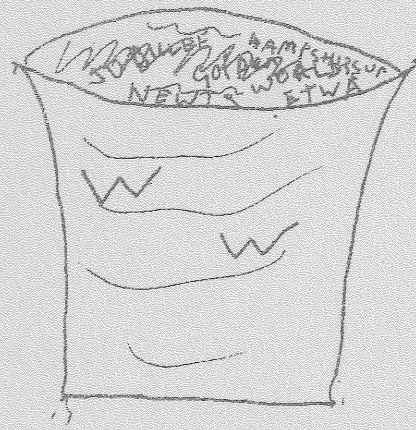
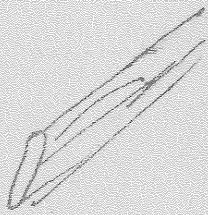


WINKING WORLD

CULTURE



25 P
TO NON
MEMBERS

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EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

First of all, some dates to remember:

October 22nd and 23rd National Teams of Four Championships and ETwA AGM at Southampton. The AGM will be on the Saturday evening and the Championship will take place during Saturday and Sunday. A handicapping system may be used. The tournament director will be Mike Surridge, from whom you may get details of this. Please make a special effort to enter.

November 19th and 20th National Singles Championship in London. Entries to Nick Inglis, ETwA secretary at Queen's College, Cambridge.

Tournament entries seem to be down this year. I have had no report of the Cambridge Open or of the Hampshire Open, but the London Open produced a disappointing seven pairs and the National Pairs only six. Perhaps we should have a discussion of tournament dates at the AGM.

This issue of Winking World has several articles carrying on discussions started in the last. This is very gratifying. If I myself make a note or comment at the end of an article, it is not because I wish to have the last word or to close the discussion. It is because WW only comes out twice a year and I want to air as many views as possible on each topic in each issue. So please everybody, continue to write.

ETwA still needs new members, and a number of subscriptions are overdue. Please send them to Alan Dean at 6 Birkland Drive, Edwinstowe, Notts.

If you go down from University, do not lose touch with the game. Try to persuade local friends to play. If you live or work in London come along to a NEWTS meeting at the Windmill, Tbernacle Street, EC4. The dates of the next meetings are Sep 28 and Oct 26.

1.

Congratulations to:

Geoff and Chris Cornell on the birth of a son, Christopher.

David and Déjà Lockwood on the birth of a daughter, Samantha Hope.

Paul and Fiona Hoffman on the birth of a son, Nicholas Andrew.

Mick and Patricia Still on their marriage.

August 27th is a day that must go down in the annals of Winks with the birth of Nicholas Hoffman, the christening of Christopher Cornell and the marriage of the Stills.

Larry Khan is still the World Champion and Dave Lockwood is the US Singles Champion. Details will, I hope, be in the next issue.

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PAMELA ANNE KNOWLES 1952-83

We much regret to report the death of Pam Knowles earlier this year. She was certainly the strongest woman player the game has seen and a good friend who will be missed by many players on both sides of the Atlantic.

She came to Southampton University in October 1971 to study Mathematics and joined the Winks Club at the annual Freshers' 'bunfight'. The early 70s were vintage years at Southampton and Pam became friendly with a group of players who are still familiar figures on the tournament scene. Among these was Nigel Knowles, whom she married. Although she completed her course at Manchester, and played Tiddlywinks for Manchester University, she always felt herself to be a member of the Southampton group, who have since been the basis of the QUESH team, and indeed she played with Nigel for QUESH against the rest of England in 1973: they were the top

scorers. Before this they had come 5th in the 1972 National Pairs, but her best success was in the 1972-3 Singles when she reached the final of the then knockout tournament, beating Phil Tepper, Alan Cook, Neville Martin, Bungy Wells and Hugh Goyder on the way. She did not manage to beat Alan Dean in the finals and indeed had to wait until 1980 for her first victory over him in a National Singles Tournament; of this more later. She continued to play in tournaments until 1977 and was always among the top players. Mostly she played with Nigel, Keith Seaman or Alan Dean. It was in 1977 that she played for 11 Khartoum Road in the team that beat NEWTS for the Marchant Trophy. They were the top scorers with 22½. When NEWTS later reversed this result Pam was playing with Nigel and they scored 3 wins. There followed a stay in Tehran which was cut short by the developing crisis, and years which, though a time of personal difficulty and amicable separation from Nigel, were studded with success on the Winks mat. In 1979 she was 8th in the English Singles, and in 1980 she won the US Singles. This was her greatest triumph, and included that first win over Alan Dean. No-one in America had expected this success and even after Pam had come top of the round-robin with a display of cool, precise tiddlywinks that drew the admiration of all, there were many among the Americans who wished, rather ungenerously, to alter the normal order of play in the final. This did not happen, and Pam's victory was universally acclaimed. "A Bright New Star Appears on the Scene" wrote David Lockwood in Newswink 11, and there were headlines in the press in England. Though she did not retain the championship in 1981, or beat David Lockwood for the World Title, she continued to be among the most successful players, coming second in the National Pairs of 1981 and 1982, partnering first Alan Dean and then Keith Seaman. She also won the London Open in 1982, sharing a partnership with Alan and Keith. During the 1981 American

tour she and Alan played for England, and did as well as the best.

As a player, Pam had a strong will to win and although she did not play a wide variety of shots, her technical expertise was great. Her squopping was, perhaps, her fortè and she was one of the best exponents of the Bristol shot: her style was such that she made few mistakes. Confidence was essential to her success, and as a Bridge player she appreciated the value of partnership confidence. Bridge was, along with Winks, her favourite game, in both rubber and tournament, and she once had ambitions to win international honours. Pam was a good partner, making the game easier for those who played with her, whatever their technical level.

In Tiddlywinks Pam achieved success in a man's world. In her career she was not so lucky. Though she gained qualifications as an accountant and employment took her to Iran, to London and eventually back to Manchester, the problems of finding continuous work and the security that goes with it were daunting, and one unhappy business venture left her in real difficulty. Not always sure that her choice of profession was right, there were times when she suffered from depression, and they must have been especially hard for one whose nature was outgoing, self-reliant and independent. She gave readily - one thinks immediately of being entertained among a circle of friends in her flat, of her pets who obviously enjoyed her company as much as she enjoyed theirs, and most of all her gift of life to her daughter Rebecca.

It was important to Pam to excel, and though her success at Tiddlywinks was a tangible excellence, she succeeded in other ways that were less measurable and perhaps less obvious to herself. There was an infectious exuberance that seemed to come with her, a gift of conversation that made her a delightful companion and a capacity for friendship that was valued by all who knew her well.

That she did feel blackness and pain in life she once confided to a friend, and the time came when the only way she felt she could win the battle against the blackness was through the taking of her own life.

At the funeral ETWA was represented by Nigel, Alan and Barbie Dean, Keith Seaman and Geoff Cornell. Geoff writes:

" We gathered for her Requiem Mass, apprehensive, saddened and guilty. As we shared in the bread and wine we shared her communion with God and glimpsed the truth that she now rests in the peace that she sought and the God she knew. The priest spoke of the conflict within us all, between our desire for freedom and the forces that bind us from outside and inside us. I reflected on how little I know of that conflict within even those people I dare to call my friends."

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to her parents and family.

(This notice was compiled with help from Geoff, Alan and Keith)

THE LONDON OPEN BY Rob Cartwright

This year saw the London Open at Goldsmith's College instead of Westfield, and with fewer pairs than last year and the absence of Alan Dean's computer, the tournament format was an all-play-all amongst the 7 pairs with the traditional 'sudden death' semi-finals and a 2-game final.

Of the pairs present, Charles Relle and Alan Dean always looked hot favourites, and the competition developed into 'who else would qualify'. Geoff Thorpe and Dave Hull had a very bad day and finished last, whilst Phil Clark and Alan Boyce played very solidly and only lost heavily to Dean and Relle. This kept them well up with the self-styled 'megastars' Graham Josland and Mike Surridge and the other qualifiers, Peter Toye and Cyril Edwards. The other two pairs, Rob Cartwright and Tim Jeffreys and Nick Inglis and Rod Lees, could only manage one or two wins each and finished several points down.

The first semi-final was between Relle and Dean and Edwards and Toye, and this looked the best chance of knocking out the leaders, who had so far averaged $6\frac{1}{2}$ pints a game. However they took a 6-1 win with confidence and entered the final, leaving the Southampton pairs battling it out at the other table. The megastars were 5-2 down entering round 5 and the game reached an exciting climax as they tried to draw level. The only chance for a draw was for Josland (red) to squop a yellow whilst at the same time freeing a blue. The problem was that the pile was under the pot and the big red was about 8 inches away on the other side. But in true style, Josland, anxious to make up for his Silver Wink form a fortnight before, pulled off this most spectacular shot, to the disbelief of Boyce and to ecstatic cheers from Surridge. Even then it was not over: Clark, shaking like a leaf, had to decide whether to pot the last yellow or squop the last red, both from the 'just-missable' range. Since missing either would mean playing the

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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
1	Dean Relle		6	7	6	7	6	7	39
2	Toye Edwards	1		$4\frac{2}{3}$	5	4	6	2	$22\frac{2}{3}$
3	Thorpe Hull	0	$2\frac{1}{3}$		1	1	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{5}{6}$
4	Surridge Josland	1	2	6		4	6	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{1}{2}$
5	Boyce Clark	0	3	6	3		7	5	24
6	Jeffreys Cartwright	1	1	6	1	0		3	12
7	Inglis Lees	0	5	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	4		14

Semi-Final

5 beat 4 (4-3)

1 beat 2 (6-1)

Final

1 beat 5 (6-1, 6-1)

Winners: Alan Dean and Charles Relle

entire game again, the tension mounted until he took the squop by about half a millimetre.

So the megastars departed, to seek a Youngs pub and prepare themselves psychologically for the Golden Squidger the next morning. Phil and Alan, exhausted by events, went into the final in a last attempt to defeat the Untouchables, Relle and Dean.

Putting up a good fight, they were nevertheless beaten 6-1 in the first game, but the second was closer and Clark and Boyce could probably have held on to a 4-3 had this obviously not been enough to win the tournament. Going for a bigger win, they lost control and went down 6-1 again, ensuring that Relle and Dean took the trophy by never taking less than six points in any game.

Congratulations to Phil and Alan, who did very well indeed and can definitely claim a moral victory. Thank are due to Tim Jeffreys who ensured I had a partner to play with, and also to Cyril who organised the tournament (and bought me a pint!) I think that conditions at Goldsmith's are better than at Westfield; the lighting in particular was excellent. It was a bit disappointing that there were not more pairs even though it was the end of University Semester (where were all the Londoners?) and the winners were fairly obvious from the start.

by the Editor - Some thoughts on the London Open

A new record was set by Thorpe and Hull: their opening score of $5\frac{1}{2}$ was more than the TOTAL of the rest of their games!

Soton players are quite formidable today.

Boyce and Clark put up a doughty fight: in the final and though they lost 7-0 to us in the all-play-all, at one stage they were on a pot-out themselves and we were all over the mat.

1983 NATIONAL PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Queens College Cambridge - 30 April/1 May
by Jonathan Mapley

Not long ago I remember writing about the problems NATWA were suffering, with low entries in their national championships. Little did I realise that we were going to face the same apathy within two years.

Mike Surridge eloquently voiced the disappointment felt by many Southampton players at the poor turnout for the 1982 teams-of-four: I have attempted to explain the reasons elsewhere. Now the boot is on the other foot - not one single Soton player came to the National Pairs - why? Even less understandable is the lack of interest shown by Cambridge players, who were not even required to travel. The exceptions were Nick Inglis and Steve Ramsden and Paul Hilditch and Stew Sage, who, despite filling the bottom two placings in the tournament, enjoyed a good weekend of fifteen games. It is also very disappointing that after a meteoric rise to fame the whole of LUSTS are more interested in other activities than playing winks. If Tony Brennan and Duncan Budd had entered they would have stood a very real chance of second place, even if not winning outright.

The tournament got under way at about eleven thirty on Saturday, after cryptic messages from Liverpool Street had been interpreted as "Dave Hull will be arriving late". With only six pairs we decided to keep the two-day format and play three complete series of games, with a single extra game if the top two pairs were within seven points of each other.

After the first five games Mapley/Dean had amassed 33 points with Dave and Déjà Lockwood in second place with 22½, then Cyril and Dennis on 15. Under the ex-world-champion's guidance Déjà was playing remarkably well, considering that she started less than a year ago and had Homer the Lump (due early June) to contend with.

Jon and Alan continued on their merry way with two more sixes, then got overconfident and were hit with two potouts. Despite recovering with their second 7-0 against Cyril and Dennis, (Alan carnovskied his sixth wink) Dave Hull and Geoff Thorpe took round two with five wins and 26 points, claiming it was now one-all with one to play! The had, in fact, climbed to second position with 40, still 16 behind the leaders. Cyril and Dennis had also made up ground with 7's against both Cambridge pairs and were now third. They quickly went to pieces in the final series and scored only 13½, finishing fourth, which was surprising.

Dave and Déjà recovered well in the final games with 21, including a well worked 4-3 against Jon and Alan: Mrs Lockwood sank two small winks from about 13 inches to achieve this. Two other things were particularly noticeable about Dave's games - they were invariably the last to be completed and had more requests for shot judges than the rest of the games put together. Dave H and Geoff also scored 21, to hang on to second place, but there was no stopping Jon and Alan, who got to the enviable position of being 20½ points ahead with three games left.

There was a lot of good potting from all the Cambridge players, and they were by no means outclassed. Is this what kept so many away; the thought that there was no point in playing in a tournament that cannot be won? If so, shame on you.

NATIONAL PAIRS 1983

1 2 3 4 5 6 TOTAL

1. MAPLEY and DEAN.	---	726	663	774	627	766	82
2. THORPE and HULL.	051	--	166	146	662	656	61
3. Mr and Mrs LOCKWOOD.	114	611	--	636	444	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 36	55 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. EDWARDS and OPPOS.	003	631	141	--	571 $\frac{1}{2}$	377	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
5. INGLES and RAMSDEN.	150	115	333	205 $\frac{1}{2}$	--	161	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
6. HILITCH and SAGE	011	121	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 41	400	616	--	29 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Catford Invitation Individual Tournament
by Charles Relle.

Once again eight players came to Canadian Avenue for this tournament. For me it began well with a six-in-a-row pot-out against Mick Still and Dennis Opposs. My partner, Tony Brennan, was less inspired and we won a 5-2. At the other table Tim Jeffreys and Pam Knowles took a 5-2 against Charles Jeffreys and Andy Vincent. Still playing against Dennis, I attempted another pot-out in round 2. Alas, the last wink failed and landed far from the pot, where it fell to a typical, loping, foot-long squop from the avenging Dennis, who, helped by Tim Jeffreys, consolidated for a 6 against me and Andy. Meanwhile Tony acquired another 5, this time partnering Charles Jeffreys. The third round saw him take the lead with a 6, Dennis being his partner. This round brought Charles and Tim together as partners, but they could score only 1 against Mick and me. By the end of the penultimate round, Tony still held a lead that he had not lost: he was on 26, with Charles Jeffreys on 24, Dennis and myself on 23, Mick and Pam on 22, Tim on 19 and Andy on 9. Partnership combinations for round 7 were Mick and Andy against Pam and myself, and Charles Jeffreys and Dennis against Tim and Tony. This meant that possible winners were myself, Charles Jeffreys and Tony, though Mick could tie with Charles or Tony. I was confident that I would do better than my fifth place of last year, though the result of my table, a 5-2 loss, did little to justify that confidence. At the other table Charles Jeffreys, clearly outraged that earlier in the afternoon his brother had beaten him 5-2 and helped him to a 6-1 loss, beat him and Tony 7-0 with the aid of Dennis. This catapulted Charles into first place and precipitated Tony into fourth. "It must," said Charles to Tony, "be disappointing to go from first to fourth place in the last round." "It is," said Tony. And my own position in the tournament? Fifth

The Jubilee Trophy

This trophy still resides on the grandfather clock of Charles Relle. The only recent challenge has been that of Pam Knowles, who played during the evening of the Catford Individual. The match ran to four Games. Pam began with a decisive 6-1. She made virtually no mistakes, and Charles was squopped up before the end. Though, as she acknowledged, what luck there was ran her way, she definitely outplayed her opponent. During the next three games, however, she might well have exclaimed "O Fortuna!" The winks seemed to run for Charles, and he scored three 6-1s in succession, frequently having free turns. Mike Surridge was to be the next challenger, but pressure of work has forced him to stand down. We do congratulate him on his First at Southampton. The next challenger is Cyril Edwards.

THE SILVER WINK 1983

On March 5th, a team travelled to Cambridge from Southampton to try to wrest the Silver Wink from the hands of CUTWC. It had been hoped that a three-cornered match with Oxford could be arranged, but this was not possible owing to a total lack of response from OUTS. Nevertheless, this year's national inter-university championship began shortly before noon, with Southampton taking a hopeful but not altogether too convincing lead after the first round. Because of the late start, only one round was possible before lunch; the Cambridge team retired to Robinson bar for lemonade and grapefruit juice, while Southampton were reported proceeding in the direction of the 'Hat and Feathers' - was this the beginning of their downfall?

The match started again fairly promptly after lunch, and Cambridge demonstrated the value of abstinence by winning the round 16-12, thereby reducing the visitors' lead to two points. The third round, like the second, saw three games go to Cambridge, the score for the round was 16¹/₂-11¹/₂, giving Cambridge a three point lead.

Following some difficulty in finding a venue, the match was of necessity being played in two separate rooms, some distance apart. This had the disadvantage that it led to a delay in communications between the two halves of the match. As the last round drew to a close, it looked, at least in one of the rooms, certain that the Silver Wink would remain in Cambridge: a 5-2 win for Inglis and Ramsden was followed by a 6-1 victory for Hilditch and Sage. However, just as the Cambridge players had begun mentally rearranging their mantelpieces, buying more silver polish, etc., Lampkin arrived dismally and announced a miserable 1-6 defeat at the hands of Surridge and Willis. Rapid calculations by a well-known Scots mathematician revealed that Southampton were now only seven points behind: a 7-0 win would get them a draw (which it had been agreed would result in the trophy spending six months in each university). The Southampton high command despatched fleet-footed messengers to instruct Boyce and Ferguson to concentrate all efforts on the pot-out. As their game was now well-advanced, this was obviously near-impossible, both of their colours being involved in squops, and valiant efforts could not dislodge the last of Jon Ferguson's winks from under several Cambridge winks, and the game ended in a 6-1 victory for Southampton, leaving the tournament decided by the ultimately close margin of one point.

Paul Hilditch

THE SILVER WINK 1983

CAMBRIDGE v. SOUTHAMPTON

Robinson College, Cambridge 5 March 1983

Cambridge		Total		Southampton		Total
Pair One	Nick Inglis Steve Ramsden	3	6 6 5	Pair One	Rob Cartwright Tim Broome	4 2 5½ 1
Pair Two	Stew Sage Paul Hilditch	4	1 5 6	Pair Two	Graham Josland Phil Clark	3 3 3 2
Pair Three	Mandy Abel Mike Lampkin	1	5 4 1	Pair Three	Alan Boyle ^c Jon Ferguson	6 1 2 6
Pair Four	Mike Smith II Andy Williams	3	4 1½ 1	Pair Four	Mike Surridge Ian Willis	4 6 1 5
						17

Order of Play m,		Score Card		ROUND TOTALS	
Round	Mat 1 Mat 2 Mat 3 Mat 4	Round	Mat 1 Mat 2 Mat 3 Mat 4		

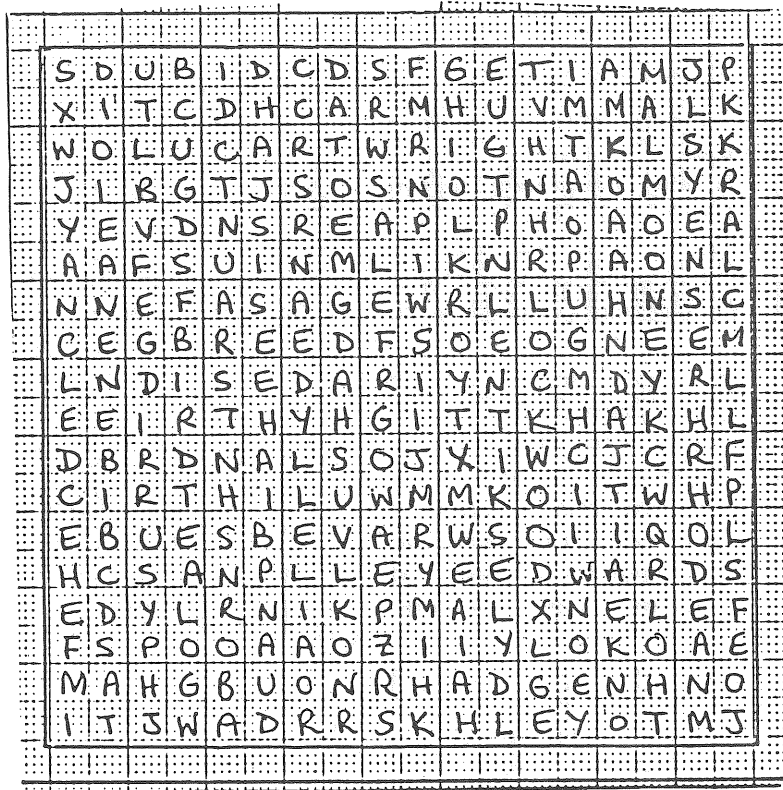
1	1 v 1	2 v 2	3 v 3	4 v 4	1	3-4	4-3	1-6	3-4	11-17
2	2 v 4	1 v 3	4 v 2	3 v 1	2	1-6	6-1	4-3	5-2	16-12
3	3 v 2	4 v 1	1 v 4	2 v 3	3	4-3	1½-5½	6-1	5-2	16½-11½
4	4 v 3	3 v 4	2 v 1	1 v 2	4	1-6	1-6	6-1	5-2	13-15

FINAL SCORE: 56½-55½

CAMBRIDGE WIN BY ONE POINT TO RETAIN SILVER WINK

Free the Winkers by Rob Cartwright

In the grid below are hidden the names of 28 winkers you may know. How many can you find? Across left or right, up, down or diagonally in any direction. You will find the names at the end of this issue.



It's all a bit random, really... by Paul Hilditch

The articles on tournament format in the latest WW, particularly that by Mike Surridge, have prompted me to write this piece extolling the virtues of the 'random-random' pairs format. This system, which some of the more radical and forward-looking members of CUTWC tried to introduce at the last Cambridge Open, but which was vociferously rejected by many of those present (did I really see the word 'reactionary' in WW42?), works as follows: at the beginning of every round, a random draw is made to decide pairings. Individual scores are kept for each player and in each game both players receive the number of game points obtained by the pair.

One of the greatest advantages of this system is that the number of rounds that need be played is not fixed as it would be in an all-play-all or knockout tournament: hence the tournament director could specify how many rounds were to be played to fit his timetable. Obviously, the more rounds the better, but matches which spread into two days often suffer from a drop in attendance on the second day, which can cause utter havoc with an all-play-all tournament. A random-random tournament could be timed to be over in one day. I know, however, that there are many players who understandably prefer a two-day format: even in the case of a two-day match in which several players fail to turn up on the second day, the match would not seriously be affected, if it were being played on a random-random basis. Needless to say, at the Cambridge Open, which after much time-consuming discussion was played on a conventional random-draw basis, a number of participants did not arrive on the second day, and we had to spend a large amount of time holding mass meetings, etc., to decide how to rearrange the competition.

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The random-random format is, I feel, a better test of each player's ability to play doubles tiddlywinks. An objection raised at the Cambridge Open was that it would 'turn the tournament into a singles competition'. It is true that the format would produce only one outright winner, but he or she would have won by playing doubles, which as we all know is a very different game from singles. The tournament could not be dominated by strong pairings ploughing through the weaker pairs, and novices would have a chance to play with the best players instead of, as is usual, against them and losing to them.

The question arose of whether we should prevent two players partnering each other twice. Thus we rejected because, if the draw was being made in the usual manner, this would be too time-consuming, and too much time is wasted in winks matches as it is; generally in waiting for people to arrive, or to come back from the pub; and in any case with a reasonable attendance the probability of this occurring would be relatively small and its effect on the result minor.

While, in the hands of the inept, this format could in minutes turn a tournament into utter chaos, I believe that, given the smoothness and efficiency that are traditional where winks matches are concerned (!) that the random-random system represents a fairer and more enjoyable format for what should properly be termed a 'doubles' competition, and I shall suggest very strongly that this format be adopted at the 1984 Cambridge Open.

On Tournaments by Charles Relle

This note is provoked by Paul Hilditch's interesting article. Perhaps I had better begin by answering his question. Yes, the word reactionary did appear in WW42; so did vociferous. However, some of Paul's vocabulary, including random-random, is new to Winking World.

Why not introduce a 'random-random' tournament into the ETWA calendar? And why not make it the next Cambridge Open? But whatever the format of a tournament, announce it in advance, and stick to it, unless the entry is so small that it is impossible to operate. Of course it is most reprehensible if people enter a tournament and do not stay to the end. Recently this has been exclusively a Cambridge problem, and CUTWC should have cleared it up. No two-day tournament should be organised on the assumption that some people are going to default on the second day.

The tournament calendar has almost settled down. We have two serious tournaments, the National Singles and National Pairs, and several 'fun' tournaments. The Hampshire Open is for pairs, all-play-all or Swiss, with a one game final, and scores carried over. The London Open is for pairs, again Swiss or all-play-all, with sudden death semi-finals and final. The Manchester Open is for pairs, but there is some talk of making it an individual, as it was in 1982. The National teams of four accommodates its format to the attendance. So there is room for a 'random-random' tournament. I am sure we would all enjoy it.

For the two major tournaments, the National Singles and the National Pairs, I believe we have found the ideal format. The National Pairs is normally an all-play-all with the top four pairs carrying their scores over to a final round played among themselves. 1983, with its small entry, was an exception, but this

seems to have fitted the size and strength of the tournament in recent years. The National Singles has also settled down to a very satisfactory shape, with a qualifying round and a final round the top ten players, together with a consolation tournament for non-qualifiers. The qualifying round has been played in two or three groups, the players being seeded to give groups of as near equal strength as possible. This gives everybody a fair chance, and everybody who reaches the final group has a significant chance of affecting the outcome of the tournament. Naturally all the finalists would wish to do this. The consolation tournament has not the prestige of the championship itself, but in my view it is just as important. It gives middle-range players an opportunity to play against each other with a meaningful chance of winning something, and comparative newcomers to play tournament games that are not necessarily a foregone conclusion. No other format would do the same.

.....

In the words of Mike Surridge by Phil Clark

In your last issue (WW42) Mike Surridge touched upon the problem of gamesmanship and since I was named as an exponent of this dubious art I felt a reply was in order. The import of Mike's article was that some members of SotWink (and others) are guilty of employing questionable tactics at all levels of the game. Like Mike I speak from experience of SotWink and to assess the accuracy of what he says pertaining to that club the question needs to be examined in greater depth.

At SotWink there are broadly speaking two forums for play; club meetings and informal games among friends and I shall look at these in turn.

Firstly there are the club meetings incorporating what Mike calls the 'casual game' where 'the boundaries of accepted behaviour are relaxed'. This is largely true and its effects are important. If novices are taught to play the game under such relaxed conditions then it is inevitable that some amount of gamesmanship will appear under the guise of fun. Therefore, gamesmanship can appear to be a normal and accepted part of the game - a weapon to be used - and it is hardly surprising that it is subsequently used in tournaments. However, I would stress that there is no 'policy' of gamesmanship which we deliberately teach; it is simply a product of the conditions under which we meet. In a situation where the turnout varies every week it is almost impossible to impose stricter conditions of play in, for example, a club tournament of some kind.

This problem has been accentuated by this year's large rise in membership, for which we (the 'experienced' players) were not prepared. We were used, indeed too used, to a small number resulting in one, possibly two, games going on at any given time. When confronted with four, five even six games in progress there were simply not enough of us to go round. In such a situation we could not play and keep an eye on everyone. Thus the opportunities for gamesmanship were increased, a problem made worse by the fact that nearly all the 'experienced' players are at times guilty of it themselves.

However, before our reputation sinks without trace it must be said that the situation can be overstated. Mike's cited example of the Kick-the-table shot is exceptional and fortunately rare; it would be a mistake to think that such methods are common practice or condoned even within the boundaries of fun. By this stage of the year it is evident that the 'new' members have a better idea of what the game is about and the more overt incidents of gamesmanship have decreased with tournament

experience, especially by learning from the example of those whose conduct is exemplary. For example, Tim Broome's attitude improved greatly after partnering Jon Mapley in the Cambridge Open. Unfortunately the real problem now is that members use gamesmanship (especially off-table comments) often without realising it. It has become second nature. This implies that the experienced players are at fault for allowing the situation to develop, and regrettably this is partly true. We let things slip too far and must ensure that we do not make the same mistake next year,

Secondly there is the informal game among members and friends. These can be a more serious breeding-ground for gamesmanship because the very informal nature of the occasion can seem to allow it. A balance it seems has to be found between the fun element and the maintenance of a sense of discipline in one's game. In my experience off-table comments mixed with friendly banter are a common feature of this type of game and this psychological verbiage can have a telling effect. More seriously, it permeates the game at tournament level and it is as hard to recognise that you are doing it as it is to stop.

Thus conditions at SotWink make it difficult to instill a high standard of behaviour. This demands that the players seriously examine their own attitude to the game and, if necessary, make some adjustments. Mike cites, with, I think, good reason, the example of last year's Teams of Four to emphasise his point especially with regard to off-table comments. The scrappy nature of the tournament and the inexperience of many of the players increased the problem of course; but in my case I was guilty and should have known better. I am trying to stop this undesirable aspect of my game but it is not something which can be done overnight especially in the light of the playing conditions I have

outlined. It might be a help if players were more ready to ask others to be quiet: after all if a problem is ignored it is less likely to be cured. On the question of umpiring at the Fours Mike is correct, but it should be said that the pair concerned were inexperienced and therefore unlikely to know the best way to explain to an umpire what was required.

To find solutions to the problem of gamesmanship is difficult because so much depends on the individual. It is up to us to set a good example to new players and to set higher standards in clubs so that the 'casual lgame' does not take over.

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A Code of Conduct and Other Ideas by Jonathan Mapley

There are a number of thought-provoking points in Mike Surridge's excellent article. If the 'casual game' is the means by which so many new players reach an almost unbelievable standard after only a term's play, then it must be commended. Winks, or any game, will only go forward and flourish if there is a constant supply of new players who are keen, maintain an interest and have in their midst a few who become good enough to knock the top players off their perches.

There is a 'code of conduct' in the game, and it is to its credit that this exists without any real need to embody it in the formal rules. I am an avid sports watcher, and in professional terms, the only games which seem to contain the same degree of sportsmanship are bowls and snooker.

There always has been a fine dividing line between gamesmanship and good high-pressure tactics. For example, if I have played a shot which has left my opponents in a quandary over what to play next, I think it is an acceptable "ploy" to comment to my partner on what I would or would not like them to do. However, when an opponent has committed himself to a particular shot, it is unacceptable to make a remark such as "I've seen these missed on many occasions" just as he is in the act of playing or lining up the shot.

There are a number of points which are worth mentioning to new players (and some not so new) as regards tournament and match-play, some of which are not obvious until an error has already been committed, so maybe it would help to list them. No doubt I will miss some, and equally obviously, some players will disagree with me.

1. Accept an umpire's decision whether you agree with it or not. It is not acceptable to ask for a second opinion - get a different umpire if you need one again.

2. When asking an umpire to make a decision, state simply what he needs to decide. It is often better to say "what is the situation between small green and large red?" rather than "is red squopping green?". Never tell the umpire who is playing which colour. In more complicated problems, more information will have to be given. For example, if it is green's shot and he is on a pile with another green in it, and the point in question is whether the top green is vertically above the power, simply ask the umpire "can the bottom green be played legally"?

3. Keep all unplayed winks behind the baseline. Keep squidgers, squidger boxes, handbags, etc. off the playing area.

4. When a player is in the act of making his shot, no other person should touch the mat or the table, unless requested to do so by the player - e.g. "please hold the pot for me". Give him light and breathing space - if it's a critical shot and could be a foul, let the umpire decide. I can't remember who it was, but I nearly knocked somebody out fairly recently because they were leaning over me as I played, and I stood up quickly and hit their chin with my head.
5. When should the pot be held? Only if the squidger, or hand holding it, would otherwise move the pot in the act of making the shot. Thus, if you are deliberately playing a wink to bounce back off the pot, it is not permissible to hold the pot still. If it moves, put it back after the shot.
6. When watching another game taking place, do not make comments or suggestions which could be overheard by the players.
7. If you are asked to be an umpire, take a good look at the problem from both sides or ends of the mat, then make a positive decision. My golden rule is that if there is considerable doubt about a squop, I always give the answer unsquopped, i.e. the wink is innocent unless I'm 100% satisfied of its guilt. Lights and magnifying glasses can be very helpful - use them if they are available.
8. Do not ask for umpires or shot judges excessively.
9. Be positive about your play. There's no need to discuss every shot with your partner. It's far better to make your decision, start to line up your shot and have your partner stop you if he disagrees than to spend fifteen, twenty, twenty five seconds, on every shot saying "I think I should do this". "Hmm, well it looks OK to me, is there anything better?" "No, I don't think

so." "All right, go ahead." Slow play is the biggest evil in the game today so help to stamp it out. However, as Charles loves a bit of controversy, I must say that I would not wish to ban anybody from a tournament.

10. Devise an effective method of remembering and recording who won the squidge-off and for counting rounds at the end, and use it.

11. There is no need to go overboard on the sporting aspects. Be fair and gentlemanly, but as an example, if you hear your opponent counting his (or your) time limit points and he makes a mistake which ends up with his playing in a manner advantageous to you, why point out his error? It is up to each player to know what his points are and if he gets it wrong he is a poorer player for it.

12. Take great care with manual intervention. If winks or foreign bodies have to be moved or removed, do it gently. Never blow a piece or fluff away - it's incredibly easy to dismantle a pile with only the lightest puff. If someone is playing a shot which could disturb an unconnected complex pile, set up a duplicate of the pile somewhere else on the mat or on another table, then use it as a model for rebuilding.

13. There are occasions, particularly with baseline shots, which travel a few inches when it is obvious that the wink is released long before an opponent intends. I wouldn't condemn any player who insisted that the shot must stand, but in most circumstances, I would offer to allow the player to recover the wink and play it again. I would think twice in a World Singles! It all depends on the seriousness of the game.

14. The Megacrud. This is not a new problem. I was the victim of this shot in the semi-finals of the National Junior Championship in 1965. An opponent broke up a pile with a shot which started from such a height and continued at a velocity which made it impossible for any normally sighted person to determine (a) if the first wink hit was the correct one, and (b) if subsequent winks hit were vertically beneath the top one. I'm not bothered about winks being broken, but I would say that in general terms, winks should be a game of subtlety and skill, not brute force and ignorance. Any shot which is not demonstrably legal should be outlawed. I am therefore in favour of any rule amendment which restricts the height from which squidger motion commences. This should obviate the need to ban 'large' squidgers. Reverting to the 'casual game' concept for a moment, I can remember as a teenager seeing John Mesher go back to the corner of the room like a fast bowler measuring his run-up, in preparation for a desquop, and stopping about an inch above the pile, as everyone held their breath.

15. In any complicated pile, where you are attempting to dig winks out or play them in more than one direction, and your intentions might not be obvious, tell your opponents what you are planning. They can then decide whether or not to call a shot judge.

16. Although the rules do not provide for it, it is normally considered reasonable to stop the clock while an umpire is being called and during his deliberations.

17. If a wink has been accidentally impeded in flight, it must be placed in a mutually agreed position - not "hard luck, chum, it was your arm in the way, I like it where it is." The intention of this rule is to place the wink as close as possible to the point where it would have landed if it had not been impeded.

I hope that the above comments have proved useful, and look forward to hearing any counter-arguments and disagreements.

Finally, to the Teams of 4 competition. I agree that this should be the first tournament in the academic year, and that every player should consider it an important tournament to enter. I did not play in the 1982 tournament simply because I wanted to have a weekend with my family. The demands that the game makes on my time are considerable, and on this occasion, autumn had an additional burden - the organisation of the World Singles. To stage such a match, arrange the sponsorship, contact the media, attend interviews, etc. etc. is the administrative side of the game which few people see. I would love to play in every tournament but I have four other people to consider and have to limit my participation.

It was the first Teams of 4 that I have missed, and I tried to ensure that the spirit of the competition prevailed, hence the comments in the circular announcing the details. Perhaps, for this tournament, if for no other, we need to have definite entries well in advance so that prospective teams can be vetted. I certainly didn't even consider how well or badly I might do - my only concern was that everybody should have a roughly equal chance of winning, but mainly that they should enjoy themselves. I am sorry that there were obviously some who did not. It is unfortunate that a number of other established older players made the same decision as I did (for similar reasons). I hope it will not be too long before I enter a complete team - the problem is explaining to a five year old that she can't play, but her older brother and sister can! I agree that it seems poor value for money, but room hire in London is expensive when we have no current students in any of the London colleges who can arrange the bookings for us. Maybe now we have contacts with North London Poly this could change.

Editor's note: I must comment on two points made in Section 9 of Jonathan's article. I hate it if my partner interrupts me when I am lining up for a shot. I think it is just as quick to discuss it beforehand, and much better for partnership confidence. Like Jonathan, I would not wish to ban anyone from a tournament, except as a last resort.

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The Shape of Winks to come by Rob Cartwright

The advent of regularly shaped or 'flat' (to coin a phrase) winks is regarded with suspicion by a large number of people. Those people accustomed to playing with such winks admit that they play better using them, and this has led ETWA to clamp down on the use of personalised winks in order to prevent any unfair advantage. I feel that the ruling is sound and it has one loophole which we all as winkers can exploit, as I shall show later.

The rule states that "if a player wishes to use his own winks he may only do so with his opponent's consent; else he must use the equipment provided". Hence if Relle and Mapley both wish to use their own winks they are quite entitled to against each other, but not against others, which prevents them from gaining an unfair advantage.

Nevertheless, I do feel that the need to standardise equipment is with us. Personally I am far more worried about mats, which are all different and range from a bounce factor like a bit of hardboard to that of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch polyurethane foam. Still the winks aren't magnificent either, and if the ETWA committee feel that by this witch's brew saga they can churn out regular winks, this can't really be a bad thing - provided everybody

has the same opportunity to use them, and this obviously means some level of practice. So to the crunch:

I am of the firm opinion that using flat winks is O.K. but using one's own flat winks is definitely not; and the ETWA ruling takes care of this. Surely the whole object of moving tables in a tournament is to try to iron out equipment irregularities, and carting one's own winks from table to table, upsets the balance a bit?

However, the need to phase flat winks into standard tournaments is, I feel, necessary and desirable and the loophole in the law is the 'winks provided' bit. Why not provide flat winks? Indeed why not, if the tournament director so wishes, provide square winks with stripes on? So I therefore suggest that we select a year - not immediately, but say as from Autumn 1984, from when all ETWA tournaments will be played with flat winks? Given this warning people will have the time to get used to the winks and by so doing clubs will be able to 'manufacture' enough sets to hold a tournament.

This strikes me as being a practical solution to the problem, but it is only an idea and if anyone (including Charles) can suggest a refinement - or indeed an objection - please do.

So: Yes, you can use flat winks - we should always provide them.

No, you cannot use your ~~own~~ winks under any circumstances.

Incidentally, having experimented myself, I have found out one rather obvious point. 'Flattening' winks does not alter their thickness and any bad warps are only reduced, not removed. Hence the process only works on winks which are 'good' in the first place. It is unreasonable to expect clubs to have good winks in all their sets for the following reason:

We get winks from Alan Dean at tournaments. They come in boxes and take a fair time to sort out. What I suspect is that a few boxes have been taken to tournaments for some time now and most of the best winks have been already selected; certainly recently the quality of the sets we have been getting recently is going down. Perhaps Alan would care to comment, but we cannot produce good sets from ones which are pretty bad in the first place.

Editor: Rob Cartwright's interesting article goes well with the next one, written by Jon Mapley. My own stance on 'personalised' winks is well known: where I disagree with Rob is in his statement that 'it is unreasonable to expect clubs to have good winks'... What we most need is good winks, consistent in thickness and not warped, and I make my own sets of dewarped winks in order to get uniform sets, and I expected others to follow my lead, as I did that of Larry Kahn. At the moment we play with equipment of a low standard: in no other game would players accept \$o low a standard. This makes Jon's article very important.

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Equipment by Jonathan Mapley

Over the years, we have faced various problems and occasional crises over the supply of equipment. All of these have been overcome one way or another. After many frustrations following the demise of the nostalgic two-ply felt, we now have a mat we can be proud of. The worst problem was the pot. We knew we had a finite supply of the good old Airfix original, as they had thrown away the mould in the late fifties, and although the American-produced article we now use is aesthetically inferior, it makes previous little difference to the way winks behave or the way shots have to be played.

We should all be grateful for our transatlantic friends' financing of the mould. And so we come to the last item of standard equipment, the winks. For those who do not know, there are basically two methods of producing plastic counters in volume. The cheap method is moulding - look at any 'Noddy' set of tiddlywinks, ludo, bingo - any game that requires different coloured playing pieces, and you will see the small 'tags' where the counters have been broken off the mould. These can be purchased in the small wink 16mm size for approximately £2 per thousand. They are useless for serious winks, not only because of the tags but because they have bevelled edges and can flip backwards instead of forwards, and they are of a much lighter material which does not fly properly from the baseline.

The quality method which is used not only for wink-sized counters but for much larger, thicker backgammon pieces and even the small diameter but thick pieces used in a game like Kensington, is rod-slicing. A cylinder of high quality melamine-type plastic is produced, of the required diameter, and a slicing-machine is set up at the required thickness to chop the pieces off the rod. All the winks we have ever used have been produced this way by a company named Walmsleys. They are finished off by sand-blasting, which produces the smooth rounded edges.

For three years or more, NATWA have been complaining about the standard of Walmsley's winks. These have deteriorated, as more recent batches have been purchased, and those of you who have ferreted through the boxes Alan Dean brings to tournaments to find a reasonable wink to replace one that is too badly warped or of varying thickness will understand this. Believe it or not, these represent the acceptable 10% of any batch - 90% are totally unusable for a serious game. We have felt embarrassed about sending supplies of these winks to America and have been searching for an

an alternative supplier. We thought we had found one in West Germany but they were too lightweight.

The search was intensified by two recent happenings. In September 1982 Walmsleys went into liquidation, despite having moved to Northern Ireland with Government grants. ETWA's Congress decision to ban personalised winks was in retrospect shortsighted but absolutely correct. It cannot be right to allow players the opportunity of improving upon an item of equipment which should be standard. The problem is that word 'should'. It is a farce to play a serious game with winks which are warped and of varying thickness.

We have now discovered an alternative which is made in Italy. We are at the moment in the hands of the British importer, and have had to persuade the Italians to produce 16 and 22mm winks - the only sizes they made as standard were 15, 25 and 31. After many hiccoughs in translation and minimum order requirements an initial batch of 2000 sets have arrived. They are expensive, but the reject rate is below 1%. To help finance the cost we have pre-sold 350 sets to NATWA. We are currently attempting to sell off the remaining stocks of Walmsley's winks.

The great advantage of the new winks is their absolute uniformity - it is impossible to tell one from another. How they avoid the warping is a mystery - presumably they are either a different compound or they are sliced at a different temperature. The only difference between them and the 'perfect' Walmsleys wink is that they are neither convex nor concave, but they do slope very slightly towards the edge on both sides, giving the same lift effect as when playing a Walmsleys wink concave side up. The playing characteristics are as similar after a little practice, to the pots. In other words, they are to all intents and purposes the same.

ETWA intends to introduce the new winks for tournaments with immediate effect and we ask for the support of all players in this change. A set may be purchased from the treasurer at the same price (£1.50) as the old sets.

Editor: New winks are now available to all. A complete set is the same price as an old set, but you may buy a set of winks alone if you wish. If you buy more than one set, ETWA will pay the postage. So the prices for new winks alone are 50p for two or more sets, and 65p for one set. While on financial matters I must add that our treasurer has pointed out that one item on the credit side did not appear in the accounts published in the last WW. This was tournament fees of £40.75. I apologise for this.

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The word-search names are:

BOYCE	EDWARDS	KNOWLES	RELLE
BRENNAN	HILDITCH	LAMPKIN	SAGE
BUDD	HULL	LEES	SEAMAN
CARTWRIGHT	INGLIS	LOCKWOOD	SMITH
CLARK	JEFFREYS	MACH	SURRIDGE
DEAN	JOSLAND	MAPLEY	THORPE
DRIX	KAHN	MOONEY	TOYE