



# THE WINKING WORLD

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Winking World must be an odd publication for anyone not in the know. Strange names, unintelligible allusions, and a scoring and points system only decipherable with the sort of mind that has railway timetables as bedside reading. Your editor, a year now in the winking wilderness though hopefully turning up to the National Singles to see someone else win and to share a jar with those who turn up to provide points fodder for Alan Dean types and collates with a measure of bemused boredom. He thinks of a more adventurous publication. Charles Relle demands a page three, but such is the paucity of delectable female talent playing our game at present that we would probably have to ask Cyril Edwards to pose in a jock-strap, a sight to make strong men weep, to send the feeble rush retching from the room, and to interest only the Director of Public Prosecutions. Perhaps we could develop a problem page (Dear worried.....what you are suggesting is not only indecent but probably illegal and I would desist forthwith.....) or a totally lujatic article on anything to lift our minds away from the catalogue of matches completed or tournaments postponed. Perhaps a corner on drink (...from your own correspondent legless in the public....)...the John Arlott of winks, the Richard Boston of the mat... Perhaps some investigative journalism (what is the impact of microtechnology on the average winker and can he even spell it?)..... Or of course we could continue writing to each other via a duplicator. Thanks for all those who continue to contribute to WW so regularly and so ably....but are there any more lunatics left in this frightened country of ours who wish to see their idiocies in print....?

Geoff Cornell.

## Tales of Old Wickham.....

In the last few editions the address of our illustrious chairman has been wrongly given as Wickham. This has resulted in hundreds of natives with cleft sticks (i.e. 8p mail) wandering hopelessly around the Essex marshes. Jon's address is 2 Jansmead, Witham, Essex and his postcode is CM8 2EN so that should ensure the sorting office computer sends it to Peebles or Wester Ross. However, Cyril, our beloved Secretary, has moved...to 26 Wickham Road, Brockley, London S.E.4...and has retained his old 'phone number. Also on the move have been Keith Seaman (36 Linden Avenue, Ruislip Manor, Middx (089 - 36 - 33210), Pam Knowles (Central Bridge Club, Central Rd., W. Didsbury, MCR M20 9YD) and Dave Lockwood (18 Niehaus Avenue, Little Ferry, New Jersey 07643 (Tel: 0101-201-440-4290...and reverse the charges). We are pleased to welcome Pam Jones, Grahame Budd and Ian Emsley as new members. The editor, and the Treasurer were pleased to receive Stuart Clark's letter... and the £2 donation towards the funds consequent upon our treasurer's plaintive financial report.

Jon, true to form has unearthed a winking equivalent to the tug-of-war reported in the last edition. Sadly, this may mean the end of our contact with the New University of Ulster but it is here quoted in the hope that jokes about the English will follow:

Did you hear about the Irish winks game?

Twenty rounds plus five minutes, and everyone played with green winks.

WINX WOUNDUP : a weview of the events since the last edition.....

Hampshire Open Held at Southampton University on February 10th 1979,

Ten pairs entered ( as usual); maybe more would have come if the event had not been advertised as a two day affair. As it was some competitors arrived hoping that play would not go on into Sunday. A six round Swiss was decided upon, with the top two pairs to play one extra game to be added to the scores from the previous six. The very first round saw Lockwood/Emsley drawn against Seaman/ Dean. Alan and Keith were winning comfortably for most of the game, but a late collapse, helped by their opponents' excellent play, saw them finally losing 6 - 1½. Mick and Pete made the most convincing start, with three 6 - 1's. After the initial setback, Keith and Alan fought back with four 6's, and a 7 against Charles and Cyril. Their final victory was against Mick and Pete, whose lead had by then been reduced to one point. Thus the two pairs had to play again, in the final, with Alan and Keith only having to avoid being beaten 6 - 1 or worse. With a signal display of all that can go wrong in winks by both pairs, Mick and Pete scored the 6-1 they required. Congratulations to them on a fine tournament (they each arrived looking for a partner) and for adding new names to the list of Hampshire Open Champions, and for preventing what would have been Alan's fourth consecutive win.

On the weekend afyer the above championship at Southampton Keith, Alan and Nigel came together for a 'singles Champions Singles Championship'. Three games against each opponent were played, with the result

Nigel	30
Alan	27
Keith	63 (30 + 27)

At the very least this result proved that Keith can still take defeat like a gentleman.

Alan Dean.

#### National Pairs 1979

This event took place this year at John's College, Cambridge over the weekend of April 28 / 29.

A fair turnout, considering the short notice of the event details, assembled remarkably close to the appointed starting time and were immediately led off by Cyril to the nearest coffee shop. Cyril had made the unusual error of getting up before opening time.

Play did eventually get under way, on a variety of surfaces which tested the players' versatility - floor, blackboard (horizontal), standard table, and jumbo sided table. On these were placed four very different mats. The neat Mapley System for rotating ten pairs on five mats was modified (butchered) by Nigel to allow for nine pairs on four mats, so the rotation was less than perfect.

It had been decided that the top two English pairs would go through to a 3 game final, carrying over their total points.

Alan and Keith started well and never looked in any danger of not qualifying. The interest was all in who would join them, and how well the Americans would do. Up to the last round Dave and Joe were keeping pace with Alan and Keith, while Jon and Charles were playing more steadily than their rivals, and had a firm grip on third place and qualifying - except that they were 7½ points adrift from Alan and Keith with the Americans still to play! A loss would give them a nigh impossible task in the final - one made even worse when in the corresponding game Alan and Keith turned in a 7-0. However Jon and Charles rose to the occasion and won the game 6-1, just failing to clinch second place. Cyril and Dennis followed disappointed in fourth place. The Cambridge pair John and Adrian had a good tournament in finishing on 50 %, in good company, and were only pipped by Nigel and Peter being awarded a 7-0 walkover in the last round.

The All - play - all section finished on Saturday evening, and unfortunately most players then departed before Sunday's final - including the Americans who were involved, improbably, in a mad dash to the station to catch the last train - in Charles' three wheeler. Amidst all this hectic activity Joe still found time to present Charles with a treasured Winks T- shirt of his, for services to the game.

The next morning the final got under way whilst your own correspondant was being punted to the venue by Colin H and Cyril. This involved landing at a pub, and it must be recorded for posterity that Cyril walked through a pub serving beer without stopping.

By the time we arrived it was all over. In the first game Jon and Charles were heading towards a 4 - 3, but being already  $8\frac{1}{2}$  points adrift they pushed for more, and went down 6 - 1. This left them needing two 7 - 0s. Jon brought out three winks, and potted two before failing. Charles brought out six and got in four before missing, and that was it. Alan and Keith had won for the second successive year. Charles then revealed the bad gash on his winking thumb, and denied Alan's suggestion that he had done it deliberately so as to have an excuse. Thanks are due to Colin Hardman as organiser, and to him and Harold for their hospitality. It was good to see a humber of Cambridge Pairs show an interest. A number of people felt that an event lasting into a second day would be preferable - though perhaps more pairs are required.

Nigel Knowles.

### London Open

Cyril's write-up for this was brief : ' I refuse to write anything about any of the competitions, as I haven't won any'. Little did our little bearded friend know that Jon Mapley was eager to tell the editor of the event, for reasons which will appear obvious as his tale unfolds:

Format : all play all plus the top four pairs going through to a one game semi-final and a two-game final.

Entry : 9 pairs....the ninth arriving an hour and a half late, with....you've guessed....Keith.

Odd things happened in the league : Still/Wiseman 5, Dear/Lockwood 2  
Toye/Jefferies 7, Mapley Relle 0.

Top four at the end of the league were

Dean / Lockwood 44

Edwards / Seaman 38

Still / Wiseman 34 or thereabouts

Mapley / Relle 31.

The Micks seems to be taking the game seriously at times and were playing very well. Keith was showing something approximately like his true form after a recent poor spell. Geoff Thorpe was offering 7 - 2 on a victory for Alan and Dave.

BUT.....

with the easy bit over and sudden death upon us, a complete change came over Charles. I have never seen him play so well or with such confidence. Ten minutes into the game against Alan and Dave, Thorpe the Bookie had changed to 2-1 on Mapley & Relle to retain the title. Despite Mapley failing to free an opponent at the end of the first set of free turns, and the chosen large Lockwood wink being played onto the enormous pile at the base of the pot, we kept them squopped up for the rest of the game for an easy 6 - 1. In the other semi-final, meanwhile, Mick and Mick were winning  $5\frac{1}{2}$  -  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

The first game in the final could have been interesting if Mick Still's fourth wink had gone in and not out. As it was we won 7 - 0. In the second game all revolved around a Mapley tetrad squop, a complete degeneration into a rabble as it became obvious we were going to win, a pot-out by Charles, and Mapley going to pieces after hearing a voice from the crowd (the caretaker's) (That bookie's good in 'e).

Pairs not mentioned were Geoff Thorpe and Andy Vincent (about 6th), Ian Emsley & Dave Rickard (5th) and a pair of Dave Rickard's friends who competed gallantly after one Newts meeting, scoring  $5\frac{1}{2}$  points from 8 games.

A good day.

Jon Mapley

### Jubilee Trophy

The Jubilee has proved to be the most active of all our competitions, with five players having held the trophy in its two year history.

Dave Lockwood came to the National Pairs as holder of the Jubilee, and was hoping to accept a challenge, but had to fly off too quickly to New York. As it was going to be some time before he could return to this country he decided to relinquish the trophy. I had done the same thing before when I went to Tehran a year before so it was felt that I should meet the next on the list of challengers, Steve Welch.

The match was played in Edinburgh during the weekend of 25/26th May over seven games. In each of the first two games I had a clear advantage but only came out with a two point lead to show for it. The second game was an example of bad strategy throwing away a good position. Steve had one colour completely under early on and I attempted to get both of my colours ahead of the free one, which I had done by one point each in round five. Steve, however, with the last shot of the game pulled off a brilliant shot to gain a net two points for his free colour and a 4-3 win. The lesson is clear - had I only played for one colour ahead of the free one I could have guaranteed 5 - 2 and then looked for a 6 - 1, but in trying for 6 - 1 from the start I risked everything. The next game did go my way and I ended the first session with a comfortable 14 - 7 lead.

On resuming the next day Steve soon showed what he thought of the lead by winning two 6-1 games. The sixth game swung back to me so I went into the final game with a two points advantage. Steve brought out six reds close to the pot, and my two colours formed random patterns around the mat. At this stage Steve decided to pot out, which would have given him the five points he needed. Many shots later he had managed to pot two and I had finally squopped one. After some inspired desquopping by Steve I eventually came out with a 4-3 win and the trophy. The next on the list of challengers is Alan Dean - again! So far only one player has successfully defended the trophy - Cyril - and he has done it twice.

Nigel Knowles.

### How the West was Won - nearly

Having thoroughly enjoyed the visit of the American team last year, and despite my loss to Dave in the Jubilee, I decided it was time a British winker paid them the compliment of a visit. A couple of transatlantic phone calls confirmed that they would let me take the National Singles Title (if I won) subject to a permanent agreement being reached about the future. So, with the good wishes of the American Embassy, some idiot photos taken by the Daily Star which were never published, and complete failure to find any other sponsor, I arrived expectantly at the B.A. terminal on the morning of Friday May 25th to see if any standby seats were available. They were. I took off at 5.15 p.m. and landed 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  hours later at Boston, 8.30 p.m. local time. Severin, Ferd and Bob were there to meet me, and I was transported to the American equivalent of Khartoum Road in beautifully downtown Somerville, the quaintly named Oakbyte. (American telephone dials still retain the unused letters, and Ferd's number, 6252983, is thus converted). We played until 12.15 a.m. and I then left for Joe Sach's place, Spoken Word (another phone number). I woke up at 4 a.m., got no more sleep, and at 9 we set off for MIT. The organisation was slightly worse than in Britain, and it was eventually established that 13 players were competing. The competition was to be a complete round robin, then the top four players play each other again, adding on their scores to give a 15 game total. All games were 25 minutes. Of the 8 players who visited us in 78, Dave, Larry, Severin, Joe and Bob were playing and the familiar names of Sunshine, Ferd and Moishe made it the strongest competition the US singles had ever had. Only Renke was missing from the top 8.

We broke for lunch after 6 games, and I was quite pleased with my 30 points, especially with Dave and Sev behind me. This put me in third place, and Joe, who was undefeated with no score lower than 5, was already in a commanding lead. At this point the jetlag came home to roost, and I amassed 15 points from my next 6 games. By the end of Saturday I was languishing in ninth place. It was fairly clear that the top four were going to be Joe, Dave, Severin and Larry, and when the final games in the league were completed on the Sunday morning it looked all over, with Joe 9 points clear of Sev, having only suffered one defeat. I managed to salvage 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  from my last three games, and in the 5th - 8th play-off won all my games to end up clearly fifth.

Memorable points from the playoff for the top four places were an argument between Dave and Joe over who played with which colours, and whether an American style pot should be used, some amazing play by Sev, who won all three, a collapse of nerves by Joe who only won one, and that a 4-3, Dave showing that he was fallible, and some incredible potting by Larry who still only finished fourth. Dave was third, and after 15 games the unthinkable had happened...Severin and Joe had tied for first place.

The final game was the longest I have ever witnessed. Joe went for a pot-out, missed the fifth, and got that and the sixth squopped. In rounds he freed a large wink, leaving it about 15 inches away from the pot, with no really safe places to aim at. It took him about ten minutes to decide to attempt the pot, and about another three to actually play the shot, which missed and was squopped. With everyone whispering about what they would do in the circumstances Severin played safely and well, and despite one tactical blunder came out the winner  $4\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$ .

I left on the 9 o'clock flight on Sunday evening, arriving at Heathrow at 8 on Monday morning, absolutely exhausted, but I wouldn't have missed it for anything. On reflection, the 25 minutes in singles makes a hell of a difference, the Americans take things much more seriously than we do, there are probably more top class players over there, and certainly more strength in depth. The only reason for the relatively low turnout was the greater distance to be travelled.

On the subject of foreign eligibility the following agreement was reached between Dave and myself, and subsequently approved by Alan and Cyril:

Foreign players are eligible to compete in a country's national championship right through to the final stages. If a foreigner wins the final, scores the most points, or whatever system is in force for determining the winner, he thereby establishes for himself one challenge for the world title, but the national title is awarded to the highest placed national player, who also gains one challenge for the world title. If this should happen, precedence in challenging is still to be established.

Jon Mapley.

#### C.U.Iw.C. 1978-79

And so another winking year has pottered quietly by, with a similar membership to last year.....low. Once again the initial interest shown was quite high, but the unfashionableness of tiddles soon got the upper hand and meeting with more than a couple of games became rare and treasured occasions. Only eight teams entered cuppers this year, proof, if anyone still needs it, that interest in winks at the grass roots level is still declining.

Why have people stopped coming? Perhaps because of the easier access to other minority sports, such as 'Go', or maybe because we haven't blackmailed them sufficiently with promises of parties or brewery visits. The answer might be clearer if we knew the real reason why people came originally,....any practical suggestions?

The secretary proudly announced before Christmas that 'we can expect to play at least one of Oxford or Bristol as well as Southampton this year'. In the event we were grateful for two competitive matches (the Marchant could hardly be called competitive!) and two tournaments. The teams we scraped together were actually quite strong, with most of last year's team remaining, though Martin Illingworth was injured for part of the season (see WW31 for clues...)

The match against the Old CU IwC team brought up a number of points, which in the case of Colin Brown, the President, was not very many. Pairs like Opposs and Hoffman, or Anderson and Thorpe are still too strong for opponents so lacking in match practice; the enjoyment of games in which everyone tried hard without caring what the overall result was; the draw that should have been a victory against Rose and Relle. For the record, the final score was  $73\frac{1}{2} - 38\frac{1}{2}$ .

The second game, against Southampton just before the Easter Break, constituted a challenge for the Silver Wink. The game seemed set for a tense battle after the visitors took the first round, but Messrs Brown and Copestake played consistently well to ensure a  $67\frac{1}{2} - 44\frac{1}{2}$  victory. Strength in depth looked to be an even more pressing problem at Southampton, for whom only Anthony and Derek scored above 50 %

The National Pairs, again held during exam term at Cambridge, again had an average turnout and is elsewhere described in this publication. Those neglecting revision played mostly down to standard by conceding 6-1s against steadier opponents; with safer tactics - although Adrian Tottenham and John le Geyt showed signs of breaking through to a higher standard, and certainly put paid to any aspirations Cyril had of winning.

The county championship was overwhelmingly won at Brunel by Ruddles, in the first tournament I can remember where so many only moderately good players had a chance of doing well. Seeded team of four are, I hope, here for a few years at least and should attract more of those London-based winkers who stay away from tournaments because they're too serious

Colin Hardman.

1955 - 1980

25 years of winking, and it all started in Cambridge. In the new year, the most likely dates being January 26th or February 2nd there will at least a celebration dinner and CUTWC past v present match. The general concensus of opinion seems to be that this is insufficient and that something rather grander is called for, with all winkers nationwide invited to attend, and lots of publicity etc. The decision on all these matters can only be taken after a show of apathy (or otherwise) from you. Anyone who has any practical suggestions concerning possible format is urged to drop me (Colin Hardman) a line at Queens' College, Cambridge CB3 9ET before November. I would particularly like to hear from ex Cambridge people who have not been in the fold for some years and would like to come, but feel they have been axed from the invitations list.

### Problem Corner

The latest version of the transatlantic bungified rulebook states that the pot must not be moved, and if moved accidentally it should be replaced in its original position. Suppose there is a large pile of winks on one side of the pot, and someone fires a large wink from long range, knocking the pot over onto this pile and disturbing it inexorably. The pot is picked up and replaced, taking care not to disturb the winks any further. The question now is....should the pile of winks be reconstructed, or should the pot be treated as a natural hazard, which it is for the majority of the time in most games, and the winks left in their new positions.

This seems to be a far more likely happening that winks being buried underneath the pot or other such idiocies which seem to delight rule freaks.....

### Winks against Cancer

Charles Relle, Peter Toye, Andy Vincent (now Belgium's first winker, resident in Antwerp) and Cyril Edwards participated in Goldsmiths' College's 1979 Rag Week in support of cancer research. They offered odds of 10-1 (minimum stake 5p) to anyone able to pot six winks in fewer shots than one of the 'experts'. The allcomers were allowed to choose their own distance, and our winks were then placed at the same distance. It was a busy afternoon, in the course of which £5 was raised. The only one of the 'experts' to lose a game, and the 50p was younger Master Toye, and that to a punk winker persistent to the point of besottedness. Peter then refused to pay for the loss out of his own pocket...but he has invited several NEWTS members to his flat-warming, so we'll forgive him.

### Shell Guide to Winks

As anticipated in the last AGM winks has now found itself in the Shell Weekend Guide to London and the South East ed. Robert Nicholson and published at £5.95. In February a reception was held by Shell at the Royal Festival Hall to launch the book and was attended by Jon, Charles, Peter, Ian and Cyril...and at which various intoxicated PRO men and women (mostly the latter) were inveigled into games of winks. The Tw entry is under the 'Games and Pastimes' section, which begins with a quote from our American journal: 'Like the sound of a thousand toiling bells at dawn the clatter of counters in faraway pots swells to a climactic din that heralds the beginning of another winking season. A gleaming golden Squidger rises slowly in the sky. Sunshine is everywhere'. The Editor of the Shell Guide did not of course realise that Sunshine was an allusion (cf. WW 32)

### Postal Winks

Alan Dean and Steve Welch have embarked on a postal game and are working out the notation as they go along. They have agreed on 45 rounds of play, and reckon that at the present rate the game should take about 3 years to play unless someone pots out first.....

Thanks for this page go to Colin Hardman, Jon Mapley, Cyril Edwards and Alan Dean.

RESULTS - by popular demand.

1978 National Singles

Key: A B  
C

A= Opponent  
B= Game Score  
C= Cumulative Score.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot	Posn
A. Grahame Budd (Nottingham)	G 1	D 2	C 3	I 4	H 5	F 6	7	10
B. Alan Dean (Southampton)	1	3	6	6	7	7	27½	2
C. Cyril Edwards (London)	I 6	G 3	F 5	J 5½	E 6	H 2	20	7
D. Pam Jones (London)	6	9	14	19½	25½	27½	11½	9
E. Dave Lockwood (U.S.)	H 4	J 4	A 4	D 6	I 5	E 1	27	3
F. Jon Mapley (London)	4	4	8	14	19	20	25	4
G. Mick Mooney (Lee-on-Solent)	F 1	A 5	H 1	C 1	G 1	I 2½	20	7
H. Keith Seaman (Harrow)	1	6	7	8	9	11½	23½	5
I. Charles Relle (London)	J 5½	F 4	G 5	H 5½	B 1	C 6	20½	6
J. Steve Welch (Edinburgh)	5½	9½	14½	20	21	27	28	1

Championship Group B:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Tot	Posn
A. Dave Byard (Wokingham)	-	5½	5½	2½	1	5½	5½	3	28½	3
B. Ian Emsley (H. Hempstead)	1½	-	6	5	6	2	6	6	32½	2
C. Malcolm Frazer (L. Buzzard)	1½	1	-	6	1	1	6	1	17½	7
D. Tom Gardner (Epsom)	4½	2	1	-	1	3	6	6	23½	5
E. Geoff Thorpe (M/CR)	6	1	6	6	-	6	7	6	38	1
F. Andy Vincent (Radlett)	1½	5	6	4	1	-	5½	5	28	4
G. Graham Josland (Soton)	1½	1	1	1	0	1½	-	1	7	8
H. Charles Jeffries (London)	4	1	6	1	1	2	6	-	21	6

Newcomers Tournament Group C

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot	Posn.
A. David Chaisty (Swanmore)	F 1	J 3	I 6	E 2½	B 6	C 3	21½	4
B. Marion Brown (Lodnon)	1	4	10	12½	18½	21½	9½	10
C. Andrew French (Swanmore)	E 1	D 1	H 3	I 1	A 1	J 2½	9½	1
D. Andrew Harrison (Pompey)	1	2	5	6	7	9½	29½	3
E. Julian Ridge (Soton)	D 6	I 6	F 5½	G 2	E 6	A 4	26½	5=
F. Lynn Powell (London)	6	12	19½	19½	25½	29½	17	9
G. Fred Roberts (London)	C 1	B 6	J 6	F 4	G 4	I 5½	27	2
H. Timothy Weekes (Soton)	1	7	13	17	23	26½	20	8
I. Derek Henderson (Soton)	B 6	F 2	G 2½	A 4½	C 1	H 4	19½	5=
J. Anthony Hopkins (Soton)	6	8	10½	15	16	20	27	7

In the final game Andrew French lost to Fred Roberts 4-3 but still won the newcomers competition 32½ = 31½