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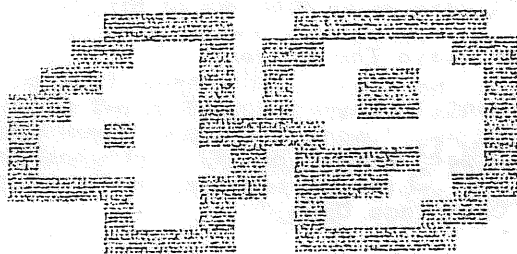
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News

Nick Inglis

Much has happened since WW48 was published. Alan Boyce and Mike Surridge beat Alan Dean and Charles Relle 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in the second game of the London Open final to take the title (the final is only two games - not three as stated in WW48). The Teams of Four was won by a Sotwink team including Alan Boyce, Mike Surridge (yawn) and two novices.

Alan Dean won a close and very exciting National Singles in which Dave Lockwood was eliminated on the first day. Alan then beat Larry Kahn in a world singles match that never officially happened. Two days later Jon Mapley beat Larry in World Singles 24 to take the title and set up the "dream match" of Mapley v Dean. This will have happened by the time most of you see this issue, but for the record it is taking place in Hamleys in Regent Street on 24th of April, the day before the National Pairs in Cambridge.

Jon Mapley put his new title to good use at the Cambridge Open where everyone else was so dazzled at the presence of the World Champion they played like idiots and let Jon win for the third time with the lowest ever winning average. A month later Jim Carrington and Mike Surridge won the Hampshire Open.

Meanwhile Cambridge at long last got their act together beating Oxford and Southampton comfortably to take the Silver Wink.

There has been one change to the ETwA committee with Jim Carrington replacing Alan Dean as vice-chairman, treasurer and equipment secretary. The new Committee is:

Chairman: Jon Mapley, 2 Janmead, Witham, Essex, CM8 2EN.
Tel: 0376 516872
Treasurer: Jim Carrington, 115 York Street, Cambridge,
CB1 2PZ. Tel: 0223 60330
Secretary: Phil Clark, Flat 8, 14 Guildford Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1SW.
WW Editor: Nick Inglis, Churchill College, Cambridge,
CB3 0DS. Tel: 0223 336223
Publicity Officer: Stew Sage, Queens' College, Cambridge,
CB3 9ET.

Subscriptions are still £5 per year (students etc. only £2). Please send them to Jim Carrington.

The provisional tournament schedule for 1987 is:-
4th July London Open Blackheath Junior School
24th-25th October Teams of Four and Congress Southampton
21st-22nd November National Singles Pinner Community Centre

This issue is rather larger than its predecessors and I am grateful to all the contributors for their varied articles. We are particularly honoured to have a piece by our distinguished colleague Moonshine (*St George Slays The Dragon*) who is a keen reader of *Newsweek*.

The next issue of *Winking World* will be number 50. It will be published in September and I hope to include several survey articles looking back over the game's development. At Congress it was decided that no rule change could be considered at next year's Congress unless it had already been published in *Winking World* (or similarly widely publicised at least a month before Congress). The deadline for submitting such changes (and other articles) to WW50 is the 14th of September.

Does anyone know who won the Silver Wink in the years between 1972 and 1977? There are only sketchy references to it in *Winking World* and it seems the trophy even disappeared for a short time.

Afterthought: Jon Mapley may be the World Champion, but can he foresee the future? The following uncanny prediction comes from WW41:

"I don't see the *John Lennon Memorial Shot* becoming a permanent addition to our vocabulary. It is too complicated."

Minutes of ETWA Congress

Phil Clark

Held 25 October 1986
Wadham College, Oxford

Present: Jon Mapley, Alan Dean, Phil Clark, Nick Inglis, Stew Sage, 30 members.

The meeting began at 8.15pm, Jon Mapley in the Chair. Business commenced with the consideration of the rules as revised by Charles Relle to incorporate the recommended alterations of the previous year's meeting.

Charles drew attention to a new sentence inserted into rule 5(b):

"In particular, it is a foul shot to press on a wink before playing it so that a wink underneath it is squeezed out, though a shot may consist of tapping a wink so that another wink moves from beneath it."

There was general acceptance of the need for such a sentence, but some debate over the precise wording. Jon suggested *"it is a foul shot where a wink is squeezed out and the shot is continued..."*. Eventually, Charles was left to find a suitable rewording.

Regarding rule 11, *Squopping Up* and *Free Turns*, Geoff Thorpe proposed that in part (a) the word *"intentionally"* be removed from the sentence *"During the free turns, it (the squopping partnership) may play no shot which would intentionally postpone the freeing turn."* This amendment was unanimously approved.

Moving on to rule 12, *Foul Shots*, Jon Mapley proposed an amendment to the sentence *"If the opponents play a shot subsequent to a shot out of turn"* by substituting *"out of sequence"* for *"out of turn"*.

After discussion it was proposed, and accepted, that subject to the above, the rules as revised would become the Rules of Tiddlywinks.

The meeting then moved on to consider a change in the rules proposed by Charles and seconded by Jon, to replace rule 7(a) *The Boundaries* with the following:

"If in his turn a player's shot causes any wink of any colour to leave the field of play (ie any part of the wink to cross the boundary) the wink is immediately replaced on the mat at a point chosen by his opponents;

this point must be 7/8" from the edge of the mat and no less than 4" from any other wink or baseline with winks behind it."

Opposing views were proposed by Mike Surridge who argued that the change was biased in favour of the experienced player and Stew Sage in that too great a concession would be given to opponents since a wink boondocked off the mat could be replaced where the opponent liked.

Stew, seconded by Tim Hedger, proposed an amendment to Charles' revision accepting the first part (ie no loss of turn for sending your own colour off), but not allowing the opponent to choose where the wink should be replaced.

Mike Surridge argued further that the concept of missing a turn was fundamental to the way in which the game was played.

Both the amendment and original proposal were defeated.

Jon Mapley, seconded Charles Relle, then proposed the following change to rule 5(c):

In the first sentence delete "of the colour he is playing" and replace with "of any colour". (ie you gain an extra shot for each wink of any colour which you pot)

Jon argued that this change would recognise the skill involved in the shot and promote more colourful play. Cyril Edwards said it would favour the better player and Mike Surridge argued it was merely an escape route for a player's incompetence.

The proposal was put to the meeting and defeated.

Chairman's Report

Jon did not review the season's tournaments, but concentrated his comments on the state of the game. He said there were many encouraging signs with more new players, strength in depth in existing clubs and new clubs at Oxford and Pinner. There was also a higher standard of play. Sadly just the opposite appeared to be the case in America where the last Singles was abandoned when only 4 players turned up. Therefore Jon said ETWA could be proud of the game in the country and he thanked the rest of the committee for their hard work.

Treasurer's Report

As in 1985 Alan had left the full story in his car but he was able to report that the year had seen no major expenditure and £94 had been received in subscriptions. A profit had been made on tournaments.

The bank account was in credit to the tune of £27 with some equipment to be paid for and NATWA owing ETWA an amount to be paid by sending a consignment of pots.

Therefore there was no need to raise the subscription rate.

Alan then mentioned that if Larry Kahn was to win the Singles it would be his third consecutive win enabling him to retain the trophy. Mike Surridge asked whether ETWA could afford to replace it and Alan said it could and this would be necessary anyway since there was no room for any more names.

Jim Carrington queried what ETWA's aim was and how its success could be maintained. It was felt that this should be considered with the publicity officer's report.

Secretary's Report

Phil said he'd sent out 3 newsletters during the year and had kept the mailing list as up to date as possible. The only outside correspondence received had been glossy brochures for expensive conference centres. These had been dealt with accordingly ie thrown away.

Winking World Editor's Report

During the year two Winking Worlds, numbers 47 and 48 had been produced. Nick said he could produce 3 a year if the meeting wanted, but it was felt that 2 was sufficient. Nick commented that clubs could publicise themselves by starting a club section in WW. Finally the 50th edition was looming and this could be made a "special edition".

Publicity Officer's Report

Stew said that during the year he was aware of 26 items in the press and there had been 6 TV appearances ranging from *That's Life* to *Blue Peter*. No sponsorship had been forthcoming during the year and Stew felt that it might be

more difficult to sustain media interest once the initial novelty value had worn off.

Regarding Jim's comment on ETWA's objectives, Stew mentioned the approaching ETWA centenary thought to be 1988 and more immediately the problem of direct follow up to people who were some distance away. In publicity there had been the problem of the frivolous 5 minute spot which fails to get the game across. Stew also said that he was aware of the media's Oxbridge bias and that it was difficult to divert the media away from this.

In general discussion the question was raised of people trying to promote the game in their home towns. Phil outlined the problem of starting clubs when you are the only player and have no venue and limited time. However it was felt generally that people should look for opportunities to promote the game.

Tournaments

The following dates and venues were fixed:

Cambridge Open	Jan 31st/Feb 1st, Queens' College.
Hampshire Open	Feb 28th, Southampton University.
National Pairs	April 25th/26th, Queens' College.
London Open	July 4th, Blackheath High School.
Teams of Four	Oct 24th/25th, Southampton University.
National Singles	Nov 21st/22nd, Pinner Centre.

Election of Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Chairman	Jon Mapley Tony Brennan Elected: Jon Mapley	Alan Dean Alan Boyce	Tim Hedger Geoff Thorpe
Treasurer	Alan Dean Jim Carrington Elected: Jim Carrington	Phil Clark Stew Sage	David Evers Tim Hedger
Secretary	Phil Clark Re-elected	Alan Boyce	Tony Brennan
WW Editor	Nick Inglis Re-elected	Stew Sage	Tim Hedger
Publicity Officer	Stew Sage Re-elected	Tim Hedger	Nick Inglis

Cyril Edwards then proposed an amendment to the ETWA constitution, that "no member of the committee should normally hold the same office for more than three years". This was eventually seconded by Alan Boyce. Cyril argued that it would involve more people in the running of ETWA.

Charles Relle confirmed that a constitutional change required prior notice and a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. However Jon said that changes had been voted on without notice before and, guided by this dubious precedent the motion was put to the meeting and passed by fifteen votes to eleven, the $\frac{2}{3}$ majority thus not being attained.

Any Other Business

(i) Equipment:

Charles reported that the current mats which are made in France may become unavailable since the supplier was no longer stocking them due to movements in the exchange rate. Replacements of similar type are available from a firm in Woolwich. These are slightly cheaper, of the same density, and the supplier will cut by the mat if needed.

Cyril asked whether the old convex/concave winks could be reinstated, summing up his argument by saying "The world is not flat so why should winks be?" This was thought to be impractical.

Rob Cartwright raised the problem of lighting at several venues, in particular the Old Hall at Queens', and asked whether ETWA could purchase spotlights to augment facilities. This was felt to be a good idea and worth pursuing.

(ii) Marchant Trophy:

It was felt that the new format had been successful and should continue. Phil Clark was appointed organiser.

The meeting closed at 11.10pm.

Southampton to Cambridge

Steve Harbron

The 1986 Silver Wink Travelogue (at last!)

The Sotwink team, except Nick May, had all been collected at their appropriate meeting places. Various search parties had been sent out to find Nick, however as we were supposed to be departing by 8-8.30am we were becoming slightly concerned by 9.30am. Eventually we found Nick wandering along a nearby road. He looked under the weather and claimed he had been drinking from noon the previous day during a marathon philosophical discussion and had crashed out in an unfamiliar room many hours later. It was observed that he was still drunk.

As we headed up the M3 the minibus appeared to be making strange moaning noises. Careful investigation led us to believe that Nick May was the culprit. Why was he lying on the floor? Fleet service station was approaching; Nick stuck his head out of the window, "blew his nose" down the outside of the minibus, and lost a lens from his glasses. Rashly we stopped at Fleet service station, nearly losing Nick. However we sensibly bought some carrier bags.

Continuing with the journey Nick's winking hand began to hurt. It looked very black and blue! The first major decision was soon to be made: should we leave him at a hospital and collect him on the way back or keep him on the minibus for a laugh? Now he "blows his nose" on the outside of the minibus again.

Soon after entering Baldock Nick feels ill again, leaps out of the minibus, and apparently starts to eat the grass (the green stuff).

Somehow Nick, partnering Steve Chamberlin acquires 17½ points. The high point of the day, for me anyway, was Nick Inglis' immortal phrase "Buggers!" following Southampton's win.

Driving back to Southampton was rather less eventful although at a Watford petrol station Nick May was persuaded to hose down the minibus.

The story leaves a mystery and a moral:

Mystery. Why didn't Nick May come on the pub crawl?

Moral. One eyed, broken-fingered, drunken, hung-over philosophy students take your mind off tiddlywinks whilst travelling.

April 1987

The Teams of Four 1986

Nick Inglis

Lincoln College, Oxford, 25th/26th October

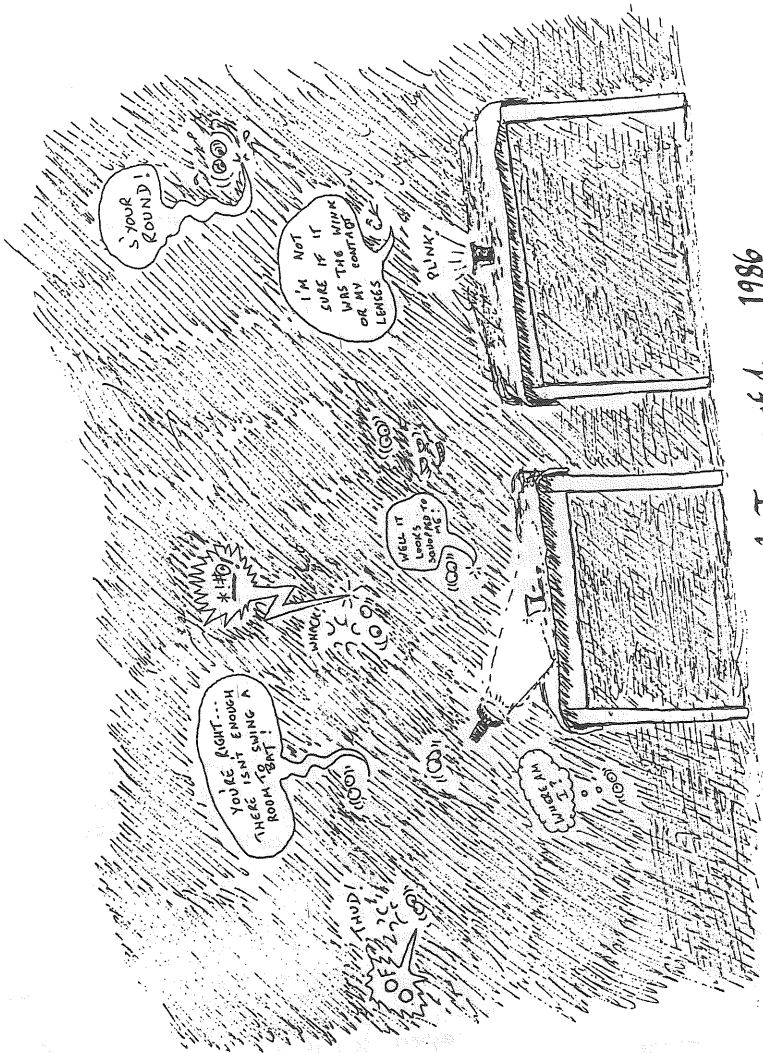
I suspect that this is the first time that one of the National tournaments has been held in Oxford and it was gratifying to see the largest turn-out ever, with plenty of novices and large contingents travelling from Cambridge, Southampton and Pinner. Because of the number of teams we played a seven round Swiss (with the result decided on points per match, but with 14 points awarded for a bye for the purpose of the draw), and to avoid confusion(?), teams chose suitable pseudonyms.

The tried and tested handicap system was again in operation (after the usual bout of haggling), and this year most of the higher ranked players teamed up with novices. The result was that VOMIT (the Venerable Old Magdalen Institute of Tiddlywinkers) with a handicap of 17 became the lowest rated top-rated team since handicapping was introduced (if you see what I mean).

The handicapping has worked so well in the past that we've come to expect close results in almost every game, as when Rat & Handbag (a mainly Cambridge team built around the imposing figure of Stew Sage) won 20-8 against the Beatles (Tony Brennan and some Oxford novices) they confidently expected to top the table. They had, however, reckoned without the Carlaws (led by Carrington and Chamberlin) who despite their name, beat The Team (Cartwright, Thorpe and two novices) 24-4 and then, to add insult to injury, took a further point after handicap transfer. The Pinner team (aptly named PinTS) were rewarded for their long journey with a bye, which meant they could go to the pub early, much to the envy of Cyril Edwards. After his first match (Cyril and Alan Dean were playing with two Oxford players for CAIK) Cyril departed for refreshment, announcing that he would default on his next match rather than miss a second opening time (the sight of CUTWC novice Graham Hanco consuming a "salad" consisting of a pork pie, a slice of ploughmans pie, some roast beef, a scotch egg, and a sprig of parsley, would drive anyone to drink). After much coaxing Alan finally persuaded him to return, only to find (curse curses) that he could have stayed drinking since CAIK had got the bye in round 2.

The Carlaws consolidated their position with a 19-9 win over Rat & Handbag in round 2, while Anon chose to play

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National Teams of 4 1986

Boyce with Surridge and their two novices together against VOMIT and thereby succeeded in getting a 14-14 tie which became a $16\frac{1}{2}$ - $11\frac{1}{2}$ win after transfer. The next round saw an all Cambridge clash with VOMIT against HairCUTwC (led by the tonsured Mr Inglis). In this match the carnivorous novice Hancock (who had stopped a Dean pot-out earlier in the day with some fine 6" squops) decided to amuse the crowds by potting from under piles to carry his partner Inglis to a win against a bemused Mayes & Purvis. In spite of this VOMIT won $17\frac{1}{2}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$ to keep their hopes alive.

The Carlaws now went into a severe slump, losing to Anon, VOMIT, and ChasMMM (3 Mapleys and Mr Relle), who had cunningly lost their first match to give themselves an advantageous draw. After 5 rounds Anon had taken a $4\frac{1}{2}$ point lead over ChasMMM, with VOMIT, the Carlaws, and CAIK also in the running. In the penultimate round VOMIT tied with ChasMMM, CAIK drubbed the Carlaws $21\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$, and Anon took 18 off fellow Sotwinkers Stef's Boys. This left Anon with a lead of about $5\frac{1}{2}$ points over CAIK, ChasMMM a further 3 points behind, and nobody else in with a real chance.

CAIK were paired with ChasMMM in the last round, and needed a good win to give them a chance of the title. They managed 3 points ($3\frac{1}{2}$ after transfer). After hurried calculations it emerged that a net score of 16 (natural score of $17\frac{1}{2}$) would give Anon a tie with ChasMMM. It all came down to the last game, with Alan Boyce and Paul Hutchins needing 6 for victory. In the event they could only manage 3 and so after two years with no Mapleys winning any tournaments three of them won all at once (with a little help from Charles).

Careful analysis of lots of nasty little slips of paper reveals that the most successful partnerships (in adjusted scores) were often those consisting of a 5, 6, or 7 with a 0 or 1. In other words, the top players were doing themselves a favour by partnering novices (Rob Cartwright and Geoff Thorpe may disagree), and I hope this healthy trend will be continued next year.

Opponents	Score	Adjusted Score
Running	Total	Average

A	F 5½	8	B 6	10½	K 17	19	Bye	C 8	13	D 6½	8	E 9½	14½	10th
	B 8.0	18½	9.2	37½	12.5	37½	12.5	50½	12.6	58½	11.7	73	12.2	
B	I 11	9½	A 22	17½	F 18½	16½	G 19	17	J 24	21	E 13	14	C 25	24½
	9½	9.5	27	13.5	43½	14.5	60½	15.1	81½	16.3	95½	15.9	120	17.1
C	G 17	15½	D 21	18½	Bye	Bye	I 12	11	A 20	15	J 24	21½	B 3	3½
	15½	15.5	34	17.0	34	17.0	45	15.0	60	15.0	81½	16.3	85	14.2
	Bye		C 7	9½	H 13	11½	K 14	17¾	G 12	13	A 21½	20	I 13	14½
D	O 14.0	9½	21	10.5	38¾	12.9	51¾	12.9	71¾	14.4	86¼	14.4		5th
	H 23	17½	I 14	11½	G 20½	17½	J 17	15½	Bye		B 15	14	A 18½	13½
E	17½	17.5	29	14.5	46½	15.5	61¾	15.4	61¾	15.4	75¾	15.1	89¾	14.9
	A 22½	20	J 10	9	B 9½	11½	H 19½	17	I 9	9½	Bye		K 12	12
F	20	20.0	29	14.5	40½	13.5	57½	14.4	67	13.4	67	13.4	79	13.2
	C 11	12½	H 19	16½	E 7½	10½	B 9	11	D 16	15	K 19	19	J 10½	9½
G	12½	12.5	29	14.5	39½	13.2	50½	12.6	65½	13.1	84½	14.1	94	13.4
	E 5	10½	G 9	11½	D 15	16½	F 8½	11	K 16	18½	I 7	10	Bye	
H	10½	10.5	22	11.0	38½	12.8	49½	12.4	68	13.6	78	13.0	78	13.0
	B 17	18½	E 14	16½	J 17	15½	C 16	17	F 19	18½	H 21	18	D 15	13½
I	18½	18.5	35	17.5	50½	16.8	67½	16.9	86	17.2	104	17.3	117½	16.8
	K 24	25	F 18	19	I 11	12½	E 11	12¾	B 4	7	C 4	6½	G 17½	18½
J	25	25.0	44	22.0	56½	18.8	69½	17.3	76¼	15.2	82¾	13.8	101¼	14.5
	J 4	3	Bye		A 11	9	D 14	10¼	H 12	9½	G 9	9	F 16	16
K	3	3.0	3	3.0	12	6.0	22¼	7.4	31¾	7.9	40¾	8.1	56¾	9.5
														11th

A Beatles (6 or 7)

Tony Brennan (6) Malcolm Beattie (0)
Mark Conway (1) Jim Dallas (0)
David Dyer (0)

B ChasMMM (15)

Joanna Mapley (0) Jon Mapley (7)
Owen Mapley (1) Charles Relle (7)

C CAIK (14)

Alan Dean (7) Cyril Edwards (5)
Kath Henson (5) Ian Whitmore (0)

D PinTS (9)

Simon Braidman (0) Clive Gabriel (2)
Phil Scarrott (3) Tim Jeffreys (4)

E VOMIT (17)

Tim Hedger (5) Sean Mayes (4)
Andy Furvis (4) David Salter (4)

F Rat and Handbag (11)

Kevin Beck (2) Dan Piponi (2)
Stew Sage (4) Alex Satchell (3)

G HairCUTwC (11)

Dave Evers (3) Graham Hancock (0)
Nick Inglis (5) Phil Rodgers (3)

H Stef's Boys (6)

Nick Geary (0) Nick May (4)
Stef Norman (2) Chris Rollings (0)

I Anon (12)

Alan Boyce (6) Paul Hutchins (0)
Mike Surridge (6) Steven Swift (0)

J Carlaws (9)

James Burns (0) Jim Carrington (5)
Steve Chamberlin (4) Mark King (0)

K The Team (11)

Rob Cartwright (5) Jim Sanders (0)
Robert Simmons (0) Geoff Thorpe (6)

Letters to the Editor

30th October 1986

Sir,

Here are the answers to Mike Surridge's questions.

1. The first person to be granted a World Singles challenge irrespective of nationality was Pam Knowles.

2. Jon Mapley did not pass up a challenge in order to let Pam have one. Jon won the ETWA Singles in the autumn of 1979, and had a World Singles challenge in February 1980. Pam won the American Singles in May 1980 and Jon won the ETWA Singles in the autumn of 1980. Their challenges were in March and July 1981 respectively, and were thus in the same chronological order as their Singles wins.

3. The present arrangement is that the title holder and the top national in both the NATWA and ETWA Singles have a challenge for the World Singles. The question of how many challenges a player can keep "in the bank" has not been resolved, and needs to be settled.

4. IFTWA was formed in 1963, and stands for International Federation of Tiddlywinks Associations. It was originally designed to link the then four tiddlywinks associations in the British Isles. Its officers were a Secretary-General - at the moment Dave Lockwood - and the secretaries of all member associations. In 1963 it was intended to be responsible also for international matches and for the rules.

It was given a more formal constitution in 1970. Its officers are a Secretary-General and one representative of each member association.

5. The answer to this question is set out in my reply to 3. It should be added that by custom the champion is "at home", and that over the years the Americans have been very generous with their time and money in playing away from home to accommodate British challenges.

Charles Relle

16th November 1986

Sir,

I have gratefully received copies of WW47 and WW48 last week and have read each about 4 times already. Such is the dearth of winking activity in this desert land. Even the Prince of Wales, that rumored ex-Cambridge winker, did not respond to my missive suggesting a game during his Middle East tour. (He is in Bahrain today.)

And so to my response to Mike Surridge's published letter (luckily for me in WW48!)

In view of all the recent quotations from previous winks journals I suggest the following which I won't look up, "Dave Lockwood, who is IFTWA."

I have "been" IFTWA since 1978 or 9 shortly after my new job at Pan Am (1977) allowed me to regularly visit both winking countries. The history of World Singles challenge rules is as follows:-

- A. June 1973, Bill Renke as NATWA Singles Champion established the World Singles Championship by challenging and defeating (29-6) Alan Dean, the reigning ETWA Singles champion. (Alan, we should remember was probably the world's best winker from about 1970 until this match.)
- B. In November of 1974, Severin Drix, the new NATWA champion, challenged Bill and beat him 25-17 after leading 24-11. Bill's interest had declined by then and he is one of the greatest losses the game has had to endure. This match, World Singles 2, set the precedent for challenge matches versus any other format. This does not mean that we could not change in the future if circumstances change.
- C. WS3, July 1976, saw Severin take a trip to Britain and play Keith Seaman, the 1975 (and 1974) ETWA champion. Severin won 27-15. (It is an unwritten rule that the challenger should go to the champion, but Americans have made more trips to the U.K. largely, but not solely, due to airline benefits.
- D. WS4, 5, and 6 were challenges to Drix from Sunshine (WS4) and Lockwood (WS5 and 6). I won on my second try in August 1978 and the next match was a challenge from Alan Dean in July 1979. In 1977 and 1978, I won the NATWA

Singles and participated in the ETWA Singles in both years.

In 1977, the English Singles was organised as 2 divisions playing a round robin to qualify 2 each to play 3 game knock-out semis and finals. I was allowed to play, but not to qualify for the semis.

In 1978, the ETWA Singles was organised as three divisions with the top 2 divisions qualifying 6 and 2 players, respectively, to an 8 person round robin with the top two British players playing an extra game. (After the extra game, I was still ahead of both of them.) In these tournaments, the rule was that foreigners were allowed to participate but not proceed to the final round. The foreigner most affected was, of course, me.

- E. In the spring of 1979, Jon Mapley decided to play in the NATWA Singles at the end of May. After consulting with the NATWA Secretary-General, I told Jon that he could play the whole tournament and if he won he would be allowed to take the title. Instead of insisting on only playing the preliminaries, Jon agreed to play throughout, but ended fifth.
- F. Therefore, at the ETWA Singles in 1979, it was decided by ETWA that foreigners could play all the way and win, but that the title would go to the top national. (I ended second to Jon.) NATWA would have preferred a more liberal and straightforward ruling, but could not interfere in the internal workings of ETWA.
- G. This rule was in effect when Pam Knowles won the 1980 NATWA Singles. Subsequent to the 1980 ETWA Singles (Alan was seventh and I was eighth), we agreed to retroactively give Pam the title and decided that foreigners could win and take the title, but that the top national would also get a World Singles challenge. This is the current ruling.
- H. As long as the National Singles championships decide who challenges for the World Singles, the current arrangement can only be further liberalized by awarding only the winner with a challenge for the World Singles, regardless of the nationality of the victor. Why should a non-winner get a challenge? Or, why should the World Singles champion have to put his or her title on the line to a non-champion?

- I. A challenger who might have behind him or her those who could offer sponsorship or prize money might be a situation worth redesigning the rules around. A boxing type format could be attractive. Alternatively we could hold World Championship tournaments annually.

So much for history (and some speculation.)

1. Mike's first question was: when was a National Singles champion first granted a World Title challenge irrespective of his or her nationality? Answer: as per point E above, foreigners were first allowed to win a challenge during the spring of 1979, but Pam in 1980 was the first person to make use of the rule.
2. Second question: did Jon Mapley really pass up a title bid in favour of Pam? Answer: Pam won America in May 1980, Jon won ETWA in October/November 1980. Pam played her WS challenge in March 1981; Jon in July 1981. In fact, Pam postponed her challenge to allow Larry to play me in August 1980. Larry was the top American in 1980, second to Pam.
3. Question three: the challenge that Larry has "in the bank" seems somewhat confusing. How long can he keep it? Answer: Larry lost to Arye in February 1985 from Arye's challenge as 1984 NATWA champion. Larry challenged Arye in October 1985 as 1984 ETWA champion and lost again. Alan challenged Arye as top national in the 1984 ETWA Singles and won. Larry then challenged Alan as the 1985 NATWA champion and won. His victory in the 1985 ETWA Singles gives him a re-challenge if he should lose to Jon, who was top national in the 1985 ETWA Singles.

Unfortunately, the challenge technically only lasts until the next Singles championship of that country. IFTWA has not been too worried about the possibility of minor transgressions of this rule, but a possible re-challenge from Larry if he loses to Jon might be too much over the year deadline since Jon's match will already be over the limit.

4. Question four: who are IFTWA and how often do they make decisions and on what aspects of the game would they expect to make the rulings? Answer: I am IFTWA and IFTWA is basically the tie-breaker. If ETWA and NATWA agree on the rules in a world championship, I have little or

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nothing to say. If there is a disagreement, I decide which is to be used on a biased, partial, but hopefully rational basis. IFTWA is charged with adjudicating World Championships, standardisation of rules and equipment, and furtherment of the game worldwide.

5. Fifth question: are there in fact any rules concerning World Singles challenges and if not can I have one?
Answer: we make the rules. If you offer Larry a £5000 winner-take-all prize, I think he'd put the World Singles title up for grabs and...IFTWA would allow it.

Dave "The Dragon" Lockwood
Secretary-General
The International Federation
of Tiddlywinks Associations

23rd November 1986

Sir,

Thanks for the lesson.

The Dragon

Sotwink 21 - A Celebration

Rob Cartwright

1986 was a special year for Sotwink, the 21st birthday of the foundation. To commemorate this historic occasion a special tournament was held at the university on the 8th November. The committee had made the effort to show the team's current form by displaying numerous trophies - Marchant, Silver Wink, London Open, and the now-famous "Relle's Mat". There was also a sumptuous buffet making all the usual pub wanderings unnecessary, a great idea.

The field was mixed; most players of recent years were there and there were some faces not seen for a while. The most notable was that of Tom Gardner, a Sotwink star in those far-off days when Graham Josland was only just

starting out, and oh joy, nobody had even heard of Alan Boyce! (It must have been a confusing experience since now the game has new winks, pots, mats, rules, language and dubious scoring systems.) Most known players outside of Sotwink had been invited, but unfortunately all had other commitments, so Nick Inglis was elevated to the glorious position of "Star Guest" (only guest) - and got well pasted as you will see.

On the lines of the Relle's Mat, the tournament was run as a random-random individual pairs handicapped knockout, with a preliminary 3 round league to decide the qualifiers. I won't attempt to explain that any further except to say that it was easier than it looks but just as silly. Extra spice was added by virtually everyone being grossly over-handicapped, on the admirable basis that if you moaned about your handicap it went up. (I was on 8 for a while, a bit tough, but after suitable crawling got down to a more manageable 6).

In the first round things started well for some and badly for others. Surridge had the fortune to draw himself in singles against Beck, and to the surprise of nobody took 7(5). He then spent the rest of the time heckling myself and Harbron; well bogged down in a ridiculous game against Chamberlin and Ed Harry, made worse by the fact that we were trying to explain the game to a local journalist and convince him that we did know what we were doing really! (It must also count as one of the slowest games I've played, even now I'm sure we only got about 15 shots each). Inglis and Boyce did even worse, they were wiped out by the local twosome Carlaw and Stef Norman and ended with a net score of only 1/2.

In round 2, Beck and Surridge joined forces to do a demolition job on the Chamberlin/Harry combo, whilst Inglis again fell foul of Stef Norman and Tom Gardner was unable to help much. Captain Ridley teamed up with Liz Whitfield but the macho opposition (well it was Boyce and Nick May actually) proved too much for them taking 7(4 1/2). Carlaw proved on form again as he carried me to a 4-3 over Harbron and Clark in a good close game.

Going into round 3, the situation looked very suspect indeed. Surridge, Carlaw and Norman all had over 10 points and looked certain to qualify. There were two players on 9 only needing a close game, and then those of us who needed a 6-1 to make it. Inglis drew Gardner as partner for the

Sotwink 21
League Scores

H'cap

Partner	Opponents	Running Total
Score	Net Score	

A	Kev Beck	3	A H,H 0 2	2	H C,M 6 5 ¹ / ₂	7 ¹ / ₂	L D,M 5 5	12 ¹ / ₂	3
B	Nick May	5	Q G,K 6 4 ³ / ₄	4 ³ / ₄	N K,O 7 4 ³ / ₄	9 ¹ / ₂	K E,J 1 1 ¹ / ₂	11	8
C	Steve Chamberlin	5	M L,P 5 5 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	M A,H 1 1 ¹ / ₂	7	G H,Q 5 ¹ / ₂ 6 ¹ / ₄	13 ¹ / ₄	2
D	Jon Carlaw	4	F J,N 5 6 ¹ / ₂	6 ¹ / ₂	F G,L 4 3 ³ / ₄	10 ¹ / ₄	M A,L 2 2	12 ¹ / ₄	4
E	Tom Gardner	2	Bye 3 ¹ / ₂	3 ¹ / ₂	J F,Q 2 2 ¹ / ₄	5 ³ / ₄	J B,K 6 5 ¹ / ₂	11 ¹ / ₄	6=
F	Stef Norman	3	D J,N 5 6 ¹ / ₂	6 ¹ / ₂	Q E,J 5 4 ³ / ₄	11 ¹ / ₄	N O,P 6 5 ¹ / ₂	16 ³ / ₄	1
G	Phil Clark	5	K B,Q 1 2 ¹ / ₄	2 ¹ / ₄	L D,P 3 3 ¹ / ₄	5 ¹ / ₂	C H,Q 5 ¹ / ₂ 6 ¹ / ₄	11 ³ / ₄	5
H	Mike Surridge	7	H A,A 7 5	5	A C,M 6 5 ¹ / ₂	10 ¹ / ₂	Q C,G 1 ¹ / ₂ 3 ¹ / ₄	11 ¹ / ₄	6=
I	Jeremy Attwood	2	Absent During League						
J	Nick Inglis	6	N D,F 2 1 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂	E F,Q 2 2 ¹ / ₄	2 ³ / ₄	E B,K 6 5 ¹ / ₂	8 ¹ / ₄	13
K	Jane Ridley	1	G B,Q 1 2 ¹ / ₄	2 ¹ / ₄	O B,N 0 2 ¹ / ₄	4 ¹ / ₂	B E,J 1 1 ¹ / ₂	6	16
L	Steve Harbron	4	P C,M 2 1 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂	G D,P 3 3 ¹ / ₄	4 ³ / ₄	A D,M 5 5	9 ³ / ₄	11
M	Edward Harry	3	C L,P 5 5 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	C A,H 1 1 ¹ / ₂	7	D A,L 2 2	9	12
N	Alan Boyce	7	J D,F 2 1 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂	B K,O 7 4 ³ / ₄	5 ¹ / ₄	F O,P 6 5 ¹ / ₂	10 ³ / ₄	9
O	Liz Whitfield	2	Bye 3 ¹ / ₂	3 ¹ / ₂	K B,N 0 2 ¹ / ₄	5 ³ / ₄	P F,N 1 1 ¹ / ₂	7 ¹ / ₄	14
P	Rob Cartwright	6	L C,M 2 1 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂	D G,L 4 3 ³ / ₄	5 ¹ / ₄	O F,N 1 1 ¹ / ₂	6 ³ / ₄	15
Q	Graham Josland	6	B G,K 6 4 ³ / ₄	4 ³ / ₄	F E,J 5 4 ³ / ₄	9 ¹ / ₂	H C,G 1 ¹ / ₂ 3 ¹ / ₄	10 ¹ / ₄	10

second time, and against the dynamic duo May and Ridley then calculated he needed a bit over 8 points before transfer. Man that he is, he helped his partner through anyway and took Ridley out of it with him. Surridge took the other approach seeming to take great delight in throwing the next game so that his opponents both qualified and his old friend and megastar Josland didn't. Kev Beck made a fine finish with a 5-2 over Carlaw and Harry to get his place. Liz and myself needed 6, and never really looked like getting it until early in rounds. One magnificent big-wink sub by me, followed 2 shots later by an almost identical one from Liz, and any thoughts of glory evaporated. (A slight digression here, since after the Amsterdam Invitation I think I hold the record for the shortest ever sub - a big wink right underneath a pile from less than 2mm away. Unless of course you know different!)

So, on to the next stage of the fiasco, the knockout. The non-qualifying contingent decided to have an additional tournament for the plate trophy while the "serious" stuff for the Sotwink 21 Cup was going on. The plate was organised even more bizarrely than usual by Harbron, who obviously had it all worked out because he eventually won.

In the real tournament both knockout games were very close indeed, both were $3\frac{3}{4} - 3\frac{1}{4}$ after transfer. By my calculations there are only two possible closer scores (except a tie): if the handicap difference between the teams is 4 and the stronger team win $4\frac{2}{3} - 2\frac{1}{3}$, then the net score is $3\frac{3}{4} - 3\frac{1}{4}$; if the handicap difference is 5, but the score again $4\frac{2}{3} - 2\frac{1}{3}$ then the net score is $3\frac{5}{12} - 3\frac{7}{12}$, a difference of only $\frac{1}{6}$ of a point. (Remember that you only swap a quarter the difference because only one game is played, not two as in a fours match.) The successful pairs were May/Clark (against Carlaw/Chamberlin) and the famous Silver Wink pairing Surridge/Norman (against Gardner/Beck).

In the semi-final Norman teamed up with May, and they played well to get 3 points off Surridge and Clark, justifiably getting the win after transfer. So the final was between Nick May and Stef Norman. Stef was due to be on radio in an hour's time but calculated there was just enough time to play before rushing off. In fact she needn't have worried because the early attention focused on a Pompey goalkeeper who seemed to speak with his mouth full of soap, and in any case the final late transmission was notable largely for Alan Boyce's rather witless meanderings; "She's now going to bridge those 2"...*(silence)*..."which she's

done!" Great stuff Alan.

In fact the final is the one game I don't have the result for. I know that Stef won it, I think it was 5-2 (or maybe 4-3...who cares anyway?)

So that was it. Well not quite. There were the usual extra things that take a winks tournament above an average weekend. Alan's radio show won the day despite strong competition from Dr Who; Nick Inglis kept everybody awake with his silly wordgames, but realised he was beaten when Harbron introduced the "Brundle" to the fray (it's quite simple Nick, a normal brundle goes 2 to the right, but if you brundle a bristol it goes back 2 to the right of the bristoller. If you do it right you have a triple-brundle before John-Lennoning 1 to the left. OK?); Then there was me trying hard to demolish Alan Boyce's décor, followed by Kev Beck placing himself on display in the window; Finally the spectacular attempts on the Sunday to smash the 4-pot relay record. Mike, Steve, Ed and myself finally came to the conclusion that this record was made up, the best we did was 24 winks in 1min 50secs - but that was with only three pots!

Congratulations to Stef for a very consistent performance making her a worthy winner; and most of all thanks to all the Sotwink contingent who made it a great winkend. See you in 1990 for the silver anniversary!

Sotwink 21 Knockout Scores

Plate

1st Round

Jeremy Attwood beat Rob Cartwright/Graham Josland 4-3

Edward Harry beat Nick Inglis/Alan Boyce 3³/₄-3¹/₄

Steve Harbron/Jane Ridley beat Liz Whitfield 3³/₄-3¹/₄

Semi-final

Steve/Jeremy Attwood beat Edward Harry/Jane Ridley 4¹/₂-2¹/₂

Final

Steve Harbron beat Jeremy Attwood 4-3

Cup

1st Round

Mike Surridge/Stef Norman beat Tom Gardner/Kev Beck 3³/₄-3¹/₄

Phil Clark/Nick May beat Jon Carlaw/Steve Chamberlin 3³/₄-3¹/₄

Semi-final

Stef Norman/Nick May beat Phil Clark/Mike Surridge 4-3

Final

Stef Norman beat Nick May 5-2 (I think!)

A Study in Market Research

Jon Mapley

"Excuse me, madam - I represent Colman's of Norwich, and I couldn't help noticing that you have purchased a jar of our mint sauce. Would you mind answering a few questions?"

"No, I suppose I don't mind."

"Could you tell me, in your own words, what you particularly like about our product?"

"Oh, it's for my husband really."

"He must be a real lamb fan."

"No, I think he prefers Gooch."

"I don't think you've quite understood my point, madam. What does your husband think of our product?"

"He says it's very good for baseline shots and for potting nurdled winks."

"I think I'm hearing things - what about the mint sauce?"

"Is that the green stuff in the jar? I don't know what he does with that."

"Do you mean to tell me you have bought it just for the jar?"

"Of course not, you silly man - it's the lid that's the important bit."

"The lid - I don't believe this! What does he do with it?"

"This is ridiculous. He puts it in a vice, and cuts the thread off with a hacksaw. Then he attaches a rubber suction cup to it and spins it on an electric drill, holding a piece of fine wet and dry paper against it. Then he polishes it with some revolting messy stuff - it could be that green muck that was in the jar."

"I need a doctor."

A few minutes later...

"Excuse me, madam - I represent Crosse and Blackwell, and I couldn't help noticing that you have just purchased a bottle of our salad cream..."

The Perfect Individual

Rob Cartwright

No don't worry, this is not an article of fascist persuasion, nor one of self-congratulation or fawning praise to a fellow winker. It's just a good title for yet another silly article on tournament formats.

I listened to the various rumblings this last year with some amusement. To be honest I think all our tournaments are a good format: the league is by far the most practical for nationals and the opens are just as interesting. The swiss is beginning to show its real value now attendances are rising so fast, and the handicap has proved to be remarkably effective in producing not only extremely close scores, but also some rather quaint fractions.

My one minor criticism is of semis/finals. For instance in the London open this year, the swiss was only 6 rounds and then the top four played a further 4 games - semis and a best of 3 final (actually it was a best of 2 final; sorry for the error in *WH48* - Ed). Surely that's a bit silly - wouldn't it be better to play an 8-round swiss and then sudden death? Or forget the semis and just have a 2-game final? Most people only played in a bit over half the tournament, left early and had no idea who won or even if the tournament was finished - in this case of course it wasn't. I agree with the general comments about slow play, like Phil I know I'm not the fastest, but even I get cross when some games take well over 45mins to complete.

Anyway, enough whingeing since the real purpose of this article is somewhat more obtuse than that. It all started when I was considering a suitable format for a guest tournament at my house. After some thought I decided on an Individual - then I would only need to buy drinks for 1 winner, not 2. For convenience I decided that 8 players was the maximum.

(For those who don't know, in an Individual tournament you play as pairs, but your partners and opponents vary from game to game. Each player records his scores as usual and the player with the highest total wins. The Cambridge open is a randomly-drawn Individual.)

In a standard format Individual, each player partners each other player once. Since there are 2 other players in a game (your opponents), on average you would expect to play against each other player twice. The best format then would

be for everybody to partner each other player exactly once, and to play against every other player exactly twice.

The first thought: is this possible for 8 players?
 Answer: Yes, but it's not immediately obvious. With 4 players it's easy, viz:-

round 1	1,2 vs 3,4	really the only way you could do it
2	1,3 vs 2,4	anyway!
3	1,4 vs 2,3	

As you add more players it gets a bit more complex, because you have to give all the extra players byes. You must impose the additional conditions that the number of byes is the same for all players, and further, the extra players must never be the same group twice. In effect you are trying to make the bye players play on a second table, but with the same restrictions on partners and opponents as on the first table. Ie, you are really doing an 8-player tournament with one or more left out. Here is one solution for the 8-player Individual:-

	table 1	table2
round 1	1,2 vs 4,8	3,5 vs 6,7
2	4,6 vs 7,8	1,3 vs 2,5
3	1,4 vs 3,6	5,7 vs 2,8
4	6,8 vs 2,3	1,5 vs 4,7
5	1,6 vs 5,8	3,4 vs 2,7
6	3,8 vs 4,5	1,7 vs 2,6
7	2,4 vs 5,6	1,8 vs 3,7

No doubt some old hands will say "I knew that already!".

The second thought then: is this format generally possible, irrespective of the number of players? My guess would be yes, but I haven't tried to prove it since I gave up pure maths 3 years ago. If anyone can provide a proof one way or another I would be interested. Similarly anyone who could give me an indication of the number of possible solutions.

Anyway, the third thought: this format is all very well, but nobody ever plays the same opponents as anybody else since the same pair never appears twice. What if, as you partner each player, you play a series of games against every possible combination of opponents? I decided to call this tournament the "Perfect Individual", and thought - how long would it take?

Let's start with 4 players again. With each of 3 partners you play a series against 2 players (1 game), that is 3 games each, which is identical to the case above. With 5 players, you have 4 partners and each series is 3 games long, that is 12 games each.

To generalise: if there are N players, you play $(N-1)$ series of games, and each series is the number of possible partnerships of $(N-2)$ players. The number of partnerships of A players can be calculated easily: the first player can form $(A-1)$ partnerships, the next $(A-2)$ more, and so on. The total is the sum of all numbers up to $(A-1)$ which is equal to $A(A-1)/2$ (this is easily proved so I won't bother). Putting this together means that each series is $(N-2)(N-3)/2$ games long, and you can check this by substituting $N=4,5$ to get the figures I stated above.

Therefore each player plays a total of $(N-1)(N-2)(N-3)/2$ games. This is a pretty rapidly-growing function; for instance in the 8-player case I was interested in, you play 7 series of 15 games, 105 games each.

The total number of games in the entire tournament is this multiplied by $N/4$ (since each game must have 4 players). This is therefore equal to $N(N-1)(N-2)(N-3)/8$, which I think is rather an elegant little equation, don't you?

(Incidentally there's another way to prove this. The number of ways you can pick any 4 people out of N is $(N!)/(4!(N-4)!)$, which is equal to $N(N-1)(N-2)(N-3)/24$. You can arrange the 4 players in 3 ways to form valid pairs, so multiply this by 3 and you get the answer above.)

The fast-growing nature can be shown clearly: we know Dave dislikes playing 20 games, so try this for size. With only 41 players, each would play exactly 29,640 games and the total number of games in the tournament is over a quarter of a million. Worse still, since 41 is not divisible by four, all sequences cannot be run concurrently, so for every 40 games played each player has 1 bye. Therefore the minimum number of rounds, assuming perfect concurrency, is 30,381 which at 12 games a day would take a little under seven years solid! Apart from its symmetry, that's another reason for calling this the Perfect Individual. Over that many games I doubt whether even Dave could complain of a run of bad luck! Mind you, after that much practice I reckon I'd

be ready to take on anybody...

A quick puzzle to finish off with - how many players are needed before the total number of games in the whole tournament is over 1 million?

The 16th National Singles

Nick Inglis

Southampton University, 22nd/23rd November 1986

After a four year absence the Singles returned to Southampton. There were only two Americans this year, but the turn-out stayed high, at 39, with many players from Cambridge, Oxford and Pinner. The 39 were split into 4 leagues, with the top three from each league qualifying for the final. Because of the increasing strength of the so-called rabbits I decided to extend the seeding to 24 players, and to operate a "World Cup" system of splitting the seeds into 6 bands (1-4, 5-8,...) and picking one seed from each band for each group.

The blue group soon developed into a fight between Kahn, Thorpe, Hedger and Wright for the 3 qualifying spots. Hedger was in early trouble after losing 4-3 to Nigel Parsons, while Kahn and Thorpe took useful 7's off Dave Salter. In the end Larry and Peter always looked like qualifying, but Geoff lost 6-1 to each of his major rivals, and Tim managed to get through by beating Peter 6-1. Jon Ferguson was eventually just pipped for 5th by Dave Salter and Nigel Parsons (as I wandered past one table several winks flew over my shoulder - I didn't need to look round to see who was playing), but there was a big gap between 4th and 5th equal.

The green group always looked likely to be closely contested, with no real rabbits, and many players in serious contention. In the fourth round Patrick Barrie boosted his chances with a 5-2 win over Charles Relle. Meanwhile Jon Mapley was pulling ahead relentlessly, Cyril and Phil were doing their chances no good with a 3½-3½ tie, and everyone was beating Stew Sage. Charles, Cyril, Phil, Patrick, and Steve were now fighting it out for two places, but in round seven Charles beat Cyril to virtually ensure he made it, while Steve boosted his own chances with a 6-1 over Patrick.

A 4½-2½ win for Steve in the next round, while Phil picked up 1½ against Stew, and Cyril 0 against Jon, left Steve on 29½, Cyril on 28½, Phil on 27½, and Patrick on 26½. Patrick could only pick up 4 against Edward Harry, Phil took 6 off Steve, and Cyril beat Stew 6-1 to let Cyril through to the final (with a ppg of less than 4). In addition to those who were close to qualifying, Alex Satchell and Gary Shrimpton had promising results, while Stew had an appalling day (but no doubt the big man will be back soon).

By a quirk of fate the red division contained four total novices, while at the top it looked as if Dave Lockwood would qualify with Tony, Jim, and Rob fighting for the remaining two places. The way the draw works, Andy Purvis got to play the top five in his first five games. After losing 1-6 to Rob Cartwright his hand was shaking violently, but after picking up 1½ against Jim, he had calmed down enough to sink several pints at lunch-time. Suitably refreshed he proceeded to beat Nick May 4-3, Tony Brennan 4½-2½, and, almost unbelievably, Dave Lockwood 7-0! This put Dave back into fourth place (just), but all present expected him to move into overdrive and qualify easily anyway.

But in the next round Dave only managed 3 against Rob, and now he was in real trouble. A 7 for Rob and 6's for Tony and Dave left Rob on 37½, Tony on 36½, Jim on 35 and Dave on 34, with Dave about to play Jim. Andy was also not out of it, with 30½ and two games against novices to come. Andy's chance disappeared as he was beaten 6-1 by novice Graham Hancock (who scored 22 in his last four games including a 4-3 against Jim). Rob picked up 7, and Tony 6, while Jim beat Dave 5-2. Rob had now qualified, Jim needed only 3 to make it, and Tony only needed 1, while Dave had to get 7 (against Tony) to be sure of making it. In the event Jim beat Rob 4½-2½ and Tony secured the point he needed to send Dave out of the competition. This must have been desperately disappointing for Dave (who had flown over from Bahrain, and who had already had the disappointment of turning up to the NATWA Singles only to find them cancelled), but with the growing strength of the middle ranked players it was almost inevitable that such an upset would occur soon though I'm not sure that many people would have expected it to be Dave who would suffer this ignominy. Lower down Graham Hancock and Stephen Swift did well for novices (sadly Stephen's score includes a walk-over against Nick May - as I've often remarked before, players are under an obligation to complete the league sections of the National tournaments).

	Blue Division	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Tot	
A	Larry Kahn	—	6	7	6	6	7	6	6	6	6	56	1
B	Geoff Thorpe	1	—	1	1	6	7	6	6	6	6	40	4
C	Tim Hedger	0	6	—	6	5	6	3	5	6	6	43	3
D	Peter Wright	1	6	1	—	6	6	6	6	6	6	44	2
E	Jon Ferguson	1	1	2	1	—	1	1	4	6	7	24	7
F	David Salter	0	0	1	1	6	—	2½	6	3	6	25½	5=
G	Nigel Parsons	1	1	4	1	6	4½	—	1	1	6	25½	5=
H	Chris Andrew	1	1	2	1	3	1	6	—	1½	4	20½	9
I	Stef Norman	1	1	1	1	1	4	6	5½	—	1½	22	8
J	Clive Gabriel	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	5½	—	14½	10

	Green Division	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Tot	
A	Jon Mapley	—	6	7	6	7	5	7	6	6	6	56	1
B	Charles Relle	1	—	6	5	6	2	4	6	6	6	42	2
C	Cyril Edwards	0	1	—	6	3½	6	6	4	5	3	34½	3
D	Stew Sage	1	2	1	—	5½	1	2	3	1	1	17½	10
E	Phil Clark	0	1	3½	1½	—	6	6	5½	4	6	33½	4
F	Patrick Barrie	2	5	1	6	1	—	4	4½	6	1	30½	5
G	Edward Harry	0	3	1	5	1	3	—	3	1	1	18	9
H	Gary Shrimpton	1	1	3	4	1½	2½	4	—	1½	6	24½	8
I	Alex Satchell	1	1	2	6	3	1	6	5½	—	2½	28	7
J	Steve Harbron	1	1	4	6	1	6	6	1	4½	—	30½	6

Yellow looked like a reasonably straightforward division for Dean, Boyce and Inglis, but things started to go wrong in round 4 with Alan Dean losing 4-3 to Steve Chamberlin and Nick only scraping a 4+3 against Oxford novice David Dyer. Next round Boyce got in on the act, losing 6-1 to Dave Hull, and then another round later Nick lost 4-3 to Tim Jeffreys. With three rounds to play Boyce, Inglis, Chamberlin and Hull were contesting the last two spots. In 1983 Boyce and Inglis managed both to qualify at the expense of Jim Carrington, by getting a 4-3 result in the last round. This time neither could really afford such a score, and in the event Nick won 6-1. In the next round Steve took 5½ off Dave, while Nick took 5 off Alan Dean, to leave Alan Boyce needing 3½ off Alan Dean to tie Steve for third place. He could only manage 1, so Steve qualified, although he didn't take part in the final due to pressure of work (what on earth is more important than competing in the National Singles final?). Before the final rounds were played it was decided not to offer the spare place to the highest (in ppg) fourth placed player. This later turned out to be Dave Lockwood (bad luck again Dave!).

"SECRET LIFE OF PETER WRIGHT REVEALED" screamed the 2 inch headlines in the following day's *Sunday Today*, but the story seemed somewhat less than accurate, describing the recently graduated matless ex-CUTwC winker from Northamptonshire as a seventy year old Tasmanian stud farmer. There was also a lot of incomprehensible stuff about moles, but scarcely a mention of such formative events as the time he eat the winks during a Charles Relle Trophy semi-final.

The draw for the final is arranged so that the top players should play each other late on. Charles, however, carelessly qualified in tenth place and so had to play Alan in the first round. This probably didn't please Alan too much either, but he made the most of it and scored the first of a string of sixes. Larry ended the first round in last place with no points (from no games), and then opened his account with a mere 3 points against Cyril, prompting the remaining British to consider the possibilities of intravenous beer transfusions before their own matches against the champion. But this was to be the only match Kahn, Dean or Mapley lost against any of the other eight players. Cyril had by far the best record against the top three taking 2 points each off Jon and Alan in addition to his win against Larry. The only other scores of above 1 were a 2-5 by Peter against Jon and a 2-5 by Tony against Larry

	Red Division	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Tot	
A	Dave Lockwood	—	6	2	3	6	0	6	6	6	7	42	4
B	Tony Brennan	1	—	6	4	5	2½	6	6	7	6	43½	3
C	Jim Carrington	5	1	—	4½	6	5½	7	3	7	5½	44½	2
D	Rob Cartwright	4	3	2½	—	7	6	6	7	7	4½	47	1
E	Nick May	1	2	1	0	—	3	6	7	4	0	24	8
F	Andy Purvis	7	4½	1½	1	4	—	6	1	6	6	37½	5
G	Malcolm Beattie	1	1	0	1	1	1	—	1	6	3	15	9
H	Graham Hancock	1	1	4	0	0	6	6	—	6	2½	26½	6
I	Ian Whitmore	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	—	4	11	10
J	Stephen Swift	0	1	1½	2½	7	1	4	4½	3	—	24½	7

	Yellow Division	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Tot	
A	Alan Dean	—	6	2	6	7	3	7	6	7	44	1
B	Alan Boyce	1	—	1	1	6	5½	6	6	6	32½	4
C	Nick Inglis	5	6	—	6	3	5	6	4	6	41	2
D	Dave Hull	1	6	1	—	5	1½	2½	6	5	28	5
E	Tim Jeffreys	0	1	4	2	—	1	6	7	1	22	7
F	Steve Chamberlin	4	1½	2	5½	6	—	7	3	6	35	3
G	Roddy Stein	0	1	1	4½	1	0	—	2	0	9½	9
H	David Dyer	1	1	3	1	0	4	5	—	2	17	8
I	Phil Scarrott	0	1	1	2	6	1	7	5	—	23	6

after Larry had potted out from a safe 6-1.

After 7 rounds the top three had each played 6 games with Alan on 35, Jon on 34, and Larry on 32, and everybody else was at least 10 points behind. Alan played Jon in round 8, in a splendid game. There was a succession of superb shots late in rounds by both players (including a nonchalant pot by Alan from the edge of the mat) resulting in a 5-2 win for Alan. Jon recovered some ground taking seven off Jim in the next round by potting a couple of nurdled winks with his new squidger (see Jon's article *A Study in Market Research*).

In round 10 Larry played Alan and won, but a missed pot in rounds allowed Alan to take 2 points. So for the third year running it all came down to the last round. Larry and Jon were now on 49 with Alan on 48, but Alan was in the strongest position since Larry and Jon still had to play each other, whereas Alan "only" had to play Rob Cartwright. As the games approached rounds it was clear that barring miracles Alan could take a 6-1 off Rob, but he didn't want to pot-out unless it seemed necessary. The game between Jon and Larry was close, with a slight edge to Larry until a neat break-up by Jon in rounds. On Jon's next shot he had the option of bristolling a large wink onto a doubleton or leaving the doubleton for a much more difficult shot with a smaller wink on the pile. He lined up the doubleton and then, setting a fine example, stopped and counted the winks on the table, discovering that the large wink he might have bristolled with was on one of his own winks. He then coolly potted the large wink (by no means a trivial pot) and another almost nurdled wink. This meant that only Jon could win by a large enough margin to challenge Alan. But Larry did just enough to secure a 4-3 win giving himself second place and relegating Jon to third. So Alan won his sixth title, some eight years after his last, and Larry, like Jon Mapley and Keith Seaman before him, discovered that you don't win the Singles three times in a row unless your name is Alan Dean.

While the top three had been fighting for the title, the other eight players were involved in an entirely separate, and somewhat less impressive tustle for fourth place. Charles eventually sneaked home on 34 closely followed by Nick on 33½, Peter on 32½, and Tim and Cyril on 31. Ironically, after their heroics on the first day, Tony, Rob and Jim filled the last three places. Jim in particular had one of those awful days that occasionally just happen (usually to me): in his game against me he managed a

	Final	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Tot	Pos
A	Larry Kahn	—	4	5	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	3	53	2
B	Jon Mapley	3	—	2	6	6	7	5	6	6	6	5	52	3
C	Alan Dean	2	5	—	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	54	1
D	Rob Cartwright	1	1	1	—	1	6	2	6	1	1	1	21	10
E	Nick Inglis	1	1	1	6	—	6	6	1	6	3	2½	33½	5
F	Jim Carrington	1	0	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	4	6	17	11
G	Peter Wright	1	2	1	5	1	6	—	3	5½	3	5	32½	6
H	Tony Brennan	2	1	1	1	6	6	4	—	3	1	1	26	9
I	Tim Hedger	1	1	1	6	1	6	1½	4	—	5	4½	31	7=
J	Charles Felle	1	1	1	6	4	3	4	6	2	—	6	34	4
K	Cyril Edwards	4	2	2	6	4½	1	2	6	2½	1	—	31	7=

spectacular sequence of shots in which he gromped a pair of winks under another, subbed a couple more into the pile and also knocked one of mine free. The bottom eight were in the end an embarrassing 18 points adrift from the top three, but I think this mainly reflects the high standard that Alan, Larry and Jon maintained in what was a fascinating and exciting tournament.

Some Thoughts on the Singles

Jon Mapley

"At the very end, as the adrenalin eased off, and the fatigue started to set in from the knees down, Tony said to me "There's no sport that could match that for tension".

In the report on this year's Pairs, Nick predicted that Alan and I might try to prove something following our poor performance. Speaking for myself, I know I have never played better than in my games against Alan and Larry, even though I scored 2 and 3. I think everybody who stayed and watched enjoyed themselves, and there were many encouraging signs from those who weren't involved in the struggle at the top.

Although other players (Jim and Rob) played their part, it was Andy Purvis who caused the biggest upset in winking history (even bigger than Pam's U.S. win). We all know that any player with a year or so of solid experience can cause an upset in a single game. In the context of a tough qualifying group, the coolness with which Andy scored a 7-0 against Dave Lockwood set the seal on a miserable day for the ex-World Champ. I had mixed emotions about Dave's failure to qualify - after the U.S. non-event, it is terribly hard to fly half way across the world, and have no say in the determination of the champion. We saw the diasappointment, and Dave handled it like a gentleman. He'll be back to show his true form, but what a boost this gave to the British players.

As usual there were some less spectacular upsets. Of the top twelve seeds, apart from the Dragon, Geoff Thorpe and Alan Boyce didn't make the finals. For those who witnessed their play in the Pairs, it was no surprise to see Tim and Peter make it for the first time, from seeded positions of 12 and 16 respectively. One other player who edged out a

higher seed was Cyril (13) which again is unremarkable. Steve Chamberlin was the other debutant in the finals, and it is a pity from Sotwink's point of view that he was unable to play on the Sunday. This excellent performance can only help the growth of the club.

Desite the apparent ease with which some players qualified, and the chasm between third and fourth in the final, no game was easy. I didn't see a lot of the play in the other qualifiers, but there were no "rabbits" in my group, and I specifically remember the hard time that Steve, Patrick and Gary gave me.

There can't be more than one winner in a tournament, and I'm delighted for Alan that he has got his name on the trophy again after eight years (and kept it out of the permanent clutches of the Americans). Perhaps more important than anything else, I got the impression that everyone who came enjoyed their weekend, however many (or few) games they won. It is the most serious tournament of the year, but it can be fun as well. Thank you to all who put in a lot of hard work (Nick and Stew particularly on the admin front, and Sotwink for the facilities).

World Singles 24

Nick Inglis

Bevin Lecture Room, Churchill College, Cambridge

Wednesday 26th November 1986

A reasonably large and very enthusiastic crowd gathered in Churchill College to watch Jon Mapley play Larry Kahn for the World Singles Championship in a gripping match. As one would expect from Jon and Larry, the match was played in an excellent spirit and to a high standard.

Game 1

Jon Blue/Red, Larry Green/Yellow

Jon brings in much better than Larry. Green's second wink goes off. Red attempts a pot-out on his 7th turn; he pots the two furthest but his third (a large wink) hits the front edge of the pot and is squopped by a yellow. Red squops this with a large wink, green misses the pile and red attempts to pot the bottom red, but misses and is squopped by yellow. Now larger piles develop with Jon having the upper hand. Green is squopped up by the 22nd turn and shortly afterwards

yellow docks a small blue and manages to sub his one remaining wink (Paul McCartney Memorial Shot?). In round 1 yellow manages to climb onto a pair of reds on top of the largest pile, but red squops it to take a 6-1.

Jon 6 - Larry 1

Game 2

Larry Blue/Red, Jon Green/Yellow
Larry brings in slightly better than Jon, but one red subs under another and green takes the pair. Jon tries to hang on, but is outnumbered and blue manages to turn-over the pile with his 9th turn. Most of the yellows get absorbed at one end of a fair-sized pile while green just manages to keep control of some greens and reds at the other end (but has little prospect of freeing yellows). Yellow is squopped up by the 24th turn and although green frees one yellow when breaking his end of the pile, it is immediately resquopped. At the start of rounds there are just three greens left (all free). This is reduced to two by round 2, and not even Plan 47 can stop a 6-1 to Larry.

Jon 1 - Larry 6

Jon 7 - Larry 7

Game 3

Jon Blue/Red, Larry Green/Yellow
Blue takes a yellow-green doubleton early on; then Jon starts to dominate with several fine shots, including a John Lennon Memorial Shot onto a large green - large yellow pair. On two or three occasions Larry manages to blow up small piles, but Jon keeps control. Jon plays a nice shot taking a free green with a red that was already on two greens; shortly afterwards green is squopped up. Red goes off trying to bring in, but yellow fails to get close to any of the piles. Blue squops yellow in his 23rd turn and there are 6 free turns. Several 5 or 6 free turn sequences follow and although most blues are free, a large blue gets sucked into a large pile, so Jon doesn't go for the pot-out.

Jon 6 - Larry 1

Jon 13 - Larry 8

Game 4

Larry Blue/Red, Jon Green/Yellow
Jon starts well, picking up a pair of reds with his 5th turn and then hanging onto it despite hitting the pile with a large green. Eventually the pile is split, but Jon has a clear advantage which is increased when green takes a red doubleton with his 11th turn. Yellow, however, immediately bombs this and frees the reds! Blue takes the green; green subs; yellow attempts a pile jump and frees a blue. Larry now has a big advantage which is increased when Jon subs two greens in a row (one from the baseline). Larry replies by

subbing a blue, Jon takes control of the largest pile, red gets on top and then goes off while breaking the pile. Now things are fairly even, but Larry starts to regain control and is helped when a yellow bristol fails, freeing a blue and subbing the yellow. At the start of rounds blue looks strongest, but Jon manages to free several yellows only for red to squop two of them (one from some distance). At the end of round 4 blue and yellow both have 8 points (2 in the pot and 2 out), but blue has a pottable free wink; red has 6 points (1 in the pot and 3 out) with a pottable free wink; and green has 4 points with nothing in the pot. Green pots two small greens (neither was particularly close) and attempts a two-footer which hits the rim. Red pots his free wink and now each colour has 8. Yellow has a large wink on a large red and now pots it (risking a 6-1 loss if he'd missed). Blue pots his free wink and then frees a blue and a green.

Jon 2½ - Larry 4½
Jon 15½ - Larry 12½

Game 5

Larry Blue/Red, Jon Green/Yellow

Larry gradually takes control and yellow is squopped up by the 17th turn. Green splits a pile, but Larry plays a neat shot taking one large green with a red on a yellow and taking the other large green with another small red. Jon is fast running out of winks and looks as if he may go down 6-1, so he attempts to pot a small blue from under a small green. Both winks go in! Red takes a yellow which was on a pile, but (after long consideration by the umpire) a green is adjudged to have come free. This gives Jon a few more winks, but at the beginning of rounds Larry still has a big advantage. In round 3 there are two excellent shots: Jon chips a yellow from under a yellow on a blue across onto a pile containing two greens; a large green comes free. Larry then bristols to the pile knocking a small red back onto the green, and another red (inside the pile) onto the yellow. In round 4 green pots a small wink to give him 8. Red (who already has one in the pot) misses the pot with a large red, but lands pottable. Larry makes a small blue (on a large yellow) pottable. Jon now looks like getting 2 points, but he decides to pot a small green off a large blue from almost a foot (risking a 6-1 loss if he misses); he succeeds and Larry misses with a large blue and a large red to give Jon a 4-3 win.

Jon 4 - Larry 3
Jon 19½ - Larry 15½

Game 6

Jon Blue/Red, Larry Green/Yellow

April 1987

Jon brings in well, but a small red lands on a large red. He attempts to knock them apart with a blue from the baseline, but misses and lands on a large green instead. With his seventh turn Jon attempts to pot the small red off the large red, but is well wide and lands close to a green. Yellow (not near any reds) takes a small blue and then Jon squops the small green with a large blue from some distance. Green now has a six inch squop for a red, but he misses and Jon runs six. There are 2 yellows, 1 green and 1 blue behind the baseline or near the edge. Blue pots three small winks, brings in and then pots the fourth, then misses twice with a large wink. Yellow pots well to take second place and finally blue pots his large winks (to huge applause and the total bemusement of the man from the World Service) to secure a 6-1 and win the World Title.

Jon 6 - Larry 1

Jon 25½ - Larry 16½

After three fairly clear-cut games the crucial games seemed to be games 4 and 5 when Larry might have taken the lead, but Jon's pressure potting kept him ahead. Commiserations to Larry, whose potting let him down all week. We now look forward to the showdown with Alan Dean.

The Might-Have-Been 25th World Singles Match

Alan Dean

Larry Kahn (possibly World Champion)

v Alan Dean (challenger)

Edwinstowe, 24/11/86

Larry Kahn was unable to visit England before the weekend of our Singles Championship, and we therefore agreed to pretend that this event was taking place a week later, so that outstanding World Title challenges could be fitted in before they lapsed. Between the Singles weekend, and the following Wednesday, when Larry and Jon were to play for the World title, Larry decided to stay with the Dean family, to see another part of the country, and get in some winks practice. Alan was due to play the winner of the Larry-Jon match, and neither he nor Larry was particularly keen to spend any more time on the game the following weekend, so it was agreed that they would play a seven game match, which would count for the World title if Larry defeated Jon, or

regained the title from him by using his spare challenge!

Game 1 saw Alan go straight for the pot, sink 3, and then miss long. Larry took a solid six inch squop, of large on large. Alan played over the pot to knock the squopped wink free. Larry immediately resquopped, again from about six inches, and made no mistake about taking control before taking a 7-0, with some very good potting to ensure second place. At this stage Alan had scored just 5 points from his previous 6 games against Larry.

The next four games were all hard-fought squopping battles, characterised by good play on both sides, but with some amazing pieces of bad luck, especially from Larry. Alan took game 2 by 6-1, and was heading for another victory in game 3 until Larry played two successive brilliant shots in rounds: one a long triple-squop, and the other a double onto winks which both controlled piles. Larry commented at the time, "If I can't be lucky I'll have to be good!". Larry took this game 5-2. A freak shot by Alan towards the end of game 5, where he squopped himself and subbed the squopping wink, changed what was a 6-1 position into a 5-2 win.

Game 6 saw Alan bring in well with both colours, and this time he made no mistake as he potted 12 in a row for 7-0, to take the match 25-17, with a game to spare. He then had to wait until 11p.m. on the Wednesday, for the telephone call which would let him know if he had become World Champion. Larry had meanwhile decided not to re-challenge Jon if he lost, so Jon's victory over Larry meant that the above match never officially took place. Even so, it was good to remove some of the taste of the 25-3 drubbing by Larry last year. Even better is the prospect of a Mapley v Dean World Singles: when not playing as partners (!) we seem to bring out the best in each other, and always have amazing games. It will also be the first all-English World championship game.

St. George Slays The Dragon

Moonshine

The top US players celebrated thanksgiving in England this year by turning up as the turkeys. The team achieved absolutely nothing, making this one of the most successful tours ever.

The Americans, represented by Larry Kahn and Dave The Dragon Lockwood, kicked off by taking on the British in their National Singles. This, as keen readers will appreciate, is played using the antiquated round-robin format with qualifying leagues and a 12-player final. 37 of the British made the event this year.

The first day provided Larry with an opportunity to display his skills, but his colleague Dave Lockwood found qualifying a tough proposition.

STOMP! 0-7 against Andy Purvis (Cambridge).

STOMP! 3-4 against Rob Cartwright (Wessex Exiles).

STOMP! 2-5 against Jim Carrington (Wessex Exiles).

The Dragon could still have come through against Tony Brennan (Oxford and England), but STOMP! crashed out of the tournament when the England man restricted him to only 6.

In the final Larry might have had a good thing going since he secured narrow wins against the top British players; unfortunately, having fallen victim to Dr Cyril Edwards in his opening game he needed to do better than this. Alan Dean finished with a 6-1 win to pip Kahn for the title.

The Dragon having flown (have you ever seen a turkey fly?) events moved on to the World Singles matches. Larry, delighted to have qualified for the Singles finals, now had to defend his title against Jon Mapley (is 4th place in a Singles final really worth a World Singles challenge?) and also against Alan Dean.

STOMP! 17-25 against Alan, and then

STOMP! 16½-25½ against Jon.

This gives Larry the honour of being the only man to lose the World Singles title twice in a week. Tickets for the forthcoming All-British World Singles match may be obtained through Winking World, England.

Arye Gittelman being unavailable, the Americans were not required to put the World Pairs title on the line, and also were fortunately unable to muster sufficient players to take on an England team. One can only conjecture as to the outcome... (STOMP!).

The Marchant Trophy

Mike Surridge

In view of the fact that the 1985/86 Marchant Trophy constituted a radically new format for this ancient competition, it seems that a less brief account should be given than that appearing in the last Winking World. It is with great pleasure that I now recount the sordid details, with a minimum of poetic licence, in this edition. (Okay, so I was on the winning team!)

In the new format, the Marchant Trophy is contested using an all-play-all league system between teams of four. Each team receives a list of contacts for all other teams and is left to arrange one match against each. Teams enter by informing the organiser (now Phil Clark) at any time between the start of the tournament (ETWA Congress) and the end (the following 1st October). All results received by the organiser before the latter date are counted, and all other matches score nothing for either side.

This format ensures that although a strong team (eg QUESH) can score a lot of points per match, a weaker team (eg OUTS) can still gain more points overall by dint of greater enthusiasm to play matches. However, this does not actually weigh all that heavily against stronger teams, since of course they would probably not need to play as often for the same score (assuming similar opposition), and so can afford to be marginally more lethargic. Furthermore, it is perfectly permissible for a team to enter intending to play only some games, so all you older winkers should stop crying off and get your names in to Phil immediately!

Finally, to help the less dedicated teams as much as possible, it has been agreed that teams may play one "guest" from another team in each match (excluding the opposing team of course!). This rule has since been refined, so that each player may make only one "guest" appearance in the tournament.

There were nine teams entered for M'85/86 by the National Singles in Nov. 1985. We had four teams from Cambridge (CUTWC A, B, C, and D), two each from Oxford and Southampton (OUTS 1 and 2, and SOTWINK A and B) and a Wessex exiles team (WETS) under the inspired leadership of Phil Clark (the Tunbridge Terrier!). There were consequently 36 matches to be played. Sadly, it soon became apparent that CUTWC's ambitions exceeded their pool of players (or perhaps

transport?), and CUTwC D failed to materialise, so that only 28 matches were envisaged by the time squidgers were first wielded in anger.

The opening sequence of matches was played on 22/2/86 between CUTwC A and B and OUTS 1 and 2. These were pieced together from the games of the Varsity Match, which also doubled as a Silver Wink match (come on guys - 3 for the price of 1 it may be, but I call it stingy). This was the first tournament experience for most of the OUTS players, and frankly they got stuffed. We saw the sad spectacle of a 28-0 result by CUTwC B against OUTS 2 (led by those manic pot-out artists Patrick Barrie and Duncan Budd)! OUTS 2 were also hammered by CUTwC A, but OUTS 1 did better, picking up 11 points from their two matches, including their first win of recent years (4-3 to T.Brennan and R.Brownsword over the Cambridge stalwarts J.Robertson and S.Sage). After this opening clash CUTwC B led their elders CUTwC A by 50pts to 48.

The teams retired for a week before CUTwC A returned to the fray on 2/3/86, the day after the Hampshire Open (which looks set to become a standard Marchant trophy venue). CUTwC B were left in Cambridge due to lack of transport (or perhaps CUTwC A felt they needed to steal a few games' lead over their B team), and CUTwC C were introduced to the rigours of M'85/86. Also present were SOTWINK A and WETS, insufficient players being available for SOTWINK B to take part, and on this occasion all teams played each other except the two CUTwC sides. As it turned out, CUTwC A, SOTWINK A and WETS dominated the tournament, so the meetings between them can be regarded as somewhat vital. Firstly, WETS beat CUTwC A 17½ to 10½ in a close game (there were no 6-1's and there was a 3½-3½). Meanwhile SOTWINK A beat CUTwC C by 26-2, perhaps inspired by the return of G.Josland to Southampton team (his only match of the tournament). Subsequently, with N.May replacing Josland, SOTWINK A and CUTwC A had a 14-14 draw, with T.Hedger and P.Wright picking up 12 of CUTwC A's haul. CUTwC C lost to WETS by only 11-17, so outscoring CUTwC A against that redoubtable team. Finally SOTWINK A beat WETS 19½-8½ (N.May having calmed down was able to control his potting urge). In the end, CUTwC A still led with 72½ from 4 matches, followed by SOTWINK A with 59½ from 3 and CUTwC B with 50 from 2.

The next event was a single match played on 1/5/86 between SOTWINK A and SOTWINK B. The A team won 17-11, but the B team had a 6-1 win and put up a stiff fight. It was

now becoming obvious that the strong A teams were waiting until the end to play their weaker "compatriots", hoping to have a clear idea of how many points would be needed. However, by waiting, the stronger teams simply allowed their lessers to improve, and were often unable to obtain the required score. After this match, SOTWINK A were ready to concede defeat to CUTwC A, who had a couple of "easy" games against CUTwC B and C left.

However, before this could happen, on 21/5/86 the OUTS teams played their match, with OUTS 1 winning by 20½-7½. Hearing that WETS would now play OUTS and not wishing to be beaten into 3rd place, SOTWINK A set out for Oxford on 24/5/86, accompanied (and partly transported) by the SOTWINK B team, who in turn wished to avoid finishing last. The WETS team arrived 1 short, so they borrowed a player from the non-playing Sotwink team for each of their matches.

In the first matches of this set, SOTWINK A beat OUTS 1 by 21-7 and SOTWINK B beat OUTS 2 by 17-11. Then we saw OUTS 1 go down 21-7 to WETS and OUTS 2 lose 20½-7½ to SOTWINK A. Once more, it was observed that rabbit-bashing gets harder as the year gets older - despite their supposed crushing superiority both the winning teams lost a game in these matches. Then WETS achieved a 20-8 win against OUTS 2 (again losing a game), whilst OUTS 1 and SOTWINK B enjoyed the second 14-14 result of the tournament in a close fought game. Finally WETS beat SOTWINK B by 19-9, but yet again were unable to avoid dropping a game (P.Clark and R.Cartwright losing 2½-4½ to J.Carlaw and S.Harbron).

When the dust had settled, it emerged that SOTWINK A now led the tournament with 118 from 6, followed by WETS (103 from 6) and CUTwC A (72½ from 4). It still seemed that CUTwC A should be able to bash their B and C teams and win after a "disappointing" performance by SOTWINK A. However, we now had the feeling that there is no such thing as a rabbit in the Marchant League, and CUTwC B still had an argument that were properly the top CUTwC side. In the end, CUTwC got mixed up over the closing date of the tournament and failed to play their internal matches (although some might say that CUTwC A were afraid of their former novices), and so SOTWINK A achieved the distinction of becoming the first ever Marchant League champions.

In retrospect, CUTwC appear to have overstretched themselves in fielding so many as three teams. The remaining 5 teams were able to complete their part of the

all-play-all, even though WETS as a non-university team must have had difficulty in attending for events. It may be significant that the 5 teams mentioned all fielded 5 or more players at different times, except for WETS who were able to borrow SOTWINK players fairly easily when necessary. In contrast, CUTWC tried to have 4 players per team, and in the end the "C" team had only 3, with D.Salter making 2 "guests" from the "B" team (which is now illegal!). It may be true that CUTWC misinterpreted the closing date of the tournament (it is - Ed) and intended to play their matches in October, but this only reinforces the point that you need lots of players to keep on winking into May and June (exam season), as all the other teams managed to do. Despite this slightly unsatisfactory ending, the Marchant Trophy generated 18 matches out of a possible 28 and two highly enjoyable "mass meets" in which, we like to feel, the atmosphere of the Winking 60's and 70's was recaptured. 38 players took part and we had no serious disagreements, which must make M'85/86 one of the most successful tournaments of the year and the most satisfying Marchant Trophy for many years.

I thoroughly recommend that everybody take part in M'86/87, if only for a few matches. At the time of writing I have no team - does anybody want to join the "Flying Dutchmen"?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pl	Pts
1 CUTWC A	---				23	25	14		10½	4	72½
2 CUTWC B		---			22	28				2	50
3 CUTWC C			---				2		11	2	13
4 CUTWC D				---						0	0
5 OUTS A	5	6			---	20½	7	14	7	6	59½
6 OUTS B	3	0			7½	---	7½	11	8	6	37
7 SOTWINK A	14		26		21	20½	---	17	19½	6	118
8 SOTWINK B					14	17	11	---	9	4	51
9 WETS	17½		17		21	20	8½	19	---	6	103

CUTWC A

N Inglis
T Hedger
F Wright
S Sage
J Robertson

CUTWC B

F Barrie
D Budd
S Every
D Salter

CUTWC C

P Rodgers
A Purvis
S Mayes

OUTS A

T Brennan
R Brownsword
M Conway
R Eaton
S Scruton

OUTS B	SOTWINK A	SOTWINK B	WETS
D Orchard	A Boyce	J Carlaw	P Clark
K Zetie	S Chamberlin	E Harry	R Cartwright
M Coleman	G Josland	S Harbron	J Carrington
K Henson	N May	J Ridley	J Ferguson
P Goldberg	M Surridge	S Norman	
B Hilken			
S Schneider			

The Amsterdam Invitation

Tony Brennan

Friday 12th December saw the first of many historic events of an extraordinary weekend, as, for the first time ever, not far from Sheerness, winks were squidged on a cross-channel ferry. This could only mean one thing; winkers making their way to 317, Ferdinandbols Straat for the first ever Amsterdam Invitation Tournament (the "Surridge Shield"?)

Late tournament start times have been a problem recently; 6.45pm must be a record (even allowing for losing an hour in the crossing). Of the three groups of winkers, Phil Clark, having flown, arrived last (his arms must have been tired). After lunch, various tourist spots were visited, bottles of Beck's imbibed, and the start time set. Eventually, the eight winkers (mein Host Surridge, Inglis, Cartwright, Relle, Brennan, Chamberlin, Clark and Liz Whitfield) were assembled, and the winks began.

The last thing I want to do is to go through a blow-by-blow account of the tournament, as it really was a relatively minor part of the weekend. We played three rounds and then went out to further sample the local brews (and licensing hours) in a very smoky bar, serving various brown thick sugary liquids described as beer. My memory of the evening is sufficiently hazy that I shall move straight on to the Sunday...

The second day saw an early start and embarrassing incident. The cumulative effects of the choppy crossing, smoky bar, foreign food and nerves at the possibility of

winning his first invitation tournament (and not having been so drunk that he had been standing in the middle of the road directing traffic the night before, oh no...), made an anonymous grand old man of winks feel rather unwell. Not for the first time in the weekend, he missed the pot...

The standard of play reached some remarkably low points, the last game featuring Chamberlin, Clark, Surridge and Brennan being a Marianas Trench in the game's history, but there were also some good performances throughout. Nick was the eventual winner (the tournament was a seven-round all-partner-all), leaving Charles to throw up his hands in horror at coming second, and Liz Whitfield a creditable third. Another stroll around the city to take in some of the more interesting sights (none of them chocolate, unfortunately) and it was back to blighty...

Many thanks to Mike for organising it all, and putting us up; next year Paris?

The 6th Cambridge Open

Nick Inglis

Queens' College, Cambridge, 31st January/1st February 1987

The Cambridge Open is deliberately the most random tournament of the year, but even by its own standards this one was pretty wierd. The usual features were all there: Cambridge players (and some wise Oxford players) fresh from Friday night "training"; incomprehensible computer teething troubles; a late start while we waited for Mr Sage to wash his sheets; foul tinned beer and the odd odd result.

At first sight all seemed as expected: the top three after three rounds were Mapley, Hedger and Dean, but they were followed by three "unknowns" from Oxford. Then something strange occurred - Alan Dean lost four games in a row (when did that last happen in a tournament?) to plummet to twenty second equal. This nonetheless put him ten places above Charles Relle who had achieved an average of 2. At the top was Duncan Budd (who had only played three games) followed by Nick Inglis, Geoff Thorpe and Oxford novice Ian Whitmore. Even Jon Mapley was languishing in sixth equal on a paltry average of 4.5.

As ever, those with an instinct for self-punishment partook of the CUTWC Annual Dinner on the Saturday night. The jokes were as bad as ever, the President's vice was even more incomprehensible than ever, and the whole event was organised in the worst possible taste. Geoff Thorpe's teddy became the first guest to be beheaded during the dinner - an event that Simon Every found so amusing he committed a partial Purvis on the table. Copious supplies of beverage were consumed and noone was surprised when Graham Hancock had to be forcibly removed from the scene of the crime.

The second day saw the tournament slide towards total farce as the leaders all contrived to lose many matches. Sadly the Oxford players had to miss the second day's play and so they were not eligible for the title, though Ian Whitmore ended with a higher average than the eventual winner, as did Duncan Budd who only played three games. Eventually Jon Mapley won with an average of 4.346 (by far the lowest ever to win this event) followed by Gary Shrimpton (a most impressive performance), Geoff Thorpe, Nick Inglis (second top Cambridge player as usual) and Alan Dean. This is Jon's third win (once with Tim Broome and twice in this format) in four attempts (yawn). Gary managed to improve his position by more than thirty places (surely some kind of record) while Charles Relle, who finished twenty fifth compared with second last year, achieved something similar in the opposite direction. Mention should also be made of Tim Hedger's performance: 5½ points from three games partnering Mapley and Dean.

For the final positions the tables exclude everyone who was available for less than 8 games. To be eligible for the title a player would have to be available to play in almost every round including the last. As usual we attempt to win the Bill Frindall prize for irrelevant statistics with the averages of partners' and opponents' scores. A negative entry under difference indicates an advantageous draw. The partners' and opponents' scores have been averaged over all games not involving the player in question (I hope that makes sense). This is to eliminate the effect that a good or bad player has on their partners and opponents and thereby, perhaps, make the statistics more relevant. Just about the only thing one can say with confidence is that Ian Whitmore had an outstandingly good draw.

		Opponents									
		Partner					Score				
A	Chris	G,D	Y,Z	a,g	K,f	C,K	R,S	S,Z	S,I	F,V	
	Andrew	T 5½	F 1	Y 2	I 5	P 6	Z 1½	T 2½	V 3	Y 5½	
B	Malcolm	R,J	O,a	O,I	R,F	T,O	M,H	e,f	Y,P	I,E	
	Beattie	E 3	d 6	T 6	d 1	I 1	h 6	b 1	E 4	W 3	
C	Kevin	Y,M	L,I	G,E	b,U	A,P	d,Y	h,H	Bye	i,X	
	Beck	Z 2	X 4	N 2	D 6	K 1	W 4	G 1		g 3	
D	Tony	T,A	c,G	Z,V	U,b	e,a	I,U	Q,L	Bye	Bye	
	Brennan	G 1½	R 4½	R 6	C 6	Z 1	G 6	i 4½			
E	Jim	J,R	g,S	N,C	G,S	U,W	Bye	U,V	P,Y	W,B	
	Carrington	B 3	T 6	G 5	O 4	d 6		g 5	B 4	I 4	
F	Rob	b,Q	Z,Y	d,W	d,B	Bye	P,T	I,Y	K,T	A,Y	
	Cartwright	L 1½	A 1	P 6	R 6		X 5½	N 5	N 1	V 1½	
G	Steve	A,T	R,D	C,N	E,O	S,Y	U,I	H,h	e,b	Bye	
	Chamberlin	D 1½	c 2½	E 5	S 3	J 2	D 6	C 1	W 5½		
H	Phil	a,g	b,M	Q,e	N,X	V,Q	h,B	G,C	g,c	b,c	
	Clark	I 3	K 6	b 3	e 6	R 5	M 1	h 6	X 4	R 2	
I	Patrick	g,a	X,C	T,B	f,K	O,T	D,G	F,N	V,A	B,W	
	Barrie	H 3	L 3	O 1	A 5	B 1	U 1	Y 2	S 4	E 4	
J	Michael	E,B	Q,e	X,K	M,T	Y,S	a,O	d,X	Bye	Bye	
	Coleman	R 4	W 2	U 2	W 3	G 2	N 2	W 1			
K	Alan	X,d	M,b	U,J	A,I	P,A	V,c	a,c	F,N	T,M	
	Dean	U 5	H 6	X 5	f 2	C 1	L 1	P 3	T 6	a 5	
L	Clive	Q,b	C,X	c,f	V,a	g,N	c,V	i,D	Bye	Bye	
	Dixon	F 1½	I 3	S 1	Z 3	b 1	K 1	Q 2½			
M	Cyril	Z,C	K,H	Bye	J,W	h,f	B,h	Bye	R,O	a,K	
	Edwards	Y 5	b 1		T 4	c 2½	H 1		d 4	T 2	
N	Clive	V,e	f,V	E,G	H,e	b,L	O,a	Y,I	T,K	S,e	
	Gabriel	P 5	U 2	C 2	X 1	g 6	J 2	F 5	F 1	P 2½	
O	Graham	c,f	B,d	B,T	S,G	I,B	N,J	Bye	d,M	Bye	
	Hancock	W 2	a 1	I 1	E 4	T 6	a 5		R 3		
P	Tim	e,V	Bye	W,d	Bye	K,C	F,X	c,a	E,B	e,S	
	Hedger	N 5		F 6		A 6	T 1½	K 3	Y 3	N 2½	
Q	Katharine	L,F	J,W	H,b	c,Y	R,H	f,e	D,i	Bye	Bye	
	Henson	b 5½	e 5	e 4	g 3½	V 2	b 1	L 2½			
R	Nick	B,E	G,c	V,Z	B,d	Q,V	A,Z	Bye	M,d	c,b	
	Inglis	J 4	D 4½	D 6	F 6	H 5	S 5½		O 3	H 2	

					P1	W	D	L	Tot	Ave	Pos	Pars	Opps
												Difference	
A	V,E	T,M	Bye	G,K	12	6	0	6	43 $\frac{2}{3}$	3.639	14	3.496	3.646
	a 4	b 3		Y 4 $\frac{2}{3}$								+0.150	
B	F,W	G,R	F,K	Bye	12	5	0	7	38	3.167	18=	3.860	3.728
	Y 6	Y 1	S 0									-0.132	
C	Bye	a,S	N,M	c,d	11	3	0	8	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.500	27	3.440	3.350
		N 1	R 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	N 1								-0.090	
D	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	7	5	0	2	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.214		3.352	3.313
												-0.039	
E	a,A	c,X	V,T	X,a	12	8	0	4	48	4.000	6=	3.576	3.325
	V 3	P 1	c 1	F 6								-0.251	
F	B,Y	Bye	B,S	a,X	11	6	0	5	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.773	13	3.222	3.520
	W 1		K 7	E 6								+0.298	
G	Q,d	B,Y	d,a	A,Y	12	5	0	7	41 $\frac{1}{3}$	3.444	15	3.439	3.680
	M 2	R 6	Z 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	K 2 $\frac{1}{3}$								+0.241	
H	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	9	5	0	4	36	4.000	6=	3.760	3.552
												-0.208	
I	P,c	Q,W	P,g	T,P	13	5	0	8	40	3.077	20	3.253	3.586
	b 2	e 2	W 6	Q 6								+0.334	
J	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	7	1	0	6	16	2.286		3.052	3.561
												+0.509	
K	X,S	Bye	S,B	Y,A	12	7	0	5	49 $\frac{1}{3}$	4.111	5	3.448	3.356
	T 6		F 7	G 2 $\frac{1}{3}$								-0.091	
L	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	7	0	0	7	13	1.857		3.319	3.413
												+0.093	
M	d,D	b,A	R,C	Bye	10	5	0	5	30	3.000	22	3.925	3.779
	G 2	T 4	N 4 $\frac{1}{2}$									-0.147	
N	Bye	S,a	C,R	d,c	12	4	0	8	32 $\frac{5}{6}$	2.736	24	3.116	3.611
		C 1	M 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	C 1								+0.495	
O	G,M	I,e	X,e	P,T	11	7	0	4	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.955	10	3.538	3.528
	d 5	W 5	b 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 6								-0.011	
P	I,b	X,c	I,W	Q,I	11	4	0	7	34 $\frac{5}{6}$	3.167	18=	3.870	3.391
	c 5	E 1	g 1	T 1								-0.479	
Q	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	7	3	1	3	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.357		3.173	3.575
												+0.402	
R	e,g	Y,B	M,N	V,g	12	8	0	4	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.125	4	3.373	3.579
	i 4	G 6	C 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	W 1								+0.206	

		Opponents									
		Partner					Score				
S	Tim Jeffreys	Bye	T,E	f,c	D,E	G,J	Z,A	A,T	A,V	N,P	
			g 1	L 1	G 3	Y 5	R 5½	Z 4½	I 4	e 4½	
T	Jon Mapley	D,G	S,g	I,O	W,J	B,I	X,F	Z,S	N,F	K,a	
		A 5½	E 6	B 6	M 4	O 6	P 1½	A 2½	K 6	M 2	
U	David Orchard	d,X	V,f	K,X	D,C	E,d	G,D	E,g	Bye	Bye	
		K 5	N 2	J 2	b 1	W 1	I 1	V 2			
V	Andy Purvis	N,P	U,N	R,D	L,Z	H,R	K,L	g,E	I,S	Y,A	
		e 2	f 5	Z 1	a 4	Q 2	c 6	U 2	A 3	F 1½	
W	Charles Relle	f,c	e,Q	P,F	T,M	d,E	Y,d	X,d	b,e	E,I	
		O 2	J 2	d 1	J 3	U 1	C 4	J 1	G 5½	B 3	
X	Phil Rodgers	K,U	I,L	J,U	e,H	Bye	T,P	W,J	c,g	g,C	
		d 2	C 4	K 5	N 1		F 5½	d 6	H 4	i 4	
Y	Stew Sage	C,Z	A,F	g,a	g,Q	J,G	W,C	N,F	B,E	V,F	
		M 5	Z 6	A 2	c 3½	S 5	d 3	I 2	P 3	A 5½	
Z	David Salter	M,Y	F,A	D,R	a,V	a,e	S,R	T,A	Bye	Bye	
		C 2	Y 6	V 1	L 3	D 1	A 1½	S 4½			
a	Alex Satchell	H,I	d,B	A,Y	Z,L	Z,D	J,N	K,P	Bye	M,T	
		g 4	O 1	g 5	V 4	e 6	O 5	c 4		K 5	
b	Phil Scarrott	F,L	H,K	e,Q	C,D	N,g	e,f	f,e	W,G	H,R	
		Q 5½	M 1	H 3	U 1	L 1	Q 1	B 1	e 1½	c 5	
c	Gary Shrimpton	O,W	D,R	L,S	Q,g	f,h	L,K	P,K	X,H	R,H	
		f 5	G 2½	f 6	Y 3½	M 2½	V 6	a 4	g 3	b 5	
d	Mike Surridge	U,K	a,O	F,P	F,R	W,U	C,W	J,W	O,R	Bye	
		X 2	B 6	W 1	B 1	E 6	Y 3	X 6	M 4		
e	Geoff Thorpe	P,N	W,J	b,H	X,N	D,Z	b,Q	B,b	G,W	P,N	
		V 2	Q 5	Q 4	H 6	a 6	f 6	f 6	b 1½	S 4½	
f	Ian Whitmore	W,O	N,U	S,L	I,A	c,M	Q,b	b,B	Bye	Bye	
		c 5	V 5	c 6	K 2	h 4½	e 6	e 6			
g	Peter Wright	I,H	E,T	Y,A	Y,c	L,b	Bye	V,U	H,X	X,i	
		a 4	S 1	a 5	Q 3½	N 6		E 5	c 3	C 3	
h	Duncan Budd	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	M,c	H,M	C,G	Bye	Bye	
						f 4½	B 6	H 6			
i	Liz Bertoya	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	L,Q	Bye	C,g	
								D 4½		X 4	

						P1	W	D	L	Tot	Ave	Pos	Pars	Opps
						Difference								
S	T,K	N,C	K,F	e,b		12	6	0	6	36½	3.056	21	3.423	3.603
	X 1	a 6	B 0	Z 1									+0.180	
T	S,X	A,b	c,E	I,0		13	9	0	4	56½	4.346	1	3.411	3.468
	K 6	M 4	V 6	P 1									+0.058	
U	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye		7	1	0	6	14	2.000		3.067	3.594
													+0.526	
V	A,a	d,g	E,c	R,W		13	5	0	8	43½	3.346	17	3.811	3.397
	E 3	i 2	T 6	g 6									-0.414	
W	Y,B	e,I	g,P	g,V		13	4	0	9	35½	2.731	25	3.174	3.670
	F 1	O 5	I 6	R 1									+0.495	
X	K,T	P,E	O,b	E,F		12	7	0	5	41	3.417	16	3.601	3.307
	S 1	c 6	e 1½	a 1									-0.295	
Y	W,F	R,G	Bye	K,G		12	6	1	5	46½	3.889	11	3.348	3.495
	B 6	B 1		A 4½									+0.146	
Z	Bye	Bye	a,d	b,e		9	3	0	6	24½	2.722	26	3.237	3.767
			G 4½	S 1									+0.531	
a	E,V	C,N	Z,G	F,E		12	9	0	3	47½	3.958	8=	3.787	3.342
	A 4	S 6	d 2½	X 1									-0.445	
b	c,P	M,T	e,X	Z,S		13	4	0	9	36½	2.808	23	3.416	3.599
	I 2	A 3	O 5½	e 6									+0.182	
c	b,I	E,P	T,V	C,N		13	8	1	4	55½	4.269	2	3.701	3.677
	P 5	X 6	E 1	d 6									-0.024	
d	M,G	V,i	G,Z	N,C		12	7	0	5	47½	3.958	8=	3.606	3.241
	O 5	g 5	a 2½	c 6									-0.365	
e	R,i	W,O	b,O	S,Z		13	8	0	5	53½	4.128	3	3.546	3.117
	g 3	I 2	X 1½	b 6									-0.430	
f	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye		7	6	0	1	34½	4.929		4.212	3.147
													-1.065	
g	i,R	i,V	W,I	W,R		12	6	1	5	45½	3.792	12	3.512	3.589
	e 3	d 5	P 1	V 6									+0.078	
h	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye		3	3	0	0	16½	5.500		4.017	3.584
													-0.434	
i	g,e	g,d	Bye	Bye		4	3	0	1	14½	3.625		3.781	3.411
	R 4	V 2											-0.371	

Minutes of Committee Meeting of ETWA Council Phil Clark
Held 22nd November 1986, Southampton University

Present: Jon Mapley (briefly), Jim Carrington, Phil Clark, Nick Inglis, Stew Sage.

For administrative convenience it was decided to change the bank account from Nat West to Lloyds and thus a branch in closer proximity to the new treasurer. The necessary forms were signed with the treasurer being the authorised signatory.

To enable ETWA to augment its funds it was decided that a small table fee would in future be charged at the Singles, Pairs, and Fours with effect from the Singles currently in progress. The charge would be greater for non ETWA members.

Minutes of Committee Meeting of ETWA Council Phil Clark
Held 31st January 1987, The Mill, Cambridge

Present: Jon Mapley, Phil Clark, Jim Carrington, Nick Inglis, Stew Sage. Several members.

Equipment

Jim reported that the old winks had been sold, realising £150. As a result ETWA's bank account was healthily placed with funds in excess of £400. Jim wondered whether ETWA should buy some more winks from Italy while they were still available, and mentioned that he had written a letter of enquiry.

The current stock situation was that of the 2000 sets originally purchased 300 were sent to the USA and about half of the remainder were sold, this in 3 years.

Jon said that the winks were supplied through the Belgium firm of Carta Mundi of Turnhout and that squidgers could probably be provided if we asked.

Competitions

Jon said that he had received a letter from the Anglia Host public house group (a division of Grand Metropolitan) expressing interest in a winks tournament among pubs in the Lowestoft area. Jon said he'd written back expressing ETWA's willingness to cooperate. Stew had the details and would be

continuing the follow up.

Alan Dean asked who held the Jubilee Trophy, Charles still, and was interested in another attempt to wrest it from his hands. Nick said he thought he was the most immediate challenger.

This led on to the question of who held the "Golden Squidger" of which nothing had been heard for some time. It was thought that Cyril was one half of the holding pair, but had apparently denied it. Mike Surridge said he and Graham Josland had lost by a point to Cyril and Mick Still the day after the 1983 London Open (oblique reference WW43 p8).

World Singles

Jon said he and Alan had, in the absence of any other arrangements, agreed to play their World Singles match on the Friday or Monday before/after the Pairs. It was, however, felt generally that this was an excellent publicity opportunity which may require a different date. Jon said he'd given Stew his PR contact (one Sharon of Ampercord, London W1), but there was no obvious sponsor.

Suggestions included Guinness (c/o Dept. of Trade and Industry?) and Hamleys. The matter was left to Stew and if he could not arrange anything by the end of March then it would be held at the Pairs.

ETWA Constitution

Jim said he had read the constitution before giving a copy to ETWA's new bank (Lloyds) and found that current practices had drifted away from those espoused in the document. He cited the example of having Club representatives on ETWA's committee. It was felt, however, that it was probably not worth drafting a new constitution at this time.

ETWA Financial Year

Phil asked when subscriptions to ETWA officially fell due; he had been in the practice of requesting subs in a post-Congress newsletter assuming a Congress to Congress year. However it appeared that several people felt that their membership ran 1 year from whenever they paid.

Jon said ETWA's year end used to be 31st August in the distant days when accounts were produced. However it was felt that Congress to Congress was sensible, with the treasurer having discretion to reduce the subscription rate at a later stage in the year.

A.O.B.

Jon said he had been contacted by a manufacturer of computer printer stands with a view to having a tournament between the product's dealers as a marketing ploy. It appeared that the stands were decorated with discs bearing some vague resemblance to winks. Apparently the promoters envisaged a final in Monte Carlo, at which several of those present asked how they could become dealers!

It was to be hoped that if the event went ahead that the promoter would seek winks from ETWA rather than opting for cheaper low quality "winks".

There was no other business so the meeting closed.

The Varsity Match

Nick Inglis

Wadham College, Oxford, 21st February 1987

This year's Varsity Match was an intriguing prospect with a much improved Oxford team facing a very powerful Cambridge side. Oxford started the first round well looking to be on top in a couple of games and level in another, but as in last year's match the experience of the Cambridge team seemed to be crucial in rounds and in the end Cambridge won all four games to take a useful $19\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ lead.

Lunch seemed to work wonders for Oxford and the second round was their best against Cambridge for many years. Brennan and Dyer beat Sage and Andrew while Henson and Whitmore took 6 off Budd and Purvis and Oxford only narrowly lost the round $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $15\frac{1}{2}$. Cambridge domination was reasserted in the third round with 23 points to Cambridge ensuring a win for the away team. Another win for Henson and Whitmore in round 4 kept the final margin down to 42 points - a fair reflection of the relative strengths of the sides, both of which were stronger than last year. Of the Oxford pairs Brennan and Dyer (12) and Henson and Whitmore (14) did extremely well. For Cambridge one of the most encouraging signs was the small spread (only $3\frac{1}{2}$ points) between the top and bottom pairs - a good team effort.

OUTS

					Tony Brennan Katharine Henson Richard Brownsword Malcolm Beattie David Dyer Ian Whitmore David Orchard Steve Scruton			
C	Tim Hedger	2 ¹ / ₂	4	1	1			
	Gary Shrimpton	4 ¹ / ₂	3	6	6	19 ¹ / ₂		
U	Patrick Barrie	3	3	1	1			
	David Salter	4	4	6	6	20		
T	Chris Andrew	4 ¹ / ₂	1	2	0			
	Stew Sage	2 ¹ / ₂	6	5	7	20 ¹ / ₂		
W	Duncan Budd	2	6	2	1			
	Andy Purvis	5	1	5	6	17		
C		12	14	6	3			

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Rules and Procedures

Rob Cartwright

At this year's ETWA congress, 2 radical rule changes were proposed. As it happened both motions were rejected, and no doubt Charles Relle and Jon Mapley were disappointed by this. I have some thoughts on these changes, and also on how and why such changes should and should not be proposed. As far as I see it, rule changes might be made for 3 reasons. (This means real changes, not just rewordings to clarify a point.)

- 1) Changes to reduce or eliminate inconsistencies or unclarity in the rules, in order to make judging easier in complex cases. This encompasses the removal of a rule which is impossible to adjudicate, also any additions to discourage situations likely to lead to illegality.

eg, The UK free turns rule, which is different to that of the US. (see Charles's article in WW48)
The 2-inch rule to prevent the use of the megacrud.

- 2) Changes to the rules which are designed to make the game "fairer", ie to minimise the effects of luck (good or bad), and to maximise the skill level of the game in shotmaking, strategy or both.

eg, The 1mm rule between winks after a pot-out.
The removal of the now ancient "xylophone shot" (whereby you could play any wink in a pile after the top one, not just those vertically beneath).

- 3) Changes which are designed to alter the game's basic format, so that it is "better" in some way. In some ways this could be argued as being an extension of case 2, but I have separated it by way of the magnitude of the proposal - "the Game's basic format" as opposed to a minor change to an existing format. The distinction is necessarily subtle and is admittedly one of personal opinion.

eg, A hypothetical proposal to increase the number of winks for each player to eight (4 big and 4 small).

Considering Charles's and Jon's cases in this light, I would pigeonhole Charles's proposal (no loss of shot for going off) as case 2, and Jon's proposal (extra shot if any wink at all is potted) as case 3.

The word "better" is highly subjective; it is ridiculous to assume that all people should want the same things from the game, and such phrases as "more difficult", "more challenging" etc, presuppose that everyone wants this. In business management terms, basically need to know what you want to be happening. You only have a problem if you can clearly see a specific difference between what you want to happen and what is actually happening. If you don't know this then you don't have a problem, you're just complaining! Similarly, you should look at consequences, so consider "If I do this, will what I want to be happening, actually be happening?" If not, then you have a bad solution.

By putting case 2 above I have rather dangerously assumed that we want the luck of the game minimised and skill increased. There may well be those who disagree! Skill and luck are in any case linked, because randomness in some areas of shotmaking creates the risk which is essential to define strategy. One way of defining a skillful shot is one where the consequences are great if you get it right, but another way is where the consequences are dire if you get it wrong! A long pot is more skillful than a shorter one not only because the target is smaller, but also because if you hit the edge you might go off. This is not completely bad luck, because part of the skill is to know what you can and can't do and take risks. If you know you can pot it, then miss, that is obviously a skill deficiency. If you know you can't pot it, you don't try. If you're not sure, you have no right to moan about possible consequences! So maybe randomness doesn't always reduce skill; the balance is up to the individual. Tony Brennan put forward this very argument in favour of keeping the old mats; the randomness was considered too great by most people, but that does not make his basic point any less valid. If we are going to erase all areas of randomness in the game, I think we need to create additional means of risk to benefit/penalise the more dynamic player and so encourage different styles of play. The one rule that springs to mind immediately is this business of having to free on the first shot after completion of free turns. I believe that if you think you are good enough to pot first, and still free legally in the same turn, knowing full well the consequences if you miss, then you ought to be allowed to try.

Before any rule change can be accepted, it should be mandatory to justify it by a rational and specific argument. Further, I would suggest that the argument be more thought out and clearly justified as one progresses down the list. A

radical change should never be proposed without at least some forethought and reasonable evidence, since it is far too easy to attack it and kill off what is maybe a good idea.

You should describe specifically what you mean by "better" in the case in question, and by the use of examples show why the change is an improvement.

-Ie you should show clearly:

- A) what is happening now
- B) what you want to be happening
- C) how the proposed change will achieve this.

You should also be able to explain side-effects, the probability of them happening and the seriousness of the consequences; then demonstrate that such consequences are not cause to reject the proposal.

The other factor of course is that of timing; you should allow people a reasonable time to develop counter-arguments along the same lines. The decision to release WW in August (actually September - Ed) not October is a good adjunct to this; I propose that any rule change which has not been published in WW at least one month before congress, should not be voted on at that congress.

Now to look closely at the 2 proposals put forward at the last congress.

- 1) After a shot causing winks of any colour to go off, the opponents of the player who made the shot choose where all these winks should be replaced. (eg, they would put yours a long way away, but their own as close to the action as possible.)

Charles's case has been put in WW, although he did not make clear the intention to propose the change formally. As I understand it:

- Charles is working on the assumption that luck should be minimised and skill increased. These are his basic interpretations of the "better game". He states that bad luck should not be penalised. (but does not state a philosophy on whether good luck should be accepted as is, or played down. Basically bad luck for one player is good luck to the opponent!)
- He believes that to send your own wink off is largely bad luck, not due to lack of shotmaking skill.

Here are some counter-arguments:

- I think that to send one's wink off is largely carelessness. I venture to suggest that people who bring in squop-style send more off than those who bring in pot-style. The wink is inclined to twist slightly and land on its edge thus rolling off, whereas if you do a pot-shot the spin reduces this effect. Winks played in this way tend to bounce forwards, and only go off if you are stupid enough to hit the pot. (there is room elsewhere!) If you play a short shot and go off, that is purely a skill deficiency; if you can't put the wink where you want at close range, and hit the pot or another wink then roll off, that is not bad luck. If you go for a long pot and miss, the case is as I describe above. We all know a long pot is gettable in any situation, so if you over-estimate your ability and miss the shot, is that really bad luck?
- If we ignore the above and apply Charles's proposal, will what he wants to happen actually happen? Maybe not, for instance people may break up piles with more violence simply because the penalty (risk) of going off has reduced, and this contravenes the premise that the game would be more skillful.
- Charles states that going off is bad luck, but the new law proposed still has a small penalty for going off. Charles will say this is just a compromise, but it is an inconsistency in the argument which does not make it any more believable.

I do however like the idea of a possible default if you boondock an opponent too far. That is exactly the sort of bonus/risk element that adds to the variety and interest of the game.

Despite the fact that I disagree with the argument, I would say that Charles did meet the main requirements to propose the change formally at congress. The idea was not new, it was rational, and it was proposed with a clear purpose in mind. The same cannot be said for the second proposal however!

- 2) The player gets an extra shot for each wink of any colour potted.

Jon's case is much less problematical, because basically he had no case! There is no way the proposal should have been accepted, because Jon did not put forward any argument in its favour. The impression I got was that he had a vague feeling that the game might be more interesting, but there

was not any specific rationale put forward. The probability of an unforeseen serious problem struck me as being high, and the time factor meant that everybody was going to err on the side of caution. It would have been totally wrong to accept such a radical change at such short notice and without appealing argument, and I think it was foolish and unnecessary for it to be formally proposed at that time.

There is no doubt that the game would be different, but there are so many things you could conceivably do that it is very difficult to say what the total result might be. Here are some things that spring to mind:

- If a squopping wink is attacked, you could pot the underneath one, then squop the attacker. This might be done early on to avoid losing a wink and give the opponents one less wink to play with. You would only do it if the pile could not be bristled or gromped, eg big only halfway on big. You might do something similar in rounds; say if one colour was way ahead, and you had a wink which was itself not pottable but on an opponent that was.
- If you were nearly squopped up, you could pot the opponent and then attack the big pile with less fear of being squopped immediately. If you were really clever, you could pot the opponent and land on the pile in the same shot; you could then break the pile straightaway without the opponents getting a shot.
- Conversely, if you had the opponent nearly squopped up, you could pot the opponent from a one-on-one, and move the extra free wink as a guard. This might be less risky than trying to bristol it or just free.
- In an equal situation you could pot yourself and your opponent together; this would lose you one point in effect, but would give you 2 extra shots which could well overcome the deficit and give you a bonus. This is a bit dodgy: the worst that could happen is you miss both, then you probably have a swing of 3 time-limit points (the one-on-one gets reversed, and you lose the wink you would have played instead). If you pot only yourself that's probably only slightly better. If you pot just the opponent that's not too bad; you can nearly equalise by potting yourself and then playing as you would have, or you might be able to use the free one in some other way. Getting both has all kinds of possibilities, such as the pile squop and breakup I mentioned before.
- In a big pile, you could break rather than play a more subtle desquop. If you pot anything at all you gain a

tempo which may be enough to clean up and gain an overall advantage.

I am quite sure there are many other possibilities. Do these make the game better or worse? There are plenty of ifs and buts, so let's see some opinions. I would be quite happy to play a few games using this idea if we can arrange a non-serious tournament to try it out.

I agree with Nick Inglis that to say "I like the game as it is, I don't want to see it altered" is a self-defeating argument. My favourite quote on this (I've forgotten where it comes from) is this:

*"You can have change without improvement, but -
You can never have improvement without change."*

So let's keep the suggestions coming, and let's find out what we all want from the game. Then maybe we'll be better equipped to decide on the kinds of rule changes we do, and do not want to see.

1987 Hampshire Open Pairs

Mike Surridge

Southampton University, 28th February

I have just received a scoresheet for this year's Open Pairs, along with a reminder that I promised Nick a match report in exchange. It is more than a month since the events in question and my memory is not all that good. I hope, therefore, that I will be forgiven for taking a more personal view in this report than is traditional.

The tournament was held at Southampton University Students' Union on 28th February 1987. A Silver Wink match and Marchant trophy games had been arranged for the next day (an unfortunate clash which could not be resolved before the events, but which hopefully will not recur). As a result the turnout was boosted by a large contingent from Cambridge and a fair sprinkling of Exiles.

By the start of play there were fourteen pairs assembled, along with a television crew who had been given the wrong start-time and turned up too early! The favourites were (of

course) the holders, Alan Dean and Rob Cartwright, but a strong challenge was expected from Exiles Jim Carrington and Mike Surridge (runners-up in 1985) and from the untried but certainly formidable combination of Alan Boyce and Charles Relle.

Other strong players were certainly present, but they were in mixed-strength pairings (possibly practising for the Silver Wink match), so that nobody else stood out as likely challengers. The author of this report was somewhat concerned, therefore, as he has noted in the past that "also-rans" often run rather faster than he would like. My major concern was as always Inglis, although others would probably have said Cyril Edwards or Tim Hedger might have been more threatening.

The format for the tournament was to be the now standard 6 round Swiss plus a final additive play-off game. We got underway with the usual randomly drawn first round. I was slightly apprehensive about my form after several months in the wilderness (Holland), broken only by my worst ever Cambridge Individual result. To my astonishment (and I think even more to my partner's) I played quite well against Steve Harbron and Stefanie Norman, and Jim and I emerged with a 6-1 win. We discovered that four other pairs had that pleasure, including, ominously, Boyce/Relle and Cartwright/Dean.

This being the case, a further bit of randomness entered the draw for round two, and we managed to avoid those people and instead had to play Cyril Edwards and Alex Satchell. It appears that Charles Relle must have made the draw as he also avoided Dean/Cartwright, who found themselves against the sixth pair, Chris Andrew and Stew Sage, half a point behind.

As we started our match, Cyril and I joked about our Cambridge Open game in which Cyril's last free wink spent several turns marching up and down the edge of the mat in search of a good angle for a knock-off shot. As a result of these remarks we both brought in poorly and left our partners in the centre for a while battling amongst themselves. It transpired that Jim was in devastating form, and soon had Alex at a disadvantage whilst collecting Cyril into a pile as he arrived. The result was 6-1 and we went to lunch quite pleased with ourselves, to find Dean/Cartwright and Boyce/Relle, also on 12 points, glaring viciously at each other over their beer.

Hampshire Open Swiss Section

Opponents	Score
Running Total	

A	Alan Dean	H 6	F 6	N 4	J 3	E 1	G 0	9=
	Rob Cartwright	6	12	16	19	20	20	
B	Stef Norman	E 1	K 6	G 5	F 1	D 2	M 7	4=
	Steve Harbron	1	7	12	13	15	22	
C	Andy Purvis	F 1½	I 6	D 5	E 1	H 6	J 1	7=
	Duncan Budd	1½	7½	12½	13½	19½	20½	
D	Alex Satchell	L 6	E 1	C 2	N 3	B 5	K 5	4=
	Cyril Edwards	6	7	9	12	17	22	
E	Jim Carrington	B 6	D 6	J 2½	C 6	A 6	F 6	1
	Mike Surridge	6	12	14½	20½	26½	32½	
F	Chris Andrew	C 5½	A 1	H 5	B 6	J 3	E 1	6
	Stew Sage	5½	6½	11½	17½	20½	21½	
G	Tim Hedger	M 6	J 1	B 2	L 6	N 4	A 7	3
	David Salter	6	7	9	15	19	26	
H	Nick Inglis	A 1	L 6	F 2	I 5½	C 1	N 4½	9=
	Patrick Barrie	1	7	9	14½	15½	20	
I	Phil Clark	N 4	C 1	M 5	H 1½	K 3	L 1½	12=
	Geoff Thorpe	4	5	10	11½	14½	16	
J	Charles Relle	K 6	G 6	E 4½	A 4	F 4	C 6	2
	Alan Boyce	6	12	16½	20½	24½	30½	
K	Nick May	J 1	B 1	L 1	M 7	I 4	D 2	12=
	Edward Harry	1	2	3	10	14	16	
L	David Dyer	D 1	H 1	K 6	G 1	M 4	I 5½	11
	Malcolm Beattie	1	2	8	9	13	18½	
M	Graham Hancock	G 1	N 2	I 2	K 0	L 3	B 0	14
	Sean Lepicq	1	3	5	5	8	8	
N	Steve Chamberlin	I 3	M 5	A 3	D 4	G 3	H 2½	7=
	Adrian Nicolle	3	8	11	15	18	20½	

Play-off: Carrington/Surridge 3(35½) - Relle/Boyce 4(34½)

In round 3 our luck deserted us and we drew Relle and Boyce, whilst Dean/Cartwright played Steve Chamberlin and Adrian Nicolle, leading the pack with 8 points. Jim and I discovered that although our form was good enough to handle Charles Relle, our friend Dr Boyce was in one of his "my-winks-are-worth-ten-times-as-much-as-anybody-else's" moods. We decided early on to go for three points and should have got them, but we made a couple of bad shots just before rounds and it looked as though Boyce would wrap things up. Then late in rounds our opponents made an error and Jim'n'I demonstrated in turn our long-lost ability to make pots in round 5, emerging undaunted with a 2½-4½ scoreline. Meanwhile, the leading Sotwink pair had held Dean/Cartwright to 4-3, so that we were still only 2 points back in 3rd place with the pack only 2 points behind us.

In round 4 came the reckoning between Boyce and Relle and Dean and Cartwright, with the former pair winning 4-3. Jim and I now had to face the head of the pack in the shape of the Cambridge pair Andy Purvis and old hand Duncan Budd. The game started with some excellent bringing in by Jim and Duncan with both indicating ambitions for the pot. Duncan then bounced one into Jim's territory which he squopped, and then for some reason piled several more on top. Meanwhile I flirted with danger at the edge of the enemy zone, picking up a couple of winks of different colours and losing a couple of my own. At this point we had a slight advantage in colour-balance and a better chance of merging piles quickly. However, I could see one of those daring "tempo" attacks which would allow us to invade their area and take command. Forgetting my lack of practice, I attempted the opening move, a knock-off approach shot. The knock-off worked okay, but I squopped the wrong wink leaving a doubleton. There ensued by far the toughest game we had to play. By round 4 we extracted a free wink each and Jim was practically wetting himself about potting his in round 5 to beat Duncan who had already potted one. In the end I persuaded him to try it and managed a knock-off and squop followed by pot to get second place and 6-1. There is no doubt in my mind that this game was a turning point in the tournament. The clinical finish to such a tense and close game made us suddenly believe that we could win, and there we were tying for the lead with Boyce/Relle on 20½ points.

In round 5 we found we had to play Dean/Cartwright, with Boyce/Relle taking on the new pack leaders, Chris Andrew and Stew Sage. Jim and I brought in well and began to take

control of a large pile game. However, as so often happens Alan Dean came up with a nasty tactical surprise to put Rob on several guards. The pile attack was imminent and no guards were in range, but by now our confidence was up-and-up. I undertook the defence by jiggling the pile itself, whilst Jim strolled off to examine why our guards were sprawling so drunkenly at the bottom of a pile. Some small bits fell apart during rounds, but too late to stop us taking a 6-1 win with the main pile still intact. Meanwhile Boyce/Relle could only get 4-3 against Andrew and Sage, so that we entered the last round 2 points clear, and Dean/Cartwright had been squashed back into the pack.

In the final round Jim'n'I took on Andrew and Sage. The game was not without incident, but by now we had seen our destiny and obtained a fairly comprehensive 6-1 win. Relle and Boyce remained 2 points behind with a similar score against Budd and Furvis. Meanwhile, Tim Hedger and David Salter suddenly emerged from the pack to take 3rd place with an unexpected 7-0 against Dean and Cartwright. This last round demonstrated very clearly how quickly gaps can begin to open and middle order placings switch round as a Swiss approaches the point of a half-finished all-play-all. The pack was led jointly by Harbron/Norman and Edwards/Satchell on 22 points, 4 points behind Hedger/Salter and now 10½ off the lead. Meanwhile, Dean/Cartwright found themselves relegated to equal ninth place by their last round zero.

The play-off game was then between Jim Carrington and Mike Surridge (32½ points) and Alan Boyce and Charles Relle (30½ points). Initially the game was quite close, with Boyce bringing in to a position round a squop, whilst Jim and I took one side of the pot overlooking the Boyce area. Charles scattered things around a bit more, putting some near Alan's winks, some into our area to be squopped, and a couple somewhere else entirely. There was a slight lull and then Jim and I went into Alan's area and swamped him, capturing three or four winks (Charles apparently wasn't looking at the time).

I cannot remember ever being in such control in a play-off game, and the only chance our opponents had was that we would become overconfident and lose tempo or winks needlessly. This we resolved not to do, deciding at the start of rounds to go for 5 instead of 6 so as to ensure that we could take 3 if things went wrong. Late in rounds we decided to take the 3 points anyway when it was offered, squopping Charles up whilst allowing Alan to explode one of

the piles for first place.

It was slightly disappointing after having lost earlier to our opponents that we failed to win the play-off game, given the amount of control we had. Charles and Alan may have been quite peeved as well because they won all seven games that day (although only getting 6-1 in three), and failed to take the tournament. We drank to the quality of our opponents afterwards and didn't worry about it at all.

The 1987 Silver Wink: Southampton v Cambridge Nick Inglis
Southampton University, 1st March 1987

The crucial Silver Wink match between Southampton and Cambridge began in a blaze of organisational brilliance with the two teams assembling in different locations before some passing WETS worked out what was happening. Eventually the home side managed to find eight players and the match began.

Cambridge took the first round 11½-6½ after four fairly close games. This, rather extraordinarily, was the first time since 1978 that Cambridge had won the first round in this fixture. Three 6-1's in the next round put the match well in Cambridge's grasp, and another three in round 3 took the score to 58-26 and were enough to ensure a Cambridge victory.

At this point there was a break for lunch, during which Cambridge cunningly discovered a pub that was giving away free food (though it contained rather too many vegetables for CUTWC supporter Hancock's taste). Suitably refuelled the teams returned for the last round where the only question of importance was whether Cambridge could achieve a singable score. 80-32 had been suggested as a target and three of the pairs again obliged with 6's, but Mr Sage went for his customary pot out against Dr Boyce, and only slightly cocked it up, losing 3-4. By beating Oxford (in the previous week's Varsity Match) and Southampton, Cambridge therefore regained the Silver Wink. The final score was 79-33: a fairly crushing victory by a very strong Cambridge side. For Southampton Dr Boyce was his usual dependable self, while Norman and Hutchings also proved very difficult to nail down. For Cambridge the most encouraging features were the

ppw (5.625) and ppl (2.875) (with these averages Cambridge would have won even if they had lost 12 games). We are grateful to Julius and Clare Mach for putting up with the entire Cambridge touring party on the Saturday night.

SOTWINK

Paul Hutchings Steve Chamberlin Alan Boyce Edward Harry
Stef Norman Adrian Nicolle Sean Lepicq Nick May

	Tim Hedger	$2^{1/2}$	1	1	1	
C	David Salter	$4^{1/2}$	6	6	6	$22^{1/2}$
	Duncan Budd	1	2	4	1	
U	Andy Purvis	6	5	3	6	20
	Patrick Barrie	$4^{1/2}$	1	3	1	
T	Nick Inglis	$2^{1/2}$	6	4	6	$18^{1/2}$
	Chris Andrew	1	1	4	4	
W	Stew Sage	6	6	3	3	18
C		9	5	12	7	

CUTWC 79

SOTWINK 33

A Note on Tournament Format

Mike Surridge

In writing the 1987 Hampshire Open match report, I made no reference to some disagreement which appeared over the format. I would like to express my thoughts on this subject as some of the arguments I heard seem entirely fatuous.

It is a (sad) fact that in Swiss tournaments the lower placings often get wildly jumbled in a fashion dictated by the vagaries of a system designed to ensure that the leaders will have to play against their closest rivals at each stage.

This is actually due to the requirement that pairs only play each other once, with the result that as a tournament progresses, lower pairs are matched (almost randomly?) against the stronger opposition and lose ground against pairs they feel they ought to play against. The effect persists quite a way up the table, and becomes especially marked as the number of rounds exceeds one third the number of pairs. The phenomenon is well known and is the reason why play-off games are usually added to a Swiss tournament, to ensure that the leaders must play each other and to give them a chance to decide the tournament winner by beating each other instead of relying on the uncertainties in a Swiss draw.

After a given round, there will inevitably be pairs who feel that the draw has not favoured them and others who find that they have moved suddenly nearer to the qualifying places. It is natural for these people to wish that just one extra round be played so that they can make a final effort, usually against current rivals who they have not yet been able to play.

There was some confusion in this year's Open as the tournament director, bowing to this pressure, announced at the end of round 5 that 7 rounds would be played rather than 6. In the event it was decided not to do this, but arguments were voiced loudly on all sides, and agreement may have been reached only because by then it was obvious that very little could have affected the identity of the finalists.

I can see two reasons why it would not have been sensible to play the extra round.

Firstly, to borrow a phrase used by Steve Harbron, it cannot be fair on the players to move the winning post after

the start of a tournament. I can imagine that people might in some cases have handled their tactics rather differently in rounds 4 and 5 for a 7-round Swiss than they did thinking we would play 6 rounds only.

Secondly, as I have tried to indicate, the play-off game is very important to help compensate for the uncertainties arising from a Swiss draw. In case anybody feels that this can't really be true (as perhaps it wasn't on this occasion), I would like to point out that I have twice qualified for the play-off without meeting the other pair involved in during the Swiss section of Hampshire Open. On one of these occasions I would have won the tournament had Cyril Edwards and Mick Still not taken advantage of their opportunity to beat me! It cannot therefore be sensible to play an extra round of Swiss if it may prevent the play-off game from finishing.

There is a school of thought which says that play-offs can be sorted out afterwards. Last year I had the dubious pleasure of holding the London Open Pairs trophy for 4 months on the basis of being in the lead (eventually Alan Boyce and I were able to complete the tournament at the Teams of Four with a satisfactory outcome). I would agree that the London Pairs could do with less play-off games (not none as some would suggest, but not 3 rounds either). However having decided on a number of play-off rounds one should then fit in a good number of Swiss rounds, but leaving time for play-offs to be completed.

Finally, although it seems there are good arguments for having play-offs in Swiss tournaments and for allowing time to play them, some would argue that they just want to get an extra game in exchange for the trouble of travelling to tournament, instead of giving that privilege only to the top pairs.

In answer to this I would point out that there is nothing stopping people not involved in a play-off from having a game themselves. In my experience people actually like to watch the final game of a tournament (I think that people are less keen to watch 3 extra rounds, and I suggest a 1 round play-off for the London Pairs would be best).

In regard to the hassle of travelling to the tournament I would like to point out that I arrived by 757 from Amsterdam at considerable expense to take part in the events of 28th Feb/1st March. I did this because I hoped to get plenty of

games, but I wasn't thinking of the all important 7th game of the Hants Open. I travelled hoping to play in that, but also hoping to play a few Marchant Trophy games for Wessex Exiles. Instead I had to suffer the quite awful experience of watching Cambridge beat Southampton in the Silver Wink (straining at the leash to get at the hated foe), after which CUTWC buggered off home with the Silver. This left the Exiles to play a single match against Sotwink A, as demoralised an outfit as you could ever wish to see. (Of course Sotwink this year are almost totally devoid of experience and knew well what the Silver Wink score would be like. It is just unfortunate that with two exceptions, they didn't seem interested in getting squidgers out at all that day).

In summary, if you want one-day tournaments then you must have Swiss tournaments. If you have Swiss then you should have play-offs and allow time for them. If you want more rounds of Swiss you should play faster or start earlier (and agree at the start how many rounds you can manage). If you want more games from your winks trips then you should make more of the Marchant Trophy, Golden Squidger, etc, in which you can play as often as you want (opponents willing).

Winking World is the official journal of the English Tiddlywinks Association, and is edited by Nick Inglis of Churchill College, Cambridge, CB3 0DS, tel 0223 336223. It is issued free to members of ETWA and costs 25p to non-members. Material published in Winking World is not copyright, but anyone who quotes from Winking World is asked to acknowledge the source.