



# THE WINKING WORLD

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To celebrate the New Year Winking World is getting the closest it can to a colour supplement. In response to my pleas of the last issue some articles have arrived at long last, and so this issue is not the usual drunken wanderings of mindless imbeciles eager to see their name in print... at least not the same mindless imbeciles! All the editor is going to do is to use his editorial to thank Mike Halsey for his card wishing winks a happy Christmas, and to hope that this coming year will see some increased commitment from everyone to the gatherings which are outlined below. May all your squabbles be little ones!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1977

19 - 20 February	Hampshire Open at Southampton
30 April - 1 May	National Pairs Competition at Cambridge
July	Manchester Open at the Knowles'
19 - 20 November	National Singles and A.G.M. at Brunel
Unknown	Tanzanian Open at Dar-es-Salaam.

Pairs, odd people, and odd pairs wishing to compete in the National Pairs event at Cambridge should contact the secretary (Dennis Opposs - see address at end of this issue) by 31st March. Accomodation (floors) can be provided if requested. The entry fee is 50p per pair.

## A FILLER SHAMELESSLY CRIBBED FROM AMERICA : Lockweed's Basic Rules

1. The only hard and fast rule in winks is that there are no other hard & fast rules
2. When in doubt, bring in a wink
3. When given an easy shot, take it
4. If you are behind, try to make one big pile because as a pile gets bigger it tends to be more fragile. If you are ahead, try to avoid big piles not protected.
5. If you are only slightly behind, pick at the edges.
6. There is no rule 6.
7. Make the battle occur where you want it. Make your opponents come to you.
8. If one colour of your pair is getting tied up and the other is still able to pot out, consider doing so.
9. Potting out against a superior pair may be the best tactic.
10. You would rather not HAVE to do something : try to keep your options open
11. Near the end of the game try to see who will get first for you, and keep that colour from getting involved.
12. It is usually better in the long run to play conseervative strategies than aggressive ones.

As Dave beat nearly everyone very easily when he was here last year, these rules strike me as very good 'basic rules of thumb and forefinger' as Dave terms them. The least I can do, after borrowing the article, is to acknowledge it. Ta Dave!

## CONGRESS 1976

That disaster of modern architecture, Brunel University, again played host to Congress this year. The opening day saw a team competition: Southampton produced two sides, and were the only University teams to appear, although two Cambridge players eventually found Brunel and joined in. ObWink masquaraded as the 1947 side, and Paul Light justified his E.Tw.A Committee Post by producing an ex-Cambridge side, including the legendary Stefan Jefferis. SHITS & SPAM provided the two joke sides, although they were strengthened by such players as Peter Toye, Steve Drain, and Geoff Thorpe. A late start, perhaps because the organiser had not told anyone when Congress was supposed to begin, brought time pressures and it was decided to experiment with a maximum of 45 secs per shot in the opening match. All shots were completed in time, but I found I started to get worried about time after 15 secs, and this may have altered the shot I was going to play. However all agreed that it made no overall difference to the results. In spite of Geoff Thorpe's determination, both joke sides were soon gleefully seeking solace at the bar. Southampton B, including Keith Seaman, lost both their games, whilst Southampton A, including Alan Dean, lost narrowly in their match to the XCam side. The final was set for the second day between the 1947 side, which had got 99 pts in their two matches (an average of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per game per pair) and the XCam side which had played well but without distinction. In the final Colin & Dave of XCam disgraced themselves by only scoring 3 points, but 15 points for Stuart and Brian and 17 from Paul and Stefan saw them through to an unexpected victory over the disappointed and disappointing 1947 side. Paul & Stefan scored 45 points in their 9 games in the tournament, one ahead of Dennis and Cyril of 1947. The final result was 35 - 28 for XCam.

Those not involved in the final rounds of the competition played a Swiss Tournament in which Geoff Toye gained some recompense for his enthusiasm as he and Alan A. emerged winners by 2 points from Ian Emsley and Peter Toye.

### The 1976 A.G.M.

by DENNIS OPPOSS (Proving that the ETWA Secretary can write)

On a cold November evening in a quiet backstreet of that area euphemistically known as Harrow, the annual cut and thrust of the Winks scene was staged. Nigel was busy being a gnome in Switzerland so Von Mapley took the chair, sat on it, and started the meeting. The minutes of the previous A.G.M. were taken as misplaced and the treasurer then gave details of our inconvertible currency reserves -

about £ 49. Hardly anyone had written to the secretary so he hadn't bothered to write to anybody else (no wonder the G.P.O. loses money!). Reports gave way to elections. Nigel's letter indicated that he was standing down (before his obituary! Ed.) and the usurping Von Mapley was promptly elected to the post. The election for secretary developed into a vicious two-way battle which Cyril won, leaving Dennis in this most demanding of posts. Aland Dean and Geoff Cornell were happy (?)

to continue in their traditional positions and to complete the central committee, Cyril Edwards and Pete Manning were elected. There was hope expressed that the council would be in better contact with each other than their predecessors.

A.O.B.: The Rules: Bungy was elected as a sub-committee and since he was not present we could not discuss the subject any further (shame!)

Pots: Only about 150 are now left in the store but our transatlantic cousins have obtained a new mould which we are to help pay for by inflating the cost of sets to 90p each.

Tournaments: It was decided that the National Pairs and Singles competitions ought to be held on separate weekends at 'new' venues rather than continue the present postal system which seems to be breaking down (details elsewhere)

London: A 'club' has been formed which hopes to meet monthly.

N.Ireland: The existence of the team at the New University of Ulster prompted the chairman to suggest that we send a team across the water to play them sometime when the weather was warmer.

Silver Wink : The trophy disappeared at approximately the same time as the Oxford club and the secretary is investigating.

Marchant Trophy: this is held by 11 Kharoun Road who are due to face Southampton University at any time. The winners of the match have been challenged by London

Phil Pepper: wasn't mentioned.....again.

### National Singles Championships

#### Quarter finals:

Nigel Knowles beat Geoff Thorpe 4½-2½, 6-1, 6-1

Alan Dean beat Paul Light 6-1, 1-6, 4-3

Jon Mapley beat Cyril Edwards 6-1, 7-0

Jeremy Shepherd should have played Mick Mooney but probably didn't.

As Nigel disappeared to his advanced modelling classes the stage was set for a final between Alan and Jon. Jeremy was an elusive character and didn't arrive to cause complications, so on the Sunday morning of Conference Jon and Alan met in mortal combat, the former rather dogged by being the favourite as far as everyone except himself and Alan were concerned.

The first game began in a manner befitting a national final, but after a large squabble had developed both players degenerated into a level reminiscent of SPAM at their most sober. Piles disintegrated, and two inch squops were missed. In rounds Alan made the best of a bad job, and as neither the gods, nor consistency were on Jon's side Alan emerged 5½ - 1½ victor. In the second game Jon brought out his winks well, but not well enough, or quickly enough, to pot out. The squabble grew around one of Alan's piles, and Jon was unlucky in his attempts to crud Alan's fragile hold. There were enough of Jon's winks in the area (even if they were under Alan's) that were they to be freed the match might turn dramatically. It didn't. Alan got free turns and Jon, once more, perfected his art of bouncing winks out of the pot. Jon was left with an 18 inch bridge to get enough points to force a third game. This, not surprisingly failed and Alan won the game 6 -1, and the match 11½ - 2½. Thus there are still only two people ever to have won the singles title, and Alan has now done it four times. His win this year marks something of a return to form for him, as he has now come to terms with his change of partners and lifestyles over the past few years. Well done!

#### National Pairs Championships

As the Deans were the only complete pair at Congress of the four semi-finalists they decided to invite everyone down to Southampton the following weekend, Alan, in the process graciously risking his chance of being the first one to hold both singles and pairs titles. All the pairs were gathered in Southampton and a draw was made which put Keith and Jeremy against Barbie and Alan, and Bungy and Alan against Eddie and Paul.

Keith Seaman/Jeremy Shepherd v Barbie & Alan Dean: This was won by Keith and Jeremy (3-4, 6-1, 3-4) (Note the traditional Seaman statistics! Ed.) Missed pots at the end of the first game gave the Deans an unexpected victory. The second game looked like an easy 6-1 to Alan and Barbie just before rounds, but after Barbie slipped when trying to make a small adjustment to a pile and freed two enemy winks in the crucial area, a complete reversal of the result became likely. In the third game Jeremy and Keith found it reasonably easy to lose 4-3 and take the match 11-10.

Bungy Wells/Alan Cook v Paul Light/Eddie Anderson: After two games not particularly well played, according to the participants (and as no-one else was watching we can only accept their word) the score stood at 7-7. Bungy and Alan had the psychological advantage of scoring the equalising 6-1. The final game was a tense and interesting one, decided by Bungy and Alan's better play in the last few rounds. This game they won 5-2, taking the match by 12 - 9.

### The final : (Part 1) Keith & Jeremy v Alan & Bungy:

The University room which had been the venue for these matches had to be vacated at this point as it had only been booked for four hours. The finalists thus adjourned to 35 Hillside Avenue and the match got under way a little before 6 p.m. On the way back from the University Jeremy noticed that his car was not changing and so called the AA for assistance. The AA man arrived just before rounds and so the clock had to be stopped. It was found that Jeremy and his car would have to go to a garage to have a new part fitted (to the car) and so Bungy and Alan were forced to wait around for about an hour, frustrating enough as they both had long journeys ahead of them, but made even worse by the fact that they were almost completely squopped up. By the time the car was fixed Bungy and Alan decided that they could not stay much longer and so the game was finished 6-1 to Keith and Jeremy and they agreed to meet again in the New Year to play the other game(s). All parties flatly denied that this was done to get reports in two editions of WW or so that the winners could have 1976/7/8 on the shield on the cup. For the record: the first game lasted 2½ hours including stoppages.

### Around the Clubs: Swannore School (near Southampton)

A Games Club was formed at the school in 1972 by Alan Dean when he joined the Maths Staff there. The main activities have followed Alan's interests of Go, Winks and Chess, but with Shogi and one or two other games attracting some attention. (The Editor wants to know what has happened to good old English games like Ludo, Halma and the like!). Most years there has been a fair intake of first-formers (11 year olds) into the club, only to decide at the start of their second year that what was a first year activity must be replaced by something else (like getting home and watching TV). Fortunately for the first time this year about half a dozen of the best winkers from last years first form have continued to pursue the game, and if this trend continues Swannore could have quite a reasonable team in a few year's time.

Matches between the pupils and the staff have attracted a fair amount of interest, and a large number of the staff have been involved. The early matches were very open and often close finishes, but the pupils have now left the staff far behind and so they win convincingly, in spite of one staff pair which usually causes problems for the school team. The most ambitious staff v school match was played last year, over a whole term. Each team consisted of 20 pairs, and one round was scheduled to be played in every four day period, with the participant in each game arranging the time to suit themselves. Although the match proved very interesting and enjoyable, particularly as the result was announced each Monday in Assembly, a few pairs could not arrange to complete their programme, and at the end of term the final result had to be announced

as a victory for the school by 994½ pts to 993½! On the final day the staff were trailing by 15 points and so the staff craftily arranged for three of their best pairs to play against the weakest pairs on the other side. The fact that the staff only managed 6-1, 6-1, 5-1½ serves them right for using such tactics.

Having conquered the staff, the school team needed better opposition and so a series of matches against Southampton University have been played. These have averaged about one a term for the last couple of years. The most recent of these matches, played on November 11th at the University was very exciting, with the University leading by ½ of a point as the teams went into the last round. However, in the final round the University quadrupled their lead to win by a comfortable 1½. It was unfortunate that one of the Swannore stars (Trevor Aburrow) was ill on the match day and this left two rather inexperienced first years to play together as pair 4.

Scores: Southampton University: 56 and two thirds

- 1) Dave Beard, Arthur Holden : 16½
- 2) Clare Roberts, Helen Rinker : 13 and one sixth
- 3) Steve Goodall, Mike Holloway : 16
- 4) Ian Dmsley, Tom Gardner : 11

Swannore School: 55½

- 1) David Vanderhovle, 'Mr' Dean : 24
- 2) Andrew French, Keith Foot : 10 and five sixths
- 3) Steven Clasby, Robert Keele : 14
- 4) Darren Smith, Patrick Davies : 6½

#### 1976 Manchester Open at Owens Park

	N/S	P/L	C/J	A/G	M/G	M/V	
Nigel Knowles/Steve Welch	-	6	2	6	6	3	13
Pam Knowles/Linda Press	1	-	1	6	6	5	19
Cyril Edwards/John McKenzie	5	6	-	6	6	2	25
Alan Shearman/Geoff Puppel	1	1	1	-	1½	5	9½
Mark Illingworth/Geoff Thorpe	1	1	1	5½	-	3	11½
Mark Stefaniak/Vic Press	4	2	5	2	4	-	17

Not an encouraging entry this year. Owens Park is an ideal setting with accomodation, Bar etc. on the premisses, and fortunately an understanding manager as we ended up paying for no accomodation!

Congratulations to Cyril and John for winning something! Next year's tournaments will be in a different format (anything so that he can win Ed) so watch out for details!

X Nigel Knowles.

" The slowness of genius is hard to bear, but the slowness of mediocrity is intolerable " H.E.Buckle 1821 - 62

A perennial problem in winks is what Oxford players call "Cambridge tactics", Cambridge players call "London tactics" and no doubt London players have a word for it. This is the practice of taking longer than the opponents feel necessary to play a shot. This is annoying to players and spectators alike, and it makes efficient match organisation impossible. The object of this article is to identify the problem, to discuss methods of removing it which have already been put forward, and to offer a suggestion which the author feels is original and which combines fairness to the players with relative ease of enforcement. There are four basic reasons for taking a long time to play a shot :

- 1) A pair cannot make up its collective mind about what shot to play
- 2) A pair has reached a commanding position early in the game and wishes to avoid making too many shots which could possibly result in losing
- 3) A genuinely complex and evenly balanced situation has been reached in which a great deal of thought is needed before the best line of play can be found
- 4) A match situation has occurred in which a team must score one or two points more than are readily available in order to win the match. In this case one (or more) of the pairs will have to play dangerously to squeeze the extra point or points, and each pair will want to wait for the others to play so that they know how many points to play for. In the author's experience this has resulted in a total impasse which was only solved when the caretaker threatened to turn out the lights whether or not the match had finished.

Of these reasons (1) and (2) hold up the game unnecessarily, although in the case of (2) it could be argued (especially by the winning pair) that a side should be allowed to hold on to its advantage by any means, whereas any means of speeding up the rounds, especially in the case of (4) would be welcome to match organisers.

Various solutions have been suggested. The simplest is

A) to insist that a certain minimum number of rounds are played. This is easy to enforce but it would combat only to (2). In all other situations the problem would be worsened before the rounds, as there would be no overall time limit. The opposite solution is

B) that every shot must be played within a certain time. This would speed everything up except in case (3) it would be somewhat unfair on the first pair to play after a complex situation has been formed. However, refereeing such a game would be a full-time job and the organisational problems of supplying four independent and /or incorruptible referees for a match would be large.

C) The use of a chess clock has been suggested. The remaining problem

would be to decide on the penalty for over-running one's time. The solution used in chess (the loss of the game) would seem too harsh. However unless one of the match organisers is also a member of a chess club this would be an expensive solution.

The author would like to make a further suggestion which gets round most of these problems, and which should be feasible with only one referee per match :

- i) Before the match, the organisers shall decide upon a time limit per shot. It is probably best to have two separate limits : one for the main game and a longer one for rounds. Possible times here are 45 seconds and 1 minute 15 seconds.
- ii) At any time during a game any member of the pair not due to play the next shot may request that the next shot be played within the time limit mentioned in (i) of the time of making the request. The request must be made audibly to the player due to play and to the referee. If the shot is not played within this time it is forfeited and play passes to the next player.

The rationale behind these rules is that if a pair feels it is being unduly held up (in cases (1)(2), (4) ) it can take steps to rectify the situation, whereas in case (3) it can if it wishes make use of the opponents' time to decide on its own plan. The burden on the referee should not be too great, as he will have to be asked to keep track of timeouts (as opposed to (B)) where he would have to watch continually) and he should be able to handle all four mats at once in the unlikely situation that they should all need timing. It would be a matter of courtesy to the referee to tell him when a timed shot had been played within the time. This method still does not solve the problem of a complex situation occurring within the rounds and with no-one wishing to call for timeouts (note that this is case (3), not (4) ). A further rule that could be imposed could be:

- iii) For organisational reasons only the referee may at his discretion insist that all shots be played within the time limit from the play of the previous shot.

This is (B) above, which has already been rejected on the grounds that it is impractical. The author can see no way around this problem. It is also possible that as a matter of course all players call for each shot to be timed as a matter of principle (or to annoy the opponents), which raises the same problems. It is made slightly easier as the referee will be informed by each mat when to start timing, but more than one referee may still be needed.

The only test of all these methods is to try them out in practical situations and to evolve a simple and fair method of putting an end to the situation in which a pair disappears into a corner for three minutes, only to return with the comment "Token".

Peter Toye.



## TRANSATLANTIC NEWS

The North American Tiddlywinks Association has now resurrected its publication and so we can gather more news from the game over there. The first edition concentrates on rather a walter of data which it has had to catch up on, and seems to have been presented with rather a Women's Own format (i.e. you are continually turning to other pages to find the end of the article you have just started), but it's good to see it back again. Those delving through the pages can discern that in the National Pairs Championships, Severin and Larry beat Dave Lockwood and TDI by 2/3 of a point. In the singles Sunshine defeated Dave Lockwood by 1 1/2 points as a result of a 6-1 pot-out in the final game. Dave maintains a high average game score, which is not altogether surprising: I have rueful memories of a series of games against him when I even ran out of excuses for my defeats, and obviously Severin's sojourn in England did something for his game. I am sending my two spare copies out, and if anyone can understand what happened in the pairs final please let me know. The situation as I understand it is that a green wink was potted, and a green wink bounced out. The disagreement was whether it was the same green wink! They decided to play on (presumably with the green wink included) and decide by ballot if the presence of the green wink made any difference to the final result (as I would have thought it must have done!) It all sounds a little crazy to me! What would we do in that situation. My guess is that we should order the potting shot to be replayed with the wink that had bounced out, but if anyone has got some fun alternatives I'd like to hear from them.

N.A.Tw.A have also produced a winking songbook. As far as I know we only have the Winking Anthem, to the Tune of Men of Harlech. Anyone feel like breaking into song writing. I include an excerpt from their songbook to show the standard: (Tune: Teddy Bears Picnic)

If you shoot onto that pile of winks

You wouldn't be very wise.

If you shoot onto that pile of winks

You're in for a big surprise.

For standing there are a number of winks

Who'll jump on you before you can blink

If you come near

You certainly will get squopped out.

See my partner lick his chops

You know there's nothing he would rather

Do than make a squop.

As for me I'm ready too

In fact there's nothing really I can see

For you to do

Don't try bombing it won't work

Our pile's much too solidly built for that,

Bomb the pile or try to pot

The chances are that you will not

Get more than a single point.

Here is an updated list of life members of ETWA.

ABROAD: Severin Drix; PO Box M4; Mœcklenburg; New York 14863; U.S.A.

Dave Akland: Skule ya Sekondari Kibaha SLP 30053; Kibaha; Dواني; Tanzania

Mike Halsey: F.C.O. (Dacca) King Charles St. London SW 1A 2AH

Liam Whitelaw: Students Union; New Univ. of Ulster; Coleraine; Co. Londonderry

NEARLY ABROAD: Alistair Duncan: 1 Saxecoburg St. Edinbrugh 3

Steve Welch: Dingleton Hospital, Melrose, Roxburghshire.

NORTH ENGLAND: Martin O'Shea; Laneside; Wallbank Rd; Bramhall; Stockport; Cheshire

Geoff Thorpe: 88 Bramhall Lane South; Bramhall; Stockport SK 7 2 EA

Phil Tepper: 30 Edenfield Rd; Prestwich; Manchester

Knowles: 59 Victoria Rd; Whalley Range; Manchester M 16 8 DQ

Bob Wilkinson: 2 Beechwood Drive; Royton; Lancs.

Rog Kirby: 18 Mannering Rd; Liverpool L 17 8 TB

Alan Bolton: 162 Carington Terrace; Heaton; Newcastle NE 6 5 SJ

MIDLANDS: Alan Cook: 136 Witterford Way; Selly Oak, Birmingham 29

Stuart Clark: 97 Norton Rd; Stoubridge; Wörcs. DY 8 2 TB

Jon Mepley: 2 Manor Close; Durbage; Hinckley; Leics.

EAST: Dave Rose: Horningtoft; Dereham; Norfolk

Paul Spence: Queens College; Cambridge

Geoff Cornell: Wesley House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge

WEST: Bungy Wells: 26 Lower Touches; Chard; Somers et

Steve Drain: 14 Paulsmead; Fortuneswell; Portland; Dorset

Peter Downes: Stile Close; Burford; Oxon. OX 8 4 IX

Rosie Wain: 21 Wykeham Crescent; Rose Hill; Oxford

Alan Shearman: Glenfield; Doars Hill; Oxford

SOUTH: Guy Consterdine; Midelney; Fairfield Lane; West End; Woking; Surrey

Pat Högley: 70 Beechwood Rd; Caterham; Surrey

Geoff Wilsher: 80 Crofters Mead; Courtwood Lane; Croydon

Pat Bonham: 11 Rope Walk; Rye; Sussex TN 31 7 MA

Alan Dean: 35 Hillside Avenue; Bitterne Park; Southampton

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES:

Harvey Crook: 37 Forest Court; Snaresbrook; London E 11

Jeremy Shepherd: Top Flat; 3 Lebanon Road; Wandsworth SW 18

Mike Nash: 1 St Michael's Rd; Hithcin; Herts

Drian Rowlett: 71 Cranleigh Gdns; Luton, Beds

Colin Flood: 3 Squirrel s Dray; Edgecombe Park; Crowthorns; Berks RG 11 6 HA

Stefan Jefferis: Hillfield Castle; Aldenham; Herts

Cyril Edwards: 3 4 Geoffrey Rd; Brockley; SE 4

Keith Seaman: 6 Elm Grove; North Harrow

John Mesher: 28 The Chilterns; Grove Hill; South Woodford E 18

Dennis Opposs: 76 Ashburne Court; Woodstock Rd; N 12

Peter Toye: 6 Alcock House; Queens Drive; N4 2 TB

Paul Light: 38 Oakdale Rd; Streatham; SW 16 2 HL

Mick Wiseman: 32 Delamere Rd; Hayes; Middlesex

Mick Still: 13 Lyon Avenue; Crowthorne; Berks;

Present Secretary of CuTwC is Martin Illingworth in Emmanuel College

Present Secretary of S uTwC is Peter Manning c/o J.C.R. Post the University

Anyone knowing the current whereabouts of either Charles Relle or John Harman? Those not life members but who could submit names and addresses to me via their clubs could be included on a wider list so that we have some idea of who is available to play in each region should the need arise. Then I can have a full list of active winkers.