports" he announced. "Interest in Tiddlywinks has declined since 1972 by 26.8 %. What is needed is a year for winks." Rising to a crescendo the Prime Minister said "we will fight them on the winks mats.....Never in the squopfield of human conflict has so little been done for so few by such incredibly small people". He was then led away by two men in white overalls to the Huyton State Institute for the Bewildered.

The members of the House responded vigorously. The honrouble member for Thanet West wished to know whether the wink in his pocket had changed in value. The dishonourable member for Soho wished to know how the squidger was going to stand up in the face of competition. The Home Secretary unveiled an economy package. Once the wrapping was undone the following was revealed:

- \* there would be a limit of 6 men per team after August 1st
- ! Pam K<sup>owles</sup> would be bequethed to the nation
- \* Of Tibet
- \* England would not send a team to the Montreal Olymipcs
- \* Roger Kirby's assets would be frozen

The debate continued far into the night, discussing how to regain confidence and interest in the wink. The very silly member for Bexley suggested a World Cup Competition, along cricket and tram lines, with competing teams from England. England, England, and England, to make sure we won. The member for Walsall North suggested underwater winks. The honrouable member for Rochdale announced that he was a six man team.

The debate was adjourned at Opening Time.

## Deaths :

The first in an endless series of obituaries of leading winkers. In this edition we highlight the current England Singles Champion.

Keith Robert Seaman, believed to be the reincarnation of a twelfth century Buddhist monk who had taken a vow of eternal silence, was reborn at an indeterminate age to bemused parents in 1950. He spent his childhood in the spicey backstreets of Southall and the suburban backwaters of Rayners Lane, and it was from such a background that he first acquired his yen for things oriental. His formal education was at Ealing Grammar School, a notable breeding ground for winkers and other twisted people, and he moved at the close of the 1968 season to Southampton in the black transfer of 4 E.G.S. mathematicians. Soon Keith was making his mark at Southampton, and later on he learned to write. His four year 'stretch' coincided with the presence of other good winkers and soon success came his way, being secretary and captain of S.U.Tw.C. in his second and third years respectively. Academically his time in the deep South is best remembered for his two volume work on mysticism : Volume One entitled "Meditatio on the Mat"; Volume Two entitled "The achievement of Nirvana through 7-0 victories". Gaining two degrees in Mathematics he returned to oblivion in his native territory from where he creeps furtively into Victoria every day to play with computers. His eastern pursuits take up more of his time, particularly now that he has discovered No. 25 (without rice). His latest work, "The Karma Suitor" is due to be published posthumously, and indeed the day was not long distant when Keith would only have played with yellows.

RK / GRC

Verified by Who's Who, Encyclopedia Britannica and Cufft's Show Guide.

## Other Tributes :

"Keith is a marvellous man to play with " ( J. Shepherd)

" Keith.....who ?" (Sunshine)

"Shut up, Spot"(Miss Hughie Greene was my valley - nee Jones)

First Round Results : (winner of the group underlined)

- 1 : Nigel Knowles, Alan Bolton, Bob Wilkinson. (play-off required)
- 2 : Pam Knowles, Alastair Duncan
- 3 : Jon Mapley, Alan Cook, D. Halliday
- 4 : Julius Mach, John Ormiston, Barbie Dean
- 5 : Alan Shearman, Graham Proctor, Steve Welch
- 6 : Jeremy Shepherd, Geoff Puplett, Andy Vincent
- 7 : Keith Seaman, R. Whittaker, Ian Bennett
- 8 : Geoff Cornell, R. Tibbits, Dave Byard
- 9 : Alan Dean, P. Belsen, Paul Hutchings
- 10: Bungy Wells, S Becket, Mark Ste aniak
- 11: Hugh Goyder, Neville Martin, Keith Ford.
- 12: Deniss Opposs, Paul Spencer, Paul Hoffman
- 13 : Paul Light, Stuart Marshall, Dave Taylor, Madelaine Thaine
- 14: Simon Rundell, Fred Chamberlain, Eddie Anderson
- 15: Mick Wiseman, Andy James, Sarah Fogarty
- 16: Mick Mooney, Colin Brown, Brian Watson

Second Round Draw:

- 2 v 11 . This has already been played. Neville won, and just to be awkward has now taken up residence in the Shetland Isles.
- 10 v 13
- 14 v 9
- 4 v 1      Matches will be completed by September 15th.
- 3 v 15
- 7 v 12
- 6 v 8
- 5 v 16

National Pairs Championships 1975

First Round Results: (winner of the group underlined)

- 1 : The Knowles', The Wilkinsons', Ormiston & Hutchings.
- 2 : Mapley & Orrock, Whittaker & Tibbits, Puplett & Berry
- 3 : Belsten & Beckett, Halliday & Suter, Wells and Cook
- 4 : St faniak & Phillipson, Vincent & Roberts, Byard & Jones, Shearman & Proctor
- 5 : Dean & Cornell, Mach & Bowen, Orr & Classick
- 6 : O'Neill & Goggin, Hannaway & Douglas, G&odall & Budd  
(Victory by default but this is subect to an appeal)
- 7 : Shepherd & Seaman, Hoffman & Opposs, James & Watson
- 8 : Light & Anderson, Marshall & Cooper, Thaine & Fogarty

I think that next year we will rechristen this event the E.Tw.A. Matrimonial Agency! Since the original entries Bob Wilkinson & Julius Mach have each married their partners, sue & Claire, but fortunately when Alan Dean married his partner was chosen as Best Man rather than bride. (Anyway, Barbie looked much prettier on the day). Alan Cook is the next on the list for the sacrificial altar : will he complete the set by having Bungy as his best man ? Affaires apart the most interesting result was the elimination of the favourites for the event, Keith and Jeremy, b Paul and Dennis, in Group 7. The other competitors would like to thank them, I'm sure, and to request that their winning run is now at an end.

It was good to see some pairs from the Egham Group, based on St, Mark's School, Hounslow, in the competition.

#### Round Two Draw:

2 v 4 ; 1 (when they get round to deciding round one) v 3 ;  
5 v 6 ; 8 v 7.

The final stages of both the singles and the pairs competitions will take place the E.Tw.A. Congress at Brunel University in November. (see later on in this edition).

#### Should we abolish Singles and Pairs Championships ?

by M. Still & R. Kirby.

The last five years have seen a decline in the number of people and clubs playing Tiddlywinks, and a rise in the number of singles and pairs tournaments. Perhaps the two trends are connected.

The problem is that on leaving college, most keen Tiddlywinkers wish to continue playing but do not have regular contact with enough players of a similar bent to form a complete team. Competitions like the National Singles are very welcome to such players, since their desire to play competitively is fulfilled without much effort on their behalf. The easy access to tournaments reduces the stimulus to spread the word, and teach less fortunates to play. The history of the game has always centred around clubs, particularly in Univ Universities, and the game's future must depend upon recruiting new talents, which is most easily done in a club structure. Here the college-based players have the greatest responsibility. But we must not allow other experienced players to become complacent. There must be some encouragement for them to form new teams or expand their present club. One possible way would be to remove the cause

of their complacency - the singles and pairs competitions. But to do this would be a negative step which would surely hasten the decline and herald the end of national tidilywinking.

To try to be constructive then, in the light of our own experiences in trying to form clubs and teams since leaving Southampton, let us examine the problems. Initially the difficulty is getting enough people sufficiently interested. It seems conventional that matches are played between teams of 8 a side. We think that this is too many. For most purposes 6 a side is better, and there could be a case for a further reduction to 4 a side (especially with new teams). The essence is that teams should play each other and arrange beforehand the scale of the match. (It may be worth digressing to recall that the historical reason for 8 a side is that Oxford and Cambridge had 8 players each just before the first Varsity match, and was purely circumstantial).

The advantages (to new clubs) of having teams smaller than 8 is that it is a less daunting task to the organiser to complete a team. Transport is easier if one person has a large car (of course teams of 4 reduce the problem further) and by no means least, the match itself lasts only 3 rounds, and therefore around 2 hours, which makes life considerably easier for newcomers. There are other bonuses: for instance the playing area is smaller, and it is easier to time the match so as not to encroach on opening times!

To encourage the formation of new teams we could institute a new national knock-out competitions for novices (the bronze wink?). The sort of format we envisage would be either teams of 6 (with not more than 2 players of one year or more playing experience) or teams of 4 (with not more than one such player). It would be interesting to specify in the competition rules that advice (but not demonstrations) may be sought from experienced players in other games (but not offered by them). Of course there should not be any restriction on the type of club allowed to enter, just on the composition of the teams.

It would be very easy to flaunt the rules of this sort of event, but if anyone is so keen to win that they ignore the spirit of the competition, the law legislation will ever stop them cheating.

It is important from the publicity angle that clubs, especially those in colleges and universities, play matches and publish results: internally within the college or perhaps even in local newspapers. With publicity, clubs can mushroom. A new novice competition such as the one we have suggested can only help in this respect.

A suggestion for Team Matches.

In discussions about having smaller teams to save organisation, and particularly to save on travelling expenses (that was about 4 p per rise ago when 36p was expensive) I proposed a format in which there are still 4 rounds and 4 mats. This involves each player playing 1 singles game and 3 pairs games - a total of 6 singles and 9 pairs games in the match.

An example of a match card is shown below. Each player plays every other and each player plays his opposite number at singles. This would work best if the teams are played roughly in order of strength. The order of play could no doubt be improved upon.

In my example of scoring (1) & (2) beat (A) & (B) 4-3, and (1) won his singles 6-1, and the partnership accumulated 26½ points out of a total 35 i.e. the total match points are 105 instead of the normal 112.

Nigel Knowles.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	TOTALS
1	1	3					
2	4	4½	6	1	6	1	26½
3							
4							
5							
6							
TOTALS							

Rounds.

	1	2	3	4
<u>Mats</u>	1&2 v A&B	5&6 v A&B	3&4 v E&F	1&2 v C&D
	3&4 v C&D	1&2 v E&F	5&6 v C&D	3&4 v A&B
	5 v E	3 v C	1 v A	5&6 v E&F
	6 v F	4 v D	2 v B	

That Name Again.

Professor Harold Orton was the country's leading authority on dialect before his death a few months ago at the age of 76. Shortly before his death I wrote to him about the origin of the word Tiddlywinks, following an article in the Sunday Times in which Tiddly-winks was quoted as a dialect word for a newt. For the record I would like to quote passages from the Professor's letter to me :

" C.T. Omoris in his Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology which has the last word on the subject, states quite simply that the word, in your sense, is first recorded in the nineteenth century and that its origin is unknown.

We picked up the sense of 'newt' only once, in Essex.

It also means 'beershop' and is so recorded in Joseph Wright's English Dialect Dictionary.

As an Oxford man, may I wish the Association a long and flourishing career. May it never become a lost cause.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Orton,

Many thanks to Nigel Knowles for this seminal piece of research. The editor thinks its serious. (It might even be fatal.)

666-----999

The 1975 Hampshire Open Championships.

Results

Pair / Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Pos
Budd & Goodall	2 6	11 1	6 8	5 5	8 3	16	8
Byard & Jones	1 1	5 7	6 8	1 8	5 13	19	6
Cornell & Goyder	5 6	6 9	6 11	18 6	7 3	6 27	1
Crook & Roberts	7 1	1 BYE	6 5	9 0	12 1	5 8	13
Dean & Hollom	3 1	1 2	1 13	6 1	1 2	4 16	6
Edwards & Bennet	11 1	1 12	7 6	1 13	6 10	1 6 3	20 1
Knowles'	4 6	6 10	10 4	8 16	6 3	20 4	9 25 1/2
Lees & Hillier	BYE	5 5	15 14 1/2	7 10	1 2	1 12	1 16 1/2
Martin & Welch	15 15 1/2	3 6 1/2	1 4	1 17	11 16	7 21	1 21
Mooney/Edwards	12 16	6 7	9 3	2 15	6 6	1 11	1 5 1/2
Mach & Bowen	6 6	6 1	12 6	3 13	1 9	1 10	1 15 1/2
Stacey/Biggerstaff	10 1	1 6	1 1	BYE	5 4	1 6	- -
Vincent/Suckling	9 1 1/2	8 2 1/2	5 1	BYE	5 10	2 11	1 11

The Hampshire Open, though showing an encouraging amount of new talent (?) was again dominated by Quesh - providing six players in the first four pairs. The 5th pair contained the only foreigner, with the exception of Jeremy, who sat in the corner writing his memoirs (to be serialised in later editions of the Winking World - weather permitting). It was unfortunate that the Hants Open coincided with the Varsity Match as the entries and competition were correspondingly reduced.

Geoff Cornell continued his triumphal return to British winks with his second pairs win, although this time partnered by Hugh Goyder, the old man of the current Southampton team, with a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  point lead over Pam and Nigel, the only unbeaten pair in the tournament. There then followed a 4 point gap to the hotly disputed third place - which went to Mike and Susan b. half a point. Fourth were Neville and Steve, for whom the only 7-0 of the day was not enough, and fifth were Cyril and Wiggy, exuding Ancient German expletives and smoke respectively, and proving that 6-1 is the only possible score in a winks game. The highest-placed Southampton pair were sixth, while Alan and Barbie scraped into eighth equal in the last round, being narrowly beaten to seventh position by another all-Southampton pair, Graham and Steve did well to come eighth after only playing for six months. Clare and Julius won the first two rounds 6-1, then deteriorated considerably, gaining less than four points in the remainder of the contest. Andy and Steve were seventh equal after the fourth round, but had to leave for tea (some people have no sense of priorities). The Southampton captain and his partner consistently gained  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points or less per round, except when they got a bye (perhaps this explains Southampton's decline this year). Malcolm and Tony were unlucky to face Pam and Nigel, and Cyril and Wiggy early in the match, and Alan and Barbie in the last round.

Dave Byard.

In case you are as confused as I about the table overleaf, the key is as follows :

Opposing Pair	Score for Round
Running Total Score	

Our chatty Chairman unveils a new gossip column :

- \* The new Secretary of Oxford University Tiddlywinks Society is John Ormiston (ex- Manchester Grammar and England), St. Edmunds Hall, Oxford
- \* The new boss (fuehrer) of CUTWC is Paul Hoffman, of Fitzwilliam
- \* Alistair Duncan is now officially a Tiddlywinks Club, at Edinburgh University. He is hoping for an eventual increase in membership. Maybe a Scottish team before long ?
- \* I also hear rumours of New University of Ulster back in Business Any new and confirmation ?
- \* The 'Wes ern Mail' were attempting to interview a Welsh Winker for their series of Crazy Champions (or something like that). We couldn't find one : any offers ?



\* Cambridge University used to have a policy of following up any mention of Tiddlywinks in the press etc.. I carried this on a few weeks ago when tiddlywinks was mentioned on the Radio Programme "The Impressionists". I received a brief reply from Barry Took:

"Tiddlywinks - you must be insane". Those of you who remember his association with Marty Feldman might well agree that that makes us well matched!

\* Oxford won the Silver Wink this year. That match was played on the 8th of June in Oxford. Oxford won 51-61. Paul Light broke his wrist 48 hours before the match and had to play left-handed. Dennis Opposs and one or two other experienced players were missing from the Cambridge side. (what about Oxford's side of the story? Ed!).

#### E.Tw.A. Members.

It is now a couple of years since a complete list of E.Tw.A. members was published. No doubt by now some of the addresses need up-dating! Could you please inform me (Editor) before the next edition. This list may also be useful to clubs arranging fixtures next season, although it is only a list of the addresses of individual members.

Alan Dean : 35 Hillside Ave, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO2 4LD  
Guy Consterdine: 'Midelney', Fairfield Lane, West End, Woking, Surrey  
Nigel Knowles: 31 Maple Close, Heaviley, Stockport, Cheshire  
Patrick Bonham: 11 Rope Walk, Rye, Sussex  
Colin Flood: 15 Cantley Cresc, Wokingham Berks, RG11 1ND  
Geoff Wilsher: 80 Crofters' mead, Courtwood Lane, Croydon  
Patrick Hogley: 'Surrenden' 13 Woodlands Rd. Redhill, Surrey  
Brian Rowlett: 4 Upsdell Ave, London N13 6JN  
Mike Nash: 90 Ashurst Rd, Cockfosters, Herts  
Rosie Wain; Staple Farm. Haslinghugh, Ashford. Kent  
John Pick: 9a Long Lane, Billesden, Leicester  
Michael Halsey : c/o F.C.O. (Kuwait), King Charles St, London SW1  
Phil Richards: 46 Bull St, Darlestone, Staffs  
Dave Rose: 34 Middlemarch Rd, Dereham, Norfolk.  
Jon Mapley: 2 Manor Close, Burbage, Hinkley, Leics: LE10 2NL  
Idwal Jones: 8 Bernard Ave, Hucknall, Notts  
Jeremy Shepherd : 16 Hillfield Mansions, Haverlock Hill, NW3  
Stuart Clark; 97 Norton Road, Stourbridge, Worcs.