

Winking World *Lite*

-----Issue 70-----

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 via jdaw1@usa.net. Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor by the end of October 1998, or such other date as may be announced.

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Ha!

The many contributors to WW69 almost made it a splendid edition — sullied only by the numerous typographical errors introduced by the editor.

So, to WW70. For a start, I shall quote from the editorial on page 7 of issue 253 of *The Croquet Gazette*:

Usually at this time of year there is a great shortage of material for the Gazette, however this year has been quite the opposite and this issue could have been doubled in size, had it not been for threats from the direction of the treasurer and F&GP Committee. So, if this means that not everything you expected to see in this issue is here I am sorry, but this editor has to arrange the Gazette to fit the budget, not vice versa, alas.

It's alright for some. This WW is tiny, partly because the readers can't be bothered any more, and partly because the editor can't be bothered anymore: the novelty of commissioning exciting articles does wear off.

Like the people of Massachusetts, you get the elected officials you deserve, and you should choose better ones.

Julian Wiseman
21st April 1998

PS

This is not the Anthony 'J. R.' Heading memorial issue: the Singapore authorities are not scheduled to arrest him for three weeks yet. Still gathering evidence, you see, and hoping that he will accidentally reveal his contacts.

PPS

Winking World hasn't had any viscious back-biting obituararies in ages: does anyone have any grievances against the dead that they would like to air in WW71? They don't have to be actually dead of course (a research fellowship would suffice), but the editor would rather not provide excessively remunerative employment for libel lawyers.

I learnt this game from a fellow geologist on a field trip in the Easter vacation of 1993, and introduced it to CUTwC the following term. Its name rapidly evolved by the addition of various embellishments. Since the name never really stabilised, I hereby state that its official 'winks designation shall be "Kinky ~ Charioteer Bunnies", where the "~" represents, in any order, some all or none of the words "mutant", "gay", and "ninja". Apart from the obvious benefit of causing confusion, this appellation should also give a new dimension to games of "Angle Dangle" using the 'names of drinking games' category. Kinky ~ Charioteer Bunnies bears a close resemblance to "Bunny Ears", and is undoubtedly descended from it by the intervention of several twisted sexual exhibitionists.

The charioteer, appointed initially by the finesmaster, must stand up, taking the imaginary reins in front of him with his left hand and an imaginary whip in his right. He should hold the whip such that his fingers are closed onto his hand, and whip the assembled company, accompanying each lash with an appropriate "Tshh" sound. The players on either side of the charioteer are the horses. Approximately in time with the charioteer's lashes, they must rise slightly from their seats, wave their downturned hands before them in imitation of a rearing horse, and neigh loudly. The other players should give no indication of the pleasure imparted by the charioteer's whip. The charioteer remains in place as long as his hand is closed. He may, however, transfer the status of charioteer by launching a stroke of the whip directly at any other player, opening his hand in the process. This should be done as clearly as possible. As the charioteer's hand opens, the whip flies to the hand of the targeted player. He must immediately become charioteer, and the old charioteer must sit down. The players on either side of the new charioteer become horses and the old horses, unless they have become a new charioteer or horse, sit down.

The game is best played under the control of a dictatorial finesmaster. He shall interpret the rules, judge when a mistake has been made, impose fines where appropriate, and appoint a player to restart, following the breakdown of play. Players may be fined for failing to act their proper part as charioteer, horse or bystander, for holding the game up, for ambiguous hand signals, or for arguing with the finesmaster. The standard fine is one finger of beer (or its equivalent) for each offence, subject to the discretion of the finesmaster. The finesmaster may be replaced by a majority vote in favour of another player. Fines in this

game are not heavy and its primary objective is to embarrass shy first years in college bars. It is therefore recommended for use near closing time when first years are temporarily uninhibited, and you were about to be thrown out anyway.

World Match Reports
Patrick Barrie

ETwA correspondent Patrick Barrie has submitted these exclusive World Match Reports. *[For which the editor thanks the Secretary.]*

Our correspondent adds the following disclaimer: these reports were written three months after the event based on limited memory and some very cryptic jottings (such as "D's big out: horrible"). Apologies for any factual errors, but the general theme [presumably tiddlywinks — Ed] should be okay.

WORLD SINGLES 47

At The Castle Inn, Cambridge, 20th November 1997.

Larry Kahn (champion)	5	3	6*	5	6	25
Patrick Barrie (challenger)	2	4	1*	2	1	10

As far as Patrick was concerned, the first half of this match went fairly well. A good squopping battle in game one, which ended up being the highest quality game of the evening, and another close tussle in game two. Some nice bring-ins in game three left the way clear for a pot five and bring-in safe strategy. The pots all worked, and the bring-in wasn't too bad either.

As far as Patrick was concerned, the second half of this match went badly. Larry squopped the sixth wink from five inches, and Patrick missed the all-important colour-order knock-off even though he was using a big wink from a fairly straightforward distance. That effectively ended game three as a contest. Patrick didn't play that well at the start of game four, but came back well enough in rounds to get two points. However, the score was now 19-9 to Larry, and so Patrick needed a big win in the next game. To Patrick's surprise, Larry didn't attempt to squop the colour that had brought six winks in. It was not an easy pot-out by any means, but this was probably the most likely way that Patrick could get back into the contest. However, the second wink missed, landing in completely the wrong place, allowing Larry to dominate the game and ultimately achieve a safe squop-up.

So well played Larry. You thoroughly deserved to win (again!). In order to keep my pride up, I shall claim here that you may have been flattered slightly by the final scoreline!

WORLD PAIRS 18

At Queens' College, Cambridge, 21st November 1997.

Larry Kahn & David Lockwood	6*	3	0*	5	6	6	26
Patrick Barrie & Walter David Clarkson	1*	4	7*	2	1	1	16

This world pairs match started early in the morning, and before Patrick had woken up properly he was persuaded by his partner to try to pot out with one on the baseline. Four winks went in, but then he was covered. However, David (of the Walter Clarkson variety) hassled well, and got on top of the important pile in an awkward position. After the squops were missed, Walter chipped out Patrick's squopped wink, but only moved it to a distance of one whole inch from most of the enemy winks. Patrick did pot his fifth wink from 18 inches (just to show that he could), but the game was now easily won by Larry & Dave.

The second game was a good squopping game which was fairly even until rounds. At that point Walter was slightly short of winks, and in round four Dave decided to squop one of Walter's rather than splitting up a green-on-yellow doubleton. It proved to be a poor choice of shot as Patrick successfully played a big-on-big Bristol to take out this doubleton and effectively guarantee himself first place.

Game three was a successful seventh turn blitz by Patrick, made particularly clinical by Walter also running six to secure 7*-0*.

Larry & Dave both played well in game four, but failed to gain complete control. They potted well in rounds, and it needed some good pots in round five by Walter to gain the two points for second place. The match score was now 14-14, and it was time for the lunch interval.

I don't remember much about the two games after lunch. I have a suspicion that Patrick missed some key shots in game five. I have a suspicion that both Patrick and Walter missed some shots in game six. It's possible that the American pair played superbly. But whatever happened, the scoresheet revealed that Larry & Dave won both games 6-1 to retain the title 26-16.

This was a good match. I think Larry & Dave had underestimated the winners of the Scottish Pairs to some extent, and they seemed genuinely rattled at 14-14 at lunch-time. However, they came through well in the afternoon.

We break these interminable world match reports to mention the worldwide tiddlywinks diaspora. Anthony Heading's exile to Singapore is well known. But did you know that Dr Nicholas Francis John Inglis has been keeping quiet about his forthcoming posting to Oman? Shhhh — keep it to yourself.

WORLD PAIRS 19

played in Queens' College, Cambridge, 21st November 1997.

Larry Kahn & David Lockwood	1	3	3	6	1	6	6	26
Geoffrey Myers & Matthew Rose	6	4	4	1	6	1	1	23

This match followed on from WP18 after a break for relaxation and some unusual poses for a free-lance photographer.

In game one, Geoff lost three winks from the bring-in, giving the Americans a strong position. However, cautious play from the British pair became rewarded as American mistakes gradually let them back in. The game ultimately became a safe 6-1 win in rounds to Geoff & Matthew.

In game two Matthew had two tries at the pot-out before getting squopped with four in the pot. Geoff hassled well, getting both opponents involved in a messy pile. At one stage Geoff chose not to blow the pile to make the Americans work for their points. In the end the pile was blown, but not until round five, and Matthew missed the pot from the edge of the mat. Geoff & Matthew had, however, managed to cling on for a 4-3 win.

Game three was a close battle with Matthew being short of reds for much of the game. Geoff challenged for first place by potting two winks in rounds, but then rolled off the mat with a bring-in in round four. Larry now needed to free one (or two) of Dave's winks pottable: his piddle subbed one of Dave's, while placing another of Dave's on top of a pile rather than flat on the mat. Dave missed his first flat easy pot attempt anyway in round five, and this undistinguished ending gave Geoff first place. The overall score was now 14-7 to Geoff & Matthew which they recognised as flattering them.

Geoff & Matthew played badly at the start of game four, and it soon became a solid squop-up for the Americans. Larry tried to pot out late in rounds but missed. The score was now 15-13 to Geoff & Matthew.

There was now a dinner break, and some debate over whether to complete the match that evening. It had been a long day for all competitors: Larry & Dave had both played a World Pairs match earlier in the day, while Geoff & Matthew had both travelled long distances (Geoff had been in Bonn that morning, while Matthew had been somewhere up north). It was clear that tired as they might be, it would prove equally wearing to complete the match the following evening (after a day of ETwA Singles qualifying leagues).

In game five, players became more cautious. After a couple of millimetric movements of winks, Nick Inglis arrived as a spectator: "How appropriate", commented Geoff. Towards the end of the time limit, Larry and Dave both missed simple one-inch squops and Geoff captured a couple of doubletons, to produce a sudden unexpected squop-up, and a 21-14 lead to Geoff & Matthew.

Game six had some interesting moments. Early on, Geoff and Matthew went four singletons down but all these were in their own area with no American defence, and so it looked like it would be a case of how efficiently they could regain them before reinforcements arrived. Neither happened, as a separate battle started on another area of the mat. At one point, Dave chose to break up his own doubleton by playing a double dock rather than risk a colour order knock-off. The game gradually turned the Americans' way, and once Larry got a Bristol to make a tripleton in rounds it became a safe 6-1 to the Americans. The score was now 22-20 to Geoff & Matthew.

In the final game, Dave turned down a pot-out attempt after a good bring-in and the Americans soon had most of Matthew's winks under. Geoff was trying to keep his blues free (knowing first place was all that he needed) but these gradually got sucked in. With four minutes to go, Larry & Dave looked like getting first and third place which would give them the 5-2 win they required. Matthew, however, had squopped high on the main pile. The pile-break didn't turn out favourably for Matthew, only increasing the American advantage, and the game eventually became a squop-up in rounds. The Americans had won the last two games 6-1 (as in the earlier WP match) to retain the title.

Both pairs have played far better on occasions, with the Americans ultimately being rewarded for more consistent play in the second half of the match.

An Announcement From The Relle Family
Charles Relle

This is to let all my correspondents, pupils, tiddlywinks players, friends through Classics and all other friends know that my wife and I have moved to:

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email mrelle@mrelle.demon.co.uk

We are not changing jobs, only houses.

Exhibitionists Required

Ealing Film and Video Makers make short amateur films/videos, and are always looking for unusual topics. Are there any people in London or close locality who might like to participate in a video on Tiddlywinks? There's no remuneration in the project but anyone in the video would, of course, get a copy.

To volunteer please contact marcusq@ndirect.co.uk.

Silver Wink: CUTwC v. IC (Silwood Park), 22nd March 1998

No writeup, but who would read it? Anyway, scores schmores:

	Konrad Dolphin & Chris Barker		Louise Johnson & Chris Knight		Dave French & Bart Donato		Richard Fields & Andy Purvis		Total
Matt Fayers & John Haslegrave	6	1	6	1	7*	0*	3	4	22
James Murray & Patrick Barrie	5	2	6	1	6	1	3	4	20
Stew Sage & Pete Keevash	2*	5*	4.5	2.5	6	1	7*	0*	19.5
Andrew Dominey & Tim Hunt	6	1	7*	0*	6	1	2*	5*	21
	9		4.5		3		13		

Final Score: Cambridge University: 82.5

Imperial College (Silwood Park): 29.5

The Signals were played during the penultimate weekend of November. The Editor lacks (amongst many things) scores for the leagues (hurrah!), but the finals day's play resulted in the following:

Player	Game Scores...												Total	Posn
Larry Kahn	—	1*	7*	1	3	0*	2*	6	6	6	6	6	44	4
Andy Purvis	6*	—	2	6	4.5	4.5	5	5.5	6	5	6	5	55.5	1
Geoff Myers	0*	5	—	2*	1	5*	6	6	3	6	7*	1	42	6
Matthew Rose	6	1	5*	—	3	1.5	1	4	3	6*	6	6	42.5	5
Dave Lockwood	4	2.5	6	4	—	6	3	6	5.5	7*	5*	2	51	2
Patrick Barrie	7*	2.5	2*	5.5	1	—	5	6	1	5*	6*	4	45	3
Nick Inglis	5*	2	1	6	4	2	—	0*	2*	5*	6	1	34	=9
Richard Moore	1	1.5	1	3	1	1	7*	—	2*	7*	4	6	34.5	8
Simon Gandy	1	1	4	4	1.5	6	5*	5*	—	5*	2.5	1	36	7
Stew Sage	1	2	1	1*	0*	2*	2*	0*	2*	—	6	4	21	12
Dave Clarkson	1	1	0*	1	2*	1*	1	3	4.5	1	—	7*	22.5	11
Jon Mapley	1	2	6	1	5	3	6	1	6	3	0*	—	34	=9

So Andy Purvis was the winner, and in a flush of enthusiasm, wrote a description of Scary League (doesn't the naming seem *passé*, even at this little distance?).

SCARY LEAGUE. Well, one of several Scary leagues in this novice-free Singles. Even with four going through, it was clear that slip-ups might be very costly. If only the rules could be changed so that, say, slightly more than half of the players could qualify...

Phil Carmody staked his claim early, taking 6 off Simon (excuse: hangover) and Geoff (excuse: Geoff) in the first two rounds. Simon was seventh after the early rounds, but Phil and Geoff fell off the pace leaving the top four seeds and Ed to contest the four slots. Andy and Matthew always looked like qualifying, though Andy's missed his 6th wink against Tim Hedger. Simon and Tim were well placed, but both lost 2-5, 1-6 in rounds 7 and 8 while Ed finished with three wins to storm into 3rd. The Gandy-Hedger last-round game would decide the last qualifier: in the end, Simon got control fairly early on and won 6-1, while Geoff's 6 off Philip sneaked him into 5th place. Tim Hunt gave everyone a tough game and finished 7th, just ahead of Phil who faded after his winning start. Nipper too had some good scores, his win over Tim Hedger proving crucial, while Philip was on the wrong end of everyone's scramble for points.

THE PLATE. James Cullingham has kindly sent me the scores for the Singles Plate — this being the non-qualifiers competition. Unfortunately, James sent these in the form of a spreadsheet of too

recent a version, and also in HTML — which is impossible to reformat. Further, the web page of numbers appears utterly unintelligible — how does this competition work anyway, and does anyone really really want the scores? Anyway, a future edition of WW will include these scores (following either the enlightenment of this editor or his replacement). [Postscript added after further consultation with JC: were there really negative handicaps? This doesn't make any sense. My life is a disaster.]

The Real Inspector Hound

Winking World's Deputy Theatre Critic, Julian Puckeridge, was there on the first night...

It was intended that this space contain an article of relevance to tiddlywinks or to winkers. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond the editor's control this is not possible. Instead please find a stand-in for a review of *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard, currently playing at the Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, London. [WW too Londonocentric? Like the people of Massachusetts...]

Is this first-class family entertainment, or is it self-indulgent?

Sometimes I dream of revolution, a bloody coup d'état by the second rank...

Does the author not know that the ministry only employs the brightest of graduates: the revolutionaries are inevitably of second rank.

... troupes of actors slaughtered by their under-studies, magicians sawn in half by indefatigably smiling glamour girls, cricket teams wiped out by marauding bands of twelfth men...

... the right-hand men storming the palace gates wherein the second son has already mounted the throne having committed regicide with a croquet mallet...

Of course, one of the presentational difficulties of tiddlywinks is the lack of apparent lethality in the playing equipment. Why a croquet mallet? Why not a sturdy bringing-in squigder — potentially no less dangerous, depending on the orifice by which it is taken. I digress.

In opening stages we note that classic impact of the cataclysmic figure — the outsider — plunging through to the centre of an ordered world and setting up the disruptions which will strip these comfortable people — these crustaceous in the rock-pool of society — strip them of their shells and leave them exposed as the trembling raw meat which, at heart, is all of us.

But does this play know where it is going? It appears to align itself on the side of life: élan without éclat, as it were. On one level, a country-

house weekend (and what a useful symbol that is), but on another, a paradigm of the game: of The Game. After the bring-in, and structured conflict. Squop matches squop, and the complexity grows.

When suddenly, in frantic rounds, a minor single-on-single sideshow is drawn into the greater game, and a small single-on-single peels off the other side, to resume the role of the other. Finally, with a most elegant flip-and-squop, the game ends with a minor winking taking the whole pile.

But — and we are entitled to ask — *where is God?* Not in the programme, you may be sure.

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Some email addresses:

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And how many of those do you really look forward to meeting? How many would you invite to your house, to drink your wine and flirt with your daughter? With how many would you share a bed on cold winter's night, or even a cup of warm soup heated by your last candle midst a power-out? To how many would you offer a seat on a train? If offered a seat by one of the above, would you accept? Would you accept even if you had left your flea-spray at home? If one stroked your cat or your dog or your gerbil, or even touched your domesticated rat, would you disinfect the pet at home or take it to a vet? How many pass the time of day doing unspeakable things to defenceless furry animals, and even to utterly defenceless pieces of fruit that are somewhat past their prime?