

WINKING WORLD 53

Autumn 1989

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Editorial

At last, a slightly belated Winking World 53. I was on my sick-bed long enough to ensure that it missed its desired birth at the Teams of Four in Oxford, but I hope you will forgive it that act of reticence and read it nonetheless.

Various names recur in the writing credits to WW 53, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy, Phil, Stew and Larry in particular for their contributions. Andy could not be drawn into writing another Jubilee Trophy report, and as nobody else wanted to write one (there are only so many ways of writing "Purvis won 19 1/2 - 1 1/2"), there is not one in this issue. Also missing, in its now traditional fashion, is the Hampshire Open report.

The write-up of the recently held teams of four will appear in the next Winking World, but this is a good opportunity to keep you informed of developments arising from the ETWA Congress held on the Saturday evening. There was a fully Thatcherite Committee re-shuffle; the Committee now is:

Chairman Alan Boyce,
 18, Acton Close,
 Church Hill South,
 Redditch,
 Worcester.
 B98 9HP.

Treasurer Patrick Barrie,
 Emmanuel College,
 Cambridge.
(who would be delighted to receive your ETWA subscriptions)

Secretary Dr Stewart Sage,
 Queens' College,
 Cambridge.

WW Editor Andy Purvis,
 Merton College,
 Oxford.

I wish them all, especially Andy, well. Merton only has small pigeon-holes, so if we all write loads of articles, he will be really embarrassed. Okay?

Tony Brennan

Initiation Rites

It all began with a speculative memo to my work colleagues, the gist of which being "How about entering a Novices' Tournament?" Well, I thought, one can but try; however, having baited the trap with food and drink, and indulged in a little arm-twisting, twenty people took the plunge. Maybe it just proves that accountants are daft enough to try anything. Alternatively, perhaps they were just curious to see what this game was that I'd been prattling on about for years!

So there we were, Thursday 27th April, squidge off 6pm following a very rapid demo session. Ten randomly-drawn pairs (including my wife who thought she was only going to watch!) commenced round one. Most were attracted by the pot, and without any technical inhibitions played a double-pot strategy. Liz, however, had seen winks before, and she and her partner engineered a large pile near the pot. Simon's ultimate dig-out was worthy of Alan Dean. One way or another, three 6-1s and two 5-2s showed who had got the hang of it the fastest.

On to round two with six pairs left (five winners plus the best loser). Tighter stuff now, although Liz and Simon took another six and wondered what the problem was. Both other games ended 4-3, giving us three semi-finalists. A game of total concept was played between the two 4-3 losers for the final place.

By the semi-final stage, tension was mounting with the remaining pairs starting to take things seriously. Liz and Simon secured their place in the final with a good 5-2 win based on sound potting. The other game pitted two pairs of pot-out merchants against each other. It was very close, but a last-minute tactical switch to squopping gave a 4 1/2 - 2 1/2 win to Roger and Kevin.

And so to the final...Roger Joye and Kevin Lambert v. Liz Clark and Simon Wood. This was another close match following a more recognisable tactical pattern. Going into rounds, Simon's potting proved to be decisive as he and Liz emerged as 4 1/2 - 2 1/2 winners. I promise it wasn't fixed!

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, having over-come their scepticism at playing a "kid's game". Maybe we'll do it again...

World Singles 29

World Singles 29 took place on Saturday evening, January 21, after a full day of an Individual and Novice simultaneous tournament. This was Dave's first challenge in about five years. Head to head, Larry had a 3-2 advantage.

Game one was surprisingly fast-paced. An early large pile was blown up by Dave, but soon re-formed. The game remained fairly wide open throughout, but towards the end of regulation time, Larry began to take control. Red (Dave) was nearly out of it, and this hurt in rounds. Larry eventually squopped Dave up for a 6-1 in a well-played but normal game. The players managed twenty-five rounds in regulation, but this pace would not hold up for long.

A film crew from Booz-Allen then showed up and the next five games were played under the lights amid random confusions. In game two, both players brought in well. A big pile developed near the cup, Dave blew it, but it re-developed. Beginning rounds, Larry had many free blues, red was tied up and it looked like a 4-3 to Larry. In round four, Dave made a nice bomb over the pot to free three greens, and he took over the game in the last two rounds to sneak a 582 win.

Larry began game three by bringing in a green next to a red and then going off with yellow. Dave got six pottable blues, but Larry squopped the furthest one. Red got a double, and a mad scramble began. Dave was shooting better than Larry in this game, and by the time limit has Larry squopped up. With six free turns there is plenty of pile protection, Dave did not go for the pot-out, and was content with six. Dave took the lead, 12-9.

Game four was perhaps the most interesting of the match. Larry gained control of a thirteen-wink pile, and everyone kept hopping to the high part of the pile, making shot after shot. Dave was wondering if he would ever get to blow it up, but his attacks finally paid off near the time limit, and the game eventually re-started. Larry had a slight edge in a now wide-open game, and it now looked like a 5-2, to even the match. However, poor potting downed him to a 4-3 loss, as neither player distinguished himself in rounds. It is now 16-12 to Dave, reminiscent of their first match in 1980, when Larry held the four-point lead after four games. In that one, Dave stormed from behind with three sixes. This time, however, it did not look as though history would repeat itself, as Dave

gradually gained control in a compact pile game. Dave took a risky shot, hopping off one wink to save a pile, and Larry was reduced to boondocking. Dave eventually squopped Larry up for a solid 6-1, and a seemingly insurmountable 22-13 lead.

Booz-Allen had apparently seen enough, as they packed up and left. Dave must have wanted them to stay on, as all his wins were in their presence. Larry got a break in game six when Dave Carnovskied a little green. Each player got a double, Larry then converting his into a barely-judged triple. This pile now became quite large, with Larry in tenuous control. Dave blew it, but Larry regained control. Dave was down to two winks, one on a single and one on a triple. The potted wink really hurts. Dave managed to blow one of the scattered piles, but Larry quickly re-took the free winks and Dave was forced to come off the triple just before time ended. It was an obvious 6-1 to Larry, who now trailed by 23-19, at least a manageable score.

Game seven was the tensest game I have ever played in. Dave rolled off with green and yellow, but Larry could not capitalise on either. Incredibly, Dave then rolled off another yellow, and then yellow subbed into a quad. Dave eventually blew this without much success. A monster nineteen-wink pile developed, Larry in control, but a pile this size normally will not last, and part of it is blown near the time limit. At the time limit, Dave has four free yellows and a green, Larry has three reds and a blue, the rest are in a few big piles under Larry's control. At this point, it looked like Dave could play yellows for at least the necessary two, but he decided to attack instead. I REALLY disagreed with this strategy. The first few rounds were rather sloppy, with several missed pots by both sides. Tension was really running high, and the room was silent. Beginning round four, yellow potted one, but missed a makeable big. Blue potted one, then piddled, and green took a blue on the pile. Red potted, and now had a five inch little on big squop, that would force Dave to pot an eighteen-incher in the fifth. Larry was obviously quite nervous, as his squopping had been quite erratic throughout the match, but this one went right up on top, as Dave you-know-whats in his pants. He now lined up the long one, but it did not go. He had one chance left of a miracle shot with green, but this proved impossible, and Larry eked out the needed six to take the closest match to date, 25-24.

Larry now gets to play someone other than Dave or Jon (eleven of his fourteen matches have been against these two), as he will take on Charles and try to tie Dave for most World Singles wins, at nine.

Larry Kahn

World Singles 30

Fitzpatrick Hall, Queens' College, Cambridge:

After Larry Khan's comeback against Dave Lockwood to win WS29, he was attempting to equal Dave's record of nine World Title wins by beating that Grand Old Man of British Tiddlywinks, Charles Relle. This was Charles' third challenge - he had previously gone down to Lockwood in '82 and Mapley in '88 - might it be third time lucky? After a few practice games there was some delay in finding a mat properly marked with baselines. Intricate geometric calculations with improvised 3-foot rulers fortunately were abandoned when the CUTwC President arrived with access to an already-marked one.

The first game was a close, tense affair with both players missing several shots, as happens at the start of WS matches. The speed of play was very slow; despite regular clock stoppages after 30 seconds, it was only the eighteenth round when time was called. The position was still fairly even. Larry opted to pot two reds in round one and played another off a pile, leaving Charles needing to chip out his winks from piles in order to catch up. Yellow looked the main threat to red, and Larry chose to play for 4 by squopping a free yellow with his only mobile blue in round three. Charles, however, made all his shots in rounds - excellent pots, squops and bring-ins under pressure. A spectacular John Lennon Memorial Shot by Larry with blue onto a green on a blue-red doubleton was not sufficient, and Charles safely potted a yellow ending round five for first place and a well-deserved 5-2 win.

In game two, Charles got a positional advantage from the bring-in, and half-way through he had one of Larry's colours (green) squopped up. However, yellow was well-placed to attack the main pile, and an 8-inch squop by red was needed to retain the situation. The wink subbed under the front edge of the pile, and separated the pile in two. This separation was very short-lived as Charles' exclamation blew the top wink from one pile to the other, necessitating an unusual pile reconstruction by IFTwA umpire, Jon Mapley. At the start of rounds, Charles looked likely to take first

place as he had three blues completely free. However, things were not so clear-cut by round four - "Quid faciendum est...oh, WHY do I speak Latin?" moaned Charles quietly. At the start of round five, blue and yellow both had two in the pot and one free on a pile, with green beating red. Blue now had a choice. He could either boondock a green, giving a red free on the pile in a position to free two more blues (barring a good green squop) which would give blue nine points and first place, as yellow would have had to come off a blue if Larry tried to pot it, or blue could attempt to pot directly off the pile. Charles chose to pot; the wink hit the front rim of the pot, and fell where green could easily squop it, taking blue down to six points. Larry had snatched the game 5-2, and levelled the match score.

There was now a break for supper and interviews with Sky TV. After the interval, the speed of play increased noticeably - the over-all average was twenty-three rounds before time. Again Charles brought in better than Larry, and was soon two doubletons up. However, accurate squopping from a now relaxed Larry quickly removed Charles' advantage. As rounds approached, Charles missed a short shot onto a pile with his last yellow, and it was squopped. This left green with too much to do, and the squop-up (with no free turns) came in round four. Charles came close to potting the freed green from a completely nurdled position for an extra half point, but Larry had achieved a psychologically damaging 6-1 win.

In game four, Larry maintained the pressure all the way through. A series of missed squops by Charles (four successive blue turns, in which red also missed twice) gave Larry an enormous advantage. Charles carried on fighting, but Larry was no longer in the mood to miss much, and the squop-up in rounds gave him a safe 6-1 and a lead of 19-9 within sight of victory. Larry quickly gained the upper hand in game five - Charles was always chasing, attempting 3-4 inch squops and failing several, leaving Larry to kill from point blank range. A couple of Charles' traditional bristols kept the game alive longer than might have happened, but Larry was completely dominant and had the squop-up with five minutes to go. He easily held the position for 6-1 and an over-all 25-10 victory.

Congratulations to Larry for another high quality display in winning his ninth World Singles, and commiserations to Charles who fought well, particularly in the first two games.

Patrick Barrie

British Rail - Bless 'em

As I sat in a near-deserted train on my way to Phil's Kidderminster Invitation, an earnest young man approached brandishing a clipboard.

"British Rail are conducting a survey, and I was wondering if you might answer a few questions", he began hopefully. "Sure", said I, in the hope that I'd get a chance to rant (as I do) about missed connections and the rest. It started innocuously enough....

"Where did you board the train?" Derby.

"What is your destination?" Kidderminster.

"Where are you going in Kidderminster?" The Leisure Centre.

"What's the purpose of your trip?" I'm playing tiddlywinks.

There was a slight pause, as he took a deep breath and wondered why HE always got the loonies. Then he stood up, face reddening, saying, "Well, if THAT's your attitude..."

I tried to explain, but he soon escaped in search of someone more cooperative. Do snooker players have to put up with this?

Andy Purvis

Marchant Trophy 1988/89

One match.

WETS just over-coming SOTWINK.

Enough said.

Phil Clark

The National Pairs, 1989

Once more to Cambridge, this time for the National Pairs. A strong field - Kahn and Relle possibly favourites, but Surridge and Dean, Myers and Purvis and Mapley and Brennan could all claim to have a good chance.

Such claims were soon to look somewhat strained, however, as Larry and Charles set about overwhelming the bottom half of the draw. After six rounds they were standing in splendid isolation on 37 points, 4 1/2 clear of their nearest challengers, Purvis and Myers. The soon-to-be Oxford pair were ruing a 3-4 defeat by Wiseman and Phillips in the first round, but sevens against Hull and Thorpe and Collins and Wynn helped limit the damage. Indeed, the following round saw them take over at the top of the table, their six against Scarrott and Jeffries capitalising fully on Kahn and Relle's single point against Heading and Wright. Normality returned in round eight for Larry and Charles, as they sixed Sage and Rose, whilst Andy and Geoff could only take four off Heading and Wright. Larry and Charles thus led over-night by 1 1/2 points. Elsewhere, Dean and Surridge had stumbled against Sage & Rose and Thorpe & Hull, the latter having been responsible for the first of three defeats inflicted on Mapley and Brennan, who were in "one of those days" mode. Inglis & Moore won five games, each 6-1, to put them nine points off the lead, and five behind Boyce & Carrington, whose p.p.l. of three kept them well in touch. Perhaps the pair of the day, however, were Heading & Wright, whose 37 points had come off eight of the teams in the top half of the draw. If they could rabbit-bash on Sunday, and the others all lost one or two....

Sadly for them, however, they were to fade away early on the Sunday, starting with scores of 2, 1, 6 and 2. Relle & Kahn started with a four off Boyce & Carrington, allowing Surridge & Dean and Purvis & Myers to close their respective gaps by a point. Round ten saw these three pairs all taking sixes, Myers & Purvis doing so off Boyce & Carrington. This was to start a major collapse for Alan and Jim, if a run of threes and fours can be classed as a collapse - it is certainly not enough to win a tournament. Round eleven saw Charles & Larry re-gaining the points from the following two pairs - their six comparing well against two fives. The lead over Andy & Geoff was again 1 1/2 points, with Mike & Alan only 4 1/2 further back.

Round twelve saw a major set-back for Mike & Alan, as they could only take one point off Shrimpton & Barrie. With the leading pairs both taking six, a two-horse race was on. Round thirteen was unlucky for Geoff & Andy, as they could only draw with Inglis & Moore, whilst the leaders' six off Jon & Tony stretched the lead to four points. Nick & Richard could not do similar damage to the leaders in round fourteen, allowing them to take six, whilst the second-placed pair could only score 4 1/2. The next round held the key to the tournament, as the top two pairs played each other. It was rather an inconclusive key, however, as Geoff & Andy won a tight struggle 4-3; 4 1/2 points in it, two rounds left. Charles & Larry took 5 1/2 points off Satchell & Hancock, while Andy & Geoff were this time on the wrong end of a 4-3.

The last round started with Charles & Larry guaranteed at least a tie - one point off Alan & Mike would be enough. Though Geoff & Andy added some pressure by taking a quick seven, matters were settled as Charles & Larry took five points - their over-all winning margin. Well, I said they were favourites....

Tony Brennan

1989 National Pairs		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	Total	Position
A	Alan Dean & Mike Surridge	—	2	4	3	3	1	3	5	6	6	5	2	7	2	4	6	5	6	70	3
B	Larry Kahn & Charles Relle	5	—	3	6	6	6	4	5½	6	6	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	91½	1
C	Geoff Myers & Andy Purvis	3	4	—	7	3½	5	6	6	5	6	4	4½	6	7	4½	7	3	5	86½	2
D	Tony Brennan & Jon Mapley	4	1	0	—	1½	6	5	6	4	2	1	5½	4	1	6	7	6	6	66	7
E	Nick Inglis & Richard Moore	4	1	3½	5½	—	2	4	6	1½	2	1	2	6	6	6	6	5	6	67½	5
F	Patrick Barrie & Gary Shrimpton	6	1	2	1	5	—	3	2	1	0	3½	3	3	1	5	5	5	4	50½	14
G	Alan Boyce & Jim Carrington	4	3	1	2	3	4	—	4	3	6	3	6	6	6	4	3	4	6	68	4
H	Graham Hancock & Alex Satchell	2	1½	1	1	1	5	3	—	6	6	4½	2	6	6	3	6	6	1	61	9
I	Heather Dean & Keith Seaman	1	1	2	3	5½	6	4	1	—	4	1	5	5½	2	6	5	5½	5	62½	8
J	Tim Jeffreys & Phil Scarrott	1	1	1	5	5	7	1	1	3	—	1	5	5½	4½	1½	6	2½	6	57	11
K	Anthony Heading & Peter Wright	2	6	3	6	6	3½	4	2½	6	6	—	6	2	1	1	5	1	6	67	6
L	Matthew Rose & Stew Sage	5	1	2½	1½	5	4	1	5	2	2	1	—	3	1	6	5	5	6	56	12
M	Phil Clark & Steve Chamberlin	0	1	1	3	1	4	1	1	1½	1½	5	4	—	5	6	4½	1	1	41½	17
N	Dave Hull & Geoff Thorpe	5	1	0	6	1	6	1	1	5	2½	6	6	2	—	1	6	0	2	51½	13
O	Rob Cartwright & Steve Harbron	3	1	2½	1	1	2	3	4	1	5½	6	1	1	6	—	6	1½	2	47½	15
P	Stuart Collins & Ed Wynn	1	1	0	0	1	2	4	1	2	1	2	2	2½	1	1	—	1	0	22½	18
Q	Steve Phillips & Julian Wiseman	2	1	4	1	2	2	3	1	1½	4½	6	2	6	7	5½	6	—	4	58½	10
R	Alastair Grant & Stewart Fenton	1	0	2	1	1	3	1	6	2	1	1	1	6	5	5	7	3	—	46	16

London Open - 8 July 1989

The 1989 London Open was held, notwithstanding the geographical sensibilities of the Editor, once again in Pinner. There were fourteen pairs, including some interesting new combinations, plus a twenty-ninth entrant, Steve Phillips, who agreed to play solo. An eight round Swiss was played with one bye per round, the first recipients of which were Purvis and Clark, who promptly left for "The George". Otherwise, round one saw the host pair Jeffries and Braidman record their only win of the day, while Mapley and Relle went down 4-3 to a pair faithfully recorded as "Miserable Unshaven Bastard" and Heading.

In the following rounds, many pairs enjoyed fluctuating fortunes, keeping the cumulative scores fairly tight. However, Boyce and Cartwright and Surridge and Myers were both turning in consistent scores, which put them ahead of the field, the latter recording solid 5-2 wins over the eventual winning and third-placed pairs. By the end of round six, their (unaveraged) 32 points put them four ahead of Boyce and Cartwright, who went down 6-1 to Purvis and Clark, to make the latter favourites. Their winning sequence ended however with 4-3 defeats in round seven (Rose and Hancock) and eight (Roscoe and Thorpe).

At the conclusion of the final round, calculators were primed to calculate the averages, and thus take account of byes. Each bye round had been accorded five points for the purposes of the draw, with replacement by the average score at the end - a sensible system. It was clear, however, that this would not affect the outcome, since Boyce and Cartwright had ended purposefully with 6-1 victories. Both played to a consistently high standard, scoring not less than six in their victories and losing only to the second and third pairs. Overall, they thoroughly deserved their win.

Surridge and Myers may perhaps have been disappointed to end runners-up, ruing their final two rounds. Purvis and Clark surprised themselves with third place, after what had seemed too many close scores for comfort. The compactness of the scoring is shown by the fact that just over five points separated third and eleventh places.

So, all in all a good tournament, which the Wessex Exiles left to celebrate in the traditional manner...

Phil Clark

London Open Scores

Opponents		Score		Round								Pos'n
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
1	Jeffreys Braidman	15 5	11 1	3 2	2 1	9 1	14 0	BYE	7 1	15		
		5	6	8	9	10	10	(15)	12.6			
2	Heading M.U.B.	8 4	14 2.5	4 0	1 6	5 1	15 6	9 6	3 6	6		
		4	6.5	6.5	12.5	13.5	19.5	25.5	31.5			
3	Barrie Gameson	13 1	5 4.5	1 5	4 2	BYE	12 0	15 4.5	2 1	12		
		1	5.5	10.5	12.5	(17.5)	12.5	17	20.6			
4	Rose Hancock	7 2	9 5	2 7	3 5	10 1	BYE	13 4	6 4	5		
		2	7	14	19	20	(25)	24	32			
5	Roscoe Thorpe	10 1	3 2.5	12 6	7 1	2 6	9 6	14 7	13 4	4		
		1	3.5	9.5	10.5	16.5	22.5	29.5	33.5			
6	Clark Purvis	(BYE)	12 7	11 4	13 2	7 3.5	10 6	8 4	4 3	3		
		(5)	7	11	13	16.5	22.5	26.5	33.7			
7	Sage Gandy	4 5	(BYE)	8 1	5 6	6 3.5	11 3	12 2	1 6	6=		
		5	(10)	6	12	15.5	18.5	20.5	30.29			
8	Mapley Relle	2 3	15 6	7 6	10 1	14 5	13 2	6 3	(BYE)	9		
		3	9	15	16	21	23	26	29.7			
9	Mayes Salter	11 1.5	4 2	15 1	12 2	1 6	5 1	2 1	14 1	13=		
		1.5	3.5	4.5	6.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5			
10	Boyce Cartwright	5 6	13 2	14 7	8 6	4 6	6 1	11 6	12 6	1		
		6	8	15	21	27	28	34	40			
11	Inglis Satchell	9 5.5	1 6	6 3	(BYE)	13 1	7 4	10 1	15 6	6=		
		5.5	11.5	14.5	(19.5)	15.5	19.5	20.5	30.29			
12	Smith Grant	14 4	6 0	5 1	9 5	15 6	3 7	7 5	10 1	10		
		4	4	5	10	16	23	28	29			
13	Surridge Myers	3 6	10 5	(BYE)	6 5	11 6	8 5	4 3	5 3	2		
		6	11	(16)	16	22	27	30	37.7			
14	Dean Dean	12 3	2 4.5	10 0	15 6	8 2	1 7	5 0	10 1	11		
		3	7.5	7.5	13.5	15.5	22.5	22.5	23.5			
15	Phillips -	1 2	8 1	9 6	14 1	12 1	2 1	3 2.5	11 1	13=		
		2	3	9	10	11	12	14.5	15.5			

NATwA Singles 1989

The NATwA Singles Tournament was held on July 29-30 in Silver Spring. Dave, looking for any advantage possible, arranged to have the first day's play take place in his church's social hall. This put the only Jew in the tournament at a distinct home field disadvantage. Only eight people showed up, but it was a good eight; five former National Champions (Larry, Dave and Bob, as well as Jon Mapley and Charles Relle from England), plus Rick, Jim and Brad. Julian Wiseman in California decided it wasn't worth £1,000 to come. Apparently not dedicated enough.... (at an estimated £50 per total point expected, that IS expensive).

Anyway, as things progressed Andy Purvis would have been proud of Larry's start - four straight pot-outs and 25 points. However, this was not even good enough for the lead, as Dave was racking up 25 1/2. Jon ran into their buzz saws early on, getting zeros in rounds three and four. Meanwhile, everyone else was knocking each other off so that after five rounds Dave and Larry were 8 1/2 and 9 points ahead of the field.

Lunch was spent wandering the streets of Wheaton searching for an urchin-free restaurant. We finally settled on a Mexican-Salvadorean dive, perhaps not the best choice for Jon, who was feeling rather ill (eleven points in five games will do that to you!) At lunch, it was mildly suggested that, as Larry and Dave were, as Bob put it, "kicking everyone else's butt", that after lunch they have just the one extra game instead of another full round....

By the end of the seventh game that did not seem like such a bad idea, as they were half a point apart during every round, and now stood at 41 1/2 for Dave, 41 for Larry, with Bob a distant third at 26. Round eight held form, but everything broke loose in round nine. Brad gave Larry his first loss, 6-1, while Jon came back against Dave and gave him a one, leaving both leaders mooning about missed opportunities. Meanwhile, Charles was winning his fifth straight, to pull into fourth.

In the final game of the day, Larry, perhaps feeling tired, "spazzed" an easy shot against Charles late in the game, handing him 5 1/2 in what had looked like a 4-3 either way game. Dave did not fail against Brad, and the day ended with Dave in first by five points over Larry, with Bob in third 15 1/2 back.

On Sunday, play switched to Larry's house, where Jon played his second excellent game against Larry, and only got another one for his trouble. Dave, meanwhile, only got five off Charles, leaving him still four up. In round twelve both leaders got five; Larry off Bob in a real struggle, and Dave off Jim. Meanwhile, the race for third had tightened up; Bob had 46, Charles 42 and Brad had an outside chance with 37. In the penultimate round, Larry eventually got six off Rick after another struggle, Jon started a late charge with a seven off Jim, while Dave played Bob.

On the final shot of this game, Dave had an easy pot off a wink for a six. If he passed it was 5 1/2, and if he missed it was five. In terms of his lead over Larry, it was 3 1/2 to sit and three or four otherwise. At this point in the tournament, I would not have tried the shot in a million years, as the difference between a 3 and a 3 1/2 point lead is immense, while 3 1/2 to 4 is not quite as relevant. Jon and Dave both disagreed, which surprised me, and Dave missed the shot, leaving him three points up.

It hardly seemed to matter anyway, as Larry proceeded to roll three off early against Dave, and missed several easy squops. Halfway through the game, Dave had most of the spread-out single squops, with Larry somewhat controlling a peripheral area of small winks. Larry then Bristolled a double from right next to the cup (Dave having apparently thought the shot too difficult to attempt), and this became a new focal point. Meanwhile, Larry started to recover, and Dave "spazzed" a shot attempting to create a double, giving Larry some hope.

Two large piles developed at Larry's double site, (five of Dave's reds) but at the critical juncture Dave had control of both piles, each of which had more of his winks in them, but with piddle possibilities. He decided with blue to piddle a red out of a two on three pile. It was not brilliant, but red (on the other pile) now had what looked to both players like a relatively easy Bristol to gobble everything. Larry decided to attack the piddled little red, and made the squop from a foot. Dave attempted the Bristol and just over-shot, but the result was horrible, and Larry got most of it back. By the time limit, Dave was reduced to having to bomb with a big red. However, one good hit could have produced the needed two. After several ineffectual tries, he made a great shot ending round three, forcing Larry to squop the pile from about three feet with a big yellow. Larry made this, then squopped the last big red with green to win the game 6-1, and the tournament by two points. A really tough loss for Dave, his fifth second place finish to Larry in the last five years.

Meanwhile, Jon was playing Bob; Jon knew that a seven would tie them, while Bob did not. Jon eventually got the pot-out and the seven, tying Bob for fourth. Charles had secured third with a six pot-out against Rick, his eighth win in the last ten games. Final scores were Larry 72 1/2, Dave 70 1/2, Charles 53 2/3, Jon & Bob 48, Brad 43 1/2, Jim 36 1/2 and Rick 21 1/2 (Maths? - Ed.)

Oh, by the way, the World Masters Singles, run simultaneously and unknown until now, was won by Larry over Dave, 40 1/2 to 35 (ignore all scores against Brad, Rick and Jim). Also, if Larry manages to win the ETWA Singles, the unfortunate top Brit. would have to beat him three times to get the World Singles title.

Letters to the Editor

140, Duffield Road,
Derby.
DE3 1BG.
12/6/89.

Dear Sir,

In Winking World 46, Dave Lockwood started a debate on the merits of knockout formats versus leagues. He made it very clear that he was in favour of knockout tournaments.

Dave asked, "If our objective in the National Championships is primarily to determine the best player or pair on the day, are we currently achieving that goal?"

His argument against leagues was as follows; "The ambiguity inherent in a Round Robin has created a tournament system in which the ability to 'bash rabbits' is most important. The 1984 ETwA Singles Champion averaged 3 p.p.g. in his three Round Robin games against second, third and fourth place finishers, but his average of six against the rest of the field won the day....Have we achieved our objective? Would we have a different winner if the rabbits had not shown up?"

Dave was not the winner of the 1984 ETwA Singles. He tied Larry for first place in the league, and lost the play-off game.

The 1988 EtWA Singles Champion lost to the top three Britons. In the games between the top four finishers, Dave (1st) scored 9 1/2, Larry (2nd) scored 3, Charles (3rd) scored 14 1/2 and Geoff (4th) scored 15.

Have we achieved our objective? And has Dave changed his views?

Yours,

Andy Purvis.

18, Acton Close,
Church Hill South,
Redditch,
Worcs.
B98 9HP.

Dear Sir,

London Open 1989. I have returned.

General MacArthur.

Kidderminster Invitation

Kidderminster. Hardened residents may admit to its being a pleasant enough place; cynics may suggest that it has a good ring-road. It has recently acquired a Leisure Centre anxious for publicity, and so late in 1988 I opened negotiations for staging a tournament. Terms were agreed well in advance of having any competitors; I was relying on the willingness of players to travel virtually anywhere at any time (and was not to be disappointed).

The tournament was set for 10th June with some staying over on the Friday. Thus it was that I led Nick, Graham and Patrick to 'The Landoak' to sample the local elixir and enjoy the price of a pint. Nick soon acquired a band of admirers since I doubt if the place had seen anything like him since the last fancy dress disco. When Mike arrived I was grateful that he had had his hair cut; the locals would not have been able to cope! Charles arrived early having, with characteristic flair, risen before the crack of dawn to take in Tewkesbury Abbey en route (Imagine travelling from London to Cambridge via Ipswich and you've got the idea...)

Soon I had eleven players, plus myself, and an impressive-looking tournament movement. Knowing we had to play swiftly to fit in eleven rounds, we managed two by lunchtime. There were exten-

uating circumstances. Central TV seemed determined to conduct interviews and film play, while I had to do live radio broadcasts and talk to the press. I won't say where I finished in the tournament, but the moral is not to play in your own event.

So, round one took a good hour, then Graham realised that he was having to play Charles four times while avoiding Jon and Alan. Something was horribly wrong but defied correction, and somehow we played another round before lunch, a buffet on site.

Not for nothing, however, had I invited players notable for their decisiveness. Without a dither or a shot-judge, we played nine rounds in very good time, with Jon just pipping Graham for first place.

Such was the local interest that a crop of civic dignitaries appeared to present the trophy (and buy us drinks). We were also obliged to watch our TV performance, dutifully videoed for mutual embarrassment. Then it was time to set sail for the Tumbling Sailor, Desperate Dan pies and pints of Lumphammer (How did you get over the canal, Jon?).

Perhaps the last word should go to the TV presenter who, having Alan Dean in shot, informed the public that "while some play for fun, others enjoy grinding their opponents into the dust".

Phil Clark

The Second Somerset Invitation

The Somerset Wagon, Chilcompton, January 4th & 5th 1989.: The New Year once again saw winkers gathering from far and wide at the Somerset Wagon, where my parents just happen to be landlords. Once again, I invited a range of players, from the ancient Inglis, through more recent graduates like Wright, Purvis and Shrimpton down to four promising CUTwC novices. As in the previous year, the format was a sixteen-player individual over two days.

For some of the novices, this was the first chance to see the ex-CUTwC players in their natural environment. Only a novice would have taken Wright, last year's winner, up on his challenge of a pre-tournament game of drinking chess. Mr Wynn lost the game and his memory; CUTwC folklore was enriched by the tales of the grandfather clock and the greenhouse; not that I'll mention them, of course.

The first day's play saw, as last year, a flurry of media activity. This time, TV and radio coverage were by the BBC, whilst three local rags carried previews and reports. During the lunch interval, the inquisitive Alasdair Grant became stuck in one of the animal traps displayed on the wall. A variety of kitchen implements was put to good use, and eventually the Antipodean's freedom was restored.

The evening even saw the invention of a new CUTwC drinking game; Nurdle, Boondock, British Prime Minister. Viscount Goodrich featured prominently, and other, less tasteful categories were explored.

With resumption of play on the second day, the men were separated from the boys. Andy Purvis pulled steadily ahead and took the title with 76 points from fifteen games. Peter Wright could only manage second place this year with 67 1/2 points, and Patrick Barrie finished third on 62 1/2. Despite successes in the American and British Singles, Myers finished way down the table, and the ETwA Chairman improved on his performance of last year, hauling himself up to fourteenth.

Stewart Sage

Thorpe was Responsible for this one, too.

The Stockport Invitation.

I phoned Geoff during the week before the tournament to obtain obstructions on how to get there. He told me there would be either four or five taking part. I thought the small turn-out was due to the fact that Stockport is north of Birmingham, but having been to Geoff's house I realise there was another reason; Geoff's house is a tip. He has lived there for nine years and has not cleaned it in that time. The bathroom defies description by one of such a refined tongue as myself.

The four participants were Geoff (the host), Graham Hancock (who would have been the holder, had there been a trophy), Dave Salter and Alan Boyce. Nine games were played, three with each partner.

Series one.

Boyce & Salter	6	Thorpe & Hancock	1
Boyce & Thorpe	4	Hancock & Salter	3
Boyce & Hancock	6	Thorpe & Salter	1

This series turned out to be the most important. Boyce and Salter started so they meant to go on, with the first of their three 6-1s. The second game was the closest all day: a number of piles developed with no over-all control. With a little luck, Boyce and Thorpe could have turned it into a six, but they did not. The significance of the third game is that it was the only game that Hancock won all day, and so effectively determined the result.

Series two.

Boyce & Salter	6	Thorpe & Hancock	1
Boyce & Thorpe	6	Hancock & Salter	1
Boyce & Hancock	1	Thorpe & Salter	6

Throughout this series, Hancock had severe difficulties doing anything right. Things got worse during the final series.

Series three.

Boyce & Salter	6	Thorpe & Hancock	1
Boyce & Thorpe	7	Hancock & Salter	0
Boyce & Hancock	1	Thorpe & Salter	6

In the first game of this series Thorpe tried to pot out. Boyce and Salter squopped one, held on to it and arranged a counter-pot. In the second game, Salter tried a pot-out. He had five in when Boyce went off the mat trying to squop the last one. Salter missed the pot, and Thorpe squopped him. Boyce eventually counter-potted, then Thorpe ran six. This decided the tournament.

In the final game, Hancock hit rock bottom. He forgot which colour he was, played an opponent's wink and squopped himself. Overall, Boyce won the tournament. He was the only player to win a game partnering Hancock, so he probably deserved it.

Final position:

Alan Boyce	43
Dave Salter	35
Geoff Thorpe	33
Graham Hancock	15

Alan Boyce

The North American Pairs

Ithaca High School, Ithaca, N.Y. April 23rd & 24th 1989.

For the second year running, Britain was represented at the NATwA Pairs, this time by myself and Jim Carrington, who joined the usual Washington winkers for the journey up to Ithaca. New York State was still in the grip of winter; snow flurries greeted our arrival in the small hours of Saturday, a sharp contrast to Miami, where I had been working over Easter.

Suitably charged with excellent pancakes, courtesy of our host, Chris Strong, we made our way to the High School, which was a hive of inactivity. Fear of hypothermia drove us back to our cars, from which we eventually spotted the arrival of Severin Drix. Unfortunately, the local turnout was

rather modest, and only four pairs and a rotating three drawn from the Strong family plus Chas Houpt entered the tournament.

After some deliberation, the NATwA Chairman decided on an all-play-all followed by two rounds in which the top three pairs would play each other twice more. This somewhat strange format assumed, perhaps flatteringly, that Jim & I would knock out Severin & Ben Hinkle, who were not available on the second day. In the end, everyone played to form and the predicted three pairs of Kahn & Tucker, Lockwood & Marlin and Carrington & Sage went through.

The fun then started. Jim & I, as distinct underdogs, found the World Singles Champion bringing in poorly, such that Jim's pot-out could proceed without undue risk. The excitement seemed to go to his head after the fifth; he missed with the sixth and was squopped. Fortunately, I was able to free the remaining wink straight away, and the pot-out was completed. We took six points and began to wonder if we could mount a serious challenge.

The next game was finely balanced, seeing the shot judges brought out in force by Mr Lockwood. There was a hold-up when Jim C. disturbed the winks after leaving the table on which he had sat to play the shot. After discussion of the merits of a rule change to outlaw this, the resumption saw excellent round five potting by Jim M. put paid to our chances of a win. We took two.

The first play-off was completed as we were hoping, a 4-3 to Dave & Jim over Larry & Rick. The even sharing of points meant that any of the three pairs was still in with a chance of victory overnight.

Any prospect of a British victory was lost in the first game on Sunday morning, in which Dave & Jim beat us 6-1. Even so, a big win over Larry & Rick would have left us with a good chance of second place. A close-fought game ended with me pulling off a series of long pots in the closing rounds, but we only took five. This left us half a point behind Larry & Rick, who then got only one point in the final, all American game.

Dave & Jim thus retained their title, finishing over ten points clear. No doubt the full stats will arrive in due course. Congratulations to them, and also to Dave & Deja on their latest addition of a son, Maximillian Robert, to whom we were introduced on our return to Washington.

In all, then, an enjoyable tournament, but the turn-out does little to dispel worry about the long-term future of American winks.

Results.

All-play-all

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	Total
1. Lockwood & Marlin			-	3	5.5	21.5
2. Kahn & Tucker			4	-	6	23
3. Carrington & Sage			1.5	1	-	15.5
4. Drix & Hinkle			1	1	1	9
5. Houpt, Strong & Strong			0	0	0	1

Play-off one

	1.	2.	3.	Total
1. Kahn & Tucker			-	28
2. Lockwood & Marlin			3	29.5
3. Carrington & Sage			6	23.5

Play-off two

	1.	2.	3.	Total
1. Kahn & Tucker			-	31
2. Lockwood & Marlin			6	40.5
3. Carrington & Sage			4	29.5

Let's end these !@#£% ¬ & Rules Discussions.

During the ETwA pairs, I had the pleasure (?) of sitting in on the rules discussions. I have come to two conclusions;

1. Everyone is pretty satisfied with the present rules.
2. Geoff Thorpe will always be able to come up with some wierd situation not covered that occurs about as often as Dave running six within five minutes.

I realise that we do need to fine-tune things as they stand, but after next year perhaps we should put a moratorium on further changes for something like three years. After that, take a survey, particularly among players starting within that period, to decide if anything might need to be changed.

In general, I think that anything that removes subjective judgment from the game helps. You cannot eliminate squop- or shot-judges, but things like winks right at the mat edge or on under-sized tables could be handled more objectively.

The free turns & failure to free rule has become a total nightmare. I think that

1. the rules should never prevent a player from taking a logical shot
2. the penalty concept should go.

The rule should read (briefly) something like "after free turns have finished, if a wink of the squopped side does not have a legal shot, then XXX", where XXX is a suitable alternative, such as moving a wink aside, or whatever. State that at any time during free turns the squopping side may release an opponent's wink if desired, but leave it at that and let the players choose what they want to do. Of course, XXX should be severe enough that the current practice of freeing a wink is likely to be followed.

Finally, there's always going to be some loophole that may give a somewhat unfair, though legal, advantage in some oddball situations. I am willing to accept that, and assume that if it comes up it is as likely to be used for me as against me. Let's quit spouting off and play some winks - I could use the sevens!

Larry Kahn

(The reader is recommended to read the author's article "A Proposed Additional Requirement for Shot Legality", Newswink 24, July 1989 - Ed.)

The Silver Wink. Southampton v. Cambridge.

The Union Committee Room, Southampton University Students' Union. Saturday 6th May 1989.
Weather: extremely warm. Beer: Whitbread.

For the second year running, Cambridge could find no place for the ETwA Chairman in their side, but two changes to the Varsity match team were made, with Nick Inglis and Julian Wiseman replacing Matthew Rose and Alasdair Grant.

After an uneventful journey by CUTwC standards, Cambridge arrived to find that they were to be allowed full points for a change. Quietly confident, CUTwC got down to work. Most of the games were fairly straight-forward, with sixes for Hancock & Satchell and Heading & Inglis, and a seven for Barrie & Moore. The final game provided more amusement for onlookers, as Myers & Wiseman struggled against Chamberlin & Harris. This game took a dramatic turn at about the time the Cambridge pair had almost achieved a squop-up. Wiseman, playing yellow, knocked a red onto a green and himself took a red-green doubleton, leaving green without mobile winks. Remaining winks were rapidly sucked in, and it took a lucky break near time, when yellow, coming over the pot, knocked out two of his own colour, to put Cambridge back into the game. Blue put several in the pot during rounds to secure first place. Green was left with two to pot, but could only manage one in round five, leaving him equal with red. Yellow, ending, having manoeuvred himself

onto a pile of three other yellows in round four, was able to break to leave himself on five points as well. SOTWINK thus took five points whilst Cambridge took the round 21-7.

The second round went much as the first. Three squop-ups ended in two sixes and a seven for Cambridge, and once again it was the Myers/Wiseman combination who struggled, this time against Baron and Outhwaite. After a good bring-in, Wiseman, once more playing yellow, went for a quick pot-out, but missed with the second. Attempts to revive the pot-out went horribly wrong, and eventually red and blue achieved a squop-up. Myers, using a small green, knocked free a large green on top of a pile, only to see Baron, playing red, re-take it with an excellent pile shot. However, green kept on hammering away and was eventually rewarded when two greens were knocked free on top of the main pile. After a good break by green, yellow started potting. Red, with plenty of free winks, was sadly unable to get them in, and green freed all the remaining yellows late in rounds to secure first place.

After the lunch break, and perhaps because of it, round three was more evenly balanced. Even so, Cambridge achieved three squop-ups late on, and took three sixes and a five, to guarantee victory 67-17.

The final round was the most successful for SOTWINK, with Chamberlin & Harris potting out against Barrie & Moore, and Surridge & Carter coming off best in a last-minute race for the pot against Heading & Inglis. Hancock & Satchell took six from a pot-out against Baron & Outhwaite which, despite the final result, was far from straight-forward. Hancock had put five greens in early on, before missing hopelessly with the sixth. Red then put four in, apparently oblivious to the fact that one red was squopped. Despite this somewhat frisky withdrawal into the pot, yellow made heavy weather of freeing the last green, only to be rewarded with another classic green miss of the pot. Blue took green, whilst red found its way on top of the pile containing its last wink. The third Southampton win of the round was not to be, though, as yellow took the reds then freed the last green once more. Some time later Hancock put the last green away, proving, I think, that several firkins at lunchtime can effect one's judgment. Meanwhile, on the sidelines, Myers eventually found form with a quick squop-up, ending on a 6-1.

The final scoreline of 83-29 could easily have been somewhat closer, and represents some degree of success for a SOTWINK side including a number of novices taking on the considerable experience of CUTwC. Cambridge, having also beaten Oxford, retained the Silver wink for another year, but this time with the all-important singable score.

The new season will hopefully see rather more interesting University winks. Cambridge will lose a number of players who have contributed to their dominance of recent years, not least Geoff Myers and Richard Moore. Myers will be off to Oxford, where he will be joined by Andy Purvis, who is returning to Academia. Meanwhile, the re-emergence of Bradford will hopefully mean a four-way contest for the Silver Wink. This being so, better fixture planning will be required than has been the case in recent years. I appeal to all University Club Presidents to get together at the Teams of Four, so that the needs of the Universities can be considered alongside other events in the increasingly crowded winks fixture list at Congress.

Stewart Sage