



# THE WINKING WORLD

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## NEWS

A team of six Americans toured England playing many matches and tournaments from the 4th to 12th of July, winning the Team International.

### SINGLES.

Pam Knowles again went across the Atlantic to play in the North American Singles but this time Larry Kahn took first place in retaining the title.

Dave Lockwood has retained his World Singles title with victories over Pam Knowles in February and Jon Mapley during the tour. The Masters Singles, a new event made possible by the tour gave England some welcome success with Jon Mapley beating Alan Dean in the final.

### PAIRS.

Nigel Knowles and Charles Relle won the National Pairs title but were unable to stop the World title going to Severin Drix and Larry Kahn.

The Manchester Open was played during the Tour and resulted in a victory for the Anglo American pairing of Jon Mapley and Severin Drix.

Another Anglo-American partnership, Nigel Knowles and Dave Lockwood, won the London Open in March.

The Hants Open was won by Mick Mooney and Julius Nach.

A new and revised RULE BOOK is available following the EGM at Southampton.

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## THE AMERICAN TOUR

The American team did not fly the Atlantic together and it was with some relief that all successfully met their various hosts and made it to Manchester for the first weekend of events. Charles Frankston came all the way from California! Most stayed on for a holiday after the hectic week of play but Dave Lockwood returned to the States the first Sunday - no wonder Pan-Am are losing money!

On the previous American Tour some players felt that there had not been enough events organised but they probably wished this time for some rest! At Manchester the Open was played on Saturday and the World Pairs on Sunday. During the week there were team matches against LUSTS, NEWTS and Southampton and the World Singles. The following weekend there was the Teams International and the Masters Singles.

Joe Sachs joined the rest of the team for the International while Dave only spent one day in the States before again crossing the Atlantic!

### THE MANCHESTER OPEN

Unfortunately due to last minute organisation of the tour details we could not get the excellent room we had at UMIST last year. We were however lucky to get some offices which provided very good playing conditions but being behind locked doors hampered publicity.

The media coverage was still very good with an article in the Manchester Evening News (though the Editor cut it down drastically as it coincided with the first night of the Riots), a visit from a Television producer, and one game of the tournament even took place live on Radio Manchester!

Seventeen players took part, which is 8½ pairs. When all the pairings had been sorted out the ½ pair was Dave Pentelow, making a welcome return to competitive Winks. He found himself in an extremely strong tournament - one of the strongest ever, with predictable results. All credit to him for continuing on so cheerfully.

From early on it was apparent that Lockwood/Kahn and Mapley/Drix were crushing all the opposition. Jon and Severin won the crunch match between the two pairs but by losing 6-1 to Rich and Charles ended the all-play-all section one point adrift of their rivals. The one game final was a repeat of the previous 6-1 between the two top pairs to give the Silver Tray to Jon Mapley and Severin Drix.

MANCHESTER OPEN

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL		
1.Charles Relle & Nigel Knowles	-	1	1	2	2	6	3	4½	6	25½		
2.Dave Lockwood & Larry Kahn	6	-	6	6	6	6	1	6	7	44	+	1 45
3.Cyril Edwards & Idwal Jones	6	1	-	1	6	5	1	4	6	30		
4.Alan Dean & Pam Knowles	5	1	6	-	6	4	0	6	6	34		
5.Keith Seaman & Peter Toyne	5	1	1	1	-	5	1	1	6	21		
6.Dave Hull & Geoff Thorpe	1	1	2	3	2	-	1	1½	4½	16		
7.Jon Mapley & Severin Drix	4	6	6	7	6	6	-	1	7	43	+	6 49
8.Charles Frankston & Rich Steidle	2½	1	3	1	6	5½	6	-	6	31		
9.Dave Pentelow	1	0	1	1	1	2½	0	1	-	7½		

WORLD PAIRS

This followed the Open in Manchester. Severin Drix and Larry Kahn played Nigel Knowles in the best of seven 25 minute games, i.e. 24½+ points to win. Throughout the colours were Nigel - Y, Charles - G, Larry - R, Sev - B.

	Score	Running Total
Game 1	US-GB	US-GB
Despite bad bring-in by Nigel game becomes tight battle with each side holding territory. GB attempts to go into enemy territory and lose out.	6-1	6-1
Game 2		
Nigel gets into excellent potting position but nervously misses the second. Sev takes double yellow and yellow retakes. Two free yellows are potted then Nigel fails to pot from the bottom of the YBYY pile. After some poor play all round GB is squopped up with two minutes to go. Blue gets ahead of yellow and red ahead of green.	5-2	11-3
Game 3		
A finely judged quantity of beer at lunchtime settles Nigel's nerves and after 21 minutes GB has game sewn up. A lapse gives US a chance but an 8" squop by Charles rescues the situation.	1-6	12-9
Game 4		
Bring-ins establish good territory for both sides but there is a yellow and green under the same US wink. GB go into enemy territory with some success but are short of winks and fail to hold the piles. A bad shot by Sev gives just ½point to GB.	5½-1½	17½-10½
Game 5		
Poor bring-ins. A pile containing mainly yellows is rescued by Charles and another that develops is blown by Nigel. After twelve minutes the game virtually restarts, with the American medium to long distance squopping winning the game.	6-1	23½-11½
Game 6		
All but green bring in well. US decide to try and keep doubleton in yellow's area. They succeed and squop five yellows. Most greens are not involved so Charles decides to pot but misses the second. A fight develops over the one squopped green which results in GB being squopped up with seven minutes left. Larry pots out in Rounds and after Nigel misses Sev pots good six.	7-0	30½-11½

Altogether a brave attempt by Charles to cope with Nigel's poor form. Larry and Sev played well but did not feel they were on top form.

Reports of the Tour continue on page 8 with the Masters Singles.

A very good turn out of fourteen pairs arriving at Cambridge gave the organisers the first problem- what format of tournament to use. It was initially decided to split into two divisions with the top four from each competing in a separate final the next day. To this end a seeding committee selected the top eight pairs in order, to seed between the groups. Then some how it all changed and we had a massive all-play-all, everyone playing thirteen games with the top four playing against each other to complete their total.

As we drew into the third session of the day (play continued after opening time) every one was coping well with the long tiring day, including those with very little to show for their efforts, except perhaps for the Americans who had little chance to recover from their overnight flight. The seeding committee were congratulating themselves on their accuracy with almost all the top eight positions according to plan. Jon and Dave in the lead, Keith and Cyril perhaps doing a little better than expected but Charles and I, and Dave and Joe making up the predicted four qualifying places.

At the end of the session there were four more rounds to go and there were signs that things could change. Keith and Cyril had all top pairs to play whereas we had played them all, and were in for an "easy" run the next day- we were going to be the ones to beat.

We started the next morning with a couple of comfortable 6-1's watching all our rivals knocking each other about, and found ourselves in the lead. The next game was not one I was looking forward to, against the very promising pair Tony Brennan and Duncan Budd. Rapidly we were all but squopped up and it was clear that their straight-forward shots were better than ours. However, by this time, with very few of our winks left, we were in a close tactical game which we gradually brought round, and won 6-1. When the LUSTS players learn more of strategy and tactics (I'll write an article on the subject if any one doesn't know the difference), and more about pile manoeuvring, the older players will not be having it all their own way. With another 6-1 in the last game we entered the final stages just a  $\frac{1}{2}$  point clear of Jon and Dave.

Meanwhile Alan and Pam had been storming through and in the last round beat Cyril and Keith 6-1 to qualify. This looked like the end for the latter pair but Dave and Joe then lost their game to tie with Cyril and Keith on fourth place. It was decided to have a play off between the two pairs for who should qualify.

By this time it was after lunch on Sunday and as usual matches were going on longer than anticipated. A Marchant Trophy game between Qesh and Cambridge had also been arranged for the weekend and this got under way with people playing as they were free from the Pairs games. An unfortunate way to play a match, when we would have liked a proper team affair against Cambridge.

Dave and Joe qualified to join the final four, completing Cyril and Keith's decline.

In the final Alan and Pam made all the running with 6-1's over both Jon and Dave and Dave and Joe, whilst Jon and Dave faded away to lose all three games and just held on to third place. Going into the last round it was between us and Alan and Pam, over whom we had a two point advantage. It was not a classic game, with Alan and Pam getting some advantage, however they needed a minimum of  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$  to tie and so needed to consider both colours, which almost always causes problems. They did not play at their best and we got a  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to take the title.

Once again Jon Mapley had got it right, while the rest of us seeded Jon to win he had seeded us.

I then had to continue with the Qesh match and promptly lost my first match as Pairs Champion, though with not quite so expert a partner. To be fair to Janet we had won the first round game in the Marchant- the first serious game she had ever played.

Thanks to the Cambridge club for being hosts yet again and for providing splendid playing conditions.

On reflection we chose the wrong format for the tournament; a shorter first section with two divisions on the following day would have meant less "rabbit-bashing" and much more interest for the less skilled players. One only has to look at the cross table to see the string of 6's and 7's notched up by the top players- one cannot afford to drop the odd point here to have a chance of winning.

We wish to encourage all players, not "bash" them. Let us have your views at the next tournament- everyone is willing to listen. We get so few comments that anything you say is likely to be accepted!

THE RESULTS: Pairs are in seeded order for the first eight.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
1. J. MAPLEY D. ROSE	-	2	6	3	7	2½	6	7	6	6	7	6	5	6	69½
2. C. RELLE N. KNOWLES	5	-	1	4	4	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	6	7	70
3. D. LOCKWOOD J. SACHS	1	6	-	5	1	4	6	6	2	7	7	6	6	7	64
4. C. EDWARDS K. SEAMAN	4	3	2	-	1	6	6	6	7	6	7	3	6	7	64
5. A. DEAN P. KNOWLES	0	3	6	6	-	7	6	3	4½	7	6	7	2	7	64½
6. D. HULL G. THORPE	4½	1	3	1	0	-	5	6	4½	6	5½	3	6	6	51½
7. A. BRENNAN D. BUDD	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	5½	3	2	6	6	6	7	42½
8. G. JOSLAND R. LEWIS	0	1	1	1	4	1	1½	-	3	1	5	2	1	6	27½
9. R. LONG H. SNOW	1	0	5	0	2½	2½	4	4	-	6	6	1	1	7	40
10. N. INGLIS M. SMITH	1	1	0	1	0	1	5	6	1	-	6	6	6	6	40
11. E. BERTOYA P. SHINE	0	1	0	0	1	1½	1	2	1	1	-	1	1	2	12½
12. R. BALDWIN M. FORD	1	1	1	4	0	4	1	5	6	1	6	-	1	4	35
13. P. IRESON C. JARMAN	2	1	1	1	5	1	1	6	6	1	6	6	-	6	43
14. J. SNUFFER M. LAMKIN	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	5	3	1	-	13

THE FINAL

	1	2	3	4	total	
1. CHARLES RELLE NIGEL KNOWLES	70	-	5½	5½	3	84
2. JON MAPLEY DAVID ROSE	69½	1½	-	1	3	75
3. ALAN DEAN PAM KNOWLES	64½	1½	6	-	6	78
4. DAVE LOCKWOOD JOE SACHS	64	4	4	1	-	73

Yet again many thanks to Jon Mapley and Charles Relle for all the hard work in preparation for the event, particularly for Jon's superb score-board.

## THE MARCHANT TROPHY

The Marchant Trophy, for the English teams championship, is now an annual knock-out competition. The draw for the first round was

Lesser Lusts	v	Great Crested Newts	
Ancient Bancroftians	v	Southampton University	
Quesh	v	Cambridge University	
Lesser Spotted Newts	v	Super Lusts	

The matches are played between teams of six players over four rounds. The fourth round is an additional one where the highest scoring pair of each side play each other, as do the second and third highest pairs.

In the best traditions of cup matches, the Marchant Trophy game between Lusts 1 and Newts 11 was played out to a nail-biting climax on Friday 27th February.

The four round format was intended to give all the players the best value for their efforts—sadly it cost Lusts a victory. At the end of the third round, they had built up an impressive 35½-27½ lead. The fourth round between the most equally matched pairs from the first three, started at about 9.55pm., and with Robert Baldwin's father insisting that he leave at 10.00, Mark Ford had to play his last game solo. This shouldn't have made that much difference, as Tony and Duncan were playing well, and the rest of the team were holding their own, and only seven points were required from three games. Five of these were secured by top pair Brennan & Budd in a pot-squop drama where John Mackenzie had failed with number six at about the ten minute stage. Duncan manfully got all Tony's free, and five in, one free just failed to become a pot-out in round five. Mark was always in trouble against Andrew and Charles and the 1-6 which became 0-7 under the rules of the competition left Derek and James needing two points for the match. In a game of many errors, they showed their inexperience, and only scored one, giving a win to Newts by 42½-41½.

It is worthy of note by those at the EGM. who lobbied for the removal of rule 15 on outside help, that Tony Brennan laudibly kept his mouth shut when James Wyllie played the wrong shot in round five in a situation where the correct one would probably have secured the necessary points.

Newts 11		Lusts 1	
Geoffrey Allen / John Mackenzie	14½	Tony Brennan / Duncan Budd	18
Andrew James / Charles Jeffreys	15	Robert Baldwin / Mark Ford	12
Roderick Lees / Tom Gardner	13	Derek Wheeler / James Wyllie	11½
	42½		41½

Old Bancroftians v Southampton 14 / 3 / 81

When guest star Julius eventually led the stragglers of his team to the appointed meeting place, it was 8.45 in the evening. A quick discussion, and it was agreed to reduce the match to three rounds of 25 minutes. ( It still finished at 12.25am. )

If all the games in this year's championship are as close as the first two, the final will never take place, as everyone will have died of heart failure. O.B.'s took the first round 12-9, and the second was a tie 10½ all. As the third round progressed, it became obvious that those who had been playing all day were getting tired. Jon and Dave should have won 6-1 and were lucky to scrape 4 after Mapley smashed into their biggest pile. Greg and Colin were out of luck all evening and got their second one. The third game was therefore the key to the match. As it went into rounds it looked odds-on a 4-3 to the O.B.'s, which would have meant a tie. A tired tournament organiser got it all wrong, and for five minutes Harvey and Dennis were searching for ways of increasing their score, thinking the team would lose.

P.T.O.

It was remembered in time that the team winning the most games goes through, they hung on to their 4 points, and the old men went through 6 games to 3.

As reported elsewhere the Quesh v Cambridge match got mixed up with the National Pairs, producing a rather unsatisfactory match. It was decided to play only three rounds and in fact Cambridge lost without the full number of games being played.

The approximate teams were;

Quesh  
Nigel Knowles / Janet Poole  
Alan Dean / Pam Knowles  
Keith Seaman / Malcolm Fraser

Cambridge  
Roger Lang / Harold Snow / Nick Inglis  
M. Smith / Liz Bertoya / P. Shine

The fourth match resulted in a win for Newts I.

The draw for the semi-finals is:

Great Crested Newts	v	Lesser Spotted Newts
Ancient Bancroftians	v	Quesh

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#### THE GOLDEN SQUIDGER FINAL

This was held at 26, Wickham Road on Friday 21st Nov., the evening before the National Singles, between Alan Dean & Keith Seaman and Dennis Opposs & Cyril Edwards, who had been drawn at home. We played on an undersized table, with Pam Knowles acting as referee. The first game saw Cyril and Dennis on top after ten minutes, then creating a solid 6-1 position. To secure this, Cyril had to bring in a large wink from a boon-docked position into a pottable one; he succeeded in sending it over the pot, but accidentally bombed some of the piles so carefully tended by his own and Dennis' winks, giving Alan Dean an unexpected potting chance, which he took gratefully. Cyril having thus put pressure on himself, was obliged to pot two winks to rescue the game. Otherwise the first game was remarkable only for a long dispute about the position and rights of the umpire, which caused a disgruntled Pam to retire to the mattress, only re-emerging for the friendlies after the match.

The second game, was after a similar pattern, more even, but again Cyril and Dennis looked like getting a 6-1, provided, in the rounds Cyril could bring in a boondocked wink and pot it. Needless to say, he failed, and again Alan and Keith potted well in extremis to gain a 4-3 victory.

By now however, Cyril & Dennis were confident, and the third game proved an unremarkable 6-1 squop-up to them.

Alan out of practice on his own admission, and Keith played weakly, perhaps lacking motivation after their long history of pairs success. Dennis played consistently brilliantly.

Let's hope that next year's Golden Squidger will attract more entries. Knockout pairs is fun, and it's a beautiful trophy. Charles Relle will be organising the competition in the New Year.

RESULTS: Opposs & Edwards bt. Dean & Seaman 6-1, 3-4, 6-1.

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#### THE HANTS OPEN

The Hampshire Open proved to be a close fought affair with an eventual win for Mick Mooney and Julius Mach - a welcome return for the old Southampton pair. A last round win against Keith Seaman and Charles Relle gave them the title whereas a 4% to Charles and Keith would have given them the first place!

This weekend was also used as an opportunity to hold an EGM on the proposed Rules changes - more of this elsewhere.

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#### MATS

At last a good material has again been found for mats, and a quantity has been obtained at a reasonable price. This means that the price can be kept to £5 which would not have been possible with the old supply. These mats are good - even the Americans approved. Contact Alan Dean for the mats.

## TIDDLYWINKS IN LITERATURE

By Charles Relle

To a great extent we owe our literary heritage to the Greeks and the Bible, and as a student of Classical Literature, I have always been disappointed that the Greeks did not have a word for Tiddlywinks, and if the game existed at all among them, it died out at an early stage when it was tactically undeveloped. 'Potter contends against potter' says Hesiod (c. 750 BC) at Works and Days 25, showing no appreciation of the risks involved in an early attempt to pot out. Tiddlywinks is not clearly referred to more than once in the Old Testament Literature of the Biblical Hebrews. The people exclaim to Elisha at 2 Kings v40 'O thou man of God, there is death in the pot,' thus stating for the first time a strategic truth that was not apparent to Hesiod. The New Testament provides no clear allusions, but the prophetic words of Revelation XII 7 could well have referred to the American tour of England in 1978: 'And the Dragon fought, and his angels, and prevailed not.'

Turning to English Literature, we see that by the time of Shakespeare Tiddlywinks had become the civilised way of settling disputes. In Henry V, IV, i, 8 we read 'I dare not fight, but I shall wink', and in the same play there is a suggestion of an emergent champion in the phrase 'the winking of authority'. The devastating effect of a sudden pot-out is noticed at Othello II, iii, 78: 'England, where they are most potent in potting'. Nevertheless, squopping had been recognised by Heywood, who writes in his Proverbs II, 5, 'The weaker goeth to the pot as all men see'. References in Shakespeare to Tiddlywinks are, however, mostly of a casual type, such as 'Wink now' at Henry VI Part II i211, or 'I had rather wink than look upon them' in The Gentlemen of Verona V, ii, 4. Chacun à son goût.

Much later we see that squopping had died out, but the game is played in a much tenser atmosphere: thus Fitzgerald in the Rubaiyat writes 'What, did then the hand of the Potter shake?' and put as succinctly as can be the winker's ultimate identity crisis: 'Who is the Potter then, and who the Pot?'

From epigraphical sources I have found one relevant inscription much used in Staffordshire: 'Pots are made of what we potters are'—clay of course, and therefore dust.

But potsherds are notoriously durable, and so are the modern plastics; this provokes the alarming question; 'Is Cyril non-biodegradable?'

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### DOES GOD EXIST? (2)

The role of divine retribution was vividly illustrated one evening at Charles Relle's house in Catford—where else? In an impassioned friendly between Jon Mapley and partner and Cyril Edwards and partner, Jon was faced with a tricky pile-bashing shot at arm's length, the pile being very near the pot. Leaning forward, he executed it brilliantly, in the approved Wellsian fashion (vide "How to Wink at Cheats", WW27 (1976), pp4f, esp. para.2 (sic)), sending a large blue wink of his own flying against his paunch, so it dropped back 1/16" from the edge of the mat, all this performed with such speed and dexterity that it almost deceived the eye. Jon, tucking his shirt in, maintained ferociously that no physical contact had occurred, Cyril equally vehemently the opposite. Eventually Cyril with customary ill grace accepted the position, and the game proceeded. Jon's next shot was to bring in the offending large wink, and he lined up his thin squidger with deliberation. As he pressed the squidger down, it disintegrated. Five minutes of helpless laughter ensued, no-one applying the thirty second rule.

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### EDITORS FAREWELL

As is apparent from the late appearance of this issue I do not have the time to continue producing Winking World and will therefore be resigning at the AGM.

For once I have no shortage of material but all the production is essentially a one-man job which I cannot do on time.

Any volunteers?

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## WORLD MASTERS SINGLES

This novel event was intended to be a show piece for BBC 2. That didn't quite materialise, but the championship went ahead anyway, as all the competitors were very keen to play. After much puzzling over the size of the entry, due mainly to Bill Renke's on/off tour arrangements, we eventually arrived at the ideal number, eight. There is something very different about a knockout tournament, and when it comprises only of players who have won a national singles title, it is a bit special.

The quarter finals and semi finals were to be three games each, with the final over five games. The venue Holy Cross Church, Catford, proved to be ideal, once we found how to get into the place.

The draw was based on yet another Dragon devised seeding system with no. 1 from each country playing their own no. 4 (Pam Knowles counted as an American), and no. 2 playing the other country's no. 3. This gave theoretical semis of Britain 1 v America 2 and vice versa. As it turned out, theory became practice, but there were a few alarms along the way.

The only two game win was achieved by Larry over Pam, 6-1, 6-1. The other game in the top half of the draw matched Severin against Alan. A first game which looked to be going Alan's way, didn't, and yet another American victory was looming. There must be something about three game singles matches, because from a position of 1-6 in the quarter final Alan produced four games of such stunning quality that most of us thought we would never see again. 7-0, 6-1 was the medicine that Sev had to swallow for being so impertinent, and the semi final which shortly followed saw Dragon's World Hit Man No 1 being despatched by two pot-outs, the first on the run from mid-way into a scattered squopping game. The second in a clinical pot-squop where Larry never gave up, but couldn't get his sixth green free until the last blue was sitting taunting him, five inches from the pot. This drama was complete before the second semi final had even started, and as Alan wanted to get back to Sherwood Forest, it was agreed to play the final at a later date.

So who came through to meet the revived Supremo in the final?

Both the other quarter final matches were close, with either player in a position to win almost up to the last shots. Nigel proved his preference for singles by taking a close game 5-2 against Dave. It still looked good for him when a 3-4 meant he only needed another 3 from the last, but Dave paced his efforts right and got the clinching 6-1 for a 12-9 victory. Nigel was annoyed with himself, knowing full well that one chance is all Dave needs, and he shouldn't have given it to him.

Jon got a cast iron 6-1 against Keith, then relaxed a bit, but still was in the driving seat at 9-5, needing only 2 points. Keith of course is the past master at this sort of situation, but usually at the other side of the fence. At the end, he was let down by his potting, and that same skill which deserted Jon for most of the tour held up when he needed it most, losing 4-3 again but totalling 12-9.

Dave started the semi final as he had left off in the World Singles 36 hours earlier. Inexplicably, half way through the first game, he went for an over ambitious pile-combining Bristol, lost the wink he was on, putting it on top of his own pile, while releasing another of Jon's from this pile which promptly took over the largest pile in the game, and in the space of two shots, a ten point swing occurred. The second game revolved around an 18 winkpile, part of which was 7 high. Jon was determined not to let Dave off the hook and another 6-1 meant an all British final, and a great way to end the week after all the American victories.



## WORLD MASTERS SINGLES

### THE FINAL

Alan organised the ideal venue for the final, which took place on the evening of August 1st. The Royal Oak at Edwinstowe is the traditional country pub, and the advanced publicity made for an interested crowd of on lookers in the main bar. The trestle table had too many holes in it, so an improvised hardboard table top was up ended over it. The only disadvantage being the raised edge which made baseline shots cumbersome.

It was a classic game. The first game was an honest to goodness pot-squop, with Jon just getting in first, the last yellow from off two reds close to the pot. Alan got second quite easily, and should have had third, but missed his last red, and Jon slotted in the last four greens for a 6-1. The second game should have gone the same way, but Jon missed his second wink and was losing the game from that point onwards, with Jon playing initially for two points, then three, some inept potting by Alan almost gave away 4-3, but he redeemed himself by sinking three greens in round five for 4½-2½.

The third game saw a further Dean revival. Playing well and with increasing confidence, he got the score that one of the local cognoscenti had informed him he needed on a visit to the Gents' before the game started, 5-2. With satisfaction on his face he bought a drink for Barbie and Barbara, who had just arrived to watch, and started game four in a relaxed frame of mind. Ten minutes later the Masters title had slipped almost out of sight. Some poor baseline shots and two off the mat had helped Jon take total control, and free turns were the order of the day until about the eighteenth minute, Alan managed to release part of a pile, but Jon made the crucial shots when he needed to for a convincing 6-1.

The final game was very even, with a slight edge to Jon. Alan's pressure play got him back in, with a large red high up on a pile containing four of his own and only two of Jons. The title winning shot, a small green to fried egg position on the large red from about four inches away, knocked the stuffing out of Alan, and although he could have salvaged as many as three points with conservative strategy, he had to start going for silly shots, and sportingly conceded in round four, the final score being 22½-12½.

It is a pity that Dave Lockwood couldn't have been the umpire, as he would have seen winks played in the old style. Five games in two minutes short of three hours with only one disputed squop (the wives agreed the decision) and believe it or not the clock was not stopped once. A spontaneous round of applause from the now knowledgeable crowd greeted Jon as he donned the winner's green jersey (look out Augusta, here we come) and the local press and radio did their stuff well.

The opportunities for a repeat of this event will be few and far between, although there are already rumours that Jon and Keith might be playing in the U.S. Pairs Championship in 1982 and if more British single winners could be cajoled across the big pond, who knows? It would be great if Bill, Bob and Sunshine had the opportunity to play.

### More of the Tour

Details of the remaining events will have to be left over until the next issue but we must mention something of the International match. This was a double round event between, believe it or not, four English pairs and three American pairs. Four British pairs had already been invited when the Americans found that they would only have six players, so this format was agreed. As it turned out David Rose could not play, nor could first reserve Dennis Opposs, so Tony Brennan stepped in as Jon Mapley's partner.

The Americans started well and never looked in real danger, winning with one round to spare. It is however interesting to note that at that point if only the scores of the top three English Pairs are considered then the score was equal! So if we could have picked our six retrospectively (dropping Jon Mapley!!!) we could have had a tie!

The teams were	England	Charles Relle & Nigel Knowles	Alan Dean & Pam Knowles
		Keith Seaman & Cyril Edwards	Jon Mapley & Tony Brennan
	America	Severin Drix, Dave Lockwood, Larry Kahn, Joe Sachs	Rich Steidle, Charles Frankston.

## THE RULES - AGAIN

There has been considerable interest in the Rules recently, firstly because of the new printing of the Rule Book.

The Rules sub-committee appointed by the AGM reported back to the EGM held at the Hants Open in February. The sub-committee (Keith Seaman, Charles Relle, Jon Mapley) deliberated at length and agreed unanimously on everything put to the meeting. Most was accepted, being mainly clarification or accuracy of wording. A few changes were:

- A. Winks on unsupported mat over the edge of an under sized table are out of play (a shot is lost), but the mat may be moved to avoid flaws within the table surface.
- B. Any wink played off the mat must be replaced at least 4" from any wink, including the whole of a baseline with unplayed winks behind it.
- C. The time limit is 20 minutes for Singles and 25 minutes for Pairs.
- D. At the request of the opponents the clock may be stopped when a player takes more than 30 seconds for a shot.
- E. If free turns are in progress when time is reached Rounds do not begin until after the completion of free turns.
- F. Playing out of turn has been simplified. Only the last shot played is considered - it does not matter if the previous shot was also out of turn.

Most of the discussion revolved around the action at the end of free turns. The EGM did not accept the recommendations and this rule remained essentially the same as before. For all the details get your own copy of the new rules!

I have heard various comments about lack of consultation from English players, and from Americans who thought we could come to International agreement before publishing. To my knowledge the discussions have been going on for over ten years and I congratulate Jon and the others on actually getting the Rules in print. I don't think we are far away from the Americans and now we have the advantage of being able to say exactly what our rules are. We have accepted the idea of a thirty second rule - surely the Americans can accept our modification of it being optional on the offended party - why make games automatically longer? We have also adopted a sensible compromise on 20 and 25 minutes. Incidentally, change E above brings us into line with American practice.

The second point of Rules that has raised its head recently is of far more importance for the future of the game. The London Open showed a good example of how a few players are ruining the enjoyment of others through slow play - Jon gives his views on this: 'We all take the game seriously (in varying degrees) otherwise we wouldn't spend time and money playing it. When this seriousness results in one game in a Swiss tournament taking half an hour longer than the rest then something has to be done about it. As a result the four novices whose games ended in quick pot-outs had to wait an hour and ten minutes between rounds and very nearly packed up and went home.' 'We thought this game was supposed to be fun' is a sad commentary.

'Different players have different speeds of thought and reaction. Obviously some games are more complicated than others and more critical in the possible points swing than others but how long does it really take to (a) realise what all the options are and (b) decide on the best?

'there is no evidence that the thirty second rule is causing anything other than minor extensions to the regulation time. The major problem is the length of Rounds. Somehow we must legislate to limit the time available for each turn. Chess clocks would appear to be one answer but what happens if one player runs out of time when only in round three? Some system must be found soon otherwise tournaments will become unmanageable and new players will drift away.'

I basically agree with what Jon is saying - how often have you had to wait around at tournaments and find that play always goes on longer than expected, lunch is taken late etc. I think it is possible to insist on a time limit. Chess clocks or other stop watches could be used to define a player's total time and once a player's (or pair's) time has expired he would then have say 15 seconds for each shot. Failure to play within the 15 seconds would result in loss of that shot. Clearly this could not be done in every game but it would be quite practical in important matches. Also tournament directors could impose this on any players who he felt were slowing down the tournament - the times used would depend on the importance of the match etc.

Think about it - we really need it.

Nigel Knowles.