

THE WINKING WORLD

The Official Journal of the English Tiddlywinks Association

SEPTEMBER 1976

NO. 27

Now that the long hot summer is over the editor's mind can turn from the problems of countering dehydration to the problems of editing this notable literary epic. Thankfully the month's delay in bringing out this edition has at least resulted in having something to put in it, but it is still rather a thin edition. I can quite understand what drove the previous editor to drink (it was a Morris 1000, and its only fear of the breathalyser that's stopping him driving home) for where are the contributors of yesteryear? Why has this publication been filled with the demented and drunken wanderings of only Kirby, Still and myself over these past few editions? Can't you write something stupid? Isn't it significant that the article by Bungy in this edition is much better than a lot of stuff in the past editions...because it wasn't written by the same old faces (or hands come to that)? When will this list of questions end?

The next edition will appear in January. Please bring your contributions with you to Congress (see later). If you can't do that then send them to my 'new' address: Geoff Cornell; 84, Pytchley Road; Kettering; Northamptonshire.

'Severin': What Kind of Name is that? * by Joseph Heller

English maidenhood can only just begun to recover from the subtle attentions of one Lockwood before two other winking Americans hove on the horizon this summer. Thankfully for the population explosion Severin (for it was he) was more interested in things mystical than things physical. Severin came to play Keith Seaman for the World Singles Championships, a series of matches which Keith is reluctant to talk about as he lost them, but he will forward details and photographs in a brown paper envelope if requested. Severin also arrived as the latest missionary, seeking to revitalise the condition of winks in England, and his zeal at travelling and conversation nearly woke some people up. Later in the summer Bill Renke wandered over from visiting his teutonic forebears (unlike Severin, who only has Three Bears) to see what effect Severin had had. Much of the discussion will no doubt come up at Congress, but here to foreward our readers is a summary of the discussions:

1. The rules. (Do I hear strangled cries?). The Americans have some suggestions for Amendments, but to layman it seems that there is now substantial agreements on the main body of the rules, and given two years and 8000 of paper we might even have something we can file away and forget about.
2. The Americans wish these rules to be preceded by an 'honor and morality code'.

* For those unfamiliar with Catch 22 the answer is: "It's Severin's name".

I suspect that this will be something along the lines of the American Constitution (Allmen have certain rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of winks) and no doubt we will have to have an International Court of Winks at the Hague. if anyone would care to furnish me with a report of the trial of a leading winker for 'unprofessional conduct' then I would be willing to publish it in the next edition. Of course we Englishmen, with our long tradition of fair play, do not need the constraints of the law (see Bungy's article)

3) Severin urged a more comprehensive address register. As we had problems in contacting the EWMA secretary whilst he was here he may have a point. He would also like a grading system to sort out the active winkers from the moribund ones.

4) The Americans would like a sheet of photographs of leading winkers in England, plus some biographical details. The editor wishes to bring this out as a supplement to the next edition of Winking World, so could those coming to Congress come equipped with either a team or individual photograph plus the required information. I ought to remind readers that this idea is open to all sorts of silly ideas and stupid photographs, and hope they will remain true to the traditions of winking.

5) The pot and winks situation seems to be getting sorted out. The Americans have contributed £600 towards setting up a mould for pots and are about to go into production. The English version, produced by one J. Mapley, cost next to nothing, but did require him spending all his life in his garden shed in order to produce 200 pots a year. When Jon's system has undergone its exhaustive trials programme there may be the possibility of crazy-coloured winks and pots being available.

6). It was suggested that EWMA should be reorganised on a more regional basis.

7) Some change in the Singles and Pairs Championships will be discussed at Congress. I'm glad of this as I was getting fed up of losing to Jeremy Shepherd each year and was toying with emigrating to Wales so as to get a clear run through to the last 8.

It was good to have Severin and Bill with us. Even if we disagreed with them it has set people thinking. More of this at Congress.

CONGRESS 1976.

As last year this will be held at BRUNEL UNIVERSITY. in West London, on the 20th and 21st of NOVEMBER. Last year's Congress was quite successful and we had about 70 people there. The arrangements will be the same as last year: you must find your own accomodation with friends in the metropolis. We only charge for the hire of the rooms: about 50p a head, hopefully. As last year we will be running a 6-man team competition, and if there are no weddings around this time it should be a trifle better run than last year. I would like to know how many are coming before the end of October, plus name if possible so that (1) I can get all of you temporary admission to the Union Bar (2) The AGM will probably be at Keith's house, and so I want to order a barrel or two of Ale to push the proceedings along. As last year, even if you are not in a team still come to Congress and we will put you into a team. In addition there should be lots of other matches going on over the weekend.

Obituary

We are sad to record the passing of another leading winker.

Alan Jasmine Dean was born to bewildered parents in a coal bunker in Failsworth, Manchester in 1949, and then again in 1950. His small size proved a great disappointment to his parents as most children in that city are born seven feet tall to allow for shrinkage, and they earn a valuable income as pit props before attending school. Fears that the mental instability endemic in his father's profession might have affected the young Dean were confirmed when he ignored the prospects of working in the mill, and instead went to school. Alan pored over his books as the rain poured over him, and his dwindling figure, clad in wellington boots and a snorkel, was a familiar sight to those wading their way through the soot and industrial waste on their way to work. Alan moved south to university at Southampton, clutching his memento of his childhood, a bar of coal tar soap. Now only five feet tall, unable to wash through fear of disappearing completely, and with his skin taking on the brown leathery texture of the last stages of tannine addiction, he was fortunate to move south in 1967, one year before the Government imposed tighter controls on the influx of immigrants. In fact Alan has been forced to remain in Southampton ever since for fear of being refused readmission. At Southampton Alan's interest in winks grew, pioneering new avenues of escape from irretrievable situations. His status as England's leading player lasted until the arrival of Keith Seaman (1950-75) who further developed this strategy so as to actually lose the games themselves whilst still winning the matches. Alan took over the secretaryship of E.T.W.A. from the legendary Charles Relle in 1970 and was responsible for organising, welcoming, driving, feeding, accomodating, playing, and losing to the Americans in their 1973 tour. Recently the more unintelligible sports of chess and Go have occupied his time, as has the mansion acquired on his marriage to Barbie, a Brighton Belle, but his recent regaining of the Hampshire Open Title from its rightful owner, partnered by Barbie, shows that right up to his untimely liquidation Alan still owned something of that skill that led the Americans to christen him 'The Supreme Dean', subsequently shortened, as was everything about Alan, to 'Supremo'.

Thought for the page : A man without a woman is like a fish
without a bicycle.

HOW TO WINK AT CHEATS

I am happy to say that most of my opponents in twelve years of winking have been gentlemen or (I am happier to say) ladies. Not all of them have been, however, and the time has come to expose their tactics and techniques of those who balance on the tight-rope of Rule 14 as rendered unintelligible even to E.Tw.A. Congress.

1. Use of clothing: The coarse 'winks player must wear trousers with turn-ups and either a woolly sweater or a thick wool tie or both. The turn-ups are ideal for concealing the fall-out from the desksquops. The sweater has an amazing talent for picking up small winks which stick to the cuffs and dropping them in more pottable positions. Its hairiness is ideal for removing the top winks of the piles. The tie, of course, flops out of the sweater when you are leaning over essential piles to play less essential ones. It takes practice to get it to fall out at the right time but it can be worth it. A more extreme tactic is to strip steadily throughout 20 minutes and 5 rounds. Particularly in mixed pairs this can cause the opposition to become confused as to the best tactics to adopt. If you intend to confine yourself to removing your shoes be sure to leave them where your opponent will fall over them: he may hurt himself.

2. Distraction Tactics: Other than the strip-tease, oaths and signs of impatience at the opposition's tactical discussions help to press them into errors. Tactical discussions of your own, preferably meaningless but cryptic, can worry the other side into thinking they've overlooked something. After their shot a chuckle, or a superior smile, or even "If you think it's worth it" can fix them for some rounds. Experts at this sort of thing will already have noticed that two squidgers clicking against each other make one of the most irritating noises imaginable. Most important of all, if your opponent is potting get facing him across the mat in direction of line of fire and jiggle from one foot to the other. With all due respect to the Irish of yesteryear playing blue partnering yellow this is totally distracting to anyone but the Irish.

3. Numerical superiority: Most people check the number of winks there are about before they start, very few do during the game. Always object to at least one of your winks. You can usually manage to play the next game with the "faulty" one and its replacement as well as the other five. Never line your winks up on the base line: it makes them too easy to count. If you leave your largest squidger on the mat it can comfortably conceal an opponent's

wink or two until you can remove them completely. If in spite of all this you become buried in piles a vigorous jerk of the mat should desquop you, and I defy anyone to replace the pile exactly. Cambridge players achieve even better results just stepping on any pile that gets too big. If the opposition find out before the end of the game that they are short or you have too many winks you will of course argue that the result would have been the same (if you are winning) or that the whole game should be replayed - there is seldom time for this so you are almost guaranteed a draw.

4. Common Sense: (a) If attempting a shot which may put you off the mat always play it backhand - this puts a lot more of your body in the way and if the winks hit you no-one can say for sure they would have gone off. (b) if attempting a shot of doubtful legality - play it first and argue about it only when you know its effect. Once the pile has gone few can swear what was vertically beneath which - and the umpire won't have been watching. (c) The only exception to (b) is the really violent desquop which you should insist on your opponent watching as closely as possible. The only serious injury winks players regularly suffer is damage to the eyes from flying winks. (d) Always make sure your partner holds the pot for you but you hold it for your opponents. A little downward pressure on the pot makes difficult shots close to it all but impossible. (e) Smoke a pipe. The smoke gets in your opponent's eyes and the ash falls all over the mat. Cigarettes are better than nothing but the ash doesn't stick squops together so permanently. (f) Don't get caught - none of us have yet - although the new rules no longer specifically penalise us for not behaving like gentlemen.

There are, of course, lots of other ploys. The common feature of those I have described is that I have seen them done in play - unintentionally of course.....or was it?

Bungy Wells.

Result

No-one seems to play winks matches any more, and certainly no news reaches the editor. However one pollen-saturated day in June Southampton braved the Ruddle's Court at Brunel bar to play ShITS. Playing 5 pairs each ShITS emerged victors by 106½ - 68½. Top scorers for ShITS were Mick & Eric, amassing a barely credible 27 points and still not buying a round for the rest of the team. Dave Beard, playing by himself, scored 18 points for Southampton.

1976 Hampshire Open

The 1976 Hampshire Open was held at the end of February. Once again the tournament coincided with the Varsity match, and so the 15 pairs were drawn from Soton and ex-Soton players. Whoever was responsible for this clash should be taken out and shot as it is the second successive year that such an error has been perpetrated... (maybe such clashes could be avoided by discussion at Congress? Ed.)

The old pairing of Cornell and Dean (playing with their 1976 partners) forged ahead in the opening rounds, but Geoff and Terry only won their first three games, and sunk into oblivion. One is unsure whether to accept their red-eyed excuse that they had run out of beer given the marked change in the calibre of opposition they faced in the last three games. The other hydraulic pairing, Cyril & John fared similarly badly against good opposition. Not so Alan and Barbie who won with monotonous regularity and thoroughly deserved their victory. Their defeat of Jeremy and Keith ended their chances, and a victory over Pam and Nigel meant that the trophy stayed well and truly in the South. Messrs Vincent and Heppenstall put in a well-judged burst down the finishing straight, and Pam Jones and Grahame Budd were cruising nicely, a 7-0 under their belt, until they met the Dean pairing in their final game.

| Pairs | Round 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Position |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| 1. Slack & Emley | (11) 1 | (2) 5 | (15) 42/3 | (8) 10*1 | (bye) 11* | (5) 4 15* | 11th |
| 2. Jones & Budd | (7) 1 | (1) 2 | (5) 7 | (6) 10 | (15) 5 | (11) 15 | 5th |
| 3. Vincent & Heppenstall | (13) 5½ | (14) 5½ | (7) 10½ | (12) 1 | (9) 11½ | (8) 1 12½ | 4th |
| 4. Ede & Goodall | (6) 1 | (13) 1 | (Bye) 2 | (15) 4 | (5) 6 | (9) 1 7 | 14th |
| 5. Timpson & Whent | (10) 1 | (15) 2 | (2) 3 | (Bye) 4 | (4) 7 | (1) 2 9 | 15th |
| 6. Timpson & Whent | (4) 6 | (7) 3 | (10) 9 | (2) 1 | (11) 10 | (Bye) 2 12 | 12th |
| 7. Cornell & Verrinder | (2) 6 | (6) 4 | (3) 10 | (11) 6 | (13) 16 | (10) 1½ 17½ | 10th |
| 8. Biggerstaff & Byard | (12) 1 | (Bye) 4 | (14) 5 | (1) 5 | (11) 10 | (3) 6 16 | 9th |
| 9. Mooneys | (15) 6 | (12) 1½ | (13) 7½ | (44) 1 | (3) 8½ | (4) 6 14½ | 8th |
| 10. Shepherd & Seaman | (5) 6 | (11) 2 | (6) 8 | (13) 6 | (12) 14 | (7) 6 20 | 2nd |
| 11. Deans | (1) 6 | (10) 5 | (12) 11 | (7) 6 | (8) 17 | (2) 5½ 22½ | 1st |
| 12. Knowles | (8) 6 | (9) 5½ | (11) 11½ | (3) 1 | (10) 12½ | (13) 6 18½ | 3rd |
| 13. Edwards & McKenzie | (3) 1½ | (4) 1½ | (9) 7½ | (10) 6 | (7) 13½ | (12) 5½ 20 | 7th |
| 14. Rod | (Bye) 4 | (3) 2 | (8) 6 | (9) 2 | (9) 8 | (6) 3 11 | 13th |
| 15. Machs | (9) 1 | (5) 5 | (1) 6 | (4) 2½ | (4) 8½ | (2) 6 14½ | 6th |

(* means 2/3 points)