

**Explicit  
Uninhibited  
In Your Face  
Hard Core  
Special Edition**

Winking world is the official journal of The English Tiddlywinks Association (ETwA), and is edited by Julian Wiseman of 11 Varna Road Fulham London SW6 7LA, email wiseman\_j@jpmorgan.com or jdaw1@usa.net. Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor by the end of March 1998, or such other date as may be announced.

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Winking World is distributed free to ETwA members, and costs one pound and fifty new pence to non-members. Annual membership of ETwA costs five pounds for those in employment, and half this for the retired, the unemployed, and students not studying for the utterly worthless diploma in computer science. Anyone interested in ETwA is invited to contact the Secretary, Patrick Barrie of 19 Benians Court Cambridge CB3 0DN, email pjb10@cam.ac.uk, telephone 01223 501598.

## Julian Wiseman: *An Editorial Of Some Sort*

Winking World is traditionally late. Winkers are traditionalists. Therefore winkers will presumably be please that WW69, although not as exciting numerologists might, is at least late.

Due to this editorial incompetence, WW69 came after the ETwA elections. The results were: Christine Wiggins (Chairman), Patrick Barrie (secretary), Stu Collins (Treasurer), Stew Sage (Publicity Officer), Julian Wiseman (WW Editor), and Tim Hedger (Tournament Organiser). Anyone who mistakes this electoral result for something exciting must be extremely sad.

Forthcoming tournaments:

Thu 20 Nov: World Singles 47, Kahn v. Barrie (subject to confirmation)

Fri 21 Nov: World Pairs 18, Kahn & Lockwood v. Barrie & Clarkson (s.t.c.)

Fri 21 Nov: World Pairs 19, Kahn & Lockwood v. Myers & Rose (s.t.WP18)

22 & 23 Nov: National Singles in Cambridge (definitely)

25 & 26 April '98: Congress & National Pairs in Cambridge (s.t.c.)

31 Oct & 1 Nov '98: National Teams of Four in Oxford (s.t.c.)

21 & 22 Nov '98: National Singles in Cambridge (s.t.c.)

Winking World is the journal of record for tiddlywinks, heaven help it, and so please could tournament scores be sent to the editor. Ideally these will be sent in electronic form, and be marked with "\*"s and "+"s as appropriate.

The next ETwA Congress will be in April, and there will be yet more elections. If a *bone fide* candidate wishes to stand for the WW editorship, then I will stand aside. If there are none, then I will stand again (surely nobody will confuse me with a *bone fide* candidate), but for one more year and one only.

Julian Wiseman  
3<sup>rd</sup> November 1997

## Christine Wiggins: *A year in the life of the ETwA Chairman*

*[Our fearless chairman has allowed us a peek at her diary for the year. For all the scandal, read on...]*

**26<sup>th</sup> October 1996.** Had a great Teams of 4 for the first ever time as I finally found a partner with whom I could win the odd game (some of them very odd), and who didn't get upset when I subbed. What more could a woman ask? What could possibly go wrong now I asked myself? The answer became clear at 7.30pm this evening when I found myself elected as the first ever female ETwA ChairMAN. Maybe I should have listened to Uncle Patrick when he advised me against it, but hey, it's good to do these things (isn't it?). The good news was that Patrick was re-elected as Secretary, so I'll be able to leave him running the Association in his own organised fashion and my life won't suffer at all. James C in true gentleman style informed me that since I had deposed him as ChairMAN he would be forced to refer to me as ChairBINT for the next year (him bitter & twisted — never!). I did however get asked by a CUTwC novice whether I am a winks goddess which rather cheered me up — well I thought it was a compliment!

**19<sup>th</sup> November 1996.** Had an e-mail from Patrick telling me that Anglia Television want to interview me about the lack of women in winks. Decided he was winding me up so ignored it.

**20<sup>th</sup> November 1996.** He wasn't joking! Just got off the phone & it looks like tonight is the night when I get to be embarrassed in front of the nation (well those that watch Anglia at least!). I'll kill the publicity officer, especially as he's away & won't have to suffer with us.

**21<sup>st</sup> November 1996.** Well I guess my reputation has sunk as low as it could possibly get. I can see that the winking community are going to be reminding me for a long time about one of the most embarrassing 5 minutes of my life. Oh well, at least they can't force me to watch it (or can they?!?!).

**22<sup>nd</sup> November 1996.** It was the World Singles 47 & as expected, the ranting started immediately about which mat should be used. I was ignoring it as usual when it was pointed out that as the most senior member of the winking fraternity present I may have to intervene. It was definitely time for a quick exit & game of Dalmuti...

**23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November 1996.** Successful National Pairs with Geoff & Matt winning (just!). Yet more TV cameras made an appearance & filmed several games & me awarding the trophy. Shame I hadn't been warned or I would have brushed my hair (vain woman that I am!)

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 1996.** Time to go out and spread the news of winks far & wide (well a small town in Hertfordshire to be precise!). See winking world article in Issue 66 for more details.

**8<sup>th</sup> December 1996.** Have just succeeded in coming last in a tournament yet again!! Maybe it's true that women can't play winks! Things were going really well with me finishing in 4th place in the QuTwC Sir Nicholas Scott Memorial Trophy until Patrick used some bizarre score adjustment to put me in last place.

**18<sup>th</sup> December 1996.** Actually managed to beat Nutty Wal in a game of singles — feeling more & more confident about this game. Maybe I'll start taking it seriously...

**2<sup>nd</sup> January 1997.** So, I have now become the first female winker to set foot in the Somerset Wagon. Bit of an anticlimax really until the press started arriving, and phoning. If I see another TV camera or cameraman of any sort I will scream! Let's hope that it all helps winks to flourish though!

**4<sup>th</sup> January 1997.** Feeling completely exhausted now, but that's nothing a few more pints of 6X, and the infamous double cod won't cure.

**6<sup>th</sup> January 1997.** Well it seems I am now infamous! Just had a message from a friend telling me I am mentioned in the Times Newspaper. Fame at last (no fortune since as we all know winks is an amateur game!), and a lot of ridicule too I expect...

**7<sup>th</sup> January 1997.** Well, I have just been interviewed by a newspaper in Oxford about winks. They apparently heard about me from BBC Radio 1 Ulster (how that happened I have no idea!). They also claim it was mentioned in the Oxford Mail, and the Sun newspaper are going to send me all the relevant press cuttings they have for the archives. Latest phone call is from Liberty Radio, London. They want me to be on at 7am tomorrow morning to be bright & enthusiastic about winks. How can anyone be bright at that time in the morning?!?! Guess it's time for an early night.

**16<sup>th</sup> January 1997.** It's officially the club's Birthday, so to celebrate it was time to be interviewed for Woman's Hour! Woke up at 7am (much earlier than normal!) in order to get to BBC Broadcasting House by 10am. Arrived on time & was introduced to the infamous Jenni Murray (definitely not the same person as James Murray despite what Stew may think!). The interview wasn't nearly as scary as I thought it was going to be, and I even managed to pot 6 winks (no cheating allowed on Radio 4), and to send the wink flying across the room when I attempted the John Lennon! Much hilarity. Celebrated the club birthday in traditional style by going on a pub crawl starting at the Churchill & ending up in the Curry Centre. A rather nice evening.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 1997.** Well today I had the pleasure of spending all afternoon & evening with 2 women from the BBC programme the 11th Hour. What a tiring day. It'll be interesting to see how their 7 hours of footage is condensed into 5 minutes for the programme, and how much of the serious nature of the game they manage to get across. All members present gave an excellent rendition of both the CUTwC & EtwA anthems so let's hope they use those!

**1<sup>st</sup> March 1997.** Typical — having to give up an hour of my life to be interviewed by some idiot on Talk Radio. I think I'm going to start turning down these silly interviews as I'm not sure they're doing anything for winks!

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 1997.** Set off to Oxford for the Open , meeting SLU on the Backs by chance to discover that they'd all turned up for a bus that didn't exist, and rather than use their initiatives had decided that on a Sunday before 9am the only option was to go back to bed. Can't really blame them, but since Marie Claire were turning up to interview us for yet another article it seemed rather rude to not go.

**11<sup>th</sup> March 1997.** Yippee — the last pub crawl of the year & luckily it was a nice evening for the trek out to Grantchester. Got rather embarrassed at one pub in Trumpington when the landlord recognised me from the TV. I guess that's the price of fame!

**17<sup>th</sup> April 1997.** Yippee — holiday time again, and the chance to partner the great white hope in the Scottish Pairs. How I love the trip up to St Andrew's.

**18<sup>th</sup> April 1997.** Usual ranting about who's partnering who in the Silver Wink match. Partnered Patrick for the second year running, and we did well again. Not sure how much of that was due to me tho'.

**19<sup>th</sup> April 1997.** Stew & I decided to play the pot out and imbibe game. It worked very well, and it got to the stage where the Cellar Bar knew exactly what we wanted the minute we walked in. I haven't drunk so many G&T's in one day for a long time. The only problem was that even Stew can't cope with that many pints & whisky chasers, and managed to fall asleep in the world's most expensive curry house.

**20<sup>th</sup> April 1997.** Shame Stew & I were both driving today which meant we had to change our tactics, and therefore lost most of our games. I hate this game...

**25<sup>th</sup> April 1997.** The latest chance for TV stardom on Scoop was ruined by the fact that only Patrick is capable of playing enough shots consistently well, so they didn't want the rest of us. Instead we had to spend the whole afternoon in the Mill. We did get a chance to sing the anthems at the end for them, but they'd already run out of film so that wasn't very fair!

**26<sup>th</sup> April 1997.** Yet another winks tournament, but partnering Ed this time. Why is it that all my winks partners seem to resort to drink? Sure it can't be the effect of partnering me, but having seen how desperate to drink G&T's at lunch time Ed was I'm beginning to think it must be!

**27<sup>th</sup> April 1997.** Can't remember what happened today, so it must have been really exciting!

**15<sup>th</sup> June 1997.** Yippee yet another SEPTIC garden in which to get horribly drunk on a Stew Sage punch. Accidentally got elected as a member of SEPTIC despite the best efforts of the members. I have hazy recollections of cooking rather a lot of food on the BBQ, and drinking a lot of chilli-flavoured punch, but that's about it!

**5<sup>th</sup> July 1997.** Time for yet another winks tournament. A fun day partnering Timmy in which we managed to through away games in round 5 more times than I would care to remember. Oh well, it's only a game..

**16<sup>th</sup> August 1997.** Eek — another long vac already? I guess it must be. Played quite well today, but it won't last, as it never does. Did the usual trip to Grantchester by punt, but due to bad planning only had time to punt there & back, and not have a drink. At least SLU fell in, which allowed the rest of us to laugh hysterically for a while!

**17<sup>th</sup> August 1997.** Yet another day of tedious winks. Lunch in the Red Bull was interesting when the beer jug turned out to be growing some sort of fungus. The excuse that it was sediment from the barrel wasn't very convincing & I eventually got the confession that the barman had run out of excuses. At least we got some free beer out of it!

**27<sup>th</sup> August 1997.** Had to get up at some ungodly hour to catch a train to Cannock for the filming of Record Breakers. I can't believe it really is cheaper for the BBC to transport a full set & crew up to a Leisure Centre in Cannock than to use their studios in London, but what do I know? Quite a tiring day repeating everything until it was right (see Andy's report), but at least I got put up in a nice hotel.

**28<sup>th</sup> August 1997.** Had to get up at 6am to catch my train home. At least I have the long vac to recover at.

**30<sup>th</sup> August 1997.** Yet another long vac. I think I'm about to suffer form winks fatigue, but at least I won't have to play competitively again until the 4's!

**8<sup>th</sup> October 1997.** Well I think I failed miserably to convince anyone that winks is a serious game at the squash. At least I tried, and probably did as well as anyone!

**25<sup>th</sup> October 1997.** Well that's my year over with. So much for the Chairman having to do no work — next time anyone tells me that I will laugh at them. Can't believe how quickly time has gone, but I guess that must mean I've enjoyed myself. I think I'll stand again if anyone will propose me. Guess we'll find out soon...

## **Andy Purvis: *Squidger-wielding speed-potting fast-flicking quick-shooting record breakers?***

"Please give a big welcome to the Tyrannosauruses of tiddlywinks, Nick Inglis, Charles Relay, Matt Fayers and Andy Purvis." Enter, stage left and stage right, the Tyrannosauruses: barely able to lumber above walking pace, brains the size of walnuts, waiting grimly for the asteroid to strike. Two hundred kids, who have been brainwashed into thinking that we are in some way sporting heroes, cheer wildly. We bound enthusiastically down the steps and go straight past our marks. We are dismissed back to the wings, and the warm-up man keeps the mob at bay by singing TV theme songs with added

death and destruction (“Postman Pat, Postman Pat, Postman Pat just flattened his cat”). It’s about 6pm. We’ve spent three hours rehearsing our attempt on the 2-minute Four-Pot Relay record, officially 24, and we’ve never looked like breaking it: our hero status is seriously on the line.

It’s all Mapley’s fault. On being approached by a researcher from Record Breakers, he passed the enquiry on and arranged to be on holiday. Or Patrick Barrie might be to blame: he signed us up, giving the impression that he — who can actually pot quickly — would come along too. Did he? Did he bunnies.

Lunchtime at Cannock Chase Leisure Centre, and Paul Tyler of Record Breakers outlines the day to the four dinosaurs and the ETwA Chairman. We can practise and rehearse until 5 o’clock. Christine will ensure fair play and count the winks and, obviously, Patrick Moore will be there to commentate. Obviously. And so to business. To break the record, we need to pot each set of 12 in about 50 seconds. Christine calls out the time for our first set: “A minute and a half”. Not good, but after a few tries, she raises our spirits with “Forty five seconds”, only to dash them again with “left”. We attempt the record, and score 17. After trying various line-ups, we settle upon me, Matt, Nick, with Charles on last base. Our split-time gradually comes down to about a minute, no longer embarrassing. It’s time to rehearse, and to meet presenters Cheryl Baker and Kriss Akabusi. Everyone on the set is very helpful and really nice, sorting the lighting out so it’s just right, checking that we don’t object to the script — basically, giving us no excuse at all should we fail. Paul had explained that he wanted to ensure we had the best chance, and that we’d not be able to blame the conditions. We had assured him that he needn’t worry — we’d blame each other.

They’re struggling with Charles’ surname. They first guess “Rell” and, after his intervention, improve to “Relay”. Charles “Four-Pot” Relle, they call him. Kriss can’t tell Nick and Matt apart. Christine is overseeing our efforts from atop a crate at one end of the table, and counts us in on each attempt. The inevitable happens: “Gentlemen, in your own time, AAARGH!!” As she topples over, the Tyrannosauruses of tiddlywinks collectively wet themselves with laughter. Kriss susses that the record’s much easier to equal than to beat. Cheryl feels in her water that we’ll do it — but if you blindly trust the opinion of someone’s urine just because she won the Eurovision Song Contest, then I pity you. In the last half hour of rehearsal, we’re equalling the record on about every other attempt, and are prevented from breaking it only by a 23<sup>rd</sup> wink determinedly rolling onto the floor.

Patrick Moore arrives. As his name suggests, he’s both loquacious and cantankerous. He is the most apt celebrity for our item, presumably because his dinner jacket looks like a veteran of several CUTwC dinners. Christine has a clicker with which to count winks entering the fourth pot, and raises our hopes by initially clicking whenever any of us pots a wink. And whenever I miss three in a row, I can hear Patrick at the other side of the studio saying “Andy’s going very well...”. We rehearse the post-attempt interview for success and, at greater length, failure: only Cheryl’s bladder retains its watery

optimism. The mob is by now hammering at the gates, so we retire to the bar for a tactical dram.

It's 6pm, and we're on. Kriss calls us out and, astonishingly, the crowd actually goes wild. After a few false starts, we successfully record our pre-attempt interview. There's a thrill of expectancy in the air as Christine counts us in. I start badly, so it's a relief when Cheryl admits after about 30 seconds that no-one has started the clock. On the next attempt Matt, wired for sound, misses a sitter and says "Shit!" for the children. It looks like we might equal the record, though, and excellent finishing down the back straight sees Charles coolly sink the 24<sup>th</sup> wink with only seconds to spare! We canter over to our marks, ready for a "good effort" interview. Kriss, Cheryl and Patrick look downcast, the audience is quiet with disappointment: the scoreboard mistakenly shows 23. The prepubescent mob gradually twigs that we are, rather than the sporting heroes they were promised, a bit crap. Luckily for us, they don't know that tomorrow's record attempt will be by Stephen Hendry.

Three more tries go badly — we don't get near 24. It's hot, humid, and the crowd is getting restless. The warm-up man is fast running out of cute TV animals to maim. We're the only attempt being recorded live and, for reasons to do with the BBC's internal market, the kids don't get to see the filmed inserts that make up the rest of the show. We've got one more try. A better start, a decent split time, and we're in with a chance. The applause and the tension build up and up as the winks gavotte down the table and the time ticks away. The klaxon goes, we do our interview, Patrick sums up and we all wave goodbye to the cameras before escaping to the bar. There, the tired Tyrannosauruses and Christine spend a merry hour with Patrick and Paul while the poor presenters and kids are filming the links to the unseen film clips. It's been a completely surreal day, but very good fun and, as Charles speeds Matt and me down the motorway, we all wonder what on earth it'll look like on screen...

P.S. We were told that our episode will be broadcast on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November, at 4:35pm. [*Editorial PPS — Winking World is too late for this to be useful.*]

## **Patrick Barrie: *The Varsity Match***

St Cross College Oxford, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1997.

Rumours earlier in the year suggested that OUTS might struggle to raise a team to compete for the Varsity trophy. However, continued efforts by winkers in Oxford and some good student newspaper activity thanks to Christine caused sufficient revival to produce a useful team. Cambridge, with an eye on the future, fielded five new quarter-blues, three of them first-years.

In round 1, Tim & Alan gained a squop-up against Robert & Guy with ten minutes to go, but a sequence of good and Good shots by their opponents meant that points still had to be earned in rounds. In the end, both pairs missed pots for certain wins; the final result was  $4\frac{2}{3} - 2\frac{1}{3}$  to the Cambridge pair. Sly & James had looked on top for much of their game against Thomas & Odile,

but didn't split up an awkward-looking six-wink pile containing four of their own winks. Once Odile squopped this pile in rounds, the Cambridge pair were happy enough with a  $5\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$  win. Pete and Chris SLU had a scrappy game before finally getting an advantage against James & Claire in rounds. An excellent four-inch squop ending round five by Pete gave them a 6-1 win. Matt & John gained a straightforward 6-1 win once they'd managed to get Andrew's greens under control. Cambridge had thus gained a useful  $22\frac{1}{6} - 5\frac{5}{2}$  lead.

In round 2 Chris SLU & Pete had been nervous about attacking the enemy area after Thomas & Odile both brought in well, and so SLU decided to go for the pot as a diversion. After a sequence of three "pot one and miss safe" turns, he changed to a sequence of "pot one and miss 1cm from enemy winks", but did eventually achieve the pot-out. Pete followed him in for a  $7*-0*$  scoreline. Matt & John and Sly & James gradually gained squop-ups and 6-1 victories against Robert & Guy and James & Claire respectively. Tim & Alan again played well and looked like achieving a similar feat, when a missed short squop by Alan let their opponents split the largest pile. A squop by Emma in rounds limited the Cambridge win to  $4\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$ , and a convincing match lead of  $45\frac{2}{3} - 10\frac{1}{3}$ .

After a sociable break for lunch, there was the customary post-lunch pot-out. Somewhat more unusually this was achieved by an OUTS pairing, with Robert potting well and poor defence from Chris SLU & Pete. There were squop-ups for the Cambridge pairings of Tim & Alan and Matt & John, enlivened slightly by a failure to free late in round 5 when John's freeing shot (namely to pot the last two remaining blues) failed. Sly & James were given a hard game by Andrew & Emma, with Andrew in particular squopping very well. Sly struggled to hold on once James ran out of mobile greens, and ended up potting his two free yellows for a 4-3 win. Cambridge had thus gained a decisive  $63\frac{2}{3} - 20\frac{1}{3}$  lead.

In round 4, Chris SLU, as CUTwC president, decided to end the match in style with a pot-out. However, having spent three turns to get three greens in the pot he changed his mind and started playing a squopping game. This shift in tactics clearly bemused his opponents, who happily squopped him. However, the main pile was messy with both pairs having control of one end, and this allowed SLU to pot his fourth and fifth winks after another change of mind. His sixth wink was still squopped, but the singleton wasn't defended and once Pete freed it, that was that for a  $7*-0*$ . Having achieved a pot-out for OUTS already, Robert was also champing at the bit and he brought in all his blues well. A good squop by Sly stopped him, but he tried potting anyway. With three blues potted, and 4 doubletons to Cambridge it looked like Sly & James would win easily, but Guy hassled well, freeing two more blues which were duly potted by Robert. Several missed pots by the Cambridge pair in rounds cost them any chance of first place, so Robert & Guy gained their second win of the day. Matt & John played convincingly, as they had all day, to complete their collection of 6-1 wins. Tim & Alan had a close game all the way through against Thomas & Odile. Rounds turned to the Cambridge pair's advantage when Tim's big green bounced out of the pot to squop a blue on two yellows.

Most of the shots in rounds didn't quite come off, however, and it ended up that Tim & Alan gained another unusual  $4\frac{2}{3} - 2\frac{1}{3}$  win. Sadly though, this didn't make the final scoreline any more singable.

All in all, an excellent match. Despite some players' inexperience, I found the overall standard of play in the match to be higher than I had expected. Even when Cambridge gained an advantage, the Oxford pairs always made them work hard to hold on to the position. It was certainly good to see the enthusiasm among the OUTS' winkers, and they did at least win two games this year. Thanks should go to the Cambridge chauffeurs and to Christine for arranging the event. She also invited Stephen Jackson, the feature writer for the games page of the weekend section of the Daily Telegraph, to the event. As a result, we gained two articles in the national press: one on the history of the game, and one serious article on how the game is actually played. These articles have so far resulted in over 40 general enquiries to the ETWA secretary.

|                | Chris Abram<br>Pete Keevash | Matt Fayers<br>J. Haslegrave | Tim Hunt<br>Alan Reed | A. Young<br>James Murray |                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| James Mushin   | 6                           | 6                            | 6                     | 6                        |                 |
| Claire Bates   | 1                           | 1                            | 1                     | 1                        | 4               |
| Andrew Green   | 7*                          | 6                            | $4\frac{1}{2}$        | 4                        |                 |
| Emma Truett    | 0*                          | 1                            | $2\frac{1}{2}$        | 3                        | $6\frac{1}{2}$  |
| Robert Bates   | 2*                          | 6                            | $4\frac{2}{3}$        | 3                        |                 |
| Guy Bradbury   | 5*                          | 1                            | $2\frac{1}{3}$        | 4                        | $12\frac{1}{3}$ |
| Thomas Lundh   | 7*                          | 6                            | $4\frac{2}{3}$        | $5\frac{1}{2}$           |                 |
| Odile Lefeuvre | 0*                          | 1                            | $2\frac{1}{3}$        | $1\frac{1}{2}$           | $4\frac{5}{6}$  |
|                | 22                          | 24                           | $19\frac{5}{6}$       | $18\frac{1}{2}$          |                 |

Final score: Cambridge University  $84\frac{1}{3}$ , Oxford University  $27\frac{2}{3}$

## Charles Relle: *The Monopoly Pub Crawl*

Compared with the rest I was a novice: The experienced party consisted of James Cullingham, Stewart Sage, Gerald, colleague of James, Andrew Young and Andrew Garrard.

The instructions were to meet at Elephant and Castle at 10.30 -ish. Obedient as ever, I took a train that arrived at 10.30. James had it all planned: we mounted a bus, and arrived before opening time at the Green Man in Old Kent Road. James had judged well: the doors were open and the landlord was willing to serve us. This gave us a flying start and we were able to head for the Lord Rodney's Head in Whitechapel Road ahead of schedule. All day it seemed to me we were going at a fair pace, but towards the end James said that unless we were to speed up, we would not make it. We did make it with time to spare.

What impressions did the novice get from the day? We seemd to cover the same ground more than once. We approached St Pancras Station first from one side and then the other. We passed a pub called the Pint Pot, and discovered that we were to visit it about three stops later. Later study of the A to Z, however, showed how carefully the whole day had been researched and then

planned. There was much more travelling than drinking: obvious when you think of it, but not until to you get on the route does it become clear.

There was time appreciate some of the architectural delights of London, and especially some of the pubs. The station bars at Marylebone and Liverpool Street stand out. There was definite human interest as we emerged into different parts of London, and observed the characteristics of the majority groups. It was all enlightening.

At the end there were celebratory extra drinks and a traditional curry. There was the slight surprise of being almost stone cold sober. I got home without difficulty, and woke the next morning invigorated by the exercise. All in all it was an experience I am glad not to have missed, make better by James's excellent organisation.

## ***The Fulham Invitation***

**Richard Moore**

Seven winkers gathered in Fulham on the weekend of the August Bank Holiday for a tournament which promised to be fairly alcoholic: the wines on offer ranged from 1936 to 1994, without too many gaps in between. The tournament was notable however not simply for its social aspects, which included tastings of three vintage champagnes, six Château Gruaud-Laroses and five ports, with three courses of slop thrown in (and nearly thrown up again by Ed, who had four penalty points for a refusal at the crème brûlée). It was notable not even for being the first winks tournament anyone could remember to involve disabling the smoke alarm and calling the fire brigade. No; its chief interest to the readership of *WW* lay rather in the rules variations which were tested. For some, of course, the Rules of Tiddlywinks have the value of holy writ and to tamper with them is about as thinkable as to rewrite the Nicene Creed. Not so mine host Julian, who had advertised in advance the following ideas:

1. No missed shot for sending one wink off. Miss a shot only if you send two or more winks (of any colour) off the mat.
2. All winks sent off the mat to be repositioned by opponents anywhere on the edge of the mat (subject to 4" separation).
3. Point transfer in the event of a pot out to potter-out, not necessarily to winner.
4. Extra shot for potting any wink of any colour.

The seven competitors were assigned the name and motto of one of the Seven Sages of Ancient Greece (Brewer, *The Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, 1894 edn., p.1124) and partnered each of the other players once only in a randomly drawn individual format. Pittacus of Mitylene, alias Richard, emerged triumphant at least partly as a result of — guess what? — a bizarre post-lunch pot out game playing singles against Patrick and Nick. Attempting the blitz with yellow, but losing the sixth wink squopped on the edge of the mat by blue, two and a half feet from any other wink, he naturally attempted to pot the greens instead. Four went in, but the fifth was squopped. The final free green



|                                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |   |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|---|
| Pittacus of Mitylene                 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |   |
| <i>Seize time by the forelock</i>    | 6* | 1  | 5  | 6  | 7* | 3  | 4  | 32  | 1 |
| Richard Moore                        |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |   |
| Solon of Athens                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |   |
| <i>Know thyself</i>                  | 1  | 5½ | 0* | 2  | 3  | 1* | 2* | 14½ | 7 |
| Nick Inglis                          |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |   |
| Thales of Miletus                    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |   |
| <i>Who hateth suretyship is sure</i> | 6  | 4  | 3† | 6* | 4  | 2* | 1* | 26  | 3 |
| Anthony Heading                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |   |

## Edward Wynn

There is a more charitable explanation as to why people propose rules changes: they hope to improve the game, making it more fair, enjoyable or skilful. In many cases, however, a change that increases one of those three attributes (in someone's opinion) endangers another (especially in someone else's opinion). So, for example, a change that lightens the gloom of a squopped-up partnership might be expected to make the game more enjoyable for the inexperienced or impatient, but it might conceal the difference between competent and expert bunny-beaters. Many rules, both extant and proposed, must be considered as a balance between contradictory desiderata.

Richard has something like this in mind when he opines that "the current [boundary] rule does seem to offer a fair balance of risk and benefit". However, other people have identified the boundary rules as some of the most imbalanced: the penalty for rolling off from the baseline is too severe, the argument goes. The cause is often a lack of skill, practice or concentration (but sometimes a slight imperfection in the mat or the wink or the cosmos), so some penalty is appropriate, but not a missed turn. Conversely, the average boondock is currently a trivial shot (compared to its tactical power); with a competent aim, it can be played as hard as you like without disadvantage. The repositioning rule — Rule 2 in Richard's report — can be used to increase the skill of the boondock; I remember this to my cost from a London Open at which something similar was tried. If that were the only effect of Rule 2, I would wholeheartedly recommend it.

The use of Rule 2 as a penalty for bad bring-ins is, as Richard says, much less severe than the current missed turn. Unlike Richard, I think it is a more appropriate penalty, more commensurate with the error. So, I approve of this aspect of Rule 2. The difficulty for me is when to use Rule 2 as the (only) penalty for sending a wink off; it seems appropriate for a rolled bring-in and an over-eager boondock, but is it appropriate for a mindless pile-break?

I must confess that I seldom experience "the fun of unbridled pile-breaking"; the present boundary rules are a strong constraint. The two-winks-off Rule 1 provided a different constraint: in my opinion, roughly as strong as the present one, but less open to skilful avoidance. Under the present rules, you can assess which parts of a pile can be safely hammered, sending only other colours' winks off, and limit your force elsewhere. Under Rule 1, all force is restrained.

So, I disapprove of Rule 1; it successfully excludes bring-ins from the penalties designed for pile-breaks, but in doing so it sanitises pile-breaking. The penalty for a mindless pile-break should be stiffer than that for a rolled bring-in, I believe, but I cannot think of a rule that selectively brings the stiffer penalties to bear.

Thus, despite having a very different perspective from Richard's, I cannot recommend Rules 1 and 2 as improvements to the boundary rules. However, I can strongly recommend further thought on the matter, starting from a subjective assessment of the balances implicit in all rules.

With this consideration in mind, I disapprove of Rule 3, which allows an underdog to gain a point transfer by lunching an opponent's last wink. When a game's result is changed by one shot, there is an opportunity for luck (which is often exciting), but also for unrepresentative scores. I find that the balance for tiddlywinks is already close enough to the former. (This is why a Singles challenge must comprise several games, just as each cricket side must have two innings in a Test. The format of the tiddlywinks Varsity Match is near the limit of a representative contest between two teams.) Rule 3 provides an over-generous reward for a single shot. If the reward were less generous — for example, if point transfer were merely nullified rather than reversed — I might consider the change more favourably. The change would be as simple to enshrine in the rules as the present situation. It would slightly complicate the strategy for working a pot-out, so it comes down to a judgement of whether this strategy is already complicated enough. In the interests of near-expert bunny-beaters, I think it is, so I would not recommend even a watered-down Rule 3.

Of the four, Rule 4 was the most far-reaching change; I doubt that we found its full consequences in the small trial we gave it. Of course, it favours the lunch shot, and at present this shot has a devil-may-care thrill. In time, though, Rule 4 might make it a staple, at the expense of the Bristol, gromp and boondock. A pile's guards might soak up attackers and deposit them without complication in the pot, whereas at present each squopped attacker remains a potential threat. This rule change might therefore result in duller play; I doubt that this was the intention, and I cannot recommend it. I suspect that the lunch shot has some untapped strength even under the present rules.

For the moment, therefore, I'm singing from the same hymn-sheet as the ultra-Orthodox Richard, but if someone advertises an evangelistic rave, I'll stand outside and dither.

## **Julian Wiseman**

Old hands of rule meetings will be accustomd to the controversy generated by any attempt to change the boundary rule: hence this wee tournament has three write-ups. As the instigator of the rule changes I intended them to be an experiment, and (the experiment done) I like some and not others. *Let us take them in order. ( / The first is the taste, / Which is meagre and hollow, but*

*crisp: / Like a coat that is rather too tight in the waist / With a flavour of Will-o'-the-wisp. — Snark)*

1. No missed shot for sending one wink off. Miss a shot only if you send two or more winks (of any colour) off the mat.

Richard remarks on “the fun of unbridled pile-breaking”. In my experience Richard is an honest player, and I do not wish to begrudge him his fun. But, to the game’s detriment, not all players are as trustworthy. There’s no useful purpose in calling a shot-judge without building a copy of the pile — and that involves a delay to the whole round. At a typical tournament others have travelled far to play or to drink, and I don’t care enough about the score to wish to slow everybody’s day. So I don’t call a shot-judge, my opponent plays every wink (irrespective of location relative to the top wink) and the whole thing happens so fast that my opponent claims (implausibly) to have played legally. Slowing down pile-breaks so that illegalities (especially concerning which winks were played) become obvious is a good thing. This rule provides an easily policed incentive to slow down shots.

2. All winks sent off the mat to be repositioned by opponents anywhere on the edge of the mat (subject to 4" separation).

Again, this change makes the game more policeable. Rather than quietly submit to where my opponent claims the wink left the table, someone is appointed to choose. Further, it provides an additional opportunity for players to be more (or less) skillful with boondocks.

3. Point transfer in the event of a pot out to potter-out, not necessarily to winner.

Ed’s reasoning — that reversing the point transfer gives too great a disincentive to attempting the potout — is persuasive.

4. Extra shot for potting any wink of any colour.

As Ed says, insufficiently tested.

So, to Ed’s list of “fair, enjoyable or skilful” I would add a fourth item: “easier to police”. Simplifying the policing of the game will reduce the number of disagreements (voiced or not) and so make winks more pleasurable to play. In any event, organisers of informal tournaments are invited to repeat the experiment of the first two and fourth rule changes.

## **Edward Wynn: *The Famous Winkers Cards***

For those of you who don’t know, the Famous Winkers Cards are a limited-edition pack of playing cards, each of which depicts a famous winker. Each card has a photo in addition to the corresponding rank, suit, and name (except in one case). Further, each card has a set of four scores, in the categories: Horror Rating, Beer Factor, Winking Power and Narg Points. The table following shows the scores of the present pack.

Gameson and Steen are, in City jargon, fungible, but the three moribund winkers in brackets must be deposed *en masse* or not at all, for fear of harming the pleasant mathematical properties of the scores.

If photos of Famoser Winkers become available, the pack will change again. For example, Mike Surridge, Roger Long, Chris Wilson, Elizabeth Whalley and Rev. E. A. Willis would be serious contenders. Photos would be much appreciated, and can be returned intact. If anyone has any comments or criticisms of the selection, or a quibble concerning the justification of the scores, *bottle it up!* We don't want to hear it.

| Name       | Card | HR | BF  | WP | NP  | Name            | Card | HR  | BF | WP  | NP |
|------------|------|----|-----|----|-----|-----------------|------|-----|----|-----|----|
| Hancock    | A♦   | 79 | 100 | 29 | 50  | Myers           | A♥   | 44  | 60 | 100 | 89 |
| Wright     | K♦   | 47 | 97  | 71 | 67  | Kahn            | K♥   | 77  | 11 | 97  | 33 |
| Sage       | Q♦   | 48 | 96  | 39 | 94  | Lockwood        | Q♥   | 64  | 9  | 84  | 29 |
| Barrrie    | J♦   | 28 | 84  | 96 | 93  | Dean A.         | J♥   | 51  | 34 | 69  | 31 |
| Hedger     | 10♦  | 34 | 93  | 76 | 66  | Mapley          | 10♥  | 57  | 58 | 79  | 18 |
| Inglis     | 9♦   | 52 | 91  | 90 | 100 | Steen / Gameson | 9♥   | 24  | 4  | 56  | 92 |
| Salter     | 8♦   | 46 | 23  | 34 | 65  | Benedict        | 8♥   | 38  | 70 | 57  | 76 |
| Moore      | 7♦   | 26 | 88  | 87 | 68  | Sylvester       | 7♥   | 25  | 67 | 70  | 77 |
| Cullingham | 6♦   | 76 | 85  | 54 | 64  | Tucker          | 6♥   | 75  | 20 | 72  | 27 |
| Wynn       | 5♦   | 27 | 90  | 78 | 88  | Nipper          | 5♥   | 35  | 65 | 37  | 52 |
| Gandy      | 4♦   | 30 | 76  | 83 | 63  | Zetie           | 4♥   | 55  | 41 | 17  | 90 |
| Collins    | 3♦   | 20 | 68  | 59 | 62  | (*)             |      | 87  | 5  | 47  | 24 |
| Thompson   | 2♦   | 74 | 86  | 50 | 98  | Mateyboy        | 3♥   | 23  | 15 | 2   | 84 |
| Relle      | A♠   | 70 | 83  | 74 | 70  | Anheuser        | 2♥   | 60  | 56 | 53  | 44 |
| Purvis     | K♠   | 39 | 77  | 92 | 96  | Hunt            | A♣   | 93  | 63 | 30  | 79 |
| Rose       | Q♠   | 49 | 82  | 91 | 61  | Clarkson        | K♣   | 78  | 73 | 58  | 86 |
| Wiseman    | J♠   | 41 | 89  | 80 | 60  | Thorpe          | Q♣   | 98  | 78 | 68  | 57 |
| Goddard    | 10♠  | 56 | 55  | 36 | 75  | Porter J.       | J♣   | 100 | 32 | 21  | 35 |
| Edwards    | 9♠   | 80 | 87  | 49 | 97  | Porter E.       | 10♣  | 61  | 59 | 11  | 37 |
| Heading    | 8♠   | 43 | 66  | 62 | 59  | Scarrott        | 9♣   | 96  | 38 | 66  | 10 |
| Bertoya    | 7♠   | 54 | 79  | 31 | 58  | Boyce           | 8♣   | 91  | 53 | 55  | 7  |
| Carter     | 6♠   | 83 | 30  | 12 | 1   | Grant           | 7♣   | 53  | 33 | 38  | 83 |
| Austin     | 5♠   | 89 | 69  | 19 | 56  | Keyte           | 6♣   | 29  | 57 | 63  | 38 |
| (Spike)    |      | 37 | 71  | 35 | 46  | Stosh           | 5♣   | 73  | 64 | 33  | 48 |
| Wiggins    | 4♠   | 22 | 54  | 43 | 69  | Cartwright      | 4♣   | 45  | 62 | 52  | 15 |
| Urchin     | 3♠   | 33 | 42  | 13 | 45  | Dixon           | 3♣   | 66  | 71 | 25  | 53 |
| Dean H.    | 2♠   | 11 | 12  | 15 | 17  | (Buster)        |      | 50  | 61 | 19  | 47 |
|            |      |    |     |    |     | Deane           | 2♣   | 18  | 1  | 40  | 54 |

## Andy Purvis: *The London Open*

Crofton Leisure Centre, 5<sup>th</sup> July 1997

After being temporarily confused by a pair of Waterloo Stations, I eventually arrived to find that Matt had turned up already, but the mats hadn't, and Matty wouldn't. As well as the usual suspects, Nick, Ben and Jo had travelled down from Scotland, and Ben D. had risen from the dead.

Two of the favoured pairs were drawn against one another straight away, with Simon & Stu beating Patrick & Matt 5-2. Patrick was accused of tactical Swiss behaviour but denied it, claiming to have been outplayed. If Patrick & Matt behaved in traditional Swiss fashion, Charles & Ed were impersonating Poland against the Phils, sending their brave but outmoded cavalry in to stop the efficient, heavily-armoured pot-out threat with tragically predictable results. They recovered with a win in the second round, in which all the games finished 4-3. Round 3 mixed things up a bit: Ben & Andrew took 6 off Simon & Stu, and a 4-3 win for Tim & Christine meant that everyone had won at least one game except for their opponents Patrick & Matt, who were firmly in the bottom half of the table.

The bar opened for lunch and stayed open for a long while after. The traditional whip-round, timed to post-prandial perfection by Charles, raised £120 for the Lewisham Hospital Diabetes Education Centre.

Matt & Patrick racked up 19 points in the next three rounds, and Stu & Simon 18, and these pairs narrowly trailed Nick & me going into the last round. Patrick & Matt needed to beat Nick & me by more than 4-3 in order to overhaul us, and a close result in our game could let in Simon & Stu, who were playing James. Simon & Stu were ahead for most of their game, but with little or no chance of a pot-out. Our game was close, but looked good for us until our inebriation collided with their inspiration in rounds: they played well and had a couple of bonus outcomes, while I lost the ability to count to 12 and — much to Patrick's surprise — talked Nick into a difficult tournament-losing shot (which he played beautifully). Simon & Stu took 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to sneak second place.

Charles led a retreat back to his house, where Phil C. challenged me for the Jubilee Trophy in a match that was nail-using rather than nail-biting, and Ed tinkled the ivories to excellent effect, before we all headed off in search of food. Thanks, Charles, for organising the tournament so well once again, and for knowing where to find such good curries.

## **Phil Carmody: *The Jubilee Challenge***

What better way is there to end a day of winks than with a few (more) beers? Simple — more winks and a few more beers! *[Readers are reminded that articles reflect the opinion only of the author — Ed.]* Andy had just expressed his displeasure at still being the Jubilee challenge champion, but the old 'squidger' version of winks was a formula running a bit thin. There was only one solution, the gauntlet was down — thumbnails at dawn! Rather than wait 'till dawn, we decided a sudden death match there and then on Charles' front room table was appropriate.

Briefly, Andy thought he might rid himself of his irksome title. That was, however, before I had played any shots. The accuracy of one's thumb when bringing in is variable, ranging from a 6 inch radius (if one's name is Andy) to a 2 foot radius (if your name is Phil). Undeterred by my apparent randomness, I realised that with a bit of patience, accuracy improves quickly. Soon my

confidence was increasing, and I began to go for squaps. Worse than that, I was even getting them! However, never to be outdone in these situations, Andy squopped back. We gradually turned the game into not much more than one large pile, yours truly on the bottom, and the result was beginning to look fairly predictable. However, I was a man with a plan, and with no potting practice before the game, the plan inevitably had to be 47. Andy was definitely lining up a pot-out. Not wanting to be too rash, I did attempt to gain control of the pile first, just to get a few in the pot as quickly as possible. Quite how I managed to legally crud a pile with my thumb I'll never know — maybe it was allowed only as we just didn't want to rebuild the pile! Anyway, with a few on the mat and rounds approaching I did my best for a 2-point plan 47. However, I had to rely on little or no potting from Andy. Andy potted well. The rest, as they say, is history, which is a naff way for me to admit I haven't got a clue how the game ended, my mind was on cheesy-peas by that stage...

Two things can however definitely be said — firstly that Andy won convincingly, retaining his title, and secondly that it was all too silly not to be done again sometime — does Andy have any new challengers?

## **Patrick Barrie: *The Secretary's Report***

Memoirs of an ETwA Secretary: Volume Four. — Patrick Barrie, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct '97

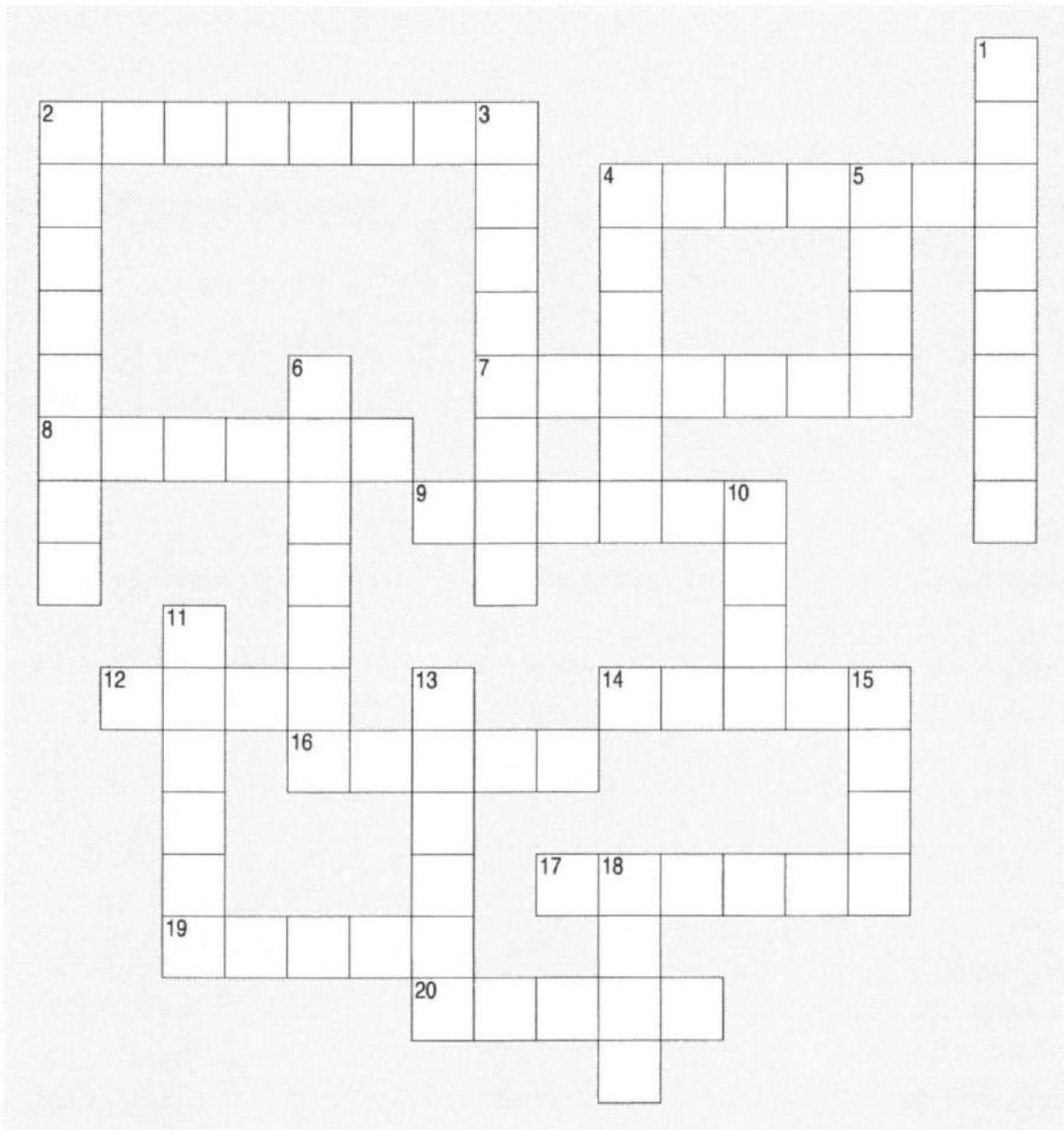
This year followed the same pattern as last year (and the year before and the year before...). All members received six of my tried and tested newsletters during the year. The newsletters told members exactly where to go and what to do with their squidgers when they got there. As well as maintaining a postal address list, I have also tried to keep an E-mail address list up to date. I can send either of these to anyone interested. There is now quite a lot of tiddlywinks material on (<http://www.cheng.cam.ac.uk/~pjb10/winks>). This includes the FAQ, an introduction to the game and the official rules of the sport. You would be surprised how many media phone calls I have received which started "I found your page on the Web". Also, it's worth reporting that one winker turned up at the London Open because he found details of it there.

Publicity has been excellent throughout the year, and I hope that the national coverage will have the effect of improved University recruitment in the next few years: certainly, far more teenagers are now aware that tiddlywinks is a serious game. It's also meant that I've had to field lots of general enquiries about the game. Over 40 letters resulted from the Daily Telegraph article. The secretary writing letters, rather than just trying to organise things behind the scenes? Whatever next?

Wearing my rules sub-committee hat for a moment, I wish to report that minor modifications to the rules continue to be made. There are still occasional anomalous situations and misunderstandings that can develop in game situations, but the number of these is dramatically less than ten years ago. Hopefully, the rules will continue to progress in this gentle, but effective, fashion.

I am prepared to continue this report all night in an attempt to filibuster the rest of the exciting business on the agenda, but it seems more trouble than it's worth, and so I'll stop now instead.

## Patrick Barrie: *Crossword*



### Across

- 2 Move round animal to give 18th century chemist
- 4 Caspar
- 7 Swig gin
- 8 Couple change SOS era
- 9 Stout carrier
- 12 Ecclesiarch
- 14 Queens belonging to me
- 16 Frozen for students
- 17 Hamlet with rings
- 19 Part of barrel leaks
- 20 Cunning, but not mature

### Down

- 1 Starlight
- 2 Famous twins
- 3 American bar material
- 4 Repairer seems correct
- 5 Nothing to do with the Rolling Stones
- 6 Direction
- 10 Flower treated sore
- 11 Cautious gambler
- 13 Like a Canadian emblem
- 15 Bias (of Priene)
- 18 Banned from National Trust properties

The answers to this crossword are all famous winkers. Some of the clues are straightforward, some are cryptic, while others are cringeworthy.

Answers can be sent to the Editor, which will give you a chance of winning the grand prize: a CD that the ETwA Chairman happened to find in Cambridge market entitled “Tiddlywinks” played by a group called NRBQ. Any entries should be received in time for the National Singles [*or maybe a bit later, given the editor’s tardiness*] when the lucky winner will be announced.

## Richard Moore: *Yogi’s Whist*

*[This piece was commissioned by the Editor. It is intended that each issue of WW will contain a formal description of a drinking game, so that players can agree at the start of a game to “WW68 Conjectures” or “WW69 Yogi’s”. Of course they won’t, but that’s winkers for you.]*

Yogi’s Whist is now a fairly well established drinking game, based upon one of the confusingly large number of traditional card games known a Ninety-Nine, and introduced to CUTwC sometime during the drafting of Nick Inglis’ doctoral thesis (this does not date it particularly precisely). It get its name from Yogi Bear — not the cartoon character, but the rather sad blind senile bear who had to be destroyed because no home could be found for him when Knaresborough Zoo closed in the early 1980s. The game was briefly known as ‘Yogic Whist’ during the height of the Natural Law Party’s publicity campaign for ‘yogic flying’ in 1992. It is not believed to have direct relationship to the well known song celebrating Yogi’s sexual exploits in English and Russian.

The rules are relatively simple, which makes this a good game for undergraduate students. Like all whist games, it is played in tricks: one player leads a card of his choice and the others play in turn, anticlockwise around the table, a card of the same suit. If none is available, a trump may be played or a card from another suit may be discarded. The highest trump, or if none has been played, the highest card of the suit led initially, win the trick. The winner of one trick begins the next, and so on until all the cards are played.

In the basic version of the game, a hand of four cards is dealt to each player, with one final card face up in the centre of the table to determine trumps. If desired, the pack may be shortened by removing the lowest value cards such that there are only the exact number of cards required for this procedure (i.e.,  $4n+1$  cards with  $n$  players). In all cases, one joker must be included in the pack used.

Each players examines his cards. If he has the joker, this is deemed to have the value of the face-up trump-determining card. Before play proceeds, each player bids using one of his four cards, which is placed face down in front of him and not revealed to the other players. It is not used in play for tricks thereafter. If the bid card is a diamond, the player now aims to to win no tricks during the hand; if it is a spade, he aims to win one trick; if a heart, two; and if a club, three. Sometimes he will have an easy choice: for example, three low cards and one diamond; or three high trumps and a club. From time to time

however the choice will be much more difficult, and it is quite possible to have a completely unplayable hand: for example four low clubs, with diamonds as trumps.

The ease of the decision has a bearing not only on a player's chance of winning but on the next phase of bidding. When the bid cards have all been selected, players are asked in turn, starting with dealer's left, whether they wish to 'declare' or 'reveal'. Declaring means that a player is confident enough to start play with his bid card face up for all to see; revealing means that he must play with *all* of his cards exposed. If two players wish to declare or reveal then it is the first to make the suggestion who does; if however one wishes to declare and another to reveal then it is the latter who goes ahead, whichever came first. If there has been a declaration, the player responsible now exposes his bid card and play proceeds with the first trick (dealer's left leading). If there has been a revelation, the player responsible exposes his bid card and then chooses who is to lead the first trick; after this lead has been played he must expose his remaining three cards. Play then continues with the rest of the first trick. If there has been either declaration nor revelation — much the most frequent outcome — then play simply proceeds with the first trick (again, dealer's left leading).

The remaining complication arises if a nine or a joker is turned up as the trump card during the deal. In this case, nines become a separate trump suit, in order from highest to lowest: club, heart, spade, diamond. It becomes important at this stage to remember for the purposes of the following suit that if, for example, the seven of diamonds is led then the diamond of nines is not a diamond, or if the club of nines is led then the diamond of nines is a nine but the seven of clubs is not. This is counterintuitive at first.

When the game is over, players drink fines in Internation Fining Units (IFUs or Pencils) of  $\frac{1}{16}$  pint, calculated according to whether or not the 'made' the *exact* number of tricks predicted on their bid card. A declaration or revelation serves at this stage to increase the amount of beer drunk. Seven basic outcomes are possible (see table).

| $p$ = number of players who 'made'                      |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 'made', no revelation or declaration                    | 0                 |
| did not make, no revelation or declaration              | $1 + p$           |
| declared or revealed successfully                       | 0                 |
| 'made', but someone else declared/revealed successfully | $\frac{2}{4}$     |
| failed a declaration/revelation                         | $\frac{4}{8} + p$ |
| did not make, someone else declared/revealed            | $\frac{2}{4} + p$ |

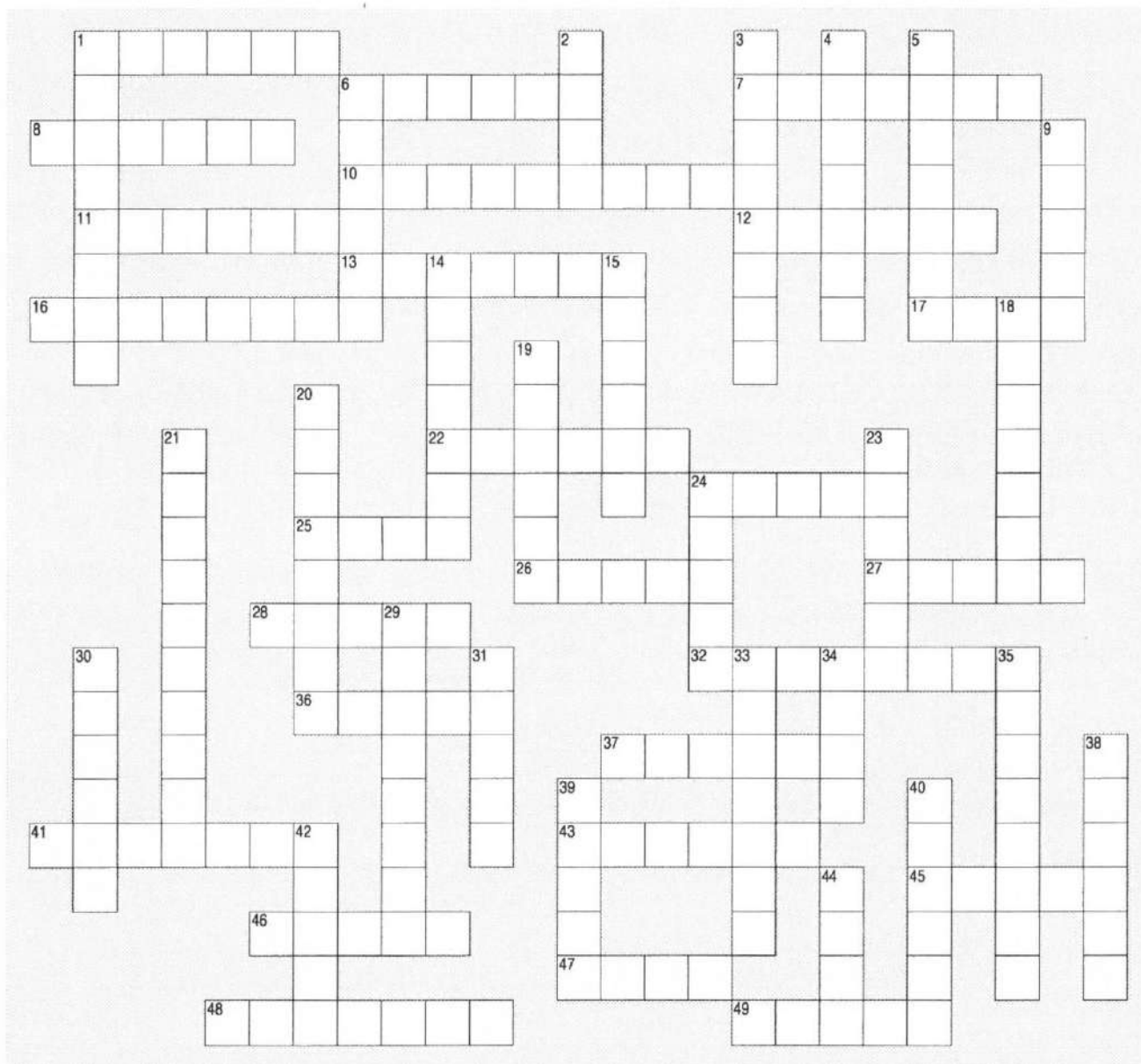
Some tactical hints are possible for those who are anally retentive enough to bother about such things. For example, it is generally easier to lose tricks than to win them, and diamonds therefore tend to be bid more often than other suits. Sometimes, this so annoys the assembled company that diamond declarations or revelations are outlawed.

Yogi's Whist works best for groups of six players or fewer. For players who have tired of the pleasures of the four-card game, it may be played with eight,

twelve, sixteen or even twenty-four cards (two, three, four and six bid cards respectively are used). For some reason, these variations are known in turn as CSE Pass Yogi, Intellectual Yogi, Nobel Prize Yogi and Fields Medal Yogi, in particular, a game for two players in which all of your opponents cards are known, seems like Pure Maths itself to be rather ridiculous exercise.

## 'Oesophagus': *Crossword*

A crossword, in which all the answers are winkers.



### Across

- 1 Unexpectedly alters itself (6)
- 6 Partially the god Thor personified (6)
- 7 Directional footie skill (7)
- 8 He's warned by arrangement (6)
- 10 Kills pigs around mixed up spirit (10)
- 11 African political group in wine (7)
- 12 French then include mobile home (6)
- 13 Mr. Wynn keeps him at bay (7)
- 16 Article he followed with employer (8)

### Down

- 1 Huns mingle in function (8)
- 2 Confused Dane (4)
- 3 Though shortly the elected have a boy (8)
- 4 Broken barrier (sic) (7)
- 5 Swig gin furiously (7)
- 6 Cutback leads to the end of the docker (6)
- 9 Some maze tied him up (5)
- 14 Biblical character never the same in victory (7)
- 15 They exist in distress (6)

- 17 He's been round for ages (4)
- 22 Mother echoes a cry (6)
- 24 Speak to cow about him (5)
- 25 At first, knights announcing happy "Ni"s (4)
- 26 Reel left in a state (5)
- 27 Operate on a giddy heart and replace it (5)
- 28 A youngster from the church (5)
- 32 A root vegetable is right up his passage! (8)
- 36 Religious man on drugs (5)
- 37 In writing lists we see his style (6)
- 41 Unsettle bear with child's gift (7)
- 43 Mum helps confused lifeboat society (6)
- 45 Spanish I use to greet reticent wildebeest (5)
- 46 Admit loan (5)
- 47 Part of boat from northeast (4)
- 48 Some kingdom in "Eye" article (7)
- 49 The sound of a bird of the royal self (5)
- 18 Deity with 500 followers is tough for Cockney (7)
- 19 He'll give you a bite each (6)
- 20 A man with a forest of hair? (8)
- 21 Going west after wagon can't be wrong (8)
- 23 An advantage in human resources (6)
- 24 I am by me, or is it just the end? (5)
- 29 He's wearing branded shoes (8)
- 30 Social worker interrupted by tea (6)
- 31 How to release retiring alien (5)
- 33 A couple of pounds found in small change (7)
- 34 Got up, sprinkling (4)
- 35 We hear a bird stands against an ox! (8)
- 38 Go right on island to find him (6)
- 39 Urge quiet around unfinished glove (5)
- 40 Note on Antipodean outcrop (6)
- 42 Biblical character without the expressed awe (5)
- 44 New York, in the direction of Montreal, but reversed (4)

## Julian Wiseman: *The Oxfordshire Open*

Nasty snotty-nosed miserable screaming bastard child proto-city-wanker of a time-wasting tournament, the Oxfordshire should be scrapped and scrapped painfully. I say this in irritation, not because I know the day to have been unpleasant (though mere absence does not prevent me knowing that this tournament is a festering wound on the face of God's creation etc etc), but because the typing of the scores has been left to me (scores, sores, scabs, dripping pus: it's all the same). Indeed, this is partly why WW69 is late. You know who you are: don't do it again. *[If the readers don't like the editor's attitude to a tournament that involves bidding (bidding at government debt auctions is de rigeur, but at a winks tourament?), then fine, just elect a different editor.]*

So, please could tournament organisers ensure that scores are disseminated to the correct people (WW editor, Tim Hedger), but are done so electronically.

Anyway, those who wasted that day scored as follows:

| Rnd | Players                          | Bid   | Actual | Adjusted |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------|--------|----------|
| 1   | Tim Jeffries & Charles Relle     | 4     | 3      | 5        |
|     | Benedict & Nipper                | 3     | 4      | 7        |
| 1   | Phil Carmody & Killian Anheuser  | 5 1/2 | 6      | 11 1/2   |
|     | Emma Truett & Stew Sage          | 1     | 1      | 2        |
| 1   | Sly & Rupert Wilson              | 2 1/2 | 4 1/2  | 7        |
|     | Patrick Barrie & Matt Fayers     | 5     | 2 1/2  | 2 1/2    |
| 1   | James Mushin & Christine Wiggins | 5     | 5      | 10       |
|     | Paul Moss <i>all alone</i>       | 4 1/2 | 2      | 1 1/2    |
| 2   | Emma & James                     | 1 1/2 | 1      | 1 1/2    |
|     | Sly                              | 5     | 6      | 11       |
| 2   | Matt & Benedict                  | 4     | 5      | 9        |
|     | Nipper & Charles                 | 4     | 2      | 2        |

|   |                     |       |       |        |
|---|---------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 2 | Killian & Stew      | 3     | 1*    | 0      |
|   | Christine & Patrick | 4 1/2 | 6*    | 10 1/2 |
| 2 | Phil & Paul         | 4     | 1     | -1     |
|   | Rupert & Tim        | 4 1/2 | 6     | 10 1/2 |
| 3 | Stew & Sly          | 5     | 1*    | -2     |
|   | Patrick & Killian   | 4 1/2 | 6*    | 10 1/2 |
| 3 | Charles & Rupert    | 4     | 2*    | 2      |
|   | Matt                | 3     | 5*    | 8      |
| 3 | Phil & Tim          | 6     | 7*    | 13     |
|   | James               | 1     | 0*    | -1     |
| 3 | Paul & Christine    | 3 2/3 | 3     | 3 1/3  |
|   | Nipper & Benedict   | 5 1/3 | 4     | 6 2/3  |
| 4 | Christine & Paul    | 3     | 3     | 6      |
|   | Rupert              | 5     | 4     | 7      |
| 4 | Kilian & Sly        | 3     | 2 1/3 | 4      |
|   | Tim & Stew          | 4     | 4 2/3 | 8 2/3  |
| 4 | James & Patrick     | 4     | 0*    | -4     |
|   | Benedict & Nipper   | 3 1/2 | 7*    | 10 1/2 |
| 4 | Charles & Phil      | 4     | 1     | -1     |
|   | Matt                | 4     | 6     | 10     |
| 5 | Rupert & Patrick    | 5 1/2 | 7*    | 12 1/2 |
|   | Nipper & Andrew     | 2 1/3 | 0*    | -2 1/3 |

Adjusted =  $2 \times \text{Actual} - |\text{Actual} - \text{Bid}| \pm \text{typing errors}$

And for those few that might care, this gives actual scores totals of Relle 14, Moss 11 1/3, Fayers 20 5/6, Rupert Wilson 23 1/2, James Mushin 7, Anheuser 20 1/3, Truett 2, Nipper 17, Dominey 26, Wiggins 19, Young 13 5/6, Sage 9 2/3, Carmody 19 2/3, Jeffries 21 2/3, Barrie 21 1/2. So some sad person one,

## Larry Khan: *News From America*

Winks is still alive in the US, although by British standards we're on life support. However, there's now a winks club at Harvard and they've expressed interest in holding a tournament there after the new year. So maybe there is hope of getting some new blood into the game (other than via Dave's kids, and he is now permanently stuck on five).

On 12<sup>th</sup> Oct, Dave and Larry played WS 46 in the confines of Rick's townhouse. Larry got off to a quick start, winning the first 3 games with 5, 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, and 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. There were numerous potout threats in these games, with Dave jumping first but unable to convert due to erratic (or just plain bad) potting. After handing Larry a one or two wink advantage, Dave played well enough to prevent any eventual Larry potouts, but still was 11 down after 3. A close 4-3 to Dave was fine with Larry, but the next game, a solid 6-1 to Dave was not. At this point the score was a more manageable 20-15, and Dave was slightly

up midway in game 6 when a combination of mistakes and good shots by Larry resulted in yet another 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, and a 25 - 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Larry win.

After considerable attempts at rescheduling the singles to get the maximum possible attendance, we finally bit the bullet and held it on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Oct. As usual, Dave and Larry battled it out, but Bob was also in the mix (and in second place after the first day) until close to the end. The key game (if there ever is only one) was the first day Dave-Larry game. Dave started a blitz, and got the first four in (two quite long) and was left with 2 easy ones. Not only did he then miss, but since they were in his area he got another chance when both Larry squop attempts failed. Amazingly (or disgustingly, depends on your point of view), he missed again, and this time Larry got him, and ended up potting out for a 7. So it was anywhere from a 12 to 14 point swing. On the second day things got interesting, as Dave took a 6 off Larry to close within one with two games left. But Larry got two 6s (off Bob and Mac) and Dave couldn't come up with the needed points off Jim and Rick.

Abbreviations used: MX = Max Lockwood, LA = Larry Kahn, DA = Dave Lockwood, RI = Rick Tucker, JI = Jim Marlin, BO = Bob Henninge, MA = Mac McAvoy

Totals: LA 8-2 53, DA 9-1 48, Bob 6-4 43<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, RI 2-8 25<sup>5</sup>/<sub>6</sub>, MA 3-7 21<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>, JI 2-3 18, MX 0-5 0

| First Round |    |    |    |                               |                               |    | Second Round |    |    |                               |    |    |                               |
|-------------|----|----|----|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----|--------------|----|----|-------------------------------|----|----|-------------------------------|
|             | MX | BO | LA | RI                            | MA                            | DA |              | LA | MA | BO                            | DA | JI | RI                            |
| MX          | —  | 0  | 0  | 0                             | 0                             | 0  | LA           | —  | 6  | 6                             | 1  | 6  | 6                             |
| BO          | 7  | —  | 6  | 6                             | 5                             | 2  | MA           | 1  | —  | 4                             | 1  | 1  | 1                             |
| LA          | 7  | 1  | —  | 6                             | 7                             | 7  | BO           | 1  | 3  | —                             | 3  | 5  | 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| RI          | 7  | 1  | 1  | —                             | 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub> | 2  | DA           | 6  | 6  | 4                             | —  | 4  | 4                             |
| MA          | 7  | 2  | 0  | 4 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> | —                             | 0  | JI           | 1  | 6  | 2                             | 3  | —  | 6                             |
| DA          | 7  | 5  | 0  | 5                             | 7                             | —  | RI           | 1  | 6  | 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | 3  | 1  | —                             |

No “\*”s were marked on the email sent to the Editor.