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WINKING



WORLD

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Editorial

Aaargh! I've only got nineteen lines for this! So I'd better be brief. Easily the best news WW has to report is the formation of a new University club. Chris Goodwin at Exeter became so intrigued by mentions of winks in E-mail messages from Ken Zetie that he formed a society earlier this year. After a good Fresher's Fair, they have over 40 paid-up members. Chris visited OUTS a few months ago; he took to the game quickly, and was potting and squopping pretty well by the end of the evening. Hopefully there will be some Exeter players here at the Fours (Hi!).

This WW is quite a bit bigger than the last, despite a switch to a smaller typeface. As well as tournament reports (it's good to see new names on so many trophies), it has several pieces with an historical slant; hopefully these will introduce some of the older players to some of the newer ones. There's also what will hopefully be the first in a series of articles on technique and strategy, a revised version of a potting article that first appeared in 1973. The up-to-date computer ratings are also in. Thanks as ever to all those who sent stuff in; apologies to Alan Boyce for not publishing his travelogue of India. Articles (and sketches and cartoons) from anyone on anything are always welcome. Special thanks to Rick Tucker for donating a full set of *Newslink*, to Alan and Charles for making good nearly all of the gaps in the WW archive (still no sign of number 26 though), to Nick for being so quick with the ratings, and to Patrick Barrie, Denver Dale and Henry Bennet-Clark for Mac tips which hopefully make this issue a bit prettier than the last. So here it is — I hope you like it.

Twenty Years of the National Singles

by Andy Purvis

Ask almost any player which is *the* tournament of the year, and the chances are they'll say that it's the ETWA National Singles. If, and it's a big if, any Tiddlywinks tournament can ever claim to be important, it is this one. The atmosphere and tension of a Singles is quite unmatched by any other event in the winking calendar, and next month marks the twentieth opportunity to give it a try. This article is an attempt to set the scene for the twentieth Singles by looking back at some of the names and events of the first nineteen. My hope is that new players reading this might be tempted to have a go themselves. And if it makes anyone decide to buy some of the old issues of *Winking World* (available in the foyer at very reasonable prices!), so much the better...

Given that Tiddlywinks started in 1955, it is perhaps surprising that the Singles is only 20 years old. But up until the end of the 1960's, winks was very much a team game. There were literally dozens of clubs at Universities, schools and elsewhere, and the year was filled with a great many 6-a-side and 8-a-side matches. Each game of a match would be contested by one pair from each team. Playing two colours apiece was more or less unheard of; *Winking World* 5 carries a bizarre article suggesting how a game of winks can be played by just two players — they play as a pair against imaginary opponents!

By 1970, though, attitudes were on the move. There was growing interest in the idea of a Singles tournament as a kind of 'ultimate test of skill', and 62 players (a 'rather low' figure, says *Winking World* 18) paid their entry fee for The First All-England Singles Championship. This was run as a knockout over a whole year, with the early rounds seeded to minimise travel. Matches lasted three games. The tournament was eventually won by the then-captain of Southampton University's team, Alan Dean, who beat Mike Nash of Essex University $15\frac{2}{3} - 5\frac{1}{3}$ in the Final on 4th April 1971. This was to be the start of a hat-trick of wins for Alan, who thus won the original trophy outright (it is still on his sideboard at home). Alan's style has always been marked by a liking for high-gain high-risk shots, especially on piles, which can get him out of trouble (or into it) with apparent ease. But although the early Seventies were great years for Alan, they marked something of a general decline for winks in England. Tournament entries fell and by 1973 only three Universities (Southampton, Cambridge and Oxford) were represented by undergraduates at the Singles. With a marked reduction in the number of active clubs, team competitions were the hardest hit. Into the resulting gap came new Pairs tournaments — the Hampshire Open, Manchester Open and the National Pairs. These and the well-established Singles took a more central role in the winking year.

The 1973/4 Singles saw a sort of 'World Cup' group system, with knockout final stages, and a new winner. Keith Seaman, who had started playing while at Ealing Grammar School and had been a contemporary of Alan's in the all-powerful Southampton club of the early Seventies, beat Alan $14\frac{1}{6} - 5\frac{5}{6}$ in a scrappy Final. Keith held on to the title the following year, but really had to work hard for it. His quarter final finished tied at $10\frac{1}{2} - 10\frac{1}{2}$, the play-off was also tied, and Keith edged through 4-3 in an unprecedented fifth game. Keith has a reputation for minimising his losses, and showed this skill in winning both the semi-final and final despite losing two of the three games in each. Alan was again the losing finalist, going down 4-3, 1-6, 4-3. But Alan claimed his fourth title in 1976, winning the final in two games against Jon Mapley. Jon, who took up winks at Bancroft's School in the early Sixties, is the only one

of today's top British players not to have gone through the clubs at Cambridge, Southampton or Oxford. Alan and Jon are the only two players to have taken part in all 19 Singles.

Up until now, the Singles had used variations on a knockout format run over a whole year. This had worked initially, but the Oil Crisis had led to massively increased petrol prices (what's new?), and people understandably cooled to the idea of making a long journey for just a couple of games. So new ideas were tried in an effort to get a good turnout. 1976 was the first time the event had been telescoped into just one weekend, a feature of all subsequent Singles. Another major step towards the 'modern' format came the following year, when it was decided to place more emphasis on all-play-all leagues rather than knockout. The turnout of 18 was split into two leagues. Nigel Knowles, having creamed his group for 51 points from 8 games, came back from 1-6 to beat Alan in the semi-finals and trounced Steve Welch 12-2 in the final. This year also saw the first American entry, top strategist and then-World Champion Dave Lockwood. Dave won his group but, not for the only time, the rules at the time debarred him (as an overseas player) from the final stages.

In 1978 Dave, again with the best scores, could only watch as Alan Dean and Steve Welch contested the Final. A pot-out to Steve in the last game left the scores tied, but Alan blitzed for 7-0 in the extra game to collect his fifth title. Sadly this was Steve's last appearance in the Singles. Alan rates him as the best player never to have won it.

1979 was the first year in which overseas players were to be allowed to win, but Dave couldn't quite oblige. Jon and Alan, both on superb form, played an incredible last game — reckoned by Jon to be "probably the best game ever played" — to determine which of them would win. Jon emerged the victor with a squop-up and no winks in the pot. This was the first time the Singles had gone to someone not from Southampton University, and must have been a sweet moment for Jon, who'd been beaten three times previously by Alan in the knockout days, and had been somewhat in Alan's shadow for most of the decade.

Jon walked away with the 1980 Singles with only Cyril Edwards, an ex-Oxford player, even looking like threatening. Alan and Dave had their worst results to that point, finishing seventh and eighth.

A new, if not exactly young (he'll probably hit me for that), name was added to the trophy in 1981. Charles Relle, the game's longest-serving player, first picked up a squidger as a Cambridge Fresher in 1960, and had been one of the Varsity team which lost to Oxford's then-revolutionary 'double-squop' tactics in 1961. Always thereabouts in major tournaments, he was generally not quite consistent enough win them. But this time he managed to add discipline to his skill and flair and, helped by an outrageous 7-0 playing double-pot against Keith, managed to hold off Dave's challenge. Nigel Knowles came third in what was to be his last Singles; he has sadly not played competitively for six years now.

Dave finally made it in 1982. The final group all-play-all left him $5\frac{1}{2}$ points clear of Jon, who thus needed a 7-0 in the play-off game to pinch the tournament. A nervy game saw Dave go off the mat with both colours in a row. Jon kept pushing for the pot-out he needed, but missed the fifth from the base of the pot and finished second by half a point. He went one better the following year, notching up his third win and his last to date, finishing a clear nine points ahead of Alan.

1984 saw the Singles debut of another American, Larry Kahn. Larry, like Dave, learnt at the highly successful MIT club in the early Seventies. Despite being former teammates, they are almost completely opposite in styles. Dave is very much a thinker, a long-term planner. In this way, he gets as many points as he can from bad positions, and from good positions he

grinds out sixes and sevens — he won't ever let you off the hook. Larry relies much more on sheer shotmaking ability, and is capable of running away with games when playing at the top of his form. But this style means that his rare misses can cost him. In the 1984 Singles, he conjured up just such a miss going for the sixth wink against Dave in the last round, the 6-1 to Dave leaving those two tied on an impressive 57 points from their 11 games in the final. Alan was the only British player to stand the pace, and a sensational 7-0 against Dave (he potted two from the edge to pot out in five turns) left him needing to beat Jon in the last round to overhaul the Americans. But he fell 3-4 to finish a point shy, so Larry and Dave went into a tiebreak game. Larry was down to one wink by the midpoint of the game, but played a sequence of three outrageous shots that turned the game round completely, drew some choice language from a horrified Dave, and meant that Larry became the seventh player to win the Singles.

The entry doubled to 40 for 1985, boosted by a great recruiting time for CUTwC (who provided 18 of the competitors) and a touring team of six top Americans, headed by Larry, Dave and another World Champion, Arny Gittelman. These three (in that order) walked away with the tournament and all six Americans finished in the top 10. A few days later the Americans also trounced England in the last international match to date, and it was hard to see how any of the British players were going to compete with the top US winkers.

But 1986 provided a boost to British morale. An out-of-form Dave crashed out of the tournament in the qualifying leagues, the first time this had happened to an ex-winner. Then Larry surprisingly lost his first game of the final, 4-3 to Cyril Edwards. This apart, Larry, Alan and Jon played out of their skins and wiped the floor with the other finalists (who only managed five scores better than 1-6 against them in 24 games). Once again, it all came down to the last round. Jon and Larry were a point clear of Alan, but now had to play each other. A magnificent game ended 4-3 to Larry, but Alan won his last game 6-1 to stop Larry's hat-trick and save ETwA the expense of a new trophy.

Dave couldn't make it to the 1987 Singles, but Larry could and won it yet again, with Charles Relle second. Mike Surridge, a regular Singles finalist (when he plays) and probably the best player Southampton has produced since the mid Seventies, came third. Patrick Barrie had been in the running for much of the way in his first Singles final before fading. Two Cambridge undergraduates of under a year's experience, Geoff Myers and Richard Moore, qualified for the final pool at their first Singles — an exceptional feat.

Dave was back with a vengeance in 1988, taking the lead in the final with an early 7-0 blitz over Larry and never quite being caught. Larry managed second place despite losing his first three games, winning the next seven before Alan stopped his charge with a last round pot-out. In a nailbiting last-round game, Charles just pipped Geoff Myers for third place.

Last year was another fairly slow start for Larry, but he inflicted a 7-0 revenge on Dave and went on to win by five points. Richard Moore finished second, and so became the youngest player to gain a shot at the world title; a report of that match can be found later in this issue. (Challenges are awarded to the winner and, if the winner is from overseas, the top player from the host country.)

And this year? The Twentieth ETwA National Singles Championship will take place in Queens' College, Cambridge on 24th and 25th November. Most or all of the big names of recent years will be there, as will many others. The turnout will probably be somewhere between 40 and 50, split into 4 or 5 leagues; these will be played as all-play-all on the Saturday. The top two or three winkers from each will go through to the 12 player final league on Sunday. This has been the format every year since 1985. The final is a tempting prospect.

So far there are only seven names on the trophy, and the last new winner was Larry in 1984. But a new generation of players have been knocking on the door for a couple of years now. Will this be the breakthrough? Or will the old guard hold on yet again? For non-qualifiers, there will be a 'Plate' competition for anyone wanting to play on Sunday. (The next article is a report of last year's Plate.)

If you've not played in it before, the Singles can be quite nerve-wracking. The atmosphere can be amazingly tense, and results are often rather disappointing at first. You'll probably be up against the best players in your group in your first few games; things should get a lot easier by the end of the day. It's also a great chance to learn. Watch how the more experienced players select and play their shots. Feel free to ask, after the game, where you went wrong (this is an especially cunning ploy if you won). The closing stages of the Final, with the pressure really on, are often a treat to watch.

Singles tiddlywinks can be more rewarding than Pairs (if you win, it's really *you*, not your partner, who's done it) and more frustrating (since the same is true if you lose). It can also be more difficult, as there's no partner to discuss ideas with. But it can be just as much fun. The ETWA Singles, in its twentieth year, is as rewarding and frustrating, tense and exciting, difficult and unpredictable as ever, and there's a lot of players who wouldn't miss it for anything. Give it a go!

The Singles Plate Handicapped Playoff

Southampton University, 19th November 1989

by Mike Surridge

On the second day of the 1989 National Singles, whilst Larry was piling up yet another World Singles Challenge, a new tournament was taking place in the next room. The event was a revival of the old "Plate" competition which used to occur among those not fortunate enough to qualify for a second day's play in the National Singles. It was staged at the last minute by Sotwink, in response to a request from S4C (Welsh Channel 4) that we get their presenters playing in a winks competition.

The format was invented in an unremembered pub during the preceeding week. It was to be an individual handicapped event, but with floating handicaps. This is an idea Mike Surridge has long wanted to try (ever since becoming ETWA handicapper), but which had only previously been attempted in an internal Sotwink tournament.

The rule is that after each game, the usual handicap transfer be made, and then if you have scored $4\frac{1}{2}$ or more your handicap goes up by a half point, whilst if you get 2 or less, it goes down by the same amount. In order to accomodate players not wishing to participate through-out, the extra rule was introduced that if you missed a game you got 4 but also suffered a handicap increase. If more than two games (out of seven) were missed, no points would be awarded for these, however.

It would have been nice to run this tournament by computer, especially as a random draw was used for each round. Unfortunately this could not be arranged at such short notice, so a pack of cards was pressed into service.

The Singles finalists having been eliminated, the main contenders appeared to be Alex Satchell (who just missed out on the previous day), Geoff Thorpe and Mike Surridge (who

Name (Starting H'Cap)	Played	Before H'cap	After H'cap	Pos.
Jackie Carter (2)	7	36	35	1=
Steve Phillips (3)	7	$37\frac{1}{2}$	35	1=
Ed Wynn (3)	5	27 (35)	$33\frac{1}{2}$	3
Matthew Rose (5)	5	26 (34)	30	4
Mike Surridge (7)	7	$36\frac{1}{2}$	$29\frac{3}{4}$	5
Steve Mudd (2)	7	$31\frac{1}{3}$	$29\frac{7}{12}$	6
John Duffield (1)	7	$28\frac{1}{2}$	$29\frac{1}{4}$	7
Stu Collins (3)	6	23 (27)	$27\frac{1}{4}$	8
Simon Gandy (4)	5	$25\frac{1}{3}$ ($29\frac{1}{3}$)	$26\frac{5}{6}$	9
Chris Cantrill (1)	7	22	$26\frac{1}{4}$	10
Phil Scarrott (4)	7	$25\frac{1}{2}$	$25\frac{1}{4}$	11
Alex Satchell (6)	5	19 (27)	$24\frac{3}{4}$	12
Rhoda Henson (0)	5	$12\frac{1}{2}$ ($20\frac{1}{2}$)	$24\frac{1}{6}$	13
Geoff Thorpe (6)	6	20 (24)	$23\frac{3}{4}$	14
Jon Carlaw (4)	7	$19\frac{1}{6}$	$22\frac{5}{12}$	15
Nick May (5)	7	25	$22\frac{1}{4}$	16
Ian Cragg (3)	5	9 (17)	$20\frac{1}{4}$	17
Stew Sage (5)	5	13 (21)	$17\frac{3}{4}$	18
Jon Harris (2)	7	$9\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$	19
The following players withdrew without playing the required 5 games :				
Neu Williams (0)	4	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$	-
Margo Outhwaite (1)	3	$6\frac{1}{2}$	9	-
Fiona Strand (0)	4	4	$7\frac{1}{2}$	-
Peter John (0)	2	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$	-

was unable to play on both days of the Singles weekend and elected not to risk being unable to take up a place in the finals). The starting handicaps for these players were correspondingly high, however.

The first round saw just 4 games (most of the Cambridge players being still somewhere near Salisbury). Mike Surridge and Jon Carlaw paid for their high handicaps, getting only $3\frac{3}{4}$ from their win, but the other 6 winning players established a leading pack. The most experienced player in this group was Nick May (starting handicap 5), making a return to the game after a few years' absence.

In the second round, Jackie Carter and Steve Mudd beat Chris Cantrill and S4C's Peter John 7-0, which took Jackie into the lead. Nick May moved into second place, one point behind, with a 6-1 partnering Mike Surridge against Geoff Thorpe and Steve Phillips. Cambridge's Ed Wynn and Stu Collins arrived in time to beat Jon Carlaw 6-1, leaving them just $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point further back.

The S4C players fared reasonably well in these first two rounds, helped by their low handicaps, with the exception of Peter John, who retired with $2\frac{1}{2}$. The third round saw the first falterings of the remainder, Fiona Strand going down 6-1 to Matthew Rose and Jackie Carter, who extended her lead to $1\frac{1}{2}$ points. Sotwink's Steve Mudd stormed into second place with a 6-1 over Jon Harris. Ed Wynn eased ahead of Stu Collins with a strategic bye (extra pint?), whilst Nick May fell off the pace with a 2-5 partnering Welsh-speaker Rhoda Henson against Phil Scarrott (another PINT).

Round four saw Jackie Carter and Chris Cantrill take 6-1 from Matthew Rose and S4C's Fiona Strand. The S4C team had by this time lost all enthusiasm for the task — winks proving to be far tougher than their producer promised! Steve Mudd and Mike Surridge got a 6-1 over Stew Sage. This left Jackie in the lead, Steve in second, followed by Chris Cantrill along with Steve Phillips and Ed Wynn (both also 6-1 winners). Mike Surridge at last began to feature on the leader board, just a quarter point further back, but now carrying a handicap of 8!

In round five, Mike and Chris lost 4-3 in a very tight game to Steve Mudd and Alex Satchell, a result that helped none of them. Jackie and Ed drew each other as partners and demolished Nick May and Stu Collins 6-1 to leave Jackie with a four point lead over Ed, the pack close behind him.

In round six, the two leaders were opponents, Jackie partnering Alex Satchell and Ed with Geoff Thorpe. Despite a poor performance up until then, Geoff produced a better game than Alex, with Ed and Geoff getting 6-1. This put Ed into the lead by a point and a half over Jackie, with Steve Phillips less than a point further back after a 6-1 with John Duffield against Stew Sage and Jon Harris. Steve Mudd was fourth, over $3\frac{1}{2}$ points behind Steve Phillips, so with one round to go it was clearly a three horse race.

The final threw up the inevitable draw - Jackie against Ed again. This time Ed partnered Nick May, whilst Jackie was playing singles, and so received a whole point handicap transfer, negating the slim lead held by Ed. This game developed into a close run thing, with neither side properly in control, and everything clearly resting on late potting. Meanwhile Steve Phillips partnered Stu Collins against Jon Harris and Chris Cantrill, and knowing he needed a large score, went for the pot-out. Eventually he got it, winning 7-0, and joined the crowd gathering to see whether Ed or Jackie would emerge triumphant.

Towards the end, Jackie made some good pots, but then missed one, appearing to let Nick May assume first place in the game. Nick elected to pot with his last shot, but he missed as well, leaving the score 4-3 to Jackie. This was too much for Ed, who wound up $1\frac{1}{2}$ points behind. After much re-calculation it was found only to be enough for Jackie to tie with Steve Phillips!

Given the complexity of the scoring system (with floating handicaps and random draw), I'm not going to give you all the scores. Congratulations are due to both winners, and also to the S4C team, who went gamely into the competition and came out after 2 — 4 rounds looking totally shattered! John Duffield put up the best performance by a novice (7th), whilst Rhoda Henson's 13th is in some ways even better — she had never played before, but took part so that S4C would have a Welsh-speaking student to talk to!

The Marchant Trophy (I)

OUTS 'A' vs OUTS 'B', 21st February 1990

by Andy Purvis

This trophy is 'contested' (rather a strong word) between teams of four. There is a great deal of flexibility over team selection; you can have a different team for every match and even, if your opponents consent, guest players from other teams. It runs over the whole year, at the end of which time the team with the most points, wins. With a format like this, it might be expected to appeal to all the university clubs and also to other players who are just on for a few games with no great commitment. It looked as though this year might see entries from Oxford, Southampton, Wessex Exiles, Pinner, and possibly Cambridge. But in the end only three teams entered and just two matches were played.

The first of these was played at an OUTS meeting as some kind of match practice for the Silver Wink the following weekend. The sides were picked so as to be as even as possible, which raised the awful prospect of OUTS 'B' winning. This was circumvented neatly by only naming the teams after the match had finished. Jon Stanbridge played very solidly in his and Geoff's two 6-1 wins. Stuart was playing in only his second club meeting, but made some fine shots, especially in the second half of the match when he and Andy took 6-1 off Kath & Rupert. Gavin & Ed played well to beat Kath & Rupert, which helped us pick the pairings for the weekend (picking the team was easy - we picked everyone who could come), but it wasn't enough to stop Geoff's team from winning and thus becoming OUTS 'A'.

OUTS 'A'	15½ - 12½	OUTS 'B'
Geoff Myers & Jon Stanbridge	6-1	Stuart Christie & Andy Purvis
Kath Mumford & Rupert Wilson	2½ - 4½	Gavin Keyte & Ed Stephens
Geoff Myers & Jon Stanbridge	6-1	Gavin Keyte & Ed Stephens
Kath Mumford & Rupert Wilson	1-6	Stuart Christie & Andy Purvis

The 1990 Silver Wqink¹

Lincoln College, Oxford, 25 February 1990

by Richard Moore

Weather: miserable. Richard: miserable

For the fifth year in a row, the Silver Wink was a three-cornered contest, threatened challenges in the past eighteen months from Bradford and Exeter having proved so far illusory. A closer result than we've seen for a while was nevertheless promised — Cambridge having lost two stars of recent years, Myers & Purvis, to Oxford. Southampton meanwhile had been unable to raise a full team, but Jon Carlaw sportingly stepped in to avoid an inexperienced

¹ Or, outside Albanian, wink.

	Geoff Myers & Jon Stanbridge	Naveed Chaudhri & Rupert Wilson	Andy Purvis & Phil Carmody	Gavin Keyte & Ed Stephens	
Tony Heading & Julian Wiseman	5* 2*	1 6	1 6	0* 7*	21
Nick Inglis & Stew Sage	6 1	1 6	1* 6*	1 6	19
Patrick Barrie & Ian Gameson	1 6	3 4	5* 2*	1 6	18
Richard Moore & Simon Gandy	2 5	4 3	4 3	5* 2*	13
	14	9	11	7	

Match score : CUTwC 71 - 41 OUTS

player having to play singles, and agreed to play for half points. This point transfer, together with the complicated rotations needed to fit all the games into one day, was sure to cause confusion, but CUTwC, despite early nerves and first-round defeats for Inglis & Sage (vs. Chamberlin & Carter) and Moore & Gandy (vs. Oxford's Chaudhri & Wilson), led both of their matches comfortably at lunch. OUTS vs. SOTWINK was looking much more evenly-balanced at $14\frac{1}{4}$ - $13\frac{3}{4}$ in Oxford's favour.

Lunch saw the competitors retire to various pubs, where onlookers were entertained with further discussion on the feasibility of 'tubbing' badgers, and by Mr Barrie's complaint that he had been up since 4.30am doing "wrist exercises". Suitably refreshed, Messrs Heading & Wiseman proceeded to lose their next game, and there continued to be upsets — including a 3-4 for Moore & Gandy in an especially ill-tempered game with Purvis & Carmody. But by the end of the sixth game victory had been assured against both OUTS and SOTWINK.

The Oxford/Southampton game itself continued however to be much tighter — at this stage there was only half a point in it, but Oxford still had the edge — partly due to the points transfer from Carlaw & Duffield, but also thanks to some useful results for both Myers & Stanbridge and Purvis & Carmody. The other Oxford pairs showed some impressive shot-

	Tony Heading & Julian Wiseman	Nick Inglis & Stew Sage	Patrick Barrie & Ian Gameson	Richard Moore & Simon Gandy	
Steve Mudd & Margo Outhwaite	6 1	6 1	6 1	$4\frac{2}{3}$ $2\frac{1}{3}$	$5\frac{1}{3}$
Jon Carlaw & John Duffield	7^* 0^*	6 1	4 3	6 1	5
Ian Cragg & Mike Surridge	$5\frac{1}{2}$ $1\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	$2\frac{1}{2}$ $4\frac{1}{2}$	6 1	13
Steve Chamberlin & Jackie Carter	2 5	3 4	5 2	7^* 0^*	11
	$20\frac{1}{2}$	16	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$23\frac{2}{3}$	

Match score : Sotwink $34\frac{1}{3}$ - $77\frac{2}{3}$ CUTwC ($31\frac{5}{6}$ - $80\frac{1}{6}$ after transfer)

making, but it's amazing the difference the tactical appreciation of the two experienced players at Oxford has made. Rounds seven and eight, however, saw a series of wins for Southampton, including a 6-1 pot-out for the least experienced pair, Mudd & Outhwaite, and Oxford slipped back to lose 51-61 at close of play.

With the pressure off, Cambridge pairs were also by this stage attempting pot-outs, though in the last round Geoff Myers and Gavin Keyte both paid them back in their own medicine for their impertinence. These Oxford victories pegged the score in this game back to a highly respectable 71-41, whilst Moore & Gandy's $4\frac{2}{3}$ - $2\frac{2}{3}$ against Mudd & Outhwaite ended all chance of singability in the CUTwC/SOTWINK scoreline; this match ended $80\frac{1}{6}$ - $31\frac{5}{6}$ after transfer.

In the end, everyone could be satisfied with their performances, though I was particularly pissed off to average less than half points against Oxford pairs — the first time this has happened, no doubt, since about 1320. And Heading & Wiseman, a self-confessed 'silly' pairing, were CUTwC's highest scorers, so we'll never hear the end of that. The OUTS line-up certainly includes some names to watch for the future, and Cambridge had better be careful next year, when a few more of their prominent players will be leaving academia for more

	Geoff Myers & Jon Stanbridge	Naveed Chaudhri & Rupert Wilson	Andy Purvis & Phil Carmody	Gavin Keyte & Ed Stephens	
Steve Mudd & Margo Outhwaite	6 1	1* 6*	6 1	2 5	13
Jon Carlaw & John Duffield	$1\frac{1}{2}$ $5\frac{1}{2}$	3 4	6 1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ $5\frac{1}{2}$	16
Ian Cragg & Mike Surridge	3 4	1 6	1 6	1 6	22
Steve Chamberlin & Jackie Carter	5 2	1 6	$2\frac{1}{2}$ $4\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ $5\frac{1}{2}$	18
	$15\frac{1}{2}$	6	$15\frac{1}{2}$	6	

Match score : Sotwink 69 - 43 OUTS (61 - 51 after transfer)

'gainful' employment. Southampton, too, if they can avoid being further distracted by the now-familiar tussling on the mat, have a bright future. Ian Cragg, after a good showing in the Singles, partnered Mike Surridge to a total of 35 points, and as Southampton's highest-scoring pair they equalled CUTwC's Sage & Inglis (the latter playing his last competitive games with a beard, as the Bill Frindalls amongst you will note with interest). Final score: CUTwC $151\frac{1}{6}$, SOTWINK $62\frac{5}{6}$, Oxford 62.

Death of a Squidger — Part II.

It is with a heavy heart, but light kidneys, that *Winking World* reports the passing of Alan Dean's trusty squidger, missing, presumed dead, aged twenty-odd years. This ordinary-looking red squidger, inscribed 'C.J.' (for Christine Jones, a previous owner), probably won more trophies than any other and was made by Keith Seaman. Keith says he's not sure he'll make Alan another, given how quickly Alan lost the last one...

The Hampshire Open

Southampton University, 3rd March 1990

by Andy Purvis

This year looked to be a much more open Hants; Mike Surridge and Jim Carrington, rather than try for a hat-trick, had chosen to team up with Jackie Carter and Rob Cartwright respectively. Also, there weren't many really strong University pairs, perhaps because of the Varsity Match the next day. Charles Relle & Patrick Barrie seemed to have the best chance, followed perhaps by Jim & Rob. Julian Wiseman, partnering a strange unbearded Scottish-sounding gentleman, whom nobody recognised, also looked to be thereabouts.

Disappointingly, only three current Southampton players made it to their own Open. Considering this the turnout was a good one, with fourteen and a half pairs waiting only for the strain(ing)s of Gary Glitter on the jukebox to die away before taking to the mats.

The two favourites were drawn against one another in the first round, Charles & Patrick winning narrowly. Only two pairs won 6-1; when these met in the next round Nick Inglis & Julian Wiseman overcame Alex Satchell & Rupert Wilson, and were never caught again throughout the day. After lunch they consolidated their lead with a big win over Patrick and Charles. Liz Bertoya, who'd turned up during lunch, joined Phil Clark for the next round only. Phil was encouraged to start potting with only three winks in play. When he was stopped with a few in, Liz had a go. Jon Mainwaring and I felt rather guilty about cheating (or "squopping", as it's also known) our way to a 6-1. Tony Brennan missed the first of a fairly easy pot-out attempt against Simon & Ian but, a few minutes later, redeemed himself by running the six from a much more difficult position. This put them into second place, and a 4-3 win over the leaders brought them within $1\frac{1}{2}$ points. Mike & Jackie and Geoff & Phil both won impressively to share third place at the end of round 4.

Then Nick & Julian got back into their winning ways with a 6-1 over the Southampton pair. As the other leading pairs faltered, this put them $3\frac{1}{2}$ points clear. Charles & Patrick were now in the reckoning, having taken six off Alex & Rupert, and another 6-1, over Gavin & Tony, moved them into second place. Jackie & Mike recovered from their setback of the previous round and moved into third.

In the last round, it was Jon & Stef's turn to lose to Nick & Julian, whose six points left them with a magnificent seven-game total of 37. The pressure was now on both Mike & Jackie and Charles & Patrick in their game, as both sides needed a big win to have any real chance in the play-off game (league scores are carried forward). Jackie & Mike managed a $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ win, but this still left them needing a 7-0 in the extra game. As usually happens, the side needing seven points got only one.

It had been a truly impressive performance by the winners, who led throughout. They played consistently well and Julian in particular pulled out some grossly good shots when they were needed. It was Nick's second successive tournament win, with vastly different haircuts; I wonder what disguises he'll think up in future. Mike and a much-improved Jackie did very well too, and Geoff & Phil, with a last-round 6, sneaked ahead of Patrick & Charles into 3rd. Tony & Gavin, who had the toughest draw, managed to beat all of the top three pairs and came in fifth.

		Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	p.p.g.	Pos.
A	Nick Inglis Julian Wiseman	N 6 6	L 5 11	D 6 17	E 3 20	B 6 26	C 5 31	I 6 37	5.286	1
B	Jackie Carter Mike Surridge	O 5½ 5½	E 2½ 8	F 3 11	M 7* 18	A 1 19	K 6 25	D 5½ 30½	4.357	2
C	Geoff Myers Phil Carmody	H 2 2	J 5* 7	M 5 12	F 6 18	E 3 21	A 2 23	K 6 29	4.143	3
D	Charles Relle Patrick Barrie	F 4 4	H 6 10	A 1 11	- bye 11	L 6 17	E 6 23	B 1½ 24½	4.083	4
E	Gavin Keyte Tony Brennan	J 5 5	B 4½ 9½	K 5* 14½	A 4 18½	C 4 22½	D 1 23½	F 3 26½	3.786	5
F	Rob Cartwright Jim Carrington	D 3 3	I 5 8	B 4 12	C 1 13	M 5 18	H 4 22	E 4 26	3.714	6
G	Phil Clark Liz Bertoya	- bye 0	K 2 2	H 1 3	N 6 9	I 2 11	O 6 17	L 5 22	3.667	7
H	Andy Purvis Jon Mainwaring	C 5 5	D 1 6	G 6 12	L 3 15	K 2 17	F 3 20	O 5 25	3.571	8
I	Jon Carlaw Stef Norman	K 3 3	F 2 5	N 3 8	O 5 13	G 5 18	L 5 23	A 1 24	3.429	9
J	Graham Hancock Dave Smith	E 2 2	C 2* 4	O 6* 10	- bye 10	- bye 10	- bye 10	N 2½ 12½	3.125	10
K	Simon Gandy Ian Gameson	I 4 4	G 5 9	E 2* 11	- bye 11	H 5 16	B 1 17	C 1 18	3.000	11
L	Alex Satchell Rupert Wilson	M 6 6	A 2 8	- bye 8	H 4 12	D 1 13	I 2 15	G 2 17	2.833	12
M	Tim Jeffreys Phil Scarrott	L 1 1	O 6 7	C 2 9	B 0* 9	F 2 11	N 4 15	- bye 15	2.500	13
N	Stew Sage James Cullingham	A 1 1	- bye 1	I 4 5	G 1 6	O 1 7	M 3 10	J 4½ 14½	2.417	14
O	John Duffield Steve Phillips	B 1½ 1½	M 1 2½	J 1* 3½	I 2 5½	N 6 11½	G 1 12½	H 2 14½	2.071	15

Opponents	Score
Running Total	

Play-off game:

Nick Inglis & Julian Wiseman 6 - 1 Jackie Carter & Mike Surridge

The Varsity Match

Bowett Room, Queens' College, Cambridge, 4th March 1990

by Tony Brennan (President of OUTS, 1985-6)

It was the year of great sporting upsets. Douglas beat Tyson, England beat West Indies. But could the "big one" happen? Could Oxford, after 23 barren years, beat Cambridge in the Tiddlywinks Varsity Match?

Well, no.

But it was a fine match, much closer than many of its recent predecessors, and indicative, perhaps, that the national centre of winking competence may be moving from Fens to Cotswolds. That Oxford's improvement is due mainly to the movement there of two of the best players Cambridge have produced is indisputable; however, the rate at which their novices are improving suggests that they may soon have the strength in depth necessary to promote a successful club.

The first round was a reasonable indication of what was to happen for the rest of the day. On one table, Andy Purvis and Jon Mainwaring (remember that name — we shall hear of him again) were completely in control of Richard Moore and Ed Wynn before allowing them to break the major pile by the pot. Oxford maintained the edge, but it needed a missed pot by Ed and a good last-round squop by Andy to secure the six. This was to be one of only two sixes of the day for Oxford — they won seven games against Cambridge's nine, but rarely had sufficient mastery of the game to go for the big win, unlike the home team, who recorded six 6-1s. Two of these were in the first round; the inexperience of Gavin Keyte and Naveed Chaudhri meant they could not capitalise on Julian Wiseman's missed pot-out, thus allowing him and Simon Gandy to make the six, and after Geoff Myers' early sub, Patrick Barrie and Dave Smith were never going to allow him and Kath Mumford back onto level terms. The fourth game was the closest; twenty-something winks converging into a single pile in a matter of minutes. Ken Zetie broke this in round 4, and excellent pressure potting from Rupert Wilson enabled Oxford to snatch a four. So, Cambridge won the first round 16-12, and the match was on.

Round two also went Cambridge's way, this time slightly more easily. Barrie and Smith took six off Chaudhri and Keyte after much hard work — there was nothing between them after twelve minutes. Wynn and Moore also took six, after dominating their game from fairly early on. In the other two games, Oxford scraped 4-3s; a game featuring many single squops and no potting was won, justifiably by the tightest possible margin, by Myers and Mumford against Gandy and Wiseman, and a more topsy-turvy event was won by Purvis and Mainwaring, due mainly to a brilliant knock-off by Andy in round four, Jon potting off a wink in round five, and Andy re-squopping this from five inches before allowing it a shot. This game had featured many missed pots (Mainwaring early, almost everyone in rounds) and was notable because it was one of the few occasions where Oxford out-tacticed Cambridge. It also contained a very enjoyable bit of coaching from Andy in how to play a boondock ("You see the way my fingers are going white?"). So, round score 18-10, and match score 34-22. The spectre of Buster Douglas was departing from the Cam...

Oxford's needed big round three looked good briefly, as Geoff and Kath saw Ed and Richard off 6-1. This was one of those games that featured five minutes of sub-two-centimetre positional nonsense and then exploded into a real game. Oxford took their squops, Cambridge

	Kath Mumford & Geoff Myers	Gavin Keyte & Naveed Chaudhri	Andy Purvis & Jon Mainwaring	Ken Zetie & Rupert Wilson	
Tony Heading & Stu Collins	$1\frac{1}{2}$ $5\frac{1}{2}$	2^* 5^*	4 3	4 3	$16\frac{1}{2}$
Ed Wynn & Richard Moore	6 1	1 6	6 1	1 6	14
Simon Gandy & Julian Wiseman	4 3	1 6	5^* 2^*	2 5	16
Patrick Barrie & Dave Smith	1 6	1 6	$4\frac{1}{2}$ $2\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	$20\frac{1}{2}$
	$12\frac{1}{2}$	5	$19\frac{1}{2}$	8	

Match score :

CUTwC 67 - 45 OUTS

did not, so Oxford won. Their other success in this round was from Andy and Jon; early pot-out thoughts were dismissed as a) Patrick brought his fifth in next to an Oxford wink, and b) Dave squopped Andy from the baseline. After eighteen minutes, Oxford were on top, but Jon played one of his few bad shots of the day, falling off a green he was squaring up on and thus enabling Cambridge to get back into it. Sound defence saw Oxford claim $4\frac{1}{2}$. Meanwhile, Stu Collins was potting out in a most protracted fashion against Chaudhri and Keyte; the opportunity arose care of Gavin sending three winks off in a row, but the pot-out involved Stu missing the third, then the fourth, then the sixth (after various of his winks had been squopped and freed). After a number of tortuous positional shots with the sixth, he decided the only safe place was in the bucket, where he promptly put it. Ther minor-place potting was just as messy; Tony went off the mat, thus enabling Oxford to salvage two points. Finally for round three, Gandy and Wiseman won a game which started with all four players sitting down (would never have happened in my day!), by virtue of superior potting. This score of five was not

enough to stop Oxford winning the round, but $14\frac{1}{2}$ - $13\frac{1}{2}$ was not enough to make a big dent in Cambridge's lead, and they went into the last round eleven points up and needing nine for victory.

That they would win was never really in doubt, although Mr Purvis potted out against a hiccuping Wiseman to give Oxford five points, and make Cambridge need seven from the last three tables. With Patrick and Dave squopping up Ken and Rupert, and Ed and Richard all over Gavin and Naveed, they were obviously safe; indeed they manage to take $17\frac{1}{2}$ points in fine fashion from the last three tables to win by an eminently singable 67-45.

So, congratulations again to CUTwC. A word of advice, though - enjoy it while you can. The Dark Blue Giant is about to awaken.

The Marchant Trophy (II)

OUTS 'A' vs Cantankerous Ex-Presidents of CUTwC

This match was played straight after the Varsity match. Tony Brennan teamed up with OUTS' current President, Kath, but to little success, Nick and Richard working a pot-out in the second half. Geoff and Rupert fared rather better. In the first game, Geoff's pot-out was going nicely until, with five in the pot, he brought the sixth one in and watched it roll into his opponents' area — 1-6. The second half saw Stew attempt a pot-out but miss and, although the counter-pot could not be arranged, this gave the Oxford team their only win of the match.

Cantankerous Ex-Presidents	21-7	OUTS 'A'
Nick Inglis & Richard Moore	6-1*	Geoff Myers & Rupert Wilson
Patrick Barrie & Stew Sage	6-1	Tony Brennan & Kath Mumford
Nick Inglis & Richard Moore	7-0*	Tony Brennan & Kath Mumford
Patrick Barrie & Stew Sage	2-5	Geoff Myers & Rupert Wilson

A match between the Cantankerous Ex-Presidents and OUTS 'B' was arranged for the Oxford club's Wednesday meeting in the week before the Pairs. Sadly, however, this fell through shortly after OUTS 'B' had secured the services of that well-known Oxford novice, Larry Kahn. The Wessex Exiles, after years of bemoaning the universities' lack of interest, showed no interest at all themselves this year. So OUTS 'A' have won the Marchant Trophy, by dint of being bothered enough to play two matches. If the current apathy elsewhere continues, the Oxford system for naming their teams gives OUTS 'A' an excellent chance of defending it successfully next year...

A brief page-filler, from this year's Oxford Freshers' Fair:

"Great! Tiddlywinks! We used to play this at school!"

"Really? Was there a club?"

"No, we just used to race around the quadrangle..."

Letters to the Editor

Horsemeat Claims He's 'Not That Good'

Dear Sir,

I know I'm good, but not that good (yet). In the WW53 write up of the 1989 NATWA Singles, the article has me making a 3 foot squop onto a pile to save the game. Actually, it was only a 3 inch squop. Also, to end any confusion created by Charles, it's K-A-H-N.

Sincerely,
Larry Khahann

On Cavalier Drivers

Dear Sir,

I am able to corroborate Charles Relle's assertion that he drives only at temperate velocities.

Whilst returning from the Cambridge Open, I came up behind an "A" Registered Cavalier stubbornly hogging the right-hand lane at a mere 85 m.p.h. Being a gentleman, I neither hooted nor flashed my lights (you can insert (only because he'd recognised the driver — Ed) if you like) (*Shan't* — Ed) but waited for him to assume the correct lane for such a sedate speed, which he shortly did.

Best wishes,
Jon Mapley

Jon kindly encloses...

Another Ode to the Ed

*An unruly Stockportian Bard
Contrives situations so hard
That their circumlocution
Defies a solution
While Lockwood runs six from a yard.*

WIN SOME ALCOHOL!!!

How about a competition here? A bottle of wine, maybe even port, to whoever sends in the best publishable or editable limerick or other poem about any winker(s) or winks-related topic — Ed.

Great Winking Performances

by Larry K-A-H-N

Over the years there have been some notable performances of which I'll try to list the most memorable. My apologies to those I overlook, particularly some of the earlier ETwA ones that I'm not familiar with (in other words, write your own article). These records fall into two general categories — single tournament performances and long-term records over a season or even a span of years.

Some of the best single tournaments I can recall are: 1971 NATwA pairs where Bob Henninge and Ferd T. Bull go 10-0 for 62. In the 1982 NATwA Singles, Larry Kahn goes 12-0 for 70. Not to be outdone, the following year Dave Lockwood goes 11-0 for 65. I don't believe anyone has yet been undefeated in the ETwA Singles, although Jon Mapley and Larry have had only one loss. I think Jon averaged nearly 6 in his year. 1983 was the last of the big singles blowouts, although in 1986 Alan Dean, Larry and Jon were something like 18 points ahead of 4th place.

In world matches, the two standouts are Larry's 25-3 win over Alan, and Dave and Jim Marlin's 30-5 win over Alan and Mike Surridge.

Over longer periods of time, other types of records arise. For instance, the NATwA record for consecutive games won is (I think) 24 by Joe Sachs. Back before NATwA tournaments started getting watered down, Larry had a streak of 32 matches with at least a 4 point average. Perhaps the most well known NATwA record was set back in 1973 when Bill Renke won the Triple Crown (teams, pairs and singles) along with a season p.p.g. of 5.38. In 1985, admittedly against somewhat weaker opposition, Larry improved the season mark to 5.52.

In consecutive wins for the same tournament, Severin Drix holds the record with 5 straight NATwA pairs. Larry is working on a NATwA Singles string currently at 4 as I write this. Alan has the ETwA singles record of 3 and I don't believe there has been more than a double winner in the ETwA Pairs (I think Charles and Mike did it, maybe others). *(Charles has won two ETwA Pairs in a row, but with Nigel Knowles not Mike. Jon and Alan also took two on the trot - Ed.)*

Finally, there are Charles' six-year Jubilee reign (something like twenty matches), Dave's 9 straight world singles wins, and Larry's record of 8 out of 10 national singles wins (the other 2 were seconds).

By now some joker is going to ask "what's the greatest feat of all time?" (excluding Tony Heading partnering Brad Schaefer for an entire pairs without cracking up). Probably the best answer to that type of question was given by golfer Sam Snead when asked for his list of the 10 best players ever. He declined to name number one, instead naming 2-10. Curiously, his name was not on the list.

Anyway, if I had to make a choice, I'd rate it as a toss-up between Dave's 9 WS wins or Larry's 8 out of 10 singles. Charles' long string of Jubilee wins were not played under quite the same conditions and were also tainted by admitted illegal substance abuse.

It's possible to make some sort of quantized comparison between these two. Dave's chances of winning a singles match are estimated at $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$. Larry's chances are estimated anywhere between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$. To simplify the problem, take the average value. Using basic probability theory (Cambridge winkers can verify this, Oxford winkers will just have to take my word for it) produces an amazing result. The probabilities are virtually the same, 0.00782 and 0.00785. Looks like I can legitimately weenie out of having to make a definite choice.

On The Games After Lunch

by Charles Relle²

Rob Cartwright, in his article on the 1989 Catford Invitation Individual in WW54, says "I unexpectedly found myself in the lead going into lunch". Later he says "...Things deteriorated from that point on, and I scored a total of five points in the afternoon". This, and the ever-haunting memory of my own infamous first game after lunch against Stew Sage, which cost me the Singles of 1987, prompted me to analyse the before and after lunch results of Catford 1989. It is only a small sample, but quite a good one, since three of the seven rounds were played before lunch and four after, not quite half and half.

The first conclusion is that Surridge and alcohol are soul mates; his average in the morning was $3\frac{2}{3}$, and in the afternoon it was 5.25, an increase of more than one-and-a-half. What is more, he was drinking Marston's Pedigree, and everyone else was drinking wine. The conclusion is obvious: if you are in Mike's team, tank him up at lunchtime; if you know you have to play against him, don't go to his table, and never, never buy him a lunchtime drink.

Perhaps conclusions about our first subject were influenced by the fact that Pedigree is available in Southampton, and he was simply imbibing the home-from-home atmosphere. Our next subject, Nick Inglis, was sixth in the eight player tournament. Before lunch he was averaging a measly 2.1111 points. Stimulated by his lunchtime potations, he achieved 3.375 in the afternoon, not so massive an increase as Mike, but still significant. It is worth topping him up at lunchtime if you are partnering him. Nick, it is said, told Andy Purvis not to touch the cider when playing against me: wrongly as it turns out, for Andy's improvement after lunch was 0.79 points (plus a few insignificant decimals), whereas mine was only 0.36. This shows that it is worth investing a few drinks in Andy if you want him to improve after lunch, but that I am more or less impervious to alcohol, and should always be bought drinks by partners and opponents alike.

In between Andy and myself came Phil Clark, whose improvement was 0.583333 and possibly some more threes after that. It might be worth buying him a pint or two, but the return is not very high. You would probably do better to put your money elsewhere. Gary Shrimpton is another such case. He is a good player, who came second to Surridge in the tournament, but if, as partner or opponent, you hope to influence his play by drink, you are in for a disappointment. He averaged 4.333 before lunch and 4.375 after.

Observant readers will have noticed that I have mentioned six members of an eight player tournament, all of whose play has improved with lunchtime libations. So the remaining two must be especially susceptible to alcohol, and should not be bought drinks by their partners, who should also be on their guard to prevent them being bought drinks by tempting and enterprising opponents. Who are the people who cannot take their drink? First there is Cyril Edwards, whose pre-prandial scores averaged 3.111, compared with a post-prandial 2.125. Maybe age is taking its toll on a previously vigorous frame, and team-mates should guide Cyril gently to a tea-shop at lunchtime. Second, there is Rob Cartwright whose average in the first three games was 4.889, and in the remaining four was 1.25, a massive drop of over $3\frac{1}{2}$ points.

² The interested reader is referred to the report of this year's London Open for more details of Charles' games after lunch. Also, a possible prandial effect on tables is revealed after the write-up for the Catford Invitation.

Clearly only the most rigorous teetotal régime can help this man, and I call upon all members of ETwA to make sure that not a drop passes his lips. He should be made to sign the pledge at once, and any team he plays in should be named "The Band of Hope".

World Singles History

by David H. Lockwood

Why does the average player participate? Because it's fun, the people are intelligent, and it's different. Why do the good players play? Because they have had some success, they have developed a number of friends among their fellow winkers, and it's a challenge. Why do the best players play? Because of friends, the challenge, and the desire to be the best in the world.

Who's the best? Numero uno. The guy who's a nose or a mile ahead. (Sorry ladies, you haven't made it yet.) The advent of the National and World Championships in the early 1970s provided a continuing outlet for the competitive drive of the top players. Before that, there wasn't much in the way of competitions for those not in schools or universities. Most competitions were team matches and winks was something you did at university and not after — similar to other clubs and some sports.

In 1972, eight Americans from MIT travelled across the pond to play Southampton for the first World Championship. Subsequently, World Singles and Pairs matches were organised in addition to more World Teams. The World Singles has, however, been the most actively pursued. To date, 30 matches have been played.

World Singles 1, in June 1973, matched Alan "The Supreme" Dean against Big Bill Renke. This was certainly the best of Britain versus the best of the U.S. Alan would successfully complete his third consecutive ETwA Singles that year and Bill had won everything in America. That year Bill played 15-20 hours per week on average. Alan came into the two-day match fatigued from a week at a camp with inadequate sleep and lost 29-6. Still, anybody's best — me, Larry Kahn, Jon Mapley, or Alan himself, would have been hard-pressed to beat Bill on those two days. Unfortunately, this was the pinnacle of Bill Renke's career. He accomplished all of his goals too easily and felt he had no further mountains to climb. For Alan, this represented the first of a series of disastrous World Championships and the finish of his time as the World's Best.

By the time of WS2 in November 1974, Bill had tapered off, playing team matches but no longer practising much at all. WS2 was the first challenge match, with Severin Drix as American Singles champion. Bill's heart wasn't in it and the match was an easy triumph for Severin 25-17, from leads of 17-4 and 24-11. Bill had been Champion for one year, five months and one match.

Nearly two years later (skipping 1975 since Severin won the NATwA Singles again), Severin played Keith Seaman in July 1976 in WS3. One of the least attended WS, Severin drew away from Keith with two finishing sixes to win 27-15.

WS4 was another uncompetitive match with Sunshine getting behind a quick 12-2 before finishing 28-14. This was Sunshine's swansong from serious play, perhaps another victim of setting goals too easily achieved.

In the quickest follow-on match to that date, I played Severin in August 1977 in WS5. Pulling back from $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$ and $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $17\frac{1}{2}$ deficits, I led briefly after six games $21\frac{1}{2}$ - $20\frac{1}{2}$.

Severin controlled the last game though, to run off a $26\frac{1}{2} - 22\frac{1}{2}$ win in the closest match up until then and the third closest of all time.

A year later, a similar match — I was down $10\frac{1}{2} - 17\frac{1}{2}$ but up $22\frac{1}{2} - 19\frac{1}{2}$. It finished with a 4-3 Severin 7th game win but match loss. (Severin also won 4 of the 7 games.) At $25\frac{1}{2} - 23\frac{1}{2}$, WS6 was the second closest match of all time. Severin was World Singles champ for three years, nine months and four matches.

In July 1979, Joe Sachs and I flew over for a Manchester Open Pairs that had been cancelled the previous Wednesday unbeknownst to us. I called Alan (who'd won the previous ETwA Singles) to see if he wanted to play WS7 that weekend and he agreed. Joe decided to get back to New York to work and stayed in Britain about five hours. I contacted Keith and together we travelled down to Southampton. Alan and I played outside the porter's lodge at the University in the quickest match ever — one hour and forty minutes! Alan took a quick blitz 6-1 in game one and dropped the next four games 25-3. Three of the five games were blitzes (1, 3 and 4) as my potting excelled. After the match, Barbie, Heather, Alan, Keith and I played at a local "Par 3" golf course. Heather enjoyed playing with the sand in the sand traps.

At Cambridge, U.K. in February 1980, Jon Mapley made his World Singles debut. A well attended and well played match, WS8 had several distinguishing characteristics. Game 1 was the only $4\frac{2}{3} - 2\frac{1}{3}$ in WS history. Two good Bristols in rounds pushed a close Jon advantage to me. Time limit points were 3-3-3-1 with no winks in the cup. Jon's one-point colour ended game unable to shoot since it was eyeballed on one of mine too far from any pile to gromp. (Obviously the pot wouldn't have helped either.) Jon followed this game with a quick 7-0. After a tight 5-2 in game three (should have been a 6-1 and the lead but Jon potted well and I didn't), game 4 saw a long (15-18 inches) Jon pot in the fifth turn a 5-2 win for me into a 4-3 win for him, increasing his lead to $2\frac{2}{3}$ points. Despite Jon's match leads after games 2 through 4, I never felt this match was going to be lost. Game 5 was a good 5-2 for me, just enough to lead $17\frac{2}{3} - 17\frac{1}{3}$. After five games in a seven game match, unless there is a tie, one player can win in the sixth game and the other can't. Despite only a $\frac{1}{3}$ point lead, I had the chance and executed the 7-0 for the win. (Entering the seventh game of a WS match, unless one player has $24\frac{1}{2}$, either player can win in that round.)

Two months later, Severin's last appearance in the World Singles saw him win three of the first four games but trail $13\frac{1}{2} - 14\frac{1}{2}$. I finished 6-1, 6-1 to gain the WS9 victory.

WS10 was the inaugural Larry Kahn World Singles. Held in August 1980 in New York City, this was also the first of the "also-ran" challenges. (Larry had come in second to Pam Knowles in the NATwA Singles.) Alternating wins in games 1 to 4 left me down 12-16. Game 5 was one of the most fantastic ever seen. Severin, who was watching, called it, "The high point of my winking career." A sequence of exceptional, long-distance Bristols with knock-off and squop aspects left Severin gasping. A key miss by Larry left the door open for me, and I controlled from there for a 6-1 and 18-17 lead. Driving, I finished with two more sixes for a 30-19 victory.

In March 1981, I played Pam Knowles in a London pub and had an easy $30\frac{1}{2} - 11\frac{1}{2}$ win. The photographs from after the match have Pam smiling wider than me.

In July, I played Jon in the same pub in WS12. Taking a quick 10-4 lead, I held Jon off for a $26\frac{1}{2} - 16\frac{1}{2}$ win. I remember that I threw winks at his initial squop in game one believing that the pile would get unstable and he would not have any protection.

WS13 was Larry's second challenge. After forging a big $11\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$ lead, I saw it eroded in games 3 to 5. Larry led $18\frac{1}{2} - 16\frac{1}{2}$. Game 6 was a case of countering blitzes. Larry had an easy

five pots behind a nuddled sixth — a big. Larry tries the tough one first and misses, but the big hits his hand. Where does it go? Placement is critical because of all of his winks behind the original location of the big. After conferring with Joe Sachs the judge, Larry and I agreed that I be allowed to shoot the big over the cup to determine placement. I landed it on the other big in about as good a position as possible, gained the pot-out victory and finished strongly with a six in game seven for a $27\frac{1}{2}$ - $21\frac{1}{2}$ win.

WS14 in October 1982 was the Charles Relle debut. A well attended match (pub hours were extended), Charles and I split the first two games 7-7. A 7-0 in game 3 put me firmly in the lead and the match ended 25-10.

Four months later, I was a married man and facing Larry in WS15. A slugfest, the match was tied 14-14 after four sixes. Unfortunately, my response to Larry's game five 6-1 was only a $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ win leaving me three points behind. A failed blitz left Larry with a 7-0 and the match at $29\frac{1}{2}$ - $19\frac{1}{2}$. I had been WS Champion for four years, two months and nine matches.

Larry's first defence, WS16, was against Jon in May 1983. Jon led 15-13 but couldn't hold it, losing the last two 6-1 to get his standard $16\frac{1}{2}$ to $17\frac{1}{3}$ point loss. This was the second also-ran challenge.

The next day, Larry played me in WS17. I took a drubbing, losing the last two games 0-14 and the match $29\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. This is my only losing match which didn't go the distance. Two days after this match, I won my last NATwA Singles with a record 5.91 p.p.g. Two days after that, I was at the birth of my eldest child 1000 miles away.

As a result of my NATwA Singles win, I earned a WS challenge. In February 1984, I started WS18 as I finished WS17, 0-7. Wins in games 2 to 4 put me up $14\frac{1}{2}$ - $13\frac{1}{2}$. Larry controlled from there, needing only one point in the seventh game to win. Larry won $29\frac{1}{2}$ - $19\frac{1}{2}$, the third successive time he got exactly $29\frac{1}{2}$ points against me. (In head-to-head matches, one point more is really two points because it's one point you get and one point your opponent *doesn't* get. Therefore, 7-0 losses are extremely difficult to come back from. In only three matches has the winner lost a 7-0. In ten matches, the winner has scored a 7-0.)

1984 was the first year Larry went to play in the ETwA Singles and he played Jon at that time in WS19. With three 6-1s in the first four games, Larry *lost* the last *two* games to win 25-17. (It was, of course, Jon's standard loss score.)

At the NATwA Singles earlier in 1984, Arye Gittelman had beaten Larry in the finals of a poor knock-out match. Arye continued his mastery of Larry in WS20 (February 1985) needing only six games to win 25-17. Larry's only win was a 7-0 which kept him close the whole way. Larry had held the WS title for two years and five matches.

A rematch in October (WS21) was bizarre. Arye surged $17\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ then dropped games 4 to 6 by an aggregate 3-18. Down a point going into game 7, Arye controlled for 6-1 and a 2-0 record against Larry. It appears Larry will never be able to even the score against Arye.

The last full American team to visit Britain went to the ETwA Singles in November 1985. Arye was in that team and faced Alan, who had earned the challenge from coming in third behind Larry and Dave the year before. Arye won the first two games of WS22 but should have won bigger. Alan pulled himself together quicker than Arye and won games 3 to 5 by an aggregate 16-5. Alan had $24\frac{1}{2}$ after six games and coasted through Arye's desperate last game. Arye was to finish third in the ETwA Singles and become disheartened. His loss is sorely missed. (It sure would be nice to have somebody else in America with a decent chance of beating Larry!) Alan became the first non-American champion in the tenth British attempt. Arye was WS Champion for nine months and two matches.

It was a short reign. Barely a week later, Larry achieved the impossible, beating Alan in four games. In games 1 to 3, huge piles (21-22 winks) were created with Larry in control. The scores were 6-1 each time. Game 4 was more spread out. This proved Alan's undoing as Larry squopped Alan out and then worked one colour free. The 7-0 followed. Alan's style is all or nothing. This was nothing. Alan was WS Champion for one match and eight days. In this match, Larry also became the first former champion to regain the title.

At the time of the 1986 ETwA Singles, Jon used his challenge from the previous year earned from his fourth place finish behind Larry, Dave and Arye. This began Jon's career peak to date as he won four of six games for a solid $25\frac{1}{2}$ - $16\frac{1}{2}$ victory in WS24. Jon's success came in his fifth challenge. Larry had been champion for the second time for eleven months and one match.

(A few days before this, Alan, the new ETwA Singles champion, played Larry in an 'if' match, which would count as a WS match if Larry beat Jon in WS24 or won the rematch he'd earned from his NATwA Singles win. Despite losing the first game 0-7, Alan won 25-17. This was perhaps Alan's best WS performance and, ironically, counted for nothing when Jon beat Larry and Larry decided not to play the rematch — Ed.)

WS25 was the first all-British match with Jon and Alan going head-to-head. These two have been the two best British winkers over the last 20 years and a tight, well-fought match was expected. With three lead changes, the match remained undecided until Jon's 6-1 in game 6 gave him a 24-18 lead.

WS26 was held in November 1987 at Cambridge, U.K. Larry suffered his worst loss 25-10 as he could only manage a 4-3 win in game 2. Jon began to think that he had finally figured out how to beat Larry consistently. Overall, Jon's streak reached three matches.

Charles Relle played his second challenge in another also-ran match. WS27 was his best match to date losing $26\frac{1}{2}$ - $15\frac{1}{2}$. From 7-7, Jon took games 3 to 5 by a total of $16\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ to coast home.

WS28, in September 1988, was a showdown as Larry and Jon entered the match with 6-6 and 4-4 records respectively and 2-2 in matches against each other. In a 7-0 in game 3, Larry's sixth wink *bounced* sideways into the cup! Jon recovered to win game four, 5-2, to tie 14-14 but the gods were on Larry's side as he finished 6-1, 6-1. Jon held the title for 1 year, 10 months and 4 matches.

By virtue of my win in the 1988 ETwA Singles, I returned to World Singles play after a hiatus of almost five years. In WS29 in January 1989, I ground out victories in games 2 to 5 to lead 22-13. Almost insurmountable... but not quite. Larry finished with the requisite 6-1, 6-1 for the closest match ever 25-24. This was only the second match in which the winner won fewer games than the loser.

WS30 was a normal match for Charles Relle. After two games, the match was tied. From there he failed to win a game. In his previous challenges, Charles had the same result except that he did win the last game against Jon 4-3. Larry was not tested in this match with his new pairs partner and it solidified his claim on number 1. This was yet another match from an also-ran challenger.

At the time of writing (February), Larry's third reign as WS Champion is at 18 months, three matches, and counting. He next faces Richard Moore in April 1990 just before the ETwA Pairs. Since Larry is reigning NATwA and ETwA Singles Champion, he has two challenges back if Richard wins with his challenge. Good luck, Richard. Good luck, Larry.

Larry's dominance in National Singles championships since 1984 and his excellent record in World Singles make it easy to call him number one at this point. Who's number two? (or, as the boxing folks have it, the number one challenger?!) This is less clear. Certainly the contenders for it are me, Jon, Charles, Andy Purvis, Geoff Myers and Richard Moore. There are a couple of others — particularly Mike Surridge and Bob Henninge — who could be considered if they played more singles.

So much for the present. More importantly, what does the future hold? Will Larry be number one in 2000? Perhaps. In fact, he must have the best probability of that. Will he or anyone dominate the 1990s? Probably not.

Only the past is certain. Each one of us writes our own record and the best record sets the standard for the future. The World Singles Champions of the past have set high standards for future winkers and the ever-increasing number of World Championship matches puts the accomplishments of each Champion in better perspective. We who have won the World Singles strive for perfection despite the impossibility of ever achieving it. I charge you who have never won it to push yourselves and us ever closer to that goal.

World Singles 31

Larry Kahn vs. Richard Moore

Hamley's Toy Shop, 27th April 1990

by Andy Purvis

A dozen or so spectators (mostly CUTwC) have gathered in Hamley's Toy Shop for this, the 31st World Singles Challenge. Outnumbering them is the posse of press photographers, furiously snapping away to catch shots of the combatants in a variety of silly poses. In the Red corner, next to the My Little Pony, is the defending holder, Larry Kahn; 9 times World Singles Champion, 5 times World Pairs Champion, 6 times NATwA Singles Champ, 9 times NATwA Pairs champ, 4 times ETwA Singles Champ, current ETwA Pairs champ, current World Master. In the Blue corner, near the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles with moveable joints, is Richard Moore (also with moveable joints), co-winner of the 1988 ETwA Handicapped Teams of Four... Richard it is who wins the toss for corners and gets the first round of applause of the day for guessing correctly which corners he should choose.

But he goes off the table with his first squidge-off, and that just about sums up game one. Clearly nervous, he makes virtually nothing and Larry, although not near his top form either, has free turns embarrassingly quickly (but the speed of play is almost ridiculously fast throughout the match). Fairly late on, Larry is playing free turns when people notice that Richard has a free wink on the main pile. No-one can say how long it has been free. Richard could claim Larry's previous shot as out of turn, and thus blow the pile, but very sportingly allows Larry to continue. Larry immediately resquops it and goes on to an easy 6-1.

Richard's nerves seem to subside a bit now. He starts game 2 much better than Larry, gaining an early tripleton. But he is unlucky when he fails to spread a pair of his big winks. Larry squops these and then knocks off and squops an attacker. A couple of fairly easy misses by Richard now let Larry take control, especially when Richard subs a big blue. Richard makes quite a bit of play with his last red, but Larry plays a good sequence to get the squop-up. Larry starts to sniff a yellow pot-out, but a surprising miss gives Richard a chance to blow

the pile. Larry recovers most of it but good shoots and Good shots keep Richard going (aided by a deliberate baseline squop). Starting round 4, it looks like good blue potting will secure a much-needed win, but red is almost bound to finish last. Richard pots one of his two pottable blue, then thinks long and hard. Rather than risk missing the close one (five inches), he brings in his other blue. It ends up a good eight inches away. Yellow tries to squop the blue that Richard could have potted. He subs — "That's amusing" — but leaves the blue very tough. Richard lines up the eight incher, but it hits the rim; this is the first of two round five misses that will really cost Richard dear in this match. Green pots one to gain first, then takes out the only flat red. Yellow, ending, has a small off large red for the 6 but it doesn't go so Larry has to make do with $5\frac{1}{2}$.

With the score at $11\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$, everyone goes to the pub for lunch. While Larry sips at his Coca Cola, Richard gets stuck in to the drinking games. Perhaps because of this, he initially arranges the colours in the wrong order on the restart. Larry, playing green and yellow, has the edge on bringing in. Richard misses a Bristol onto a Larry baseline squop, and a pile develops here. Larry plays the better shots and gains a good position, helped by more subs from Richard. After only 7 minutes red is squopped up and Richard is down to three blues, but one of these gets a great knock off and doubleton on the main pile. Perhaps the best play of the match now follows: Larry flips two big winks onto this mess, but blue gets beautifully on top of the pile. The blow-up is reasonable, but Larry takes a doubleton of big winks on the remnants of the pile. Richard misses an easy blue shot but makes a great shot on the next blue turn to squop all the free winks on the pile. Larry coolly takes this blue. There is a yellow by three blues; umpire Jon Mapley is called in to see if the yellow is free but, halfway through judging it, he kicks the table. Yellow, adjudged free, takes two of the blues and the third retakes. There are seven uninvolved winks; three greens and two of each of red and blue — all the rest are in piles. The shooting-match over, a hiatus follows as everyone misses easyish shots. Then, although Larry gets a great knock off and squop with green, yellow misses an easy clean-up shot and is squopped up with 4 minutes left. Green is forced to boondock to free a yellow and all colours line up hopeful pile shots in round 0. Larry, faced with an impossible Bristol, asks "Where's Charles?". Richard pots three good blues from 7 to 10 inches to start round 2 and Larry just squeaks a couple of greens in. The game is now very tight with no flat winks. A neat squop off a blue onto red, and a round 5 yellow pot let Larry promote yellow ahead of red for a useful 3-4 defeat. This is the first singles win ever for Richard over Larry, who now leads $14\frac{1}{2} - 6\frac{1}{2}$.

A baseline squop of small blue (Richard) onto big green becomes an early focus in game 4. Although the play is scrappy, Larry's yellows are too far away and Richard gets a good position. Larry tries a bomb shot but misses by a foot, and yellow is squopped up as he arrives, but Richard fluffs a green doubleton to let Larry off the hook. Larry now edges his way in and the game develops tightly until he gets a neat squop of yellow onto blue followed by a good Bristol with green. Blue is soon squopped up. Red makes a Bristol but is squopped by yellow, and red subs on his next turn as the end of regulation is reached. Yet another sub by Richard leaves him with just one blue and, although he puts this right on top of the pile, Larry makes a really good yellow Bristol to secure the 6-1 for a 'useful' $20\frac{1}{2} - 7\frac{1}{2}$ lead.

At the start of game 5, Richard squops a big blue with a big red. Larry brings a big yellow in close, and this takes the red when Richard splits up the doubleton. Richard brings his fifth blue in near to a yellow and Larry, master strategist that he is, chooses this moment to send a green off. Yellow takes the blue, another blue retakes and now yellow goes off. Blue

boondocks the squopping yellow and green brings in close to the cluster of five blues. It is now decision time and Richard coolly chooses to bring the sixth blue in rather than start potting with one on the line. This decision is vindicated when Larry, not for the first time today, misses a one inch squop. Yellow misses too and there are still five Larry winks at the edge as Richard takes a deep breath. He sinks the two close blues, makes the third, shakes quite badly as he pots the fourth, and sinks the fifth. He (and everyone watching) takes another deep breath and the sixth one goes in to great (and gloriously biased) applause. The other colours are all widely spread, but red looks best for second. Larry helps Richard by missing an easy pot with each colour and Richard pots his last big red to even more applause to secure the 7-0. This is Larry's first ever zero in World play, and brings the match back to life at $20\frac{1}{2} - 14\frac{1}{2}$.

The sixth game develops in an open fashion, but no-one can quite line up a pot-out threat. Red (Larry) is squopped up briefly with a couple of minutes to go, but this only really gains Richard tempo as blue can blow a small pile to free red. The game is tactically quite tight, though not played to a desperately high standard. Larry is looking to cut his losses most of the way through, but a beautiful nudge by Richard turns a doubleton into a triple in round 4 and now a game-ending pot will make it 5-2 to him and leave the score at $19\frac{1}{2} - 22\frac{1}{2}$... But it slips by, and 3-4 leaves Richard in the unenviable position of needing a 7-0 to tie.

Desperately needing a good bring in, Richard sends the second yellow off and rolls a couple of greens around. Refusing to be outdone, Larry sends a blue on to the floor, but no pot out threat develops. Richard's heart seems not to be in it as he is squopped up inside seven minutes. Although he makes some good attacks, such as a superb doubleton atop the biggest pile, and later a neat Lennon onto a doubleton on the same pile, Larry defends well enough. Having coped with all Richard's efforts, Larry sportingly frees Richard on the pile in free turns and the resulting crud leaves five yellows and three greens free! But Larry keeps his head and starts potting early in rounds. Richard doesn't seem to notice a possible colour-order knock-off which just might leave a pot-out chance, and Larry runs out a 6-1 winner for a rather unconvincing $30\frac{1}{2} - 18\frac{1}{2}$ defence.

Larry Kahn	6	$5\frac{1}{2}$	3	6	0*	4	6	$30\frac{1}{2}$
Richard Moore	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	4	1	7*	3	1	$18\frac{1}{2}$

This was the least impressive performance I've seen from Larry, and he must be greatly relieved that Richard was both equally off-form and very nervous. Or maybe he was saving himself for the rematch... Richard acquitted himself very well after overcoming his nerves, scoring more points than Alan Dean has totalled in his three losses, but should rue those missed pots and some careless attacks onto piles.

And, when it was all over, and the players had left the scene, a mother and her young daughter came up and asked, "Who won? The British one or the American one?" The American one. "Oh, shame!"

Yes indeed.

The ETwA National Pairs

Southampton University, 28th & 29th April 1990

by Alan Boyce³

The tournament started at about 10.45 with 18 pairs playing an all-play-all. The likely front runners looked like being defending champions Kahn & Relle, Mapley & Moore and Myers & Purvis. These three pairs all started with sixes. Four other pairs shared top of the table with them, including Mayes & Salter who recorded the first pot-out of the day against Cartwright & Clark.

The second round saw Mapley & Moore storm into the lead with the first 7-0 of the tournament. Kahn & Relle and Myers & Purvis were still snapping at their heels with sixes. The remainder started falling back. Carrington, Boyce, Gandy and Jones contrived to share the tournament's first draw.

The leaders pulled further ahead in round 3, with sixes to two of them and a seven to Relle & Kahn. Cullingham & Grant and Carmody & Chaudhri were anchored at the bottom with two points from their games against the top three pairs.

Myers & Purvis dropped further behind by recording their fourth straight six while the more aggressive front runners were potting out for sevens. In joint fourth places, Stef Norman and Patrick Barrie were proving more than capable of carrying their respective partners, Surridge and Wynn. Carrington & Boyce had still not got it together and were languishing on $9\frac{1}{2}$ points, just above Thorpe & Hull. There followed another round of sixes for the top three and a seven for Sage & Rose against Gameson & Wilson, who became the third pair to see their average fall below a point a game.

In the sixth round Myers & Purvis finally got the bit between their teeth and recorded their first seven to move within a point of the joint leaders. Hull & Thorpe finally managed to break their duck against the mercurial Cartwright & Clark. Having got a taste for victory, they next inflicted the first defeat on one of the leading group by beating Kahn & Relle 4-3. A third pot-out for Mapley & Moore opened up a three point lead while Purvis & Myers took 5 points off fifth-placed Barrie & Wynn.

Round eight concluded the day's play. Purvis & Myers notched up their second seven while Mapley & Moore continued in the lead with a six. Kahn & Relle also managed a 5-2 over Barrie & Wynn, while Inglis & Satchell proved that pot-outs were not the preserve of the top three by inflicting a zero on Cullingham & Grant. Boyce & Carrington proved that reputation is not always enough, as Carmody & Chaudhri took two points in their game; this was the latter's first score of more than one in any game.

At this stage, many people departed for the bar and a discussion on rules. Others departed for various eating, drinking and resting establishments. The Wessex Exiles departed for Derby Road.

The first round of the Sunday morning found three pairs still asleep while their opponents potted out. Two of these opponents were Myers/Purvis and Kahn/Relle. Mapley & Moore were scoring a six, so not much had changed. They posted another in the next game, as did Relle & Kahn, but Myers & Purvis slipped a little with a 5-2 in a very tight game against Sage

³ This report has been compiled under the reporting restrictions imposed by the Editor of *Winking World*.

The 1990 ETwA National Pairs

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	Tot	Pos	
A	Larry Kahn & Charles Relle	-	2	5*	5	5½	2⅓	4½	3	6	5	7*	3	6	6	7*	6	6	86⅓	3	
B	Jon Mapley & Richard Moore	5	-	1	1	3	6	6	4	6	4	7*	6	7*	6	6	6	7*	87	2	
C	Geoff Myers & Andy Purvis	2*	6	-	6	6	7*	5	6	6	5	7*	6	6	6	7*	6	6	99	1	
D	Nick Inglis & Alex Satchell	2	6	1	-	2*	5	2⅓	4	6	1	6	4½	6	3	1	7*	5½	6	68⅓	7
E	Alan Boyce & Jim Carrington	1½	4	1	5*	-	1	1	5*	2	1	6	6	1	4	3½	6	6	5	59	9
F	Rob Cartwright & Phil Clark	4⅔	1	0*	2	6	-	2	1	6	2	6	1	4	1*	6	5	5½	6	59⅓	8
G	Matthew Rose & Stew Sage	2½	1	2	4⅔	6	5	-	6	3	2	2	5	6	3	6	5	7*	6	72⅓	6
H	Stef Norman & Mike Surridge	4	3	1	3	2*	6	1	-	7*	1½	6	6	4	6	5½	6	6*	6	74	5
I	Tim Jeffreys & Phil Scarrott	1	1	1	1	5	1	4	0*	-	4	1	6	3	6	2	6	5½	6	53½	11
J	Patrick Barrie & Ed Wynn	2	3	2	6	6	5	5	5½	3	-	6	2	6	4	6	6*	5	7*	79½	4
K	Steve Phillips & Julian Wiseman	0*	0*	0*	1	1	1	5	1	6	1	-	2	1	3½	6	4½	1½	6	40½	15
L	Dave Hull & Geoff Thorpe	4	1	1	2½	1	6	2	1	1	5	5	-	4	4	2	0*	6	0*	45½	13
M	Graham Hancock & Gavin Keyte	1	0*	1	1	6	3	1	3	4	1	6	3	-	6	5	6	4	4	55	10
N	Sean Mayes & Dave Salter	1	1	1	4	3	6*	4	1	1	3	3½	3	1	-	5	4	4½	2	48	12
O	Simon Gandy & Adrian Jones	0*	1	0*	6	3½	1	1	1½	5	1	1	5	2	2	-	6	3	5	44	14
P	James Cullingham & Alastair Grant	0*	1	1	0*	1	2	2	1	1	1*	2½	7*	1	3	1	-	1½	4	30	18
Q	Ian Gameson & Rupert Wilson	1	1	1	1½	1	1½	0*	1*	1½	2	5½	1	3	2½	4	5½	-	5*	38	16
R	Phil Carmody & Naveed Chaudhri	1	0*	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0*	1	7*	3	5	2	3	2*	-	32	17

& Rose. Boyce & Carrington finally managed a messy pot-out against Norman & Surridge but only collected 5 points.

Round eleven was the first round with no pot-outs. More significantly, there was a second defeat for Kahn & Relle, 3-4 against Norman & Surridge. Mapley & Moore also had their first 'setback', only winning 4-3 over Barrie & Wynn. This allowed Purvis & Myers to tie for the lead when they beat Jeffreys & Scarrott 6-1.

Another defeat followed for Kahn & Relle, this time being on the wrong end of a three way tie for first place with Carrington & Clark. The two leading pairs put themselves out of sight with sixes. Again there were no pot-outs, showing that people quickly forget what the thing in the middle is for.

Round 13 saw Myers & Purvis take the lead on their own for the first time. They stuffed Carrington & Boyce, with Myers having six opponent winks under one of his. Mapley & Moore meanwhile were slipping to their first defeat — 6-1 at the hands of Inglis & Satchell. Kahn & Relle badly needed a big win to stay in contention, but had to settle for $4\frac{1}{2}$ against Rose & Sage.

Myers & Purvis extended their lead to 8 points in the fourteenth round with a six against Hull & Thorpe. Mapley & Moore lost again, this time 4-3 to Boyce & Carrington, with Boyce potting off a Mapley doubleton in round 5 to take first place.

Things were getting tense in the next round. The clash of the leading pairs saw Myers & Purvis inflict a third successive defeat on Mapley & Moore (6-1) to put themselves more than 11 points clear. Things were so tense against Boyce & Carrington that Charles Relle had to leave the table to 'wash his hands.' More experience told and Kahn & Relle took $5\frac{1}{2}$.

The unthinkable happened in round 16. Myers & Purvis had to avoid 0-7 to take the title and Kahn potted out on them. However, the leaders took second and third to wrap up the tournament. Mapley and Moore stuttered back to their winning ways with a 4-3 against Norman & Surridge.

In the final round Mapley & Moore defeated Kahn & Relle by just the margin needed to take second place, twelve points behind Myers & Purvis who finished with a 6-1. Carmody & Chaudhri hauled themselves off the bottom of the table with their second win, a 7-0 pot-squop over Hull & Thorpe (to think we used to be intimidated by them).

Many congratulations to Andy Purvis & Geoff Myers on winning their first National Pairs trophy in style. It's a pity that it couldn't be presented but the previous winners were so confident that they hadn't redeemed it from the pawnbrokers. It's also a pity that the winks fell off the commemorative shields. Never mind, that's all been rectified now.

How long do winks games really take?

by Patrick Barrie

This is a brief review of the results of analysing the time-slips used in the National Pairs. The Pairs has been stretched to the capacity of its all-play-all format for the last two years, and so the time-slips were introduced partially to encourage quicker play, partially to see who the slower players are, but generally to have a genuine idea about how long winks games really are.

The length of a game is obviously affected by the number of umpiring decisions, calls of nature (particularly in the round after lunch), and the opposition as well as a pair's own deliberating and shot-making time. Taken over an entire 17 rounds however, these random factors tend to average themselves away. Sadly only 120 time-slips were completed out of the 153 games played so the analysis is incomplete. It is also unfortunate in particular that the 4 slowest pairs on average failed to complete a large number of their time-slips.

Below is given for interest the average length per game that didn't involve a pot-out before rounds. This is an indication to the pairs who were slowest that their speed of play might be improved.

Pair	No. of incomplete time slips	Games ending in pot-outs before rounds	Games not pot-outs before rounds	
			Number	Ave. time (mins)
Cartwright & Clark	6	2	9	42.7
Gameson & Wilson	7	2	8	42.3
Myers & Purvis	7	-	10	42.0
Mayes & Salter	8	-	9	41.4
Barrie & Wynn	-	1	16	41.3
Hull & Thorpe	5	2	10	41.2
Gandy & Jones	2	-	15	40.3
Carmody & Chaudhri	1	5	11	40.3
Inglis & Satchell	6	1	10	39.7
Kahn & Relle	2	-	15	39.6
Boyce & Carrington	1	3	13	38.7
Rose & Sage	3	-	14	38.5
Hancock & Keyte	2	-	15	37.2
Cullingham & Grant	1	1	15	36.7
Jeffreys & Scarrott	3	1	13	36.5
Norman & Surridge	1	3	13	36.3
Mapley & Moore	7	2	8	35.9
Phillips & Wiseman	4	1	12	34.4

The average length of all games (including pot-outs) was 37.4 minutes. This gives an average 'winking time' of 10.6 hours for 17 rounds. The actual tournament playing time was about 14.25 hours. Thus the average winker only played for 75% of the time — the other 25% was spent waiting for other games to finish plus a little between rounds.

Tournaments can only proceed at the rate of the slowest games. the length of the longest game was 61 minutes. The average length of the longest game per round was 48.2 minutes, though this number would be greater if the other time-slips had been completed.

I've written this item just to show that the time-slips were actually looked at and to encourage people to complete them properly if they are used again. It is not intended to criticise or compliment anyone, but to present some facts rather than guesses about the speed of play.

More On The * & ^ £ \$ % Rules

by Jon Mapley, Chairman of the Rules Sub-committee

The current version of the Rules is that sanctioned at the Pairs in April 1990 and subsequently sent to all members. At that time, the following decisions were reached on points outstanding for possible further deliberation by the Sub-committee:

(a) We would not change the sequence of play from the current Blue, Green, Red, Yellow. The suggestion for playing in 'spectral' colour order was overwhelmingly rejected.

(b) There was considerable support for the inclusion in the Foreword of the following:

"Players are invited to agree before a game starts that they will endeavour to point out in advance that a player is about to play out of sequence."

This was felt to be uncontroversial and has already been inserted.

(c) In Rule 1c it was agreed that it is wrong to be categorical about the number of games a pair may or may not play against each opponent. Again, being a widely agreed uncontroversial point, all reference to the format of match play has been deleted.

(d) In Rule 7, in place of "he forfeits the next shot due to be played with that colour" it has been suggested that "he is obliged to pass on the next shot capable of being played with that colour" is better. This would cover the situation where the colour which went off is immediately squopped up, and would apparently suffer no penalty under the current rule. It was agreed that the existing Rule should stand, as there was not intended to be a postponement of a missed shot as a result of being squopped, whatever the circumstances.

(e) Novices would understand the scoring system better if a more convenient description than "time-limit points" were introduced. The Sub-committee was asked to present a formal proposal based on a selected sample of submissions. There was popular acclaim for the use of the term "Tiddly" as this is still part of the name of the game, but currently has no function, and might go some way to answering the time-honoured question beloved of Sun reporters, "What's a Tiddly — Nudge, Nudge, Wink, Wink, say no more, guv'nor."

So, currently, the Sub-committee has one item to consider.

It is also apparent that some confusion exists over the status of a player's "correct" colour during the playing of a nominated wink (there is no change — why should he not gain or lose for potting/sending off one of his own colour?). There also exists a rare possibility that the nominated colour could be one's own partner, if the contravention of the freeing rule is, say, green releasing a blue while squopping the only red which had been desquopped on the freeing shot by yellow. The first point can easily be clarified by minor wording changes to Rules 5c and 7a, changing "the colour he is playing" to "his correct colour." In Rule 11, a change from "If this shot fails to free any of the squopped partnership's winks" to "If after the playing of the nominated colour no winks of the squopped partnership are free" solves the second.

All the above points will be presented at the 1991 Rules Meeting, together with any additional proposals raised in accordance with ETwA's Constitution.

Fair is Foul, but is Foul Fair?

by Alan Boyce

For the benefit of people who believe that culture comes in a yoghurt pot, I shall explain that the title is a misquotation from The Scottish Play. I also took the Bard's advice on a certain Ides of March tournament. This article is about foul shots.

For some time now I have considered that the foul shot rule provides an inappropriate sanction for the offence. As I have not been elected to the Rules Sub-Committee I shall press my case in the pages of *Winking World*.

As a game, winks is different from all others. It does, however, have similarities to many. Firstly I'd like to compare and contrast winks with other sports and games. Secondly I'd like to compare the committing of a foul and the sanction against a foul in winks with that in other games. Thirdly I'd like to propose a modest change to the Rules.

Winks has practically nothing in common with athletics, with the exception that some of the players take strategy-enhancing drugs. The world high jump records are held by men with entirely different physiques.

The only similarity between winks and ball games such as soccer, hockey and basketball is the attempt to put one object inside another. This feature also occurs in some indoor games.

Cricket bears a few more similarities to winks: action is not continuous but happens in discrete balls or shots, often with much discussion between them. In board games such as chess there is a similar level of strategy development, but they lack the manual dexterity.

Overall it appears that golf and snooker are the games most similar to winks. Both involve putting balls in holes. In golf, the drive, chip and putt correspond to the bring-in, approach and pot in winks. As in winks, you can only play your own ball. Unlike winks, you cannot hinder your opponent. In snooker both players use the same balls but do try to hinder each other (with safety shots, snookers, etc.). However, you cannot come along and see who is winning just by looking at the table.

In winks, a foul shot may result from a number of infringements: a discontinuous shot; not playing your own (unsquopped) wink first; playing winks not vertically below the first one played. The common feature about most foul shots is that they occur during pile play.

If a foul shot is committed the opponent has a choice of sanction. Either the situation may be left as it results, or the pile may be rebuilt and the shot played again. Any player realising that he is playing a foul may crud the pile so hard that he will be asked to play the shot again. In this case the offender gets a second chance having had a practice.

If the opponent asks for the shot to be replayed then the pile must be rebuilt. I have long believed that this is somewhere winks loses credibility as a television sport. Rebuilding piles can be very time-consuming, resulting in slow games, and invariably the pile is not identical to the original. This means that the required shot is now different and possibly easier. Thus it is possible for a foul shot to result in an advantage to the offender.

How is a foul committed in other games and what is the sanction? In most board games or card games there are usually three ways of committing a foul: (i) not knowing the rules, (ii) being innumerate, and (iii) deliberately cheating. If you object to this behaviour you must ask yourself why you are playing with these people.

In team ball sports, foul play is penalised by a free kick or free hit. Persistent offenders are sent off: a lesson here for winks perhaps. In cricket the only foul is a no-ball. This is punished by the batsman having a free hit with no fear of being out. If no runs are scored an extra is

credited to the total. In snooker a foul shot gives four or more points to the opponent. If the resulting situation is really bad, the opponent may get a free ball or ask the offender to play again. In golf a foul results in a penalty stroke.

What of my modest proposal? The sanction against sending a wink off the mat is to miss the next turn. This corresponds to going out of bounds in golf, where the sanction is a penalty shot. Is this an appropriate sanction for a foul shot? I think not. A foul crud can be very destructive, requiring many shots to regain an equally advantageous position. A foul shot may result in a pot-out, making the next turn irrelevant. What I propose is a slight variation. In the event of a foul shot I propose that the opponent has three choices:

- 1) He may leave the situation as it results,
 - 2) He may replace the winks in their previous position and have the offender play again,
- or
- 3) He may replace the winks in their previous position, with play continuing with the next player (i.e. the fouling player misses that turn).

I believe that option 3 is a fairer sanction than option 2.

What advantages would this proposal bring? It would reduce the number of times a foul shot was repeated on the same pile. A player fouling a pile in one turn would have to wait until the next before being allowed another go. This would give the opponents a chance to squop the top wink. Secondly a player, realising that he might lose his chance to crud altogether, may make more effort to play the shot legally. These should both reduce the amount of time spent rebuilding piles.

There are, of course, a number of disadvantages. Because the sanction is greater, there would be more disputes as to what was a foul shot: the cry of "shot judge" would become more frequent than it is today. Novices, or even experienced players, may be discouraged from playing pile shots and thus would not gain this shot-making experience. I think that there is enough practice time and sufficient non-serious games for the second point not to be a problem.

I think that it is clear that I have done a certain amount of homework in the preparation of this article. I invite you all, even the Rules Sub-Committee, to consider this issue and whether or not what I propose might not be a better sanction.

The Catford Invitation Individual

Chez Relle, 19th May 1990

by Phil Carmody

Once again Charles Relle had rallied together a select few winkers to play in his light-hearted tournament. It was an all-partner-all between nine of us — Messrs Edwards, Surridge, Myers, Clark, Relle, Mapley, Purvis and Cartwright, and myself.

Due to his timekeeping, we gave Rob the first-round bye. As expected this round was cautious, with Mike & myself and Geoff & Charles settling for a single point. With the squidging arms broken in round 2 brought out some more unexpected shots; after bringing in well, I was ordered to pot them all by Charles. I didn't even get the first one in, but Charles repeated the order and I potted five. The sixth was squopped, rescued then squopped again before being potted by Charles to make the first pot-out of the day. Geoff followed in closely

A	Cyril Edwards	H	CF	I	BG	C	EI	E	BH	G	EF	D	GH	F	DI	-	—	B	CD	5=
		6	6	1	7	3	10	1	11	6	17	0*	17	6	23	-	23	6	29	
B	Mike Surridge	D	EG	G	AI	F	DH	H	AE	I	CH	E	FI	-	—	C	FG	A	CD	3
		1	1	6	7	6	13	6	19	1	20	1*	21	-	21	5	26	6	32	
C	Geoff Myers	F	AH	E	DF	A	EI	I	GD	H	BI	-	—	G	EH	B	FG	D	AB	7
		1	1	1*	2	3	5	6*	11	6	17	-	17	1	18	5	23	1	24	
D	Phil Carmody	B	EG	F	CE	H	BF	G	CI	-	—	A	GH	I	AF	E	HI	C	AB	9
		1	1	6*	7	1	8	1*	9	-	9	0*	9	1	10	1	11	1	12	
E	Phil Clark	G	BD	C	DF	I	AC	A	BH	F	AG	B	FI	H	CG	D	HI	-	—	8
		6	6	1*	7	4	11	1	12	1	13	1*	14	6	20	1	21	-	21	
F	Charles Relle	C	AH	D	CE	B	DH	-	—	E	AG	I	BE	A	DI	G	BC	H	GI	5=
		1	1	6*	7	6	13	-	13	1	14	6*	20	6	26	2	28	1	29	
G	Jon Mapley	E	BD	B	AI	-	—	D	CI	A	EF	H	AD	C	EH	F	BC	I	FH	2
		6	6	6	12	-	12	1*	13	6	19	7*	26	1	27	2	29	6	35	
H	Andy Purvis	A	CF	-	—	D	BF	B	AE	C	BI	G	AD	E	CG	I	DE	F	GI	1
		6	6	-	6	1	7	6	13	6	19	7*	26	6	32	6	38	1	39	
I	Rob Cartwright	-	—	A	BG	E	AC	C	GD	B	CH	F	BE	D	AF	H	DE	G	FH	4
		-	—	1	1	4	5	6*	11	1	12	6*	18	1	19	6	25	6	31	

Partner	Opponents
Score	Running Total

but we got 6. Mike & Jon played strongly and, after a more prolonged game, also gained 6 points.

Round 3 provided us with our first close scoreline, Rob & Phil Clark winning a war of attrition against Cyril & Geoff. Outclassed by Mike & Charles, I dragged Andy down to a 6-1 defeat. Round 4 perked up a bit, with Charles organising the repast and, as importantly, the drinks. Meanwhile Geoff & Rob were pouncing on all our mistakes and Geoff put me in my place for the previous pot-out, Jon bravely followed, and Rob sank his six before I'd even started. Andy & Mike squeezed 6 from their game.

The meal was superb (*Seconded!* — Ed), with plenty of liquid refreshment, and was appreciated by all. Spirits were high by now, so those who went down in round 5 didn't really mind. The Andy & Geoff winks machine only managed a disappointing 6, as did Cyril & Jon.

The next round provided the first 7-0 of the day, Andy & Jon punishing Cyril & I with a well-planned pot-out. Coincidentally the other table were racing for the pot, Charles & Rob beating Mike & Phil 6-1.

With intemperance taking its toll concentration was being lost, usually by the temperant; hence Cyril & Charles, somewhat hysterically, took 6 points off Rob & I. More sedately, Phil & Andy played a smart game for 6-1 off Geoff & Jon. Andy was now five points clear, and definitely the man to beat.

But in round 8, Phil & I couldn't put up much opposition to Rob & Andy, pushing Andy's score 6 points higher. Jon & Charles both needed a win off Geoff & Mike to stay in the

running, but couldn't quite manage it, losing 5-2. With the result decided, Phil Clark used his bye to get a head start on returning home, presumably for his birthday celebrations.

The now-relaxed Andy let Rob & Jon get the upper hand, so he and Charles were left with a 1. On the other table Geoff was teaching me new ways to smash a pile, but it didn't help the situation.

In the end the scoreline was fair. Andy's play was consistently good, as were Jon and Mike. Rob and Cyril demonstrated that last year's event had just been a bad day, and even I, the neophyte amongst the stalwarts, enjoyed the winks, food, drink and company. A fun day was had by all — thanks, Charles.

Dominant Corner Theory - A Shot In The Arm, Or A Shot In The Head?

A brief, yet tedious, statistical aside by the Editor

Some players have a colour preference. Except in the case of colourblind players, this is a trivial preference, a whim; it doesn't much matter what colours you play as they all play much alike. Me, I like the yellows. I think 'they pot easier', which, of course, they don't. There is also a largeish group of players (Larry Kahn, Dave Lockwood, Jon Mapley, Charles Relle and myself to name but a few) who have a 'corner preference'. This too may sound like a whim. But when you notice that every one of these players prefers to play in the right-hand corners (*i.e.* with the long side of the table to their right), you might get a bit suspicious. The fact that Dave won't concede those corners without a coin toss should mean you smell a palpable rat.

So why the preference? The idea, first put forward well over twenty years ago, is actually quite a good one. Most players find it easiest to bring winks in straight towards the pot. Such winks normally end up somewhere between that player's end of the table and the pot. So it might well be an advantage to get your winks in there first; this might make it difficult for the next player to bring in safely. The way to get in first, the theory goes, is to play from the right-hand corners.

The draw for this year's Catford tournament specified each player's corner for each round. This, and the inherent fairness of an all-partner-all, makes it possible to see whether the prized 'dominant' right-hand corners did indeed beat up on the grotty, useless, cowering left-hand corners. And the result? The dominant corners managed to win an impressive 5 of their 18 games for 43 points (a p.p.g. of 2.39); this performance would have left them last-but-one in the table, while the left-hand corners would have finished second. What's more, 8 of the 9 players (all but Geoff) did better in the left- than in the right-hand corners.

One last thing: the right-hand corners clearly can't take their drink. They managed three 6-1 wins in the eight games before lunch, but the arrival of the Valpolicella heralded a sad decline; five 1's and a zero in the next three rounds...

Even sillier competition than the one on page 18:

Who is the winker on the back cover? How would he react if you were to go up to him, put on a Monty Python middle-aged lady voice, and said "Fish pie..."? Why?

Prize for first correct answer — a slice of fish pie, in a plain brown envelope, with not a word to the Inland Revenue.

This competition is not open to Naveed (oh no, what a giveaway).

The NATwA National Pairs

near Athens, Ohio, May 26th 1990

This attracted just four pairs this year, in stark contrast to the good turnout for ETwA's corresponding event. Rather than have an all-play-all, the Americans decided to play a 'double elimination knockout.' If you know what that means, please tell me. Here are the scores, kindly passed on to me by Rick Tucker. Pot-outs are not asterisked (NATwA can't asterisk pot-outs as one of their players is called *).

Round 1

Larry Kahn & Bob Henninge beat Sue Crape and Déjà Lockwood 7-0, 5-2

Dave Lockwood & Jim Marlin beat Marg Calhoun & Mac McAvoy 6-1, 5-2

Round 2

Larry Kahn & Bob Henninge beat Dave Lockwood & Jim Marlin 6-1, 6-1

Marg Calhoun and MacMcAvoy beat Sue Crape and Déjà Lockwood 6-1, $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$, 7-0

Round 3

Dave Lockwood & Jim Marlin beat Marg Calhoun & Mac McAvoy 6-1, 7-0

Round 4

Larry Kahn & Bob Henninge beat Dave Lockwood & Jim Marlin 2-5, 6-1, 6-1

Larry and Bob were therefore clear winners, though I don't suppose either of them will rate it terribly high on their list of achievements. This was Larry's 10th NATwA Pairs win, and Bob's first for a good few years (he won it twice in the early 1970s). Their win entitles them to a World Pairs challenge, WP 10 (q.v), which will be Bob's first shot at a world title.

The Kidderminster Invitation

Glades Leisure Centre, Kidderminster, 9th June 1990

by Phil Clark

One's original intentions can prove to be misleading. Take, for instance, the Kidderminster Invitation which was to be a strictly 'one-off' event on a sort of personal whim. Yet here I was in late 1989 organising the second such event with (horror) more people wishing to play than there were places available.

Last year's media antics involved most of the competitors, affording ample opportunity for mutual embarrassment. This year the BBC wished to film the day before the event, thus leaving myself and an unwilling conscript (sorry Liz) to face the cameras. Sadly, the editor had a sense of humour and, in the midst of the World Cup hype, introduced the event with bursts of Pavarotti.

Some players arrived on the Friday evening, thankfully after the evening news programme, with Alan Dean proving his instincts are still finely tuned. Arriving in Kidderminster he decided not to call at the house but stopped at the nearest pub. A correct decision.

The twelve players gathered on the Saturday bore great resemblance to last year's motley crew, with Graham and Heather being replaced by Geoff and Jim. Faced with the 'usual' punishing schedule of 11 rounds and 7 p.m. deadline, play almost began on time. The early rounds proved to be rather cagey affairs with few 6-1s and several closely-fought games, Jon and Geoff establishing a slight lead by lunch.

Lunch was an excellent on-site buffet which saved time by enabling play to resume promptly. The Mapley and Myers show continued apace with each unbeaten while the WETS proved that in partnering each other it was just going to be one of those days. The leaders met in round 8 which gave Jon a seven and apparently the edge necessary to retain his title.

However, both players suffered some late jitters and, with one round left to go, Jon led by $2\frac{1}{2}$ points from Geoff. In round eleven, Geoff faced third-placed Andy while Jon lined up against Patrick and yours truly. Geoff's six was first on the board to give him a slender lead. Unfortunately Jon came badly unstuck gaining only a point, and so missed out on a second win. Charles' post-lunch performance deserves mention, moving from 11th to 3rd, while Nick achieved something of the reverse order. Congratulations however to Geoff on a fine win over a good field. Which brings me back to my opening remarks about this one-off event; who fancies taking part in number 3, June 1991?

The end of play was not the end of the entertainment. By popular request, events moved to the Little Tumbling Sailor for refreshment. Well, how could we refuse an establishment whose menu headlined its fare for the "thinking, drinking, winking man"?

The London Open

Pinner Community Centre, 7th July 1990

by Richard Moore

The first Saturday in July saw the London Open return to Pinner, a settled and convenient venue since 1988 within reach of a number of hostelrys and a field for outdoor pursuits between rounds. These splendid arrangements attracted a field of 26, slightly down on last year but happily including Simon Julier and Stuart Christie — more new names from Oxford, where the club continues to thrive. Holders Boyce & Cartwright were there to defend their title, but there were some other strong pairs, and no game can be taken for granted these days.

The early running was made by Barrie & Gameson, after two sixes before lunch, with Thorpe & Satchell a point behind. 'Big names' like Purvis and Moore languished with their partners in the bottom half of the draw after two defeats. Graham Hancock, sportingly left behind in Cambridge by Dr Gameson, had meanwhile arrived to partner Gavin Keyte to an opening victory.

Those in 'The Hand in Hand' at lunchtime were privileged to see some of the more remarkable scenes in recent memory as Charles Relle, celebrating thirty years in winks and forty-nine in existence, set about the Real Ales. After losing precious moments playing 'peek-a-boo' with Dr Sage, Charles was forced to down his *n*th pint in 7 seconds as the winkers began to return for the afternoon's play.

For those interested in the tournament's outcome, now was the time for the crunch match at the top of the table, which Thorpe & Satchell won 6-1, but amongst the more inebriated players it was time to chance the arm at a pot-out. Sage, as is traditional, was successful but Relle,

		Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	p.p.g.	Pos
A	Patrick Barrie Ian Gameson	J 6 6	F 6 12	E 1 13	G 6* 19	B 6 25	H 4 29	C 3 32	4.571	1
B	Tim Jeffreys Phil Scarrott	G 4 4	I 3 7	- bye 7	H 6 13	A 1 14	K 7* 21	E 6 27	4.500	2
C	Mike Surridge Jim Carrington	K 2 2	L 6 8	M 6 14	- bye 14	E 2 16	I 6 22	A 4 26	4.333	3
D	Stew Sage Richard Moore	H 2 2	G 2* 4	K 6* 10	M 6 16	- bye 16	E 4 20	F 5* 25	4.167	4
E	Geoff Thorpe Alex Satchell	M 5 5	K 6 11	A 6 17	F 3 20	C 5 25	D 3 28	B 1 29	4.143	5
F	Alan Boyce Rob Cartwright	L 5 5	A 1 6	I 6 12	E 4 16	G 4 20	- bye 20	D 2* 22	3.667	6
G	Geoff Myers Simon Julier	B 3 3	D 5* 8	H 4 12	A 1* 13	F 3 16	J 3 19	I 4 23	3.286	7
H	Steve Phillips Simon Braidman	D 5 5	- bye 5	G 3 8	B 1 9	M 6 15	A 3 18	J 1 19	3.167	8
I	Gavin Keyte Graham Hancock	- bye 0	B 4 4	F 1 5	L 3 8	J 6 14	C 1 15	G 3 18	3.000	9
J	Stuart Christie James Cullingham	A 1 1	M 1 2	L 3 5	K 4 9	I 1 10	G 4 14	H 6 20	2.857	10=
K	Matthew Rose Dave Salter	C 5 5	E 1 6	D 1* 7	J 3 10	L 4 14	B 0* 14	M 6 20	2.857	10=
L	Andy Purvis Rupert Wilson	F 2 2	C 1 3	J 4 7	I 4 11	K 3 14	M 2 $\frac{1}{3}$ 16 $\frac{1}{3}$	- bye 16 $\frac{1}{3}$	2.722	12
M	Charles Relle Phil Clark	E 2 2	J 6 8	C 1 9	D 1 10	H 1 11	L 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ 15 $\frac{2}{3}$	K 1 16 $\frac{2}{3}$	2.381	13

Opponents	Score
Running Total	

doubtless having counted on his libations to Dionysus securing more favourable omens for the afternoon, was drawn against Surridge & Carrington who took 6-1. We had to wait until the following round for the inevitable Sage-Relle clash ("mustn't lose to him"), but I'm sure Charles won't mind my revealing that he was, frankly, too 'tired and emotional' to play properly, and after an attack of hiccoughs he went down 6-1 again.

My own memory becomes a little hazy at this point, though I'm told I took forty winks on a rolled-up carpet in the drizzle outside, but it seems that as the afternoon progressed Thorpe & Satchell consistently lost points relative to their main rivals Barrie & Gameson, such that by the last round they trailed 29-28. Four other pairs were still in with a mathematical chance, but the

Cambridge partnership held on to three points against Surridge & Carrington to win, whilst the consistent Jeffreys & Scarrott emerged from the pack to give Thorpe & Satchell a 6-1 drubbing and take second place. With Mike & Jim third, and Moore & Sage winning all their games during the afternoon (six pints of Abbot is good for you!) to creep into fourth, Geoff & Alex were pushed into fifth but should not be disappointed since only three points separated the top five.

So another amusing tournament, and whilst the quality of the games was perhaps lower compared to more serious tournaments, it is good to see most people adopting a less competitive spirit on friendly occasions. Finally, no tournament report should be complete without a mention of Giles Pickering, although he had no connection whatsoever with the proceedings.

The Wessex Cup (or Winks Match Special)

Pinner Community Centre, 4th & 5th August, 1990

by Patrick Barrie

The sun was shining as the two teams under Nick Inglis and Patrick Barrie strode to the wicket. The Wessex Cup was to take the same format as last year: two teams playing friendly winks with the captains choosing the pairings each round. Before a game, a pair could decide to play the joker, which doubled the score for that particular game. Each team member was obliged to use the joker once on each day. In addition, all players had to bat and bowl a few overs.

Nick's team exploited the early moisture in the mats well, reaching a $49\frac{1}{2} - 27\frac{1}{2}$ lead by lunch. Round 3 was close, but with aeroplanes flying overhead and buses passing down the road, round 4 proved to be the decisive round. Stew and Graham had just got back from their extended lunch interval, Stew returning as the not out last man after Graham had been given his marching orders by the pub landlord. Almost inevitably, Nick and Charles played their joker against Stew and Graham, also playing their joker. The result was a hat-trick of wins for Charles over Stew, the 5-2 pot-out for Nick and Charles being quadrupled to a 20-8 win. To make matters worse, Patrick's merry men had also slipped up in all the other games, giving Nick's brigade an impressive $114\frac{1}{2} - 74\frac{1}{2}$ lead. This gap stayed fairly constant for the rest of the day and there was little the 2nd-placed captain could do but attempt to atone for some missed squops with the bat.

Still it's a funny old game, and stranger things have happened. Patrick's mob made a minor recovery on the second morning, using the more overcast conditions to swing the winks in the air, and won the first round $20\frac{1}{2} - 7\frac{1}{2}$. However, in the round after lunch the team conscientiously obeyed their captain's orders and simultaneously played their jokers — a valiant effort to take the fight to the opposition and close the gap. Three of the games ended in a 4-3 either way, but Andy and Richard paired up gloriously to go down 0-7 (double it up to 0-14) against Geoff and Phil, putting paid to any recovery. The final round, with all Nick's team playing their jokers, went Patrick's way, giving an overall score of $226\frac{1}{6} - 193\frac{5}{6}$ to Nick's team ($151\frac{1}{6} - 128\frac{5}{6}$ excluding jokers), not a vast difference considering the number of games played.

Excellent personal performances came from Mike (4.9 ppg) and Phil (4.5 ppg), while politeness prevents me from naming the illustrious quintet from my team that propped up the

p.p.g. table. (*Thankyou Patrick — Ed.*) Congratulations to Nick on his astute captaincy and winning the cup for the second year. He even won the cricket on the 2nd day as well....

The Teams

Nick Inglis
Mike Surridge (1st day)
Phil Scarrott
Alex Satchell (1st day)
Charles Relle
Matthew Rose
Alan Boyce
Geoff Myers
Dave Salter
Tim Jeffreys

Patrick Barrie
Mike Surridge (2nd day)
Ian Gameson
Graham Hancock (1st day)
Jon Mapley (1st day)
Rob Cartwright
Simon Braidman
Richard Moore
Andy Purvis
Steve Phillips
Stew Sage

Nowink's Impottible — Revised Edition

by Jon Mapley

"And what is your chosen specialised subject, Mr. Purvis?" "*Winking World* articles, 1960 to the present day." You have two minutes to decide whether, having started, you'll finish reading this. Presumably, the current *WW* Editor, in asking me to update an article which first appeared in *WW23*, assumes today's readership was still in nappies in those heady days when a certain person discovered that "If you don't play Alan Dean — flukey — shots in the 20 minutes and miss, you don't have to play Alan Dean — flukey — shots successfully in rounds to win."

One of the interesting things I have noticed in the intervening 17 years is that there are still very few players who, when faced with a pot from the top, middle or bottom of a pile, do not degenerate into nervous wrecks but actually know how to attempt the shot. It is important to realise from the outset that we are dealing with situations where winks behave quite differently from normal, and 'hit it and hope' will get you nowhere. Getting the feel of the winks by practising the various shots is essential, and I will start by recommending a method which came at the end of my earlier article. It not only helps, but is good fun. Put all 24 winks in the pot, shake 'em up a bit, then upend it on the mat. Remove the pot carefully and place it wherever is best for potting the winks. Then pot them from where they lie. I try to avoid deliberate break-up shots, unless they occur naturally in a potting attempt. If you can achieve a score of 30 shots on a regular basis you don't need this article!

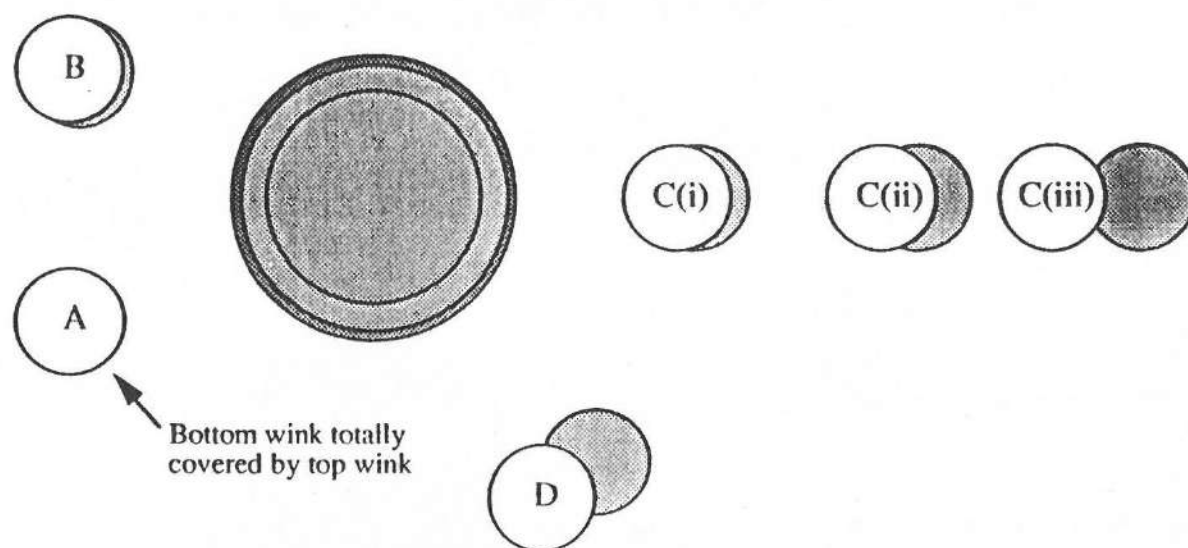
1. Potting from the bottom of a pile

This is probably the easiest shot to bring off with any regularity, as the object wink is usually flat on the mat. The skill required is to clear the upper winks out of the way, both physically and mentally. Concentrate on the one you have to pot, almost to the exclusion of anything else. If the pile is stable, don't be afraid to rest on the top wink, as this will help

assess the strength of the shot. Obviously, there will be many situations where an air shot is necessary, but the techniques is similar. Play a firm, normal potting-style shot (squidger at about 45°) and consciously emphasise the contact with the bottom wink so that the squidger goes right through to the mat. The less you can see of the object wink at the start, the more vertical the squidger needs to be, and the sharper the action of playing.

2. Potting one off one (same size or small off large)

Here we need the assistance of a diagram, as the type of shot depends on the lie of the winks:



Examples A, B and C are all 'straight line' shots where both the winks and the pot are lined up. For this purpose, exact alignment is unimportant; the principles apply when a straight line can be drawn through both winks to about half of the pot. Example D shows the two winks aligned exactly at right angles to the direction of the shot. This is the dividing line for the consideration of the two main types of angled shot.

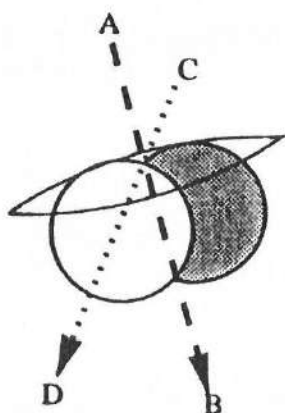
The method is much the same in A and B. The further back the wink becomes in B, the less any fancy tricks are necessary, as the shot reverts to a normal pot. The simplest way to describe the shot is 'aim to squop the pot.' The great danger is potting the bottom wink, which is much more likely if you play a pot-shot. Squop-style, with the squidger moving to a more upright position the moment it crosses the edge of the bottom wink, should see the lower one scoot across the mat and hit the base of the pot, while the top one scuttles in. Position A, the totalled wink, may require a more vertical squidger from the outset, and possibly a stabbing action. Try it and find out what suits you best.

In C(i) and C(ii) the only difference is whether the top wink is or is not touching the mat. Provided enough of it is on the bottom wink, the shot requires initial downward pressure on the centre of the top wink, a quick upward flick of the wrist, whilst at no time allowing the squidger to go through to the mat. You will hit the lower wink with the squidger, but you don't propel it forwards because the squidger doesn't pass across its edge. It should pop straight up and down again. C(iii) needs the squidger to be stabbed between the two winks

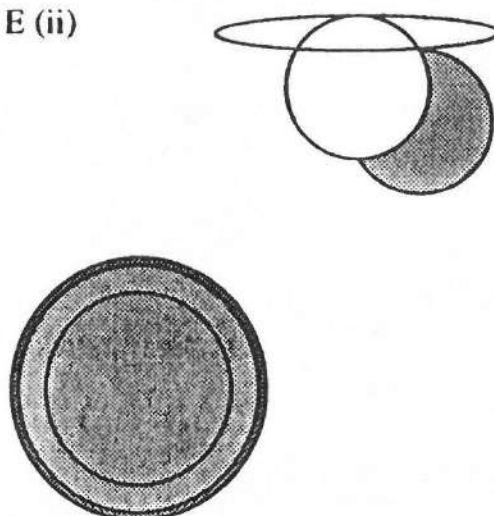
with an almost vertical potting action so that the bottom wink goes backwards. The shot should be commenced approximately above the edge of the lower wink.

D is where the most judgement is called for, because the angle varies according to the exact position of one wink on the other. For the first time, you will need to aim away from the centre of the pot. Before discussing the target line, the style of shot needs to be considered. If the top wink is positioned as shown in D, or forward (nearer the pot), the potting shot should be employed, with the squidger becoming more vertical the more the right-angle position in D is approached. With the top wink behind position D, the squop shot should be used, until you get to the point where the lower wink is not affecting the shot, when you can revert to normal. Again, only experience will determine these cross-over points. The area where most players go wrong is the lack of allowance in their aim for the effect of the underneath wink. This is so important that I've given it a diagram to itself, (E).

E (i)



E (ii)



In E(i) the line A-B goes through the points of intersection of the winks. If the squidger is placed as shown, at right angles to this line, in an attempt to squidge the top wink along it, the result is that it diverts along line C-D. It is therefore necessary to compensate by angling the squidger and aiming by the equivalent angle to the opposite side of A-B.

E(ii) shows an actual example with the pot in place, and the squidger aiming the wink at a point outside the rim. Even if it feels wrong, it is important to gain the confidence to stick with it. Occasionally it helps to adjust the angle as you go through the shot, effectively 'slicing' the shot by bringing a part-Bristol element into it.

3. Potting a large wink off a small

This has its own problems depending on the position of the small wink. If it is sticking out the back of the large, the shot will be as in C(i). If it is invisible from above, then use the squop style as for A and B. In these cases it is still important to assess whether the small wink is central or to one side, as some adjustment of angle may be needed. Naturally, no real problem exists if it is sticking out the front or very close to the leading edge of the large wink.

4. Potting from the middle of a pile

I can only offer a few general guidelines here because any pile containing more than about three winks will have unique characteristics. Take a good look at the wink you want to pot, and the ones immediately beneath it. How are they going to influence its behaviour? How stable are they as a base, or will the object wink have to be driven past them to the mat prior to playing it? The answers to these questions will determine whether the shot needs to be played in a similar fashion to the one-off-one situation, or more like a 'bottom of the pile' situation. Bear in mind that all the cautions on not potting the bottom wink in a one-off-one may actually come to your aid here. If there is a wink overhanging the back of the object wink, the correct pressure on it could turn it into a substitute squidger. The same applies in the fairly routine scenario where you want to pot the lower of two and the top wink is behind the bottom one.

5. "He's got the perfect angle off this black to go into the pack."

If Tiddlywinks can be compared to Snooker, it is in the angles described in section 2, and that a sequence of pots is akin to a break. One of the more spectacular possibilities in a game occurs when you have a wink, typically a large one, one the edge of a big pile and pointing in the vague direction of the pot. So far, we have only really considered the potting of individual winks, not the consequences of the shot. Here, though, it's Lucy in the sky with diamonds time, as a game which might have been slipping away suddenly offers vistas of glory. Imagine the results of the shot if all you do is crud it. The consider if the effect would be dissimilar if a solidly-played air shot potting attempt were tried instead. The big difference is that you get another shot if successful. This could lead to more pots or a better position for squopping dependent upon how the winks fall. Don't be afraid to throw cautions to the wind sometimes.

6. Potting two winks at once.

This opportunity doesn't occur very often! You have to be able to recognise the possibility if it ever happens to you. The classic case is where you are on your partner's last wink, and you just carry on and get the 7-0 without the enemy getting a look-in. The position of the winks is critical — the top one must be slightly overhanging the back of the lower, and slightly behind the right-angle position shown in D. Start with a normal potting action, but change quickly through the squidger motion so that, at the point of release, it becomes almost a squop shot. Large on small is easiest. What's the point? Well, if they are both your winks, you get two extra shots in the same turn.

7. Potting from the Altrincham Coffin

Stupid old fogey — what does he mean? This is the area "too close to the pot to do anything useful." Most people know that large winks are easier than small, because their centre is beyond the pot's overhang even if they are touching the base. Small winks are more tricky (some might say illegal), but in either case technique is essential and, for the only time in this article, I will suggest that the type of squidger is important. It should be two inches in diameter and slightly flexible. The flexibility is less critical for large winks, and I personally prefer a more rigid squidger anyway, but I have seen enough players successfully using

carved-up phone or credit cards to be open-minded on this. Start the shot well on the pot-side of the wink, and use a lot of wrist-flick. If the wink is touching the pot, you won't be able to use much downward pressure until the squidger gets over the centre of the wink, at which point all the effort is required. Finally, and most importantly, when under the lip, don't aim straight at the centre of the pot, because the rim is more obstructive. Aim at the edge, giving a few extra millimetres of fresh air to assist the wink's passage.

8. General tips

O.K., I lied — use a sharp-edged squidger for all the shots in sections 1 to 6.

Unless the circumstances of the game dictate otherwise, don't attempt to pot either nurdled winks or from long distances if the pot is either totally empty or very full, because the chances of scrunging (bouncing out) are much greater. In other words, think carefully about the order of your pot-out attempt.

In future issues (hopefully):

Squopping — Larry Kahn

Playing Pot-Squop as a strategy — Andy Purvis

Getting what points you can — Mike Surridge

Please let me know of any aspect of the game you'd like to see as the subject of an article like this. And if anyone out there would like to write such a piece (or just a set of tips) on anything, it would be very gratefully received.

The 1980's - A View from the Top

by Larry Kahn

In the words of the immortal Chico Esquela, "Tiddlywinks been very, very good to me." This certainly turned out to be a productive decade for me, but after winning 10 of 15 singles and 7 of 10 pairs what's in store for the Nineties? With the younger British players finally breaking through it will probably be a lot tougher for anyone to duplicate this kind of success. Geoff Myers and Andy Purvis already won the 1990 ETwA Pairs so who knows what comes next? Based on past trends, things look good for me at the 1990 NATwA Singles, not so good for the ETwA Singles. Since 1980, I've been in a pattern of finish second, win three in a row, finish second, win three. The only break for the entire decade came in the 1983 NATwA Singles.

The Eighties saw major changes in the state of equipment. The winks we had been using throughout the Seventies weren't flat; they were manufactured concavo-convex. Way back in 1978 I discovered a winks flattening method that I brought over to England that summer. It stirred up a huge controversy when Charles wanted to use his flattened set of winks at tournaments. The whole thing became irrelevant a few years later when the new (flat) winks were introduced and everyone had to use them. I think the level of play declined among the established players for a year or so but then picked back up. I know that, for me, potting

definitely dropped off but now with some new potting squidgers I can finally pot the damn things at least as well as I could the old ones.

Mat types have come and gone as usual, but perhaps the biggest technical innovation has been the flexible squidger. This makes potting small nurdled winks almost impossible to miss unless they are extremely close to the cup. This seems to be about the only type of shot they are good for, at least for now.

The game itself has changed somewhat over the last 10 years, partly due to the new equipment. Back in 1979 Joe Sachs introduced the squop-style bring-in and had great success with it. I started using it the next year, and now most new players do it this way. It takes a little longer to master but the results are probably better. Over the last few years the Bristol Good shot was developed. I'm not sure if the shot would have been as effective using the old winks. Some shots became harder with the new winks, some easier, so it pretty much evened out. Subbing is certainly a bigger factor than it was before.

Over the last five years, the strategy seems to have opened up a lot and there are a lot more pot-outs. This is great for the game (particularly spectators) and was probably due to some of the newer British players having good successes against established players in blitz games. It seems to have caught on, partly by force, since games are often played blitz style right from the start.

While the level of potting has probably improved significantly, I can't necessarily say the same for squopping. I know for myself that my pile manipulations and Bristols have improved but I'm not sure my open field squopping has gotten significantly better since 1980. Since I hardly ever practice squopping anyhow, I guess that's to be expected. The one thing I did finally figure out after almost 20 years was to squop backwards (forwards to the rest of the world), especially for short squops at crucial times.

World Singles action really got lively after Larry finally wrested the title from Dave Lockwood after his long tenure. The title passed from Dave to Larry to Arye Gittelman to Alan Dean (first Brit to win it), back to Larry, then to Jon Mapley, before finally returning to its natural state. Nobody missed a challenge in the whole decade and no Brit has ever won the title off of a 'legitimate challenge' (not using the foreign visitor rule).

Despite the recent showings of the young turks, at the time of writing (July) the singles has remained in the clutches of the old-timers. The only "new" players to win titles in the Eighties were Pam Knowles and Arye. The others went to Larry, Dave, Jon, Charles Relle, and Alan. This is likely to change in the near future.

The biggest negative for the whole decade has been the decline of American winks. We lost a number of top players to apathy and have not had much success in recruiting new players. It all probably started when Reagan got elected in 1980. Since then, there has been a huge shift towards conservatism, particularly among the young people. College students turned into a bunch of nerds and apparently didn't have time for winks. The distance factor over here really hurts also. The winking centres (D.C., Ithaca, Ohio, and Boston?) are all at least 300 miles apart, making one day trips impossible. However, our hard core group will keep things going until we have an upturn.

So now that the Eighties are over, what's in store next? I hope to continue to be a pain in the ass to Dave, as well as to the rest of winks. If I had to take a guess as to who will be the first 'new' player to win a singles title, I'd probably pick Geoff (due to his more consistent style of play) over Andy or Richard Moore, but any of 4 or 5 others could make it. I'm not sure who I'd least likely want to face in a World Singles.

The Second CUTwC Tour of America

by Andy Purvis

For whatever reason, the Customs men always seemed to pick on Nick. At Gatwick they demanded that he open all his bags. Many minutes of thorough searching later, they emerged triumphant having found and confiscated — a tube of Superglue! Happy in the knowledge that our plane was utterly safe from any red-bearded group-theoretical terrorists trying to stick us to the runway, we boarded the flight to the U.S.A...

It took us ages to find a bar once we'd got to Phoenix (though all sorts of other things were readily available). Eventually, though, we settled in a dive run by a most amusing lady, and started on the long hard road towards getting used to American 'beer'. It's not great stuff but, at around 20p a pint, you can live with it. The next morning was my first experience of jetlag (nothing to do with the beer, oh no). Bleah. Phoenix was unbearably hot, muggy, and very very tacky.

From there we headed north in a rented motorhome to the Grand Canyon north rim, Zion, and Bryce Canyon. I shan't even try to describe them; go and see for yourselves if you ever get the chance. Suffice it to say that even Richard agrees they're more impressive than Cleethorpes seafront. We also managed to take in some impressive ancient Indian ruins, such as Montezuma's Castle. I further managed to take in one large mug too many of cheap American red plonk (\$8 for four litres, not ideal for the drinking games), sadly enabling me to claim the club record for the highest land-based chunder (at an altitude of 8000 feet). At Bryce we discovered that, in a tree and motorhome fight, the tree wins.

After a week in Arizona and Utah, we took a flight to Boston. Kathy and Jack Carruthers were once again wonderful hosts to us as we spent a weekend in the city. On the Friday, a few of us had a fun evening's winks with Arye Gittleman and Charles Frankston (Arye's young daughter stealing the show when we went for a meal). A less well-known winker, Susan Assman, also popped in. Next day tragedy struck, as Geoff's credit cards had a fatal collision with a record shop. Stew and I spent a merry couple of hours in the superb aquarium (with a huge cylindrical tank rising through all three floors as its centrepiece, and a bizarre metal lobster outside) watching some unfortunate turtles decomposing. Simon and I began the Freedom Trail, but it started drizzling so we went and got drunk in Brown's (Kathy and Jack's local) instead. So much for the cultural part of the trip. In Boston we were joined by Dave Evers, in the States for his own nefarious purposes. We found time for a superb game of Mornington Crescent, which confused Simon, who'd not played before. (We weren't even enforcing zoning.)

From Boston, we headed up the coast to Acadia National Park, which is very reminiscent of parts of Scotland only it's warm and full of Americans. As we headed across from there to Ithaca, there was much unsavoury talk of raccoons, especially at mealtimes. The arduous hours spent trying to get used to the beer were by now paying dividends, and the evenings just flew by.

World Pairs 9 took place in Ithaca; many thanks are due to Rick Tucker as well as to Dave and Jim for fixing this match up. Larry's write-up, which is from *Newswink* 25, appears below. It was a really dreadful match; seven hours is a long time to play winks badly. And the slower it got, the less well everyone played, and the more important each shot became, so slower everyone would get... Perhaps it's time to enforce the two-minute rule in matches, even before rounds. It might speed everyone up a bit, and they'd then probably play better

anyway. Certainly any would-be spectators were quickly driven away by the tedium. After the match, though, Larry was kind enough to tell me that Geoff and I could become a really good pair in a few years, provided that we improve our strategy a bit.

The trip back through the Adirondacks to Boston was leisurely, with a bit more time to tramp around some of the forests and lakes we were passing. The autumn colours were just beginning, with — nah, again, try to get to see it for yourself. Another place everyone should visit at least once is Ben & Jerry's. It's a completely out-to-lunch ice cream factory in Vermont; the trash cans are painted to resemble cows, there is a carefully maintained cow-viewing area, and the gift shop extols the virtues of cow-tipping (running up to cows that have fallen asleep while standing, and pushing them so that they fall over). Flavours include apple pie, chunky monkey, and rain-forest crunch. Proposed jalapeño flavour and beer and pretzel flavour sadly never saw the light of day.

At one of the campgrounds, while Geoff, Richard and Andy were flinging a rubber ball around, Simon barbecued a passing dead squirrel (not eaten). I think he was still in shock from a vegetarian meal we'd had a few days before. Nick's Tower of Jenga, perhaps the noisiest of the drinking games, made its first appearance and we were all bitten to death by midges. But a 'bracing' swim in a freezing cold lake soon put us to rights. We also discovered around this time that you should not brush your teeth near Dr Sage unless you have a very heavy cold.

Simon flew back to England from Boston, while the rest of us went to Durgin Park restaurant and watched Nick eat a rib of beef larger than himself (but fail to lick his plate). Nick had ordered the meal unsuspectingly; Kathy, Jack and Stew knew how large the cut would be, but sportingly stayed silent.

At the airport, it became clear that Richard had dispensed with his ticket to Washington at some earlier stage. If anyone should happen upon it before 28th September 1991, he'd be grateful if you'd send it to him as he can then get his \$50 back... Larry was our host in D.C. He has a large basement which could probably sleep about 16. Next morning I was introduced to Bob Henning's peculiarly laid-back style of car navigation as Stew and I got a nice trip through some of the capital's suburbs. Our eventual destination was the apartment block where Rick lives. He'd booked the top floor (the 26th) for the weekend. It's a really good venue with a stunning view over the city, as there aren't many other tall buildings nearby. Saturday was a vague Brits-partner-Yanks kind of thing, and great fun. As it was Yom Kippur Geoff wasn't around, but the rest of us were joined by Larry, Rick, Jim, Bob, Mac, and Dave (who magically turned into Ferd after a couple of games). Larry kind of won, with Nick second, not that anyone was really counting. Afterwards, Nick and I played the classic pair Bob and Ferd, who won the NATWA Pairs when I was 3, and were put in our place. More laid-back car skills ensured that Jim's car took twenty minutes longer than the others to go down the road to the Chinese restaurant, where we tried the crispy pig intestine.

The Singles was surprisingly relaxed. There was a hint of trouble early on in the Dave-Rick game — Dave asked Rick to speed up! — but otherwise it all went off very smoothly. Richard beat up on the top seeds but got a surprise against Jim; Jim's bring-in was scattered widely but he ran six, showing once more that he's a mighty fine potter. Stew should have beaten Dave but got so carried away with potting that he forgot to take a squop. I managed to deliberately pot a wink I couldn't play against Richard, but it didn't do me any good. Richard beat all the Brits and I beat all the Yanks. Larry's write-up appears below. Sunshine turned up during the last round. We finished by 8.30 or something like that and then most of the players

went to Larry's basement for pizza and cards. Ferd kindly offered us some strategic insights but we stuck to the bottled stuff.

We played World Pairs 10 in Larry's basement the next day, starting fairly early. To paraphrase Larry's description of WS31, "details of the match are elsewhere so here's a short description. We kicked ass for 3 games and the last 3 were even." The last evening of our tour was spent trying to put the World Pairs trophy back together again after we broke it.

There was just time for a brief glimpse of the city centre for me the next morning, but to do it justice I'll have to go back again... Our flight arrived back in London at half past eight in the morning. As we staggered out to the bus stop, it was cold, it was grey, and it was raining. Ah yes, home again...

Thanks to Stew for organising it, to Kathy and Jack for being such superb hosts, and to all the American winkers for their hospitality. I certainly intend to go back just as soon as I've won the Pools.

World Pairs Falls to Brits

Ithaca High School, Ithaca, New York, 23rd September 1990

by Larry Kahn

(This article is pilfered from Newswink 25)

The 9th World Pairs match saw Dave Lockwood and Jim Marlin defend against Geoff Myers and Andy Purvis. The first two games were very positional ones with little action at the beginning. In the first game, Dave and Jim made the first attack far from the cup and got control of the area, but in rounds Dave missed pots with reds to allow a possible $5\frac{1}{2}$ to Geoff & Andy. Ending game, green missed a pot off a wink to end with a 4-3 win. The second game was similar, with a similar score, $4\frac{1}{2}$ to Geoff & Andy. In the 3rd game, yellow (Geoff/Andy) carnovskied its 5th wink but disdained a tough pot-out and with better play took a 6-1 squopping battle to open up a $14\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ lead. In the 4th game, Andy tried an early pot-out, missing the second wink. Jim & Dave then played much better and ended up with $5\frac{1}{2}$ to come within 4, 16-12. At this point I stopped taking notes out of frustration at the incredibly slow pace. Geoff & Andy got a 6 in the next game as Dave & Jim were playing very erratically and making more mistakes than their opponents. This left the score at the dreaded 22-13 — at least Dave knew that a comeback was possible. They got half the job done in the 6th game when Geoff & Andy were perhaps a bit too tentative at protecting the big lead and a 6-1 to Dave & Jim left the score at 23-19. In the last game, Jim got 3 of his winks tied up early. A passive game developed (I thought Dave and Jim needed to force the issue more) and not until near the end of time (*I didn't realise it was that slow — Ed*) did Dave & Jim really attack and form a large pile. Dave & Jim were always in trouble for getting 6 out of the game and, despite some great attacking shots in rounds, Geoff & Andy made an equally good defence and won 6-1, making the final score 29-20. In a nutshell, it was a very slow-paced match with everyone playing very erratically, with Dave & Jim more so.

Dave Lockwood & Jim Marlin	3	$2\frac{1}{2}$	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$	1	6	1	20
Geoff Myers & Andy Purvis	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6	1	6	29

The NATwA National Singles

Falls Church, Virginia. 30th September 1990
by Larry Kahn

At least this year the Americans outnumbered the Brits 8 to 5. In addition to the DC 5, Bob and Mac made the trip from Ohio and Ferd came down from Massachusetts. Format was an all-play-all (ugh) of 13 rounds on Sunday. Things were lively from the start as in the first round Mac almost beat Larry, getting 3, and Dave lost to Jim 6-1. Due to the bye, it was hard to tell who was in first, but after a few rounds the leaders appeared to be mostly Brits plus Larry. Because of the seedings, most of the big games were to come toward the end. Some of the notable middle games were a 4-3 squeak of Geoff over Nick, Mac beating Bob 4-3, an early 5-2 win for Ferd over Geoff, and Stew holding both Dave and Richard to 4.

Meanwhile, after a questionable start, Larry ran off three 6s and three 7s to take a seven point lead after eight rounds, but with all big games left. He started well against Richard, but midway through the game things started a downward slide that continued through the next three games also. This game ended 5-2 to Richard and, in the next two against Bob and Dave, roll-offs and bad bring-ins plus good play by opponents left Larry with two 1s. Dave, after a bad start, started to roll, and Andy and Geoff hung in there, so that by Round 12 the scores were Andy 49, Larry 48, Geoff 47 and Dave 45. Richard had an outside chance at 43 since he had finished with (and beaten) all the leaders. In round 12, it was Larry vs Andy, Dave vs Geoff, and Richard vs Rick. Richard went down 5-2, ending his chances. A tight game between Andy and Larry finally broke open when Larry had some more bad luck and Andy played well to get a 6-1, his first Singles win over Larry. Dave had his first win over Geoff, his 6-1 setting up an interesting final round.

	Player	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	Tot.	Pos.
A	Larry Kahn	—	7	1	1	1	2	6	6	7	7	6	7	4	55	2
B	Geoff Myers	0	—	5	1	4	3	6	4	6	5	7	2	6	49	3
C	Andy Purvis	6	2	—	6	4	3	6	6	6	5½	6	4½	6	61	1
D	Dave Lockwood	6	6	1	—	6	1	6	6	4	4	1	4	3	48	4
E	Bob Henninge	6	3	3	1	—	6	2½	1	6	4	6	4	3	45½	6
F	Richard Moore	5	4	4	6	1	—	6	1	4	2	1	6	6	46	5
G	Brad Schaefer	1	1	1	1	4½	1	—	2	6	5	6	5	6	39½	9
H	Nick Inglis	1	3	1	1	6	6	5	—	6	3	3½	1	2	42½	7
I	Stew Sage	0	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	—	5	5	1	7	29	12
J	Rick Tucker	0	2	1½	3	3	5	2	4	2	—	5	1	6	34½	11
K	Jim Marlin	1	0	1	6	1	6	1	3½	2	2	—	6	6	35½	10
L	Ferd The Bull	0	5	2½	3	3	1	2	6	6	6	1	—	6	41½	8
M	Mac McAvoy	3	1	1	4	4	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	—	19	13

At this point only Andy or Dave can win, but top American is still up for grabs. Dave needs $5\frac{1}{2}$ to tie Andy and is 3 ahead of Larry. Geoff goes for a blitz, gets the four easy ones and tries a two foot big, missing reasonably safe long. Larry misses a 4 inch ramp onto the 5th yellow, Geoff takes out Larry's closest red attacker, but Larry makes a six inch little on big to stop the threat. Geoff then attacks incredibly well, but eventually misses a crucial one inch squop onto the pile. Larry holds on, and then gets the 7 when he runs four reds from medium distance in a "must" situation. All eyes now turn toward the final game, but Andy is in control most of the way and ends up winning 6-1 for a well-earned title. This sets up one definite World Singles match match in November, with a possible rematch a few days later.

Does this mean that the Brits should only come every 10 years (as the last Brit to win was Pam Knowles in 1980)? Also, for you stats freaks, Dave played his 700th NATwA game, Rick his 600th, and Brad his 300th. Rick also picked up his 300th win (6th person to do so) and Jim absorbed his 200th loss.

World Pairs 10

Larry's basement, Silver Spring, Maryland. 1st October, 1990

by Andy Purvis

The match was supposed to start at 10 a.m. but, with all the Brits sleeping in the venue, this always seemed unlikely. Still, the appointed hour was not too long departed by the time we were ready to start. Oddly enough Bob, the longest-serving winker of the four, was the only one playing his first world match. The reason was simple enough — his hegemony in U.S. winks preceded the world titles, which only started in 1973. The play was always likely to be quicker than in World Pairs 9, and indeed it was. Although some of the games still took a long time, this was more due to slow play in rounds than to slow play in general; there were quite a lot of shots.

We started out well in the first game, accumulating quite a lot of their winks into a rambling pile. Geoff was making a lot of good shots, but I was playing like a drain. I missed a key squop onto the pile which let them blow it, and then they always had a slight edge. But Geoff kept us in the hunt; it came down to rounds and all I had to do was pot a wink or two for the win. In round 4 I bounced out and landed almost nurdled. In round 5 I bounced the same wink out again. Geoff made a good pot to salvage a 3 and at my request we switched to a new pot for the rest of the match.

Larry and Bob brought in really well in the second game. Geoff and I were near the pot too, but not very near each other. After about six minutes, Larry was clearly soon going to be on for an easy pot-out, so I had to go for a more difficult pre-emptive counter-blitz. The first of two ten inchers almost bounced out too, but they all went in. Larry and Geoff also both ran six to give us 6-1. We took another 6-1 fairly comfortably in game three; even the old 'squidger in the orange juice' ploy failed to do the trick for Larry & Bob, so we went into lunch leading 15-6.

Bob took a strategy break before the resumption; it seemed to do the trick as they played well and we didn't in game 4. They squopped us up with several minutes left, but didn't seem keen to try to pot out. Dave was phoning up from work every few minutes to ask how things were going; this had by now become so predictable that, when the phone rang again, Sunshine

just picked up the phone and said "16-12". We recovered somewhat with a 4-3 win in the fifth game to leave the score at 20-15.

In game 6 both Bob and I tried to keep our winks for potting. My yellows were all free, and I ended, but three were squopping singletons. We had one of Bob's reds under, but his other five were a bit worrying. Both sides ummed and ahed about whether to attack — Nick, umpiring, was licking his lips with relish at the minimalism of it all. Trying for a 4-3 ran a high risk of a 2-5, so we tried a brief sortie, trying to nail at least three points by taking Larry down. Shortly after this scrap ended inconclusively, Larry sent a key wink to try and get a colour-order knock-off. This left us with a poorly defended spot to attack and, though we didn't attack very well, by early in rounds we had pretty much secured at least 3. Larry was short of winks and a couple of American winks were buried well in a Bob-controlled pile beneath three of Geoff's greens. Bob was potting, I was potting and boondocking and Geoff was sitting around hoping to hassle Bob while staying ahead of Larry, who wasn't doing much. Before my turn ending round 4, I had two in, one pottable off blue and one awkwardly on a red. Larry had two free, both three feet from the pot. Geoff had one in and one pottable. Bob had three in and one free on a pile containing three greens, a red, a yellow and a blue, and would have no problem freeing a green and a red to get to 11. Potting off the blue would give me 10, and potting both would give me a share of first and us a 4-3 win for 24-18. As I was trying to work out how to make myself pottable off red, we spotted a simple colour-order tactic which would give us the extra point we needed; rather than make myself more pottable, I sent Bob's red to Geoff who, after Larry failed to Carnovsky, squopped it. Bob indeed freed a red to get up to 11. Ending game, I potted the yellow that had transferred Bob's wink and then the one off the blue to sneak the 5-2, just sufficient to make the seventh game unnecessary.

Larry's magic wasn't really working in this match, and Bob had a couple of erratic games. Geoff and I had a couple of dodgy games each, but were generally playing pretty well, and potting really well, despite our lack of strategic ability.

Geoff Myers & Andy Purvis	3	6*	6	1	4	5	25
Larry Kahn & Bob Henninge	4	1*	1	6	3	2	17

Nick Inglis' World Ratings

Complete to the start of the National Teams of Four, 1990

A description of the rating system run for the past five years by Nick Inglis appeared in the last *Winking World*, so I'll not repeat it here. Since the last set of ratings were published, Nick has fed the computer all the scores from the Silver Wink, Hampshire Open, Varsity Match, Marchant Trophy, World Singles 31, ETWA National Pairs, NATWA National Pairs, London Open, World Pairs 9, NATWA National Singles, and World Pairs 10. Out of interest, I've put the ratings from *Winking World 54* in the second column; they were calculated for games up to and including the Cambridge Open.

As last time, I've omitted players with fewer than 15 rated games and italicised those with fewer than 30. This is because the rating of such players tend to fluctuate wildly; ratings based on more tournaments are more reliable. Please remember that it's all unofficial anyway; the ratings are only calculated for interest's sake.

Player	Player's Ratings:		Games in past year:		
	Current	at WW54	Rated	Total	p.p.g
Larry Kahn (U.S.)	2572	2611	68	68	4.836
Andy Purvis	2535	2397	85	113	4.237
Geoff Myers	2498	2425	103	117	4.330
Dave Lockwood (U.S.)	2479	2547	47	47	4.053
Mike Surridge	2464	2418	58	70	4.450
Jon Mapley	2441	2440	51	64	4.669
Richard Moore	2407	2449	92	96	4.382
Patrick Barrie	2373	2242	67	77	4.266
<i>Bob Henninge (U.S.)</i>	2339	—	25	25	4.013
Nick Inglis	2317	2307	77	91	3.987
<i>Alan Dean</i>	2264	2264	20	20	3.625
Charles Relle	2260	2339	60	62	4.226
<i>Jim Marlin (U.S.)</i>	2229	2297	28	28	3.161
Matthew Rose	2226	2148	49	51	4.062
Graham Hancock	2216	2240	50	50	3.480
Alex Satchell	2215	2214	55	66	4.028
Jim Carrington	2191	2353	56	57	4.149
Tim Jeffreys	2162	2196	71	74	3.439
Anthony Heading	2153	2096	32	42	4.103
Alan Boyce	2148	2268	49	50	3.830
Geoff Thorpe	2143	2140	54	65	3.392
Rob Cartwright	2124	2144	76	76	3.680
<i>Steve Chamberlin</i>	2114	2061	20	20	3.200
Ed Wynn	2077	1974	58	59	3.941
Julian Wiseman	2063	2044	56	57	3.518
Simon Gandy	2047	1997	59	66	3.490
Stew Sage	2033	2002	83	87	3.318
Jon Carlaw	2013	2056	45	53	3.016
Dave Salter	2007	1994	31	32	3.089
<i>Dave Smith</i>	2000	2018	19	19	4.526
<i>Stef Norman</i>	1984	—	24	24	4.083
Phil Scarrott	1970	2035	55	70	3.352
<i>Ken Zetie</i>	1953	—	18	18	3.778
Ian Gameson	1930	1864	71	71	3.265
<i>Ian Cragg</i>	1925	—	20	21	3.381
<i>Mac McAvoy (U.S.)</i>	1909	—	19	19	2.026
Phil Clark	1901	2001	44	44	3.746
Steve Phillips	1857	1862	57	70	3.012
Stu Collins	1854	1804	41	42	3.190
Simon Braidman	1800	1720	32	32	3.344
<i>Alasdair Grant</i>	1791	1847	28	28	1.851
<i>Dave Hull</i>	1789	1875	25	25	2.420

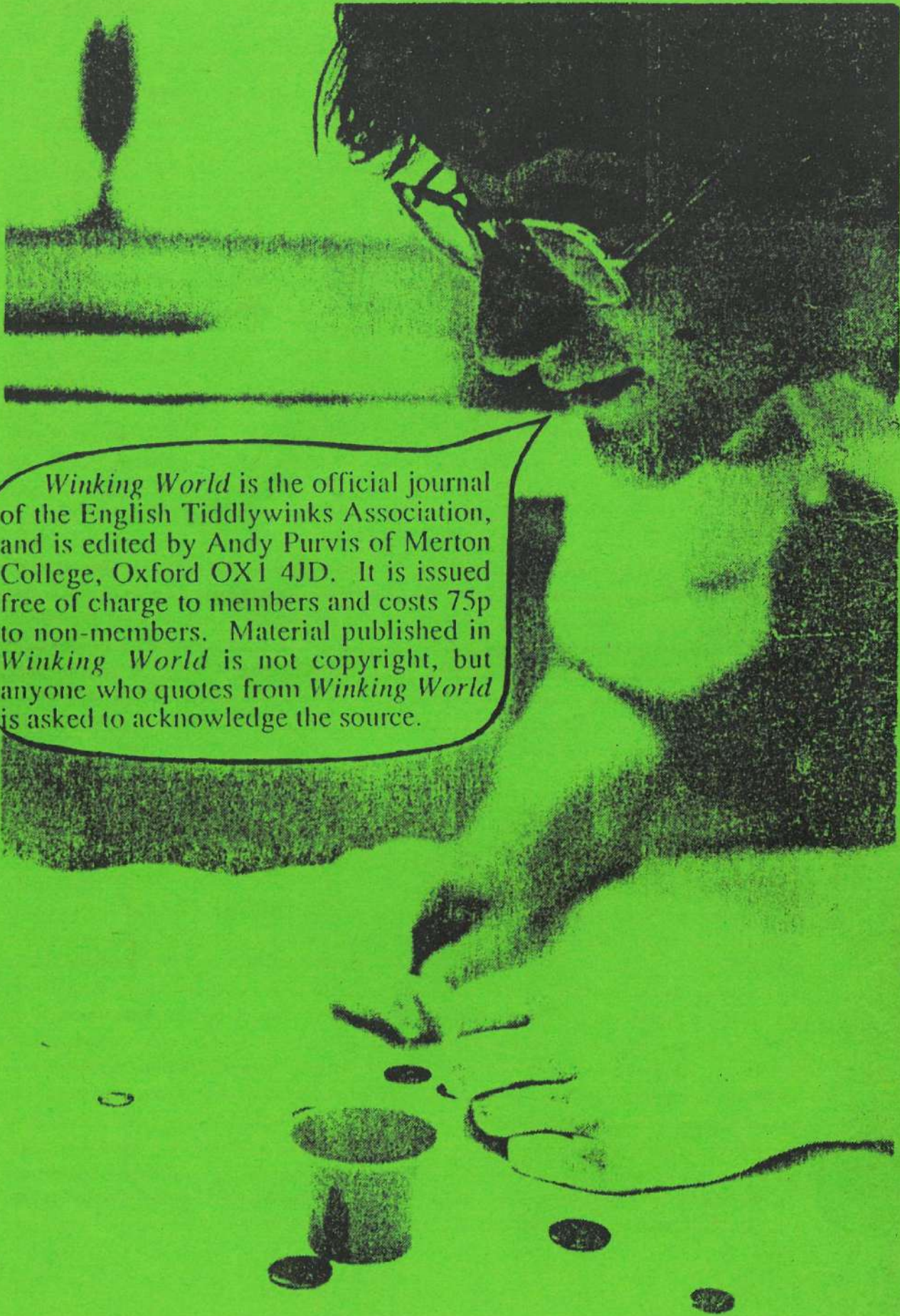
	Current Rating	Rating at WW54	Rated games	Total games	Average p.p.g.
Phil Carmody	1781	—	32	32	2.734
<i>Ed Stephens</i>	1772	—	15	15	1.900
Naveed Chaudhri	1770	—	36	38	2.079
<i>Jon Stanbridge</i>	1770	—	22	22	3.462
<i>Steve Mudd</i>	1766	—	15	15	2.989
Gavin Keyte	1751	1737	68	70	3.045
Jackie Carter	1750	1532	54	55	2.994
James Cullingham	1741	1749	64	65	2.492
<i>Nick May</i>	1729	1686	25	26	2.731
<i>Margo Outhwaite</i>	1632	1603	22	23	2.797
John Duffield	1629	1530	40	41	2.268
<i>Jon Harris</i>	1625	1735	26	27	2.074
Rupert Wilson	1592	1593	64	65	2.359
<i>Adrian Jones</i>	1552	—	25	25	1.920
<i>Sean Mayes</i>	1526	1412	24	24	2.542

Andy's 2535 is the highest British rating yet. Geoff also topped 2500 at various times since WW54. Nick points out that 8 of the top 13 (of those having more than 30 games in the past year) were at Cambridge three years ago. No wonder they kept winning the Silver Wink... Alan Dean's enforced absence from the tournament scene means he's slipped into italics (I hope you'll be back into solid type before too long, Alan!). Charles' standing has suffered a bit from getting rated while getting ratted at the London Open. Special mention ought to be made of Gavin Keyte and Rupert Wilson, who managed to notch up 135 games between them in their first year of winking.

Footnote

(or, bit I keep forgetting to put in)

Something I ought to have put into the last issue was CUTwC's sponsored record-breaking attempt in aid of the Alzheimer's Disease Society on October 21st 1989. In addition to the current Cambridge players, many ex-CUTwC people were lured back by Stew's birthday party that evening. Three World Records were broken in all; these should go into the new edition of the Guinness Book of Silly Things To Do. Geoff Myers, Patrick Barrie, Andy Purvis and Nick Inglis managed to set a mark of 41 winks through four pots in three minutes in the Four Pot Relay. Adrian Jones, Dave Smith and Ed Wynn skilfully cleared 3.49m in the High Jump while, in the Long Jump, Andy managed to overcome the psychological 30 foot barrier before anyone had even thought of its existence, with a none-too-delicate squidge of 30'1". Nick and Andy both equalled the official Accuracy record, potting 12 winks from 3 feet in 23 shots (though Larry has done this in 21 shots). Easily the most impressive achievement of the day was Patrick's; he potted 6158 winks from 18 inches in three hours. In all, largely due to Patrick's fine effort, the event raised over £500.



Winking World is the official journal of the English Tiddlywinks Association, and is edited by Andy Purvis of Merton College, Oxford OX1 4JD. It is issued free of charge to members and costs 75p to non-members. Material published in *Winking World* is not copyright, but anyone who quotes from *Winking World* is asked to acknowledge the source.