THE WINKING WORLD

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Readers of this journal, accustomed to its spasmodic appearance, may well be shocked at receiving an edition only three months after the last. The reason for this rush into print will become apparent as you read below. This summer sees the presence of the American Winks team with us, playing for as many world titles as we can think of. This edition welcomes them, records their visit so far, and attempts to reach to their pockets before the dollar devalues any further.

Two of the team are known to English winkers: in fact they are both Etwa members. Dave Lockwood, who hopes to fly to Tehran to play an unsuspecting Nigel Knowles for the World Singles Trophy soon, and Severin Drix who was with us a couple of years ago before flying home with a World Title under his belt. Bob Henninge hails from Ohio (about all you can do from there) and was runner-up to Lockweed in the U.S. Singles. He is one of the old school: nearly as old as the average English winker. Larry Kahn partnered Severin to the U.S. Pairs title this year. Joe Sachs and Charles Frankston share a sleazy dive in Somerville, Massachusetts, and Buck Webb comes from Ithaca. To add talent to the side M.P. from Cornell University, on a trip round the world. Cyril Edwards is able to confirm that beneath these initials hides a female winker, Mary Pat Rouse for short.

Great Britain v U.S.A. July 15th. Venue: Goldsmith's College, London

The appearance of a Great Britain side may have been a desperate attempt to preserve England's unbeaten status. More charitably, perhaps, it took account of Steve Welch who travelled down on the overnight bus from Edinburgh. Eight British winkers assembled to give battle with the Americans. The venue ? A classroom in Goldsmith's college! Perhaps the Americans were right to find the tables and mats inadequate, but Cyril had played his cards right : Goldsmith's college was that day playing host to the South London Cat Show, and the presence of moggies meant that the college bar had an extension into the vacation.

The British side was uncomfortable at first: it was discovered that some of the team had been practising! They soon decided on pairings: Jon Mapley with Dave Rose, Geoff Cornell and Alan Dean; The question of Cyril was resolved by pairing him with Keith Leaving Charles Relle and Steve Welch surprised to be playing together. The Americans were more devious: initially they wanted to change their pairings each round, but eventually they agreed that change was possible between the members of pairs 1 &2, and 3 & 4 at the end of the 2nd and6th rounds, and a total change possible at the end of the 4th. If the reader is now bemused, read on : it doesn't get any clearer! The first 4 rounds were played to the American 25 minute time limit, the second 4 to 20minutes. In general English rules were agreed to, though in any disagreement IfTwA was to be called in. Dave Lockwood, who is IfTwA, said he'd try to be impartial: or else toss a coin!..... so with all that decided, we were away. The flags were unfurled (yes, really!), the press took pictures (before he went somewhere else)and the Americans gave us a winking song. The British stood around looking nonchalant, but fearing a repetition of the exhibition of winks they had been subjected to on the M.I.T. tour of 1972. Against American know-how, at least we had age on our side..yes, Charles was playing!

Scarcely had the match commenced, fingers flexed, squidgers warmed, rules remembered, that Jon was seen wandering around the other matches. He had potted out. His was not the first wink into the pot: Alan had acheieved that from the baseline, but he and Geoff went on to lose 5-2 in a poor opening game. Keith entered the pot with a long shot under pressure at the end of his game to ensure a 6-1 victory, and with Charles and Steve winning 4 - 3 the British found themselves leading 18 - 10 at the end of the first round. Hope began to stir.

Spurred on by his success in Round one, Lockweed attempted another pot-out in round two. 5 flew in beautifully, but not so the sixth...but at least he got his in before Dave Rose who was matching

his pot-out attempt, and so Lockweed and Buck notched up another 5 -2. With two other Americans pairings scoring 4½ - 2½ victories it was left to Alan and Geoff to produce the only British win of the round, a 4 - 3 after being snowed under most of the game. The Americans won the round 17 - 11, and were only two points down after two rounds. Lockweed & Buck were, even at this early stage, the only unbeaten pair!

Round Three saw the British suffering the same fate as in round two. The American third and fourth pairings had exchanged partners (a fact your correspondent only found out at half-time) and Lockweed continued his winning run, this time with Charles in defeating Cyril and Keith 4 - 3, although it must be said that their victory was largely due to inane British tactics, and Keith's ability to pot an opponent's wink in round five. Lunch, the Americans as if in caricature drinking Cokes, saw them four points in the lead.

Winks on one of the mats had a propensity to roll, whether due to the hard table or the thin mat. Jon decided that this was the round to prove it, sending two off, and placing two on the edges out of his original six. He still got a 5- 2 victory however. Cyril & Keith beat Larry & Buck 5 - 2, and Lockweed's winning run ended as he missed a vital pot and lost 3 - 4. Meanwhile Alan and Geoff were enjoying a struggle against Bob and Joe. Although the British pair were on top the Americans never allowed them to relax, and in rounds they freed enough of one of their colours to pot for a 4 - 3 victory. These scores meant the round score was 16 - 12 to Great Britain, and all sat back with a certain satisfaction as, at the end of four rounds, the score was 56 apiece. Clearly it had been right to play an eight round match.

The Americans decided to change their pairings. The British had just about worked out who their partners were. However, relieved that Cyril was coping so well with Keith, and unable to think of any other permutations, the British decided to soldier on as they were.

It looked a bad move. The new American pairings did well in round 5, with two 6 - 1 s and scoring 3 & 2½ in their two defeats. The results in Round Six were similar, even though Geoff and Alan had the satisfaction, at the end of another struggle against Bob (this time playing with Buck) of turning the tables and squeezing out a 4-3 victory. But Britain was now thirteen points adrift, 90½ to 77½, with only two rounds to go.

The hour of six had struck. To our visitors a moment lacking in signifiaance. British winking hearts rose : it was opening time! A short trip to the Marquis of Granby, where, sadly, only a gassy Worthington E was available. Need conquered palate, and whilst the Americans sat in the College, reflecting on their comfortable position, the British, clutching their ale, listened to their captains pep talk. The Brian Clough of English winking kept it simple. We'll get 20 points this round, he announced between swallows, and we'll cruise home in the last round when they're demoralised. It sounded fine in the pub. All agreed, prevented Cyril from having another, and lurched back to play, lighter in heart, head, and pocket.

Perhaps it was overconfidence that made Severin decide to go for the killer blow. His attempt at a pot-out against Alan and Geoff failed, and they were annoyed at only scoring a 5 - 2 victory. Cyril & Keith beat Larry & MP by the same score. Charles and Steve scored a 4 - 3 victory. But gradually all eyes were turning to the other table, where an open game saw Jon's hold on a pile in enemy territory threatened. Jon decided to pot his way out of trouble. The first, that bridging the pile under threat, flew into the pot, and the other five soon followed. Even better Dave Rose's 6 soon joined his partner's in the pot : a 7 - 0 victory at a vital time. Britain had gained 21 points to 7 in the round, and led by 1 point, 98½ - 97½ as the last round began.

In that round Charles and Steve were soon in control and all knew they were heading for a 6 - 1. Alan and Geoff were similarly placed as their opponents, Lockweed and Charles, disturbed by their 0 score of the previous round, disturbed each other more and played worse Keith was having a nightmare game, but came good in rounds, potting to a 3-4 defeat, and Jon and Dave played out the last rites against Severin and Joe, losing 3-4.

So Britain took the round 19 - 9 and the match 117½ - 106 ½.

After the match a Transatlantic winkers' lament was sung, and the frisbee became a solace. The British looked bemused but happy. All were exhausted. No doubt there have been such turnarounds in winks matches before, some numerically even more surprising, but given the importance of the match, surely none as dramatic as on this occasion. Perhaps writ large was the problem of the side on top tightening up, whilst those chasing were looser - yes, even on Worthington E!

NEWTS v Renaissance for the World Club Championships. July 16th.

For the Americans, this was more important than the International of the previous day. Where has patriotism gone ? Renaissance fielded six of the International side, whilst NEWTS had four, and were joined by the formidable Still-Wiseman pairing who caused the first laugh of the day by being named Pair 1. Cyril opened the proceedings with a request for speedy play, a cause he was to champion with increasing ferocity as the weekend progressed. He had only booked the room from 10 - 3...and as the match did not start until 11 and was supposed to be a six rounds reflex winks would seem to be the only solution. Mick and Mick opened their assault by asking their opponents, Joe and Larry, whether they were any good. Their reply, that they were pair one was really no answer to the Micks who were in that position themselves. Their further reply, a 6 - 1 victory, was perhaps more telling. Keith had regained his composure after a night's rest, and he and Cyril won 6-1, and with Jon & Charles winning 4-3 Newts scored 11-10 in Round One. Round Two repeated the score, though less comfortably, even though Cyril produced a potting shot that was both successful and unconvention--al to ensure a 3-4 defeat. Mick & Mick scored 2½ points.

Two rounds were over in two hours. Reality had to be faced. Dave Lockwood wanted to continue playing, but with a liquid lunch beckoning the English, a 20 minute break was decided on, reducing the match to four rounds. The Americans waited behind, annoyed that there should be a time restriction on such an important match. The English went to the pub. As they returned Cyril obtained permission for a time extension, rendering the six rounds possible. But the annoyance, and the ale, had its effect and the English advanced further ahead. Mick and Mick continued their progress, scoring 3, Cyril and Keith 5, and Jon, playing for this round with Andy Vincent, drafted in to replace Charles who had returned home for a more substantial lunch, scored 6. At halfway therefore Newts led 36 - 27.

At thi point Renaissance organised their pairings on the English pattern, playing tried partnerships, and their weaker players, Buck & MP together. So Dave Lockweed and Joe played together, as did the long-overdue pairing of Severin and Larry. The English had been anticipating their playing together, not least in light of their challenge for the World Pairs Championships. However the wisdom of their pairing was questioned when they lost 4-3 to Mick and Mick. Their comrades did better, however, MP & Buck beating Jon & Charles 5½ - 1½ and Lockweed and Joe winning an enthralling match with Cyril & Keith 4½ - 2½, when in rounds both sides were potting furiously and few winks remained on the mat at the end. This 13 - 8 round to Renaissance brought them within 4 points of Newts, and this difference disappeared in the next round. Jon and Charles were engulfed by Severin and Larry 6-1, whilst for Mick and Mick the strain of winning had become too great, and they returned to less exalted scores with a 1½-5½ defeat by Lockweed and Joe. Although Cyril and Keith scored 6, the changed Renaissance pairings were having their desired effect, and the scores were level on 52½ each as the last round commenced.

When your correspondent returned from a game of frisbee he found Charles all smiles. He had potted out. Fine potting by Renaissance and less fine by Jon left him with all 6 winks on the mat and only a 5 - 2 victory. Cyril and Keith lost 3-4 to Severin and Larry, due partly to their missing potting chances. And so the focus of the world of winks turned to the last table where, you've guessed, Mick and Mick were playing. Their experience and ability to pot under pressure saw them through 5-2, true heroes, winning the match for Newts, though perhaps not entirely deserving of their pair one station.

Final Score: Newts 65½ - 60½

Great Britain v U.S.A.

G.B.:	Jon Mapley / Dave Rose	Alan Dean / Geoff Cornell	Cyril Edwards / Keith Seaman	Charles Rolle / Steve Welch
U.S.A.				
Severin Drix	5	6	6	2½
M.P.	2	1	1	4½
Joe Sachs	1	3	2½	4
Bob Hennings	6	4	4½	3
Larry Kahn	6	4	5	1
Charles Frankston*	1	3	2	6
Dave Lockwood	2	2	3	3
Buck Webb *	5	5	4	4

*-Players exchanged partners for games 3 & 4

Severin	4	5	1	1
Joe	3	2	6	6
Dave	7	6	1	4½
Charles	0	1	6	2½
Bob	4	4	3	4
Buck	3	3	4	3
Larry	5	1	5	6
MP	2	6	2	1
G.B. Totals:	34	31	26½	26

U.S. Totals: Work them out yourselves: they're beyond me!

Rounds:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
G.B.	18	29	40	56	66½	77½	98½	117½
U.S.A.	10	27	44	56	73½	90½	97½	106½

(Statisticians can also have fun working out who participated in the most 4-3 results over the weekend)

World Pairs Championships: Severin & Larry (U.S. Champs) v. Alan & Keith (British Champs). July 17th. Venue: Southampton.

It was looking increasingly as though the Americans had come a long way for nothing. There remained one last chance, and on the monday two from each land met in Southampton. The match was even later in starting than is traditional in winking circles, and went on into the small hours. Luckily nobody tall was playing. It was hoped that a full report would be available for this edition, but the American spectators entrusted with the task saw fit to try to develop a winking shorthand which notated every move. Perhaps I could have attempted to decipher some of this(perhaps a winking Rosetta stone couldhave been unearthed) but it was deemed too complicated for me, and departed with the team on their tour of the far outposts of the British Isles. It looks as though I will have to follow their suggestion and read it in the pages of the N.A.Tw.A. journal. It is thus not for xenophobic reasons that I print little of this match, in which Larry played outstandingly well, and Alan not very well, and the American pairing emerged victors. I print all I know. Now we await the American write-up of the tour, which will doubtless show, in banner headlines, the victory, and relegate the main substance of this edition of Winking World to a rear page between the 'Accomodation Wanted' and the 'Lost and Found' section. So be it.

Some thoughts on the U.S. tour so far....
Those of us who remember the long correspondence round about WW 21 concerned with Christine Jones' (as was) bent equipment will be interested to learn that Larry has invented a way of dewarping winks. This involves boiling them (10 secs for small, 20 for big, thirty for squidgers) and then gently pressing down with a flat surface.
It seems a sensible way forward in the standardization of equipment. The only problem for me was that they seemed to give so much less lift than conventional winks that I lost all confidence in playing with them. I think it is something I will have to adapt to.

Boondocking: Perhaps, for the uninitiated, an explanation of this term is called for: it is what over here we refer to as 'Losing' an opponent or 'firing him off the table when de-squopping. This is so much part of the American game tha they are even toying with introducing rules to limit its application. It is less widely used over here particularly at the grass roots level. It has a number of advantages:

1) It is quick. Removing your opponent from the vital rea of the game whilst leaving yours close by gives you instant defence, and will cost him a turn bringing the wink in even if he is accurate. If he is inaccurate then he can be squopped, or left to take longer.

2) It is safe. When one calls to mind the ways in which one has lost games through fiddling around with a pile one wants to desquop only to play a shot which leaves one's own in a pile and one's opponent ¼ inch away and free, boondocking is a safer alternative. I can also remember situations where I have been down and wanting to attack, and have restorted to silly ploys like attempting 2ft Bristols, (different!) or potting my opponent. A boondock is safer.

3) It can be flexible. In boondocking the opponent your own wink moves. One can boondock an opponent and move onself perhaps onto another enemy wink, a position already guarded by the winks your boondocking desquop has uncovered.

4) It requires no great level of skill. It is a technique for the novice as for the expert.

5) It places a premium on accurate bringing-in and placing, whether for defence or attack. This is a vitalarea of the game, and not one regularly practised at club level. Perhaps club boondock tournaments could be organised to improve this. I have only one request: can anyone think of a better name than 'boondock' for this manoevre ?

1978 Pairs.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	Tot.
1. Alan Dean & Keith Seaman	–	4	1½	6	6	7	7	7	6	44½
2. Geoff Cornell Cyril Edwards	3	–	5	3	1	6	6	6	4	34
3. Jon Hapley Charles Relle	5½	2	–	6	2	7	1	6	7	36½
4. Harvey Orrock Colin Joseph	1	4	1	–	4½	1½	5	7	5	29
5. Dave Lockwood The Indian	1	6	5	2½	–	6	5½	6	3	35
6. Ian Ensley Steve Goodall	0	1	0	5½	1	–	1	4	6	18½
7. Geoff Thorpe John le Geyt	0	1	6	2	1½	6	–	6	6	28½
8. Andy Vincent Charles Jeffries	0	1	1	0	1	3	1	–	6	13
9. Colin Hardman A Warren or two	1	3	0	2	4	1	1	1	–	13

Final: Alan and Keith beat Jon and Charles: 12 – 9

Newts v Renaissance.

	Joe & Larry	Dave & MP	Severin & Buck
Mick & Mick	6 1	4½ 2½	4 3
Cyril & Keith	2 5	1 6	4 3
Jon & Charles	1½ 5½	1 6	3 4

	Larry & Severin	Dave & Joe	MP & Buck	Tot
M & M	3 4	5½ 1½	2 5	17
C & K	4 3	4½ 2½	1 6	25½
J & C	6 1	2 5	5½ 1½	23

U.S. Scores: Joe : 21½ Larry 22½ Dave L 18½ MP 15 Sev 24 Buck 19½

Rounds:	1	2	3	4	5	6 = Total
Newts	11	22	36	44	52½	65½
Renaissance	10	20	27	40	52½	60½

1978 National Pairs' Championships. April 29th-30th. Cambridge.

Following the numb knees of the previous year, contestant were relieved to discover that at least half their matches were this year to be played on tables. Alan Dean arrived from Southampton having dreamed a dream...that only nine pairs turned up, that the Americans won the qualifying matches, and that Jon went on to win the contest. There were only nine pairs...but how could Alan have foreseen that Martin Illingworth would rick his back picking up a woman the night before ? Of the nine, most were familiar faces, including the Americans. The Cambridge pairings made use of the fact that Steve and Bob Warren were twins, Colin Hardman playing with whichever was around at the time. Alan put a large dent in his own predictions as he and Keith ran off an impressive sequence of victories to ensure first place in the all-play-all section. The second finalist was decided in the last round where, although Geoff and Cyril were 1½ points ahead of Jon & Charles they met a revitalised Harvey & Colin and lost. The Americans were halted in their progress by coming face to faces with the two Warrens playing at the same time, and presumably thinking they were victims of double vision. They lost 4-3.

The final, on the Sunday, would be best forgotten. After a delay due to Charles' seeking divine succour, Alan and Keith won the first match 5-2, lost the second 1-6 in a battle over a large pile, and won the third 6 - 1.

Scores are overleaf.

Jubilee Singles Trophy.

At time of going to press Cyril finds himself still the holder of this much-travelled trophy. In a poor match he beat Alan at Cambridge. Geoff Thorpe was the next to succumb to the Edwards wizardry, whilst Geoff Cornell went down due to missing an easy pot with his last shot in a match that either player would have been ashamed to win, such was the standard. Cyril is due to meet Jon, who is the next challenger. Perhaps it will move less often in future.

Diary Dates:

October 13th - 14th 1978 Singles Championships at Southampton. For details and to enter please contact Alan Dean.

November 18th-19th 1978 A.G.M. and Team Competition at Brunel University, London. For details please contact Cyril Edwards.

Equipment:

Alan Dean asks that it should be noted that equipment prices have had to be increased. He told me the new prices late one night and I offer below an educate guess:

Mats £4 Sets £1.

Alan also wishes it known that practice mats (⅓ size of full mat) can be bought from him.

Winking World:

The editor wishes it known that as of this edition he has a new address. It is:

19, The Grove,
Merthyr Tydfil, Tel: 0685 - 2953
Mid-Glamorgan CF47 8 YR

Taking up work which includes sunday working with no extra pay and in such an area means something of an absence from winks for the next six months or more, and less involvement thereafter. If anyone wants to run WW, please get yourself nominated before the A.G.M. Otherwise I might end up carrying on!