

WINKING WORLD

76

SPRING 2001



FULL STORY INSIDE ...

BEING A FAITHFUL* AND ACCURATE*
RECORD OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
ENGLISH TIDDLYWINKS ASSOCIATION
AND OF THE PERAMBULATIONS OF ITS
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

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WINKING WORLD is distributed free to members of ETwA, and may be purchased by non-members for the small sum of £3 (subject to availability).

THOSE WISHING TO JOIN ETWA should contact the Treasurer, Stew Sage (address inside the back cover). Membership costs £10 for human beings and £3 for students. Membership by other species is subject to the approval of the ETwA council.

TIDDLYWINKS EQUIPMENT may be purchased from the Treasurer, Stew Sage (address inside the back cover). He can tell you all about what is available and at what price.

* Winking World is only as reliable as the befuddled memories of its contributors. It would be more accurate to say that this is the most faithful and accurate record of these events available.

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EDITORIAL

Tim Hunt

Is it not fortunate that winkers worship tradition, this issue of Winking World may be late, but that is entirely traditional so no apology will be forthcoming.

First, a very big thank you to all the people who sent me articles this time. Other than all the tat written by me, this means Patrick Barrie, Larry Kahn, Charles Relle, Simon Gandy, Matt Fayers, Tim Jeffreys, Stew Sage, Matthew Rose, Julian Wiseman and Rupert Thompson. It looked, for a long time, as if this issue would consist of nothing but tedious tournament reports, grudgingly extracted from unwilling volunteer reporters. Yet even before I had dusted off the editorial thumb-screws, the tournament write-ups spontaneously appeared in my inbox, and lo! they were not totally tedious. Better still, other articles of a diverse nature began to spring forth, almost unasked for.

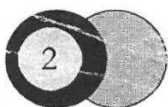
But! What about the rest of you!? Have you nothing to say? Are you really less capable of writing English than Larry Kahn? Come on, you can write me a nice article for the next WW, can't you? Please! Or if a whole article is too much, how about a letter to the editor? or Auntie Gertie? Actually, her Gertiness had a bit of a sulk recently, after I was forced to admit that no one had sent her any letters this time. So, if you have a winking problem, or, indeed, any problem, you can appeal to Auntie Gertie, and you are sure to get some good advice. Letters via me please.

Now last time we had a picture competition—a bottle of fizz for the best picture in this WW, and five runners-up prizes of a pint of beer—but only if there were seven or more entries in total. Well, I received only two entries. Two excellent entries, but still only two of them, so I can't award any prizes. Such excellent entries do deserve reward though, so I have decided to carry on the competition for another issue. You can still enter, and if five more people enter then there will be prizes. In fact, I shall be generous. Scattered around this mag you will find various scanned-in game reports from the Teams of Four. If we call that a picture competition entry from me, then only four more of you need to enter for the competition to be valid. And my entry is pretty feeble, so the rest of you have good chances.

Charles Relle sent me two rather good photographs that you can see on pages 17 and 19 under the title of "James Cullingham's Guide to Potting." I did enjoy these.

Tim Jeffreys sent me the cartoon on page 25. Better still, he teased me with the prospect of more instalments in the future. I think this would be excellent. Please, Tim, draw me some more.

I have not kept these entries locked away in my filing cabinet because they were so good that I wanted to use them immediately, but they are still in the competition. Charles and Tim are welcome, nay encouraged, to submit more images for next time. This will help their cause a little, but will not put the prize beyond reach of others. So go on the rest of you. Get out those cameras/crayons/oil paints.



MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

From an email by Patrick Barrie, edited by Tim Hunt.

MESSAGE 1

We have set up a brand new ETwA mailing list. In order to subscribe, please send a blank message to etwa-join@etwa.org from your preferred email account. You will then receive messages sent to the mailing list etwa@etwa.org. Only approved subscribers are allowed to post, so there is no danger of receiving unsolicited spam at this address. The traffic on the list is likely to be no more than a few messages per month, and will include ETwA newsletters and tournament results. You will be able to opt out of the mailing list any time that you like.

MESSAGE 2

If you don't want all of the excitement available from the etwa@etwa.org mailing list, but would rather have just one or two messages each year to keep you in touch with tiddlywinks, then you can join the contacts@etwa.org mailing list. Just send a blank message from your favourite email address to contacts-join@etwa.org.

MESSAGE 3

If you haven't already done so, then look at the ETwA world wide web site at <http://www.etwa.org>. As well as rules, results and ratings, it includes tactical advice and historical information. It also contains dates of forthcoming tournaments, and details of a brand new fantasy winks competition which you can enter even if you don't attend many tournaments. (See pages 18 and 19 of this journal.)

MESSAGE 4

Even in the electronic age, being a member of ETwA is a good idea. Membership entitles you to copies of Winking World (like the one you are now reading), reduced tournament entry fees, and the prestigious right to vote at rules meetings! It also ensures that ETwA can help keep the game alive by ensuring that we have an adequate supply of winks equipment and providing help (financial and otherwise) to tiddlywinks clubs. Contact the treasurer, Stew Sage (sos10@cam.ac.uk) if you would like to join.

IN CONCLUSION:

- I'm hoping to see lots of you at tournaments.
- I'm hoping that lots of you subscribe to the etwa@etwa.org mailing list.
- I'm hoping that some of you enter the fantasy winks competition on the www site.

Happy squidging to all of you!

THE NATIONAL HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUAL PAIRS TOURNAMENT

PLAYED IN OXFORD ON SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2000

Simon Gandy

Tournament reports have a tendency to be overly long (a complaint, although I suspect that the Winking World editor is thankful for the inches, so to speak), and recount games in blow-by-blow detail that rarely matches any excitement that might have been experienced at the time of play. For the NHIPT I asked combatants to report any wittiness on scraps of paper, which I duly collected at the close of play.

The result was not, as you might hope, a comprehensive record of what was (I think) an enjoyable tournament, but a few (and I mean a few) passing thoughts on what seemed to be mostly humdrum games. The only two exceptions were as follows:

Round 2: Two proper Charlies (Messrs. Relle and Oakley) vs. Tim Hunt & James Larkin:

“Charles subbed more winks in a single game than most people sub in a year.” [1 – 6]

Round 5: Christine Wiggins & Christine Proto-Barrrie vs. Simon Gandy & Anthony Horton:

“Christine played well, Simon & Anthony played fairly poorly. It was 2 – 5 with only Anthony to play, but by lunching Christine’s wink he managed to snatch the one. Great.”

So not much to go on there, then. There was, however, the usual rantings about the format, the seedings, and so forth. I look at this in a separate article, but, whatever your opinion on these, it should not distract from the congratulation due to everyone called Patrick, who did very well, and to Mr Driscoll in particular, for doing wellest of all. Score and stuff follow—see the separate article for thoughts on the tournament structure.

SCORES FROM THE FOURS

ROUND 3: SEPTIC VS. YOU MAY STILL CALL ME GOD

Ed & Tanes
vs. *Stew & Christine*

Stew & Christine led the way in pot-out obsession, until Tanes decided to dominate a squaggy game



Pos	Player	Totals		Games Played	(Singles)	PPGs		
		Raw	Adj.			Raw	Adj.	Final
1	Patrick Driscoll	39.5	36	7		5.643	5.143	5.143
2	Patrick Barrrie	36	35.25	7		5.143	5.036	5.036
3=	James Cullingham	29.5	33.25	7		4.214	4.750	4.750
3=	John Kane	26	23.75	5		5.200	4.750	4.750
5	Tim Jeffreys	35	32.75	7	2	5.000	4.679	4.679
	Ed Wynn	19	18	4		4.750	4.500	
6=	James Larkin	25	27.75	7		3.571	3.964	3.964
6=	James Murray	29	27.75	7		4.143	3.964	3.964
8	Tim Hunt	26	26.25	7		3.714	3.750	3.750
	Robert Payne	11.5	14.5	4		2.875	3.625	
	Vita Maynard	6	7.25	2		3.000	3.625	
	Andrew Walpole	7	7	2		3.500	3.500	
9	Christine Wiggins	23.5	19.75	6	1	3.917	3.292	3.292
10	Ann Carter	19.5	23	7		2.786	3.286	3.286
11	Matt Fayers	23	22.75	7		3.286	3.250	3.250
	Andy Purvis	4	3.25	1		4.000	3.250	
12	Ben Deane	20.5	19	6	1	3.417	3.167	3.167
13	Alan Harper	18.5	21.75	7		2.643	3.107	3.107
	Charles Relle	11.5	11.75	4		2.875	2.938	
14	Rupert Thompson	12	14.5	5		2.400	2.900	2.900
15	Andrew Garrard	20	20.25	7	1	2.857	2.893	2.893
16	Charlie Oakley	18	17.75	7		2.571	2.536	2.536
17	Anthony Horton	15.5	17.5	7	1	2.214	2.500	2.500
18	Simon Gandy	13	12	5		2.600	2.400	2.400
19	Stew Sage	16.5	13.5	6	2	2.750	2.250	2.250
	Cyril Edwards	6	5.5	3		2.000	1.833	
20	Paul Moss	11	12.5	7	1	1.571	1.786	1.786

SCORES FROM THE FOURS

ROUND 3: PATHOS VS. QWXCLLER

Nick & Andrew v Simon - itsy-bitsy game

Paul v Simon - Paul had some rather bad luck to start with, allowing Simon to squop him up. Working a pot-ont was tough until Simon messed up badly on the pile, Paul blew it and then Simon potted the flat minks proffered.

THE NATIONAL HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUAL PAIRS TOURNAMENT—AGAIN

Simon Gandy

As Tournament Organiser, the NHIPT is one of the more interesting events to try to arrange. The overarching aim of the tournament is to encourage novices to play tiddlywinks (at least, this is my understanding of what Andy Purvis intended when he conceived it). Additional objectives include implementing a format that allows any player to win, and, of course, having a really long lunch-break, while at the same time not having too long a lunch-break at all.

The novices are helped by two mechanisms: handicapping, to increase their chances of winning, and streaming, to increase their chances of enjoying the games.

HANDICAPPING

As it stands, to level the playing field, the tournament is handicapped. Experts are handicapped seven, novices zero and the rest in between these two extremes. At the end of each game, one quarter of the difference between the sums of the handicaps of the two sides is transferred to the lower-handicapped side. For example, two experts stuffing two novices $7^* - 0^*$ would transfer ($\frac{1}{4}$ of $(7 + 7) - (0 + 0) =$) $3\frac{1}{2}$ points to the novices, yielding a $3\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{1}{2}$ draw.

This is a well used and apparently well accepted format, and I sense that, given the mathematical expertise within the winking fraternity, I am not the person to develop a better one. There will always be ranting about the inadequacy of the handicaps assigned (“I’m not a five!” and “He’s definitely more than a three.”, and so on), but that’s one of the many perils of being Tournament Organiser, and anyway does not detract from the fact that the system is basically sound.

I say “basically sound”, but is it helpful enough to the novice? In this year’s NHIPT, the three novices that were placed finished 6th=, 10th and 13th in a field of 27. Not bad you might say (and certainly better than I managed!). However, even the top novice (well done James Larkin) scored over one point per game less than the winner. A simplistic reader might say that his mistake was to get drawn with me in the final round (we nailed the $\frac{1}{2}$), but perhaps the system needs to bend towards the novice even further? Generally it feels like a good thing to hold a tournament in which a novice wins, as long as the so-and-so doesn't disappear forever with our fine trophy.

STREAMING

Handicapping makes a first contribution to encouraging novices by drastically



increasing the chances of a novice winning. To further encourage them, it was decided that the rounds should be drawn in a way that precludes two novices being paired together. By partnering more experienced players, it is reasoned that the novice will learn more about the right way to play, and be part of a team playing decent shots and employing a decent strategy.

The format used to achieve this goal in the NHIPT is a streaming system, whereby, in addition to the handicapping, the players are banded into one of three categories - novices (0), intermediates (1) and experts (2). Each round is drawn so that the sum of abilities competing in each match is equal. In practice this means that novice-expert and intermediate-intermediate teams play most games together, with other combinations (expert-expert vs. expert-expert) employed as required.

With a large field of competitors this format would be fine. However, with the smaller fields seen these days at winks tournaments, the number of intermediates becomes a bit small, raising two problems. Firstly, the chances increase of having to partner the same reprobate more than once. Secondly, and more seriously, the chances increase of having to play singles (not only are you cursed with having the same partner again, but it's you—nightmare!). Imagine Dr Sage's anguish at having to play with himself twice in the same tournament. Euurrrrk!

I acknowledge that this problem could be overcome with some form of computerised draw assistance, or even perhaps a more mathematically adept Tournament Organiser, but perhaps the format could be tweaked to resolve this issue?

CONCLUSION

So what am I saying? What I'm saying is, when I started this article, I had some thoughts about ways that the NHIPT format might be improved for forthcoming years. A couple of months later I've totally forgotten what they were, so I've presented the format as it stands and some introductory points, in the hope that someone might write in and make some good suggestions.

SCORES FROM THE FOURS

FROM THE RANDOMNESS OF THE LAST FOUR ROUNDS

Paul ✓ Patrick
Elizabeth Alan

Paul made some good shots, but Patrick followed them all with even better ones. ~~Alan~~ And Alan got all his squeeps. 6-1 to Patrick's team. For a change. But we're not bitter...

USELESS ETWA SINGLES STATISTICS

Larry Kahn

The ETWA Singles in its present form (first day qualifying, second day all-play-all final) has been going on for 20 years (I believe 1978 and 79 were "transition" years where after the final there were playoff games). Here is a breakdown of average placement and P.P.G. for finals qualifiers (minimum of three finals for each decade, five finals for overall). Maybe we can convince Patrick to come up with some truly irrelevant stuff; with the Access database he could rival Sunshine for obscure numbers.

SINGLES STATISTICS 1980 TO 1989

Name	Average Place	P.P.G.	Number of Finals
Larry Kahn	1.33	4.91	6
Dave Lockwood	3.25	4.04	8
Charles Relle	3.50	3.80	10
Jon Mapley	3.60	4.13	10
Alan Dean	5.20	3.65	10
Geoff Myers	5.33	3.84	3
Mike Surridge	6.40	3.04	5
Cyril Edwards	6.50	2.77	4
Keith Seaman	6.57	3.05	7
Richard Moore	7.00	3.55	3
Tony Brennan	8.00	2.44	4
Geoff Thorpe	8.20	2.46	5
Nick Inglis	9.67	2.09	6
Rob Cartwright	11.00	1.70	3
Jim Carrington	11.33	1.92	3

SCORES FROM THE FOURS

ROUND 4: NARGY C.A.T. vs. QWXCLLER

Charles v. Simon

Simon amassed Charles' winks in one pile which Charles then blew twice, in no small amount aided by Simon sending a wink off. Charles gathered his blues together, Simon watched, Charles buckated fire and boondocked to the leave the sixth flat. Two long squops missed and Charles potted off out. Simon redeemed himself (a bit) by running his remaining 11 winks for the two.

SINGLES STATISTICS 1990 TO 2000

Name	Average Place	P.P.G.	Number of Finals
Larry Kahn	2.73	4.59	11
Geoff Myers	3.14	4.55	7
Patrick Barrie	3.91	4.35	11
Andy Purvis	4.38	4.20	8
Dave Lockwood	4.40	3.99	5
Charles Relle	5.50	3.70	6
Simon Gandy	6.00	3.61	8
Jon Mapley	6.20	3.80	10
Richard Moore	6.57	3.46	7
Matthew Rose	7.00	3.42	8
Nick Inglis	7.00	3.30	7
Matt Fayers	7.33	2.92	3
Alan Dean	7.71	3.37	7
Phil Scarrott	8.60	2.86	5
Tim Hedger	9.25	2.67	4
Stew Sage	11.00	1.82	3

SINGLES STATISTICS 1980 TO 2000

Name	Average Place	PPG	Number of Finals
Larry Kahn	2.24	4.70	17
Dave Lockwood	3.69	4.02	13
Geoff Myers	3.80	4.34	10
Charles Relle	4.25	3.76	16
Patrick Barrie	4.54	4.16	13
Andy Purvis	4.70	4.13	10
Jon Mapley	4.90	3.96	20
Simon Gandy	6.00	3.61	8
Alan Dean	6.24	3.54	17
Mike Surridge	6.40	3.04	5
Keith Seaman	6.57	3.05	7
Richard Moore	6.70	3.49	10
Matthew Rose	7.00	3.42	8
Nick Inglis	8.23	2.74	13
Phil Scarrott	8.60	2.86	5
Tim Hedger	8.80	2.70	5
Geoff Thorpe	9.00	2.29	7

THE CAMBRIDGE OPEN

**PLAYED IN QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, ON SATURDAY
27TH AND SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY 2001**

Charles Relle

The Cambridge Open provides an informal opportunity to play a non-serious tournament against and with a variety of people, and contributes to the camaraderie of Tiddlywinks. It also, I realise from Matt Fayers's article "A Bluffer's Guide to Tournament Tiddlywinks", provides winking journalists and editors with the occasional double page of copy.

This year the computer seemed to be in good form, and hats and small pieces of paper were not required. This made it easier to draw and redraw. Despite the known demands of the Cambridge Open (extended lunchtimes and the Dinner on Saturday evening) the number of matches in each round was remarkably consistent. Overall, twenty-three players participated, of whom nine had the endurance to qualify as contenders to win. The winner was Patrick Barrie.

Pos	Player	Tot	Games	P.P.G.
	Rupert Thompson	12	2	6
1	Patrick Barrie	67	13	5.1538
2	Charles Relle	60.5	13	4.6538
	Julian Wiseman	32	7	4.5714
3	Tim Hunt	56.5	13	4.3462
4	Jon Mapley	50.667	12	4.2222
5	Nick Inglis	50.5	12	4.2083
	Elizabeth Whalley	21	5	4.2
	Andrew Dominey	16.5	4	4.125
	Stew Sage	29.333	8	3.6667
6	James Cullingham	47	13	3.6154
	Chris Abram	36	10	3.6
	Anne Austin	7	2	3.5
	Ed Wynn	20.5	6	3.4167
7	Paul Moss	37.667	12	3.1389
	Jon Williams	28	9	3.1111
8	Alan Dean	40.333	13	3.1026
9	Andrew Garrard	33.5	12	2.7917
	Geoff Thorpe	8	3	2.6667
	Anthony Horton	26	10	2.6
	Matt Fayers	25.5	10	2.55
	Christine Wiggins	22.5	9	2.5
	Alan Harper	9.5	7	1.3571

ROUND 1

Christine Wiggins vs. James Cullingham & Charles Relle: 1 – 6
Paul Moss vs. Patrick Barrie & Jon Mapley: 1 – 6
Anne Austin & Alan Dean vs. Jon Williams & Tim Hunt: 1 – 6
Chris Abram & Stew Sage vs. Matt Fayers & Andrew Garrard: 6 – 1

ROUND 2

Christine Wiggins & Chris Abram vs. Nick Inglis & Anne Austin: 1 – 6
Matt Fayers & Jon Williams vs. Andrew Garrard & Anthony Horton: $2\frac{1}{2}$ – $4\frac{1}{2}$
Alan Dean & Stew Sage vs. Jon Mapley & Paul Moss: $2\frac{1}{3}$ – $4\frac{2}{3}$
Patrick Barrie & Charles Relle vs. Tim Hunt & James Cullingham: 4 – 3

ROUND 3

Tim Hunt vs. Nick Inglis & Anthony Horton: 2* – 5*
Chris Abram & Julian Wiseman vs. Paul Moss & Ed Wynn: 3 – 4
Christine Wiggins & Matt Fayers vs. Patrick Barrie & Jon Williams: 1 – 6
Charles Relle & Alan Dean vs. Jon Mapley & James Cullingham: 6 – 1

ROUND 4

Alan Dean vs. Jon Mapley & Anthony Horton: 1 – 6
Paul Moss & Alan Harper vs. James Cullingham & Nick Inglis: 1 – 6
Stew Sage & Julian Wiseman vs. Matt Fayers & Chris Abram: 6 – 1
Tim Hunt & Christine Wiggins vs. Jon Williams & Ed Wynn: $4\frac{1}{2}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$
Charles Relle & Andrew Dominey vs. Patrick Barrie & Andrew Garrard: 6 – 1

ROUND 5

Nick Inglis vs. Tim Hunt & Andrew Garrard: 0* – 7*
Andrew Dominey & Matt Fayers vs. Jon Mapley & Chris Abram: 2* – 5*
Alan Dean & Alan Harper vs. Ed Wynn & Patrick Barrie: 0* – 7*
Charles Relle & Christine Wiggins vs. James Cullingham & Stew Sage: 6 – 1
Paul Moss & Julian Wiseman vs. Jon Williams & Anthony Horton: 6 – 1

ROUND 6

Jon Williams vs. Patrick Barrie & Chris Abram: 1 – 6
Andrew Garrard vs. Christine Wiggins & Nick Inglis: 1 – 6
Jon Mapley & Alan Harper vs. Charles Relle & Anthony Horton: $2\frac{1}{2}$ – $4\frac{1}{2}$
Alan Dean & Matt Fayers vs. Paul Moss & Stew Sage: 6 – 1
Tim Hunt & Julian Wiseman vs. James Cullingham & Ed Wynn: 6 – 1

ROUND 7

Anthony Horton vs. Stew Sage & Jon Williams: 1 – 6
Jon Mapley vs. Andrew Garrard & Alan Harper: 7* – 0*

Matt Fayers vs. Paul Moss & Nick Inglis: 4 – 3

Tim Hunt & Alan Dean vs. Julian Wiseman & Charles Relle: 7* – 0*

Christine Wiggins & Ed Wynn vs. Patrick Barrie & James Cullingham: 0* – 7*

Here endeth the first day.

ROUND 8

Andrew Garrard & Andrew Dominey vs. Alan Dean & Jon Mapley: 6 – 1

Jon Williams & James Cullingham vs. Charles Relle & Nick Inglis: 2 – 5

Christine Wiggins & Stew Sage vs. Patrick Barrie & Rupert Thompson: 1 – 6

Tim Hunt & Geoff Thorpe vs. Anthony Horton & Matt Fayers: 6 – 1

ROUND 9

Andrew Dominey vs. Jon Mapley & Nick Inglis: 2½ – 4½

Christine Wiggins & Andrew Garrard vs. Patrick Barrie & Tim Hunt: 2 – 5

Matt Fayers & James Cullingham vs. Charles Relle & Elizabeth Whalley: 1 – 6

Stew Sage & Rupert Thompson vs. Jon Williams & Geoff Thorpe: 6 – 1

Chris Abram & Alan Dean vs. Anthony Horton & Paul Moss: 5* – 2*

ROUND 10

Elizabeth Whalley vs. Jon Mapley & Ed Wynn: 1 – 6

Charles Relle vs. Chris Abram & Paul Moss: 6 – 1

James Cullingham vs. Tim Hunt & Nick Inglis: 5 – 2

Patrick Barrie & Julian Wiseman vs. Andrew Garrard & Alan Dean: 5 – 2

ROUND 11

Julian Wiseman vs. Charles Relle & Alan Harper: 6* – 1*

Patrick Barrie vs. Nick Inglis & Chris Abram: 1 – 6

Tim Hunt & Elizabeth Whalley vs. Jon Mapley & Andrew Garrard: 4 – 3

Anthony Horton & Alan Dean vs. Paul Moss & James Cullingham: 1 – 6

ROUND 12

Tim Hunt vs. Charles Relle & Andrew Garrard: 3 – 4

James Cullingham vs. Alan Harper & Jon Mapley: 3 – 4

Anthony Horton vs. Alan Dean & Patrick Barrie: 0* – 7*

Nick Inglis & Elizabeth Whalley vs. Paul Moss & Chris Abram: 5* – 2*

ROUND 11

James Cullingham & Elizabeth Whalley vs. Andrew Garrard & Nick Inglis: 5* – 2*

Alan Dean & Geoff Thorpe vs. Patrick Barrie & Matt Fayers: 1 – 6

Charles Relle & Paul Moss vs. Tim Hunt & Alan Harper: 6 – 1

BOOK REVIEW: ROUND IRELAND WITH A FRIDGE

WRITTEN BY TONY HAWKS. PUBLISHED BY EBURY PRESS.
ISBN 0-09-186777-0.

Tim Hunt

From my limited experience I think that a book review is something of a novelty for Winking World, so forgive me for this break in tradition. The book I am going to tell you about here has nothing in particular to do with tiddlywinks, but there is something quintessentially winkerish in this author's experiences.

The trouble starts many years ago, when Tony Hawks, who you may know from such broadcasting successes as "I'm sorry I haven't a clue" and "Have I Got News For You?", is being driven through Ireland by a friend. By the side of the road they see a man hitch-hiking with a fridge in tow. This, thinks Mr Hawks, displays a remarkably optimistic outlook on life, and in the intervening years he often relates this incident at dinner parties.

The next episode is one that we can all sympathise with. Mr Hawks goes to a party; vast quantities of wine are consumed; he relates the "fridge man" story, opining that Ireland must be a truly magical place if even people hitching with fridges can get a lift; he is not believed; confusion sets in. The next morning he wakes up to discover by his bed a note reading, "I hereby bet Tony Hawks the sum of £100 that he cannot hitch-hike round the circumference of Ireland, with a fridge, within one calendar month." Much to his own amazement there is a squiggle below this message that he is forced to admit is his own signature.

Well, of course, he tries to forget all about it. After all, £100 for one month's work is hardly worth it and Mr Hawks is a busy man. But some ideas have a life of their own, some things are just meant to be, and when a one-month gap opens up in his diary, there is only one thing to do: catch a flight to Ireland.

The first step is to buy a fridge for £130, demonstrating that the motivation for this escapade is far from financial; it means more than that. Thus begins this amazing odyssey. Tony and the fridge meet all manner of peculiar people. The fridge goes surfing; they spend a night in the dog house; and they meet a king. There is also a useful guide to the organisation of the typical Irish pub, and the habits of the "lead drunk" therein. It transpires that leaving an Irish pub is an almost impossible operation.

This is a very charming and funny book. I can whole-heartedly recommend it to you. It really is very silly.

THE NATWA PAIRS 2000

PLAYED AT ITHACA HIGH SCHOOL ON SATURDAY 18TH
NOVEMBER 2000

Patrick Barrie, from an email by Larry Kahn

The tournament was a 6 game Swiss format, with a play-off game to decide 1st & 2nd and 3rd & 4th positions. The tournament was decided in the final shot, which ended up with Larry & Marg defeating Mac & Ferd by a score of 4 – 3 with a tid-dly count of 15 and 11 against 15 and 4.

Pos	Pair	Score after round 6	Play-off Score
1	Larry Kahn & Marg Small	30	4
2	Mac McAvoy & Ferd	30	3
3	Severin Drix & Nathaniel/Julian Drix	28.5	5
4	Bob Henninge & Nathan Calhoun	28	2
5	Dave Lockwood & Sam Lockwood	22	
6	Joe Sachs & Daniel Sachs	18.5	
7=	Jordan Usner & Patrick Mulcahy	15	
7=	Nick Germain/Kevin Rockey-Harris/ Matthew Wachs/Yu Gu combo	15	
9	Peter Sherman & Jim Unsal (Ben Rockey-Harris for 1 game)	12	
10	Max Lockwood & Jon Lockwood	11	

THE NATWA PAIRS 2001

PLAYED AT ITHACA HIGH SCHOOL ON SATURDAY 26TH AND SUNDAY 27TH MAY 2001

Larry Kahn

We held what turned out to be a simultaneous pairs and imaginary teams (Stock market Challenge) tournament at Ithaca High School over the Memorial Day Weekend. Don't even ask about the weird schedule, just another typical day in NATWA. The ITT format is similar to the Cambridge Open, only more random. Mostly it's an excuse to get less experienced players partnered up with veterans.

The pairs was our third year of "unstackedness". This has been a success, as for the third year in a row an entirely new pair has won, and the scores have been close. This year it was Dave and Max's turn, as they maintained their pre-final-round lead to enable Max to become the youngest champion ever (11). Warning! Danger Will Robinson! (Lost in Space reference in case you don't know). Max is definitely becoming a Dave Mini-Me ("Yesssss!", fist pump). So in about another 10 years or so you'll no doubt have to endure TWO of these creatures at the ETWA singles.

Here are the pairs scores. Jacob and Jordan (a high school pair) joined on the second day, so we tried to get them as many games as we could, although they didn't count for final four standings. They had an impressive performance and could be a force next year.

Pos	Pair	DM	BJ	LM	SM	FN	JJ	Tot
1=	Dave & Max Lockwood (DM)		3	6	5*	3	(6)	17
1=	Bob Henninge & Jesse Calhoun (BM)	4		3	6	4	(2)	17
3	Larry Kahn & Marg Small (LM)	1	4		4	7*	(5*)	16
4=	Severin Drix & MP Rouse (SM)	2*	1	3		4		10
4=	Ferd & Nathan Calhoun (FN)	4	3	0*	3		(1*)	10
—	Jacob Usner & Jordan Usner (JJ)	(1)	(5)	(2*)		(6*)		

↑ Qualifying

Play-off to get into last four: SM 6 – 1 FN.

Final →

Pos	Pair	B/F	DM	LM	SM	BJ	Tot
1	DM	17		6	3	4	30
2	LM	16	1		1½	6	24½
3	SM	10	4	5½		4½	24
4	BJ	17	3	1	2½		23½

WORLD PAIRS 22

PLAYED IN THE CASTLE INN, CAMBRIDGE, ON FRIDAY 9TH
MARCH 2001

Matt Fayers/Tim Hunt, Tim Hunt/Matt Fayers Combo

Patrick Barrie & Ed Wynn	7*	4	5	7*	1*	6	30
Simon Gandy & Jon Mapley	0*	3	2	0*	6*	1	12

GAME 1

This was a lesson for Simon and Jon: you don't have time to warm up. While Simon was missing one-inch squops and Ed was squopping from the baseline, Patrick was quietly bringing in six blues (having won the squidge-off) unthreatened.

Patrick: Do I miss long or short?

Ed: No.

Actually he missed, but improved the threat (and the threat, as we know, is everything). Green (Jon) squopped a blue, but Ed knocked off immediately, and Patrick put four in before missing a tricky-ish pot-off. Jon squopped again, but a red was on hand. Blue missed a six-inch pot, and red got a good squop on yellow to stop it squopping blue, which went in. But the last blue was still under a green under a red; green's shot at this pile from eight inches just missed. Soon it was all over.

GAME 2

This time Jon forged a pot-out threat, but it wasn't good enough to bother Patrick and Ed. Ed hit a short patch of poor form, and allowed Jon and Simon to get the upper hand. The game consisted of several smallish piles going into rounds. Patrick (yellow) and Jon (red) were the biggest threats for first, Patrick having potted on the bring-in. Patrick lunched himself and squopped a red in one, while red's response was to pot and sub. Simon decided he was better placed now, and potted three and docked in two. Yellow potted two more and missed, still sitting on the only squopped blue. Simon missed the pot in four, landing in the worst place possible—right next to a stack of winks with yellow on top. Jon's attempt to squop this from a foot did Patrick's job for him.

The above was written by Matt, but he now had to go to a dinner engagement, so the refereeing and the journalism was taken over by Tim.

GAME 3

Blue (Patrick), Yellow (Jon) and Green (Simon) had a squopping game, although

three of the greens were on the edge of the mat. Meanwhile red (Ed) had five flat winks and 1 squopped, but it seemed that the red pot-out threat was never going to be more than an impossible dream. Eventually green and red had a very competent potting race. Green was always relying on red missing, however, and blue came in ahead of Yellow for 5 – 2.

GAME 4

Yellow (Patrick) had a pot-out threat hassled by blue, and red (Jon) had a pot-out threat on the other side of the pot, more seriously hassled by green. It took a long time to mature, but yellow was always at least one tempo ahead of red. 7* – 0*.

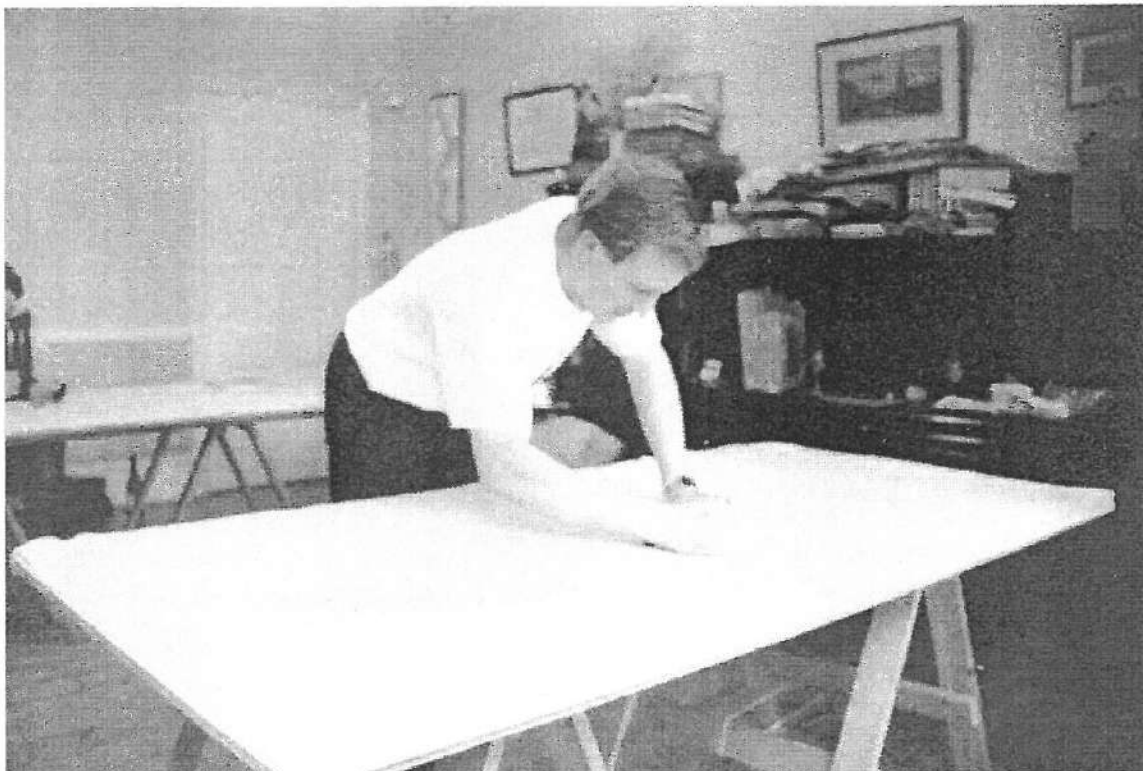
GAME 5

Green (Simon) always had a pot-out threat, and even though one temporarily got involved with a pile, green potted five and chipped off safe. Blue played an amazing squop off a pile to miss the blue by a gnat's whisker. With two blues and one yellow on the baseline it looked like a 6* – 1* all the way, helped along by Patrick's first Carnovsky effort rolling off.

GAME 6

At 24-10 red (Simon) and Blue (Jon) needed two 7*s and that is normally a recipe for a 1. That said, they came very, very close to six reds in the pot, but Patrick (yellow) and Ed worked hard to wrap it up.

JAMES CULLINGHAM'S GUIDE TO POTTING I



FANTASY WINKS COMPETITION

Patrick Barrie

RULES

1. Select a fantasy team of 6 winks players, one of whom must be yourself.
2. The sum of the "fantasy handicaps" of your team members must not exceed 24 points.
3. Send your team to Patrick Barrie, by post or electronically.
4. You will score 1 fantasy point for every game point obtained in normal competition winks play by your team members. (Only games included in the ratings database will count).
5. The competition will start on 1st July 2001 (that is, the London Open is likely to be the first scoring tournament).
6. The entrant with most fantasy points on 30th June 2002 will win a decent bottle of malt whisky (or equivalent prize). They may also be asked to join the ETwA selection team in the event that England is challenged at tiddlywinks.
7. Fantasy scores will be shown on the ETwA WWW site, so entrants can check how their fantasy team is doing.
8. No substitutions are allowed. You are stuck with your team once you have selected it. Entrants are positively encouraged to persuade people in their selected team to turn up to tournaments so that they can score points.
9. Late entries are permitted, but will not score full fantasy points for tournaments already played.

The Fantasy Handicaps that affect team selection are given below. They are largely based on total game points achieved in the year 2000 to 2001, and so might not end up bearing all that much resemblance to performance in 2001 to 2002.

FANTASY HANDICAP 7 Patrick Barrie

FANTASY HANDICAP 6 James Cullingham, Matt Fayers, Tim Hunt, Larry Kahn

FANTASY HANDICAP 5 Chris Abram, Christine Barrie, Andrew Garrard, Simon Gandy, Nick Inglis, Jon Mapley, Stew Sage, Charles Relle, Ed Wynn

FANTASY HANDICAP 4 Alan Dean, Anthony Horton, Dave Lockwood, Paul Moss, Geoff Myers, Matthew Rose, Phil Scarrott, Rupert Thompson, Julian Wiseman

FANTASY HANDICAP 3 Phil Carmody, Patrick Driscoll, Ferd, Alan Harper, Bob Henninge, Mac McAvoy, Geoff Thorpe

FANTASY HANDICAP 2 Ben Deane, Andrew Dominey, Severin Drix, Tim Jeffreys, John Kane, Pete Keevash, Richard Moore, Charlie Oakley, Joe Sachs, Marg Small, Rick Tucker

FANTASY HANDICAP 1 Anne Austin, Sarah Brown, David Carslake, Ann Carter, Daniel Cole, Cyril Edwards, Andrea Gorman, Catherine Goodwin, Abigail Hancocks, Chris Jones, Gavin Keyte, Matt Moorhouse, Rob Payne, Antony Proietti, Andy Purvis, Paul Roberts, Allen Rand, Rishi Shah, Andrew Walpole, Elizabeth Whalley, Jon Nipper Williams, Andy Sly Young, Any Other Winkers

NOTE you are welcome to select any player not listed specifically above. They are assigned a fantasy handicap of 1.

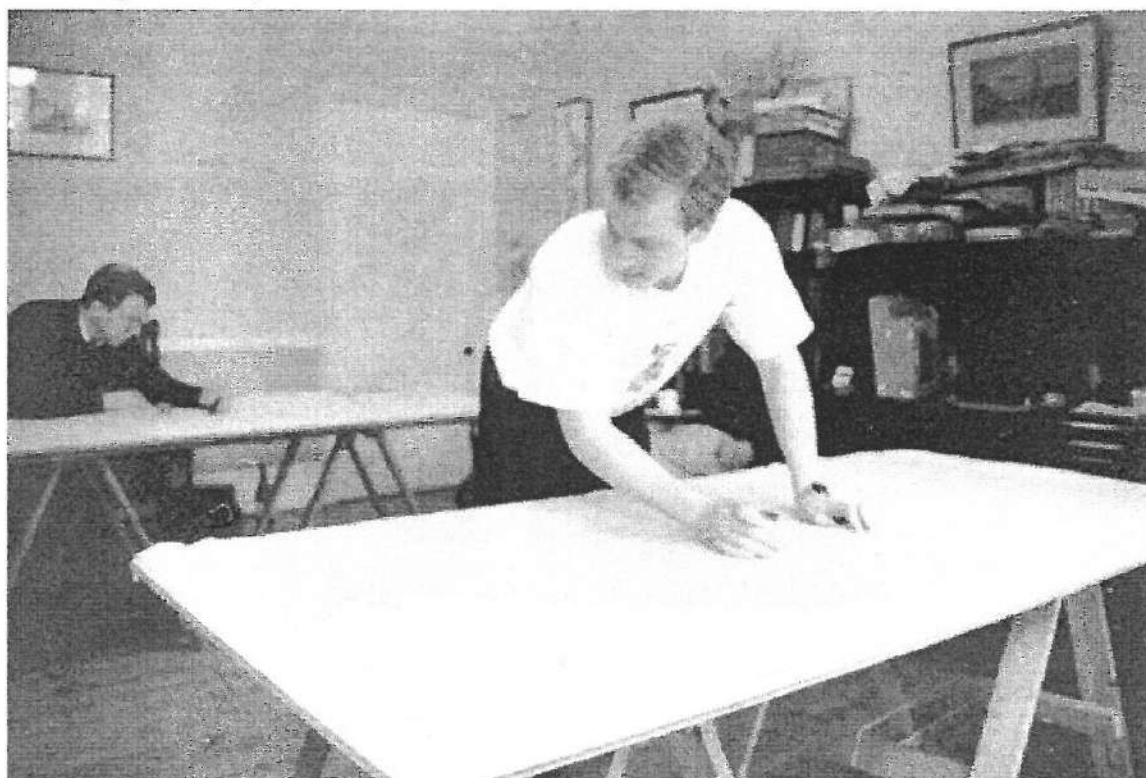
EXAMPLE Patrick Barrie's team selection could be: Patrick Barrie (compulsory), rated 7, Christine Barrie, 5, Anthony Horton, 4, Matthew Rose, 4, Geoff Thorpe, 3, and Deja Lockwood, 1 (even though not specifically listed). This has a total fantasy handicap of 24, and so is a valid team.

Please send your team selection to the organiser before 1st July 2001. Patrick Barrie, 19 Benians Court, Cambridge CB3 0DN. Email: pjb10@cam.ac.uk.

JAMES CULLINGHAM'S GUIDE TO POTTING II

Charles Relle

These two photographs are Charles Relle's entry for the picture competition (announced in WW75). A strong entry, certainly, but can **YOU** really do no better? Go on, give it a try for the next issue. There's alcohol to be won.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Julian Wiseman

Dear Editor,

For many moons only a few chosen apprentices of the sorcerer have been privy to the spells. But the quail's eggs are now broken, the secrets are leaked, the tournament schedules are published. Even now scientists from third-world rogue states are endeavouring to copy this western technology; in a manifest breach of numerous UN resolutions, they are threatening to eradicate civilisation itself with a replica of the National Singles. Or something.

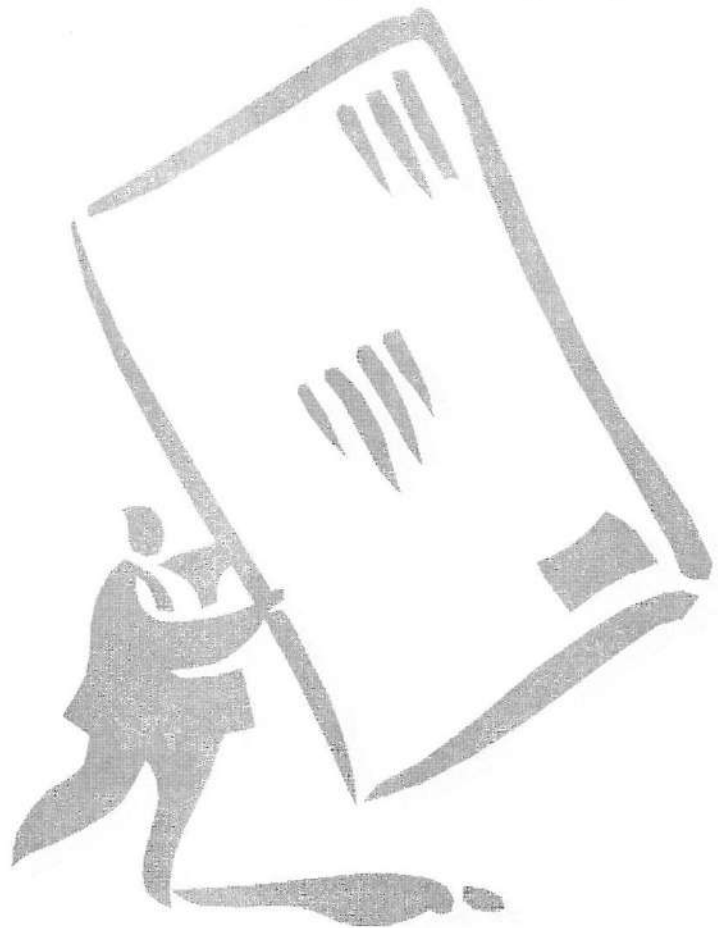
Not yet all of the schedules, it should be admitted. The singles tournaments are on the web, at <http://www.jdawiseman.com/papers/tournaments/tournaments.html> and the individual pairs will follow, subject to a little assistance from those versed in these delicate arts.

And as if this isn't enough controversy, there's more. The new schedules have a changed format from the previous. Scandal! Most obviously, mats are now labelled with roman numerals: i, ii, iii, iv, and so on. Further, "A:B" is no longer the same as "B:A". In each case A is opposing B; the difference is that the left player takes dominant corners. (The dominance allocation, though satisfactory, may be improved in the fullness of time.)

The schedules are available in the traditional format, for the sake of long-standing dullness, and also embedded in the score-sheet, to prevent errors in the entering of scores. It should all be self-explanatory.

Regards,

J. D. A. Wiseman.



RESPONDING TO SIMON—A RANT

Tim Hunt

In his write-up of the National Handicapped Individual Pairs, Simon Gandy, talking about the current tiddlywinks handicaps says, "This is a well used and apparently well accepted format, and I sense that, given the mathematical expertise within the winking fraternity, I am not the person to develop a better one."

It may be a commonly accepted system, but it stinks. Admittedly, if Patrick Barrie and Larry Kahn (both handicap 7) stuff two novices (handicap 0) $7^* - 0^*$ then the adjustment converts this into a $3\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{1}{2}$ draw. But more typically suppose Patrick and Larry play Anthony Horton and myself (let us suppose handicaps 3 and 5). Then I think that we are looking at about $6 - 1$ to Patrick and Larry on average. A handicap transfer $1\frac{1}{2}$ means that the adjusted result is $4\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$. Similarly, if Anthony and I play the two aforementioned novices, we are going to average about $6 - 1$, and the adjusted score will be $4 - 3$. It just doesn't work. If you will allow me to get technical, when it comes to winks, $(7 + 7) - (0 + 0) \neq [(7 + 7) - (5 + 3)] + [(5 + 3) - (0 + 0)]$.

So how to develop a better system? (Did I ever tell you I had a PhD in maths?) Well it occurs to me that there is a far better, and fairly well accepted, system for guesstimating the outcome of a games of winks; this is the assumption at the heart of the world ratings algorithm. Given the ratings of the players involved in a game, the first thing the algorithm does is to predict the score. Now using this formula to determine the points transfer for each game is probably overkill, so I propose the following approximate system:

Give everyone a handicap based on the first two digits of their rating. This gives Patrick 24, Larry 23, Tim 20, Anthony 15 and novices 12. Examples P&L vs. N&N. New handicap diff. $(24 + 23) - (12 + 12) = 23$. Then you look up the points transfer in the table opposite, and get a transfer of $3\frac{3}{8}$. $7^* - 0^*$ becomes $3\frac{5}{8} - 3\frac{3}{8}$. P&L vs. T&A. New handicap diff. $(24 + 23) - (20 + 15) = 12$. Transfer $2\frac{1}{2}$. $6 - 1$ becomes $3\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{1}{2}$. T&A vs. N&N. New handicap diff. $(20 + 15) - (12 + 12) = 11$. Transfer $2\frac{1}{3}$. $6 - 1$ becomes $3\frac{2}{3} - 3\frac{1}{3}$.

The best feature of the new system is all the exciting new fractions it introduces. Tournament Organisers will love it. I demand its immediate adoption.

Rating Diff./100	Pred. Score	Transfer
0	3.500	0
1	3.746	1/4
2	3.990	1/2
3	4.230	3/4
4	4.464	1
5	4.690	1 1/5
6	4.906	1 2/5
7	5.111	1 3/5
8	5.305	1 4/5
9	5.487	2
10	5.656	2 1/6
11	5.813	2 1/3
12	5.957	2 1/2
13	6.089	2 3/5
14	6.209	2 5/7
15	6.318	2 4/5
16	6.416	3
17	6.505	3
18	6.585	3
19	6.656	3 1/6
20	6.719	3 2/9
21	6.776	3 2/7
22	6.826	3 1/3
23	6.871	3 3/8
24	6.910	3 2/5
25	6.945	3 4/9
26	6.976	3 1/2
>26	7.000	3 1/2

THE NATIONAL TEAMS OF FOUR

PLAYED IN THE ERASMUS ROOM, QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE ON SATURDAY 10TH AND SUNDAY 11TH MARCH 2001

Tim Hunt

Eventually there were five teams of about four players each gathered in the Erasmus Room: "We are S.E.P.T.I.C." (well, they said it, not me): Stew Sage (4), Rupert Thompson (5), Anthony Horton (3) and Christine Wiggins (3). "Nargy C. A.T.": Charles Relle (6), Alan Dean (6) and Tim Hunt (5). "You may *still* call me God" (the oh-so-modest defending champions): James Cullingham (4), Matt Fayers (6), Chris 'SLU' Abram (4) and Ed Wynn (7). "Qwxcller": Simon Gandy (7), Patrick Barrie (7), Alan Harper (1) and a part time Phil Scarrott (5). And last, as they seemed to know when choosing their name, "Pathos": Nick Inglis (6), Andrew Garrard (4), Paul Moss (3) and an occasional Elizabeth Whalley (2).

Simon, our ever-decisive Tournament Organiser, ummed and erred and eventually announced that we would have five rounds of all-play-all between the teams (so eight games and two byes for each person), and then there would be four more rounds of throw-everyone-into-the-melting-pot excitement that Matt was hastily delegated to design.

ROUND 1

Qwxcller 14½ – 13½ SEPTIC.

God 21½ – 6½ CAT.

ROUND 2

Qwxcller 17 – 11 God.

CAT 16½ – 11½ Pathos.

ROUND 3

Qwxcller 16 – 12 Pathos.

God 17 – 11 SEPTIC.

ROUND 4

CAT 21½ – 6½ Qwxcller .

Pathos 17½ – 10½ SEPTIC.

ROUND 5

God 15 – 13 Pathos.

CAT 18½ – 9½ SEPTIC.



AMOUNT UNDERPAID	6
SURCHARGE FEE	50
TO PAY	56
MILTON KEYNES	
MLO MK1 1AA	



T. J. Hunt
208 F North Row
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3LQ

SPOT CHECK

At this point the scores looked like this:

65½ You may still call me God
 63 Nargy C.A.T.
 54 Pathos and Qwxcller
 44½ We are SEPTIC

TOTAL CONFUSION SETS IN

Now teams were ripped asunder; convoluted counter-rotations applied; and it went, well, something like this:

Team		Round							Tot	Pos
		6		7		8		9		
A1	We are SEPTIC	B2:1¼	51	E2:5¾	58½	C2:5¼	65¾	D2:5¾	73¾	4
A2		E1:5¼		B1:1¾		D1:2		C1:2¼		
B1	Nargy CAT	C2:5¼	74	A2:5¼	80½	D2:2	86	E2:4½	91¼	2
B2		A1:5¾		C1:1¼		E1:3½		D1:¾		
C1	You may <i>still</i> call me God	D2:4¾	72	B2:5¾	80¼	E2:4¾	86¾	A2:4¾	97¼	1
C2		B1:1¾		D1:2½		A1:1¾		E1:5¾		
D1	Qwxcller	E2:5	61¼	C2:4½	71	A2:5	81	B2:6¼	88½	3
D2		C1:2¼		E1:5¼		B1:5		A1:1¼		
E1	Pathos	A2:1¾	57¾	D2:1¾	60¾	B2:3½	66½	C2:1¼	70¼	5
E2		D1:2		A1:1¼		C1:2¼		B1:2½		

So there you have it.

I said that if people scribbled comments on the back of the score sheets I would write up the tournament. Remind me not to do that again. Editing this rag takes enough time without volunteering to do write-ups as well. Of course, if people ever spontaneously volunteered to write these things up then I wouldn't have to go round begging and grovelling each time, and the temptation to write tournaments up myself would not be there. You see, it's all your fault. I mean, this write-up is dire. Surely you could do better? Right: next time, why don't you?

But I do have all these scraps of paper with comments on. Patrick very kindly sent them to me. Of course, the silly sod didn't put enough stamps on so I had to trek all the way out to the sorting office and pay the outrageous surcharge. Once I had them I didn't know what to do with them, so, as you can see, I just scanned them into my computer and stuck them all over the place. With a bit of luck there will be a modicum of humour buried in there somewhere.

THE JUBILEE TROPHY I

PLAYED IN CAMBRIDGE, ON WEDNESDAY 28TH MARCH AND
WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL 2001

Matt Fayers

Matt Fayers	7*	6	6*	19
Stew Sage	0*	1	1*	2

This match took a long time to arrange, and was eagerly awaited by the pundits. In the end, Matt and Stew started it on a Wednesday evening, and stopped when someone else came along. Two weeks later, the list of challengers had grown further, and they decided to get the match finished.

In game 1, Matt was having the better of a squopping game when Stew broke a pile with green to leave all the blues free. Red baited yellow, and yellow took the red, perhaps not spotting the blue threat. Blue ran six, not entirely trivially. Red followed, missing once, causing Stew to accuse Matt of practice. Anthony then came along to win Stew a temporary respite.

In game 2, both blue and green were fairly threatening, but green had won the squidge-off, and so had the tempo. Red managed to throw enough winks under green to discourage him from potting. Green and yellow suffered heavy losses preventing the blue pot-out, and Matt completed the squop-up in rounds.

Two colours were threatening the pot again in game 3; green and red this time. Red had won the squidge-off, so green pre-empted by potting five greens and bringing in. Red then had the choice of an eight-inch squop on green, or running six, including a self-lunch. He opted for the latter and got them.

Bring on the next challenger.

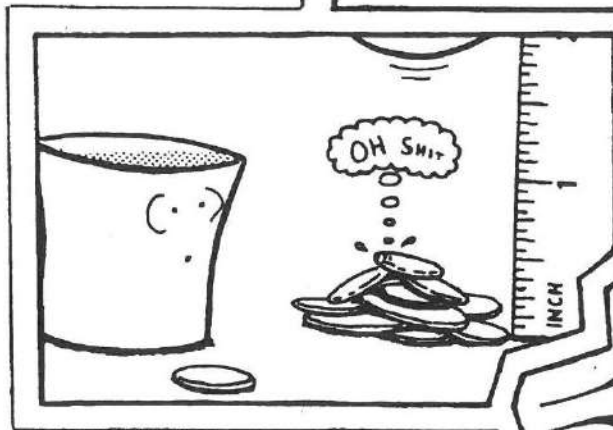
THE JUBILEE TROPHY II

PLAYED IN CAMBRIDGE, ON WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2001

Neither Matt nor SLU

Matt Fayers	2	4	6	6*	18
Chris Abram	5	3	1	1*	10

Matt sent me the scores and a note saying that SLU would write it up. SLU sent me nothing, so all you get is the scores. Still, that is probably preferable to more paragraphs of Matt Fayers' self-congratulation.



SIR HARRY SECOMBE 1921 TO 2001

Stew Sage

Harry Secombe was born at an early age in Swansea, on 8th September 1921, the son of a travelling salesman. His childhood in the docks area of the town was marked by long bouts of ill-health, short-sightedness, and a constant battle with his weight. Seeking protection from bullying at school is believed to be responsible for the development of the buffoonery that was to become his hallmark as an entertainer.

With war looking inevitable, Secombe lied about his age and joined the Territorial Army in 1938. He was called up into the Royal Artillery in 1939. This led to his meeting on a battlefield with Lance Bombardier Spike Milligan. At the height of the North Africa campaign in the Second World War, Milligan put his head above a parapet and said: "Has anyone seen a gun?". "What colour?" came the reply. Secombe and Milligan shared the same rank and a mutual delight in entertaining their fellow servicemen. Their meeting led to *The Goon Show*, a long running radio show that changed the face of comedy.

With the war over, Secombe embarked on a career in show business. He appeared at *The Windmill*, alternating with the infamous nude girls that a few years later were to distract the young men of the Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club (CUTwC) during their inaugural match against *The Daily Mirror*. He went on to become resident comedian on *Variety Bandbox*, a top-rated BBC radio show. He also performed at Graftons, a London pub where he and Milligan were to meet Michael Bentine and Peter Sellers, the other Goons.

Secombe met Myra Atherton, his future wife, in 1946. They were married by the Reverend Fred Secombe, Harry's brother, in 1948. *The Goon Show* began four years later and ran on BBC radio for 7 years. Secombe played characters such as Neddy Seagoon and Sir Cumference. His falsetto giggles and raspberries continue to be rebroadcast to this day. As might be expected of a Welshman, Secombe possessed a fine singing voice and in 1963 took the leading role in the long running musical *Pickwick* at the Saville Theatre. Secombe reached number 18 in the charts in December 1963 with a song from the show, "If I Ruled the World". In 1967 he had another hit with *The Four Musketeers* at Drury Lane and a year later took the role of Mr Bumble in the film *Oliver!* Later Secombe went on to present the religious programme *Highway* on ITV for 10 years. He was also a writer, being a regular contributor to *Punch* and publishing two novels, a book of short stories, and books for children.

Interesting though all this is, Secombe's greatest contribution to the life of the nation came through his involvement in tiddlywinks. For publicity purposes,

CUTwC, which was founded in 1955, was keen to play a match against the Goons, then at the height of their success. Direct challenges were not accepted. "We, the CUTwC, hereby challenge you, the Goons, to a match of tiddlywinks at your convenience" wrote the Secretary of CUTwC to Spike Milligan. "Our convenience is too small" was Milligan's reply. However CUTwC was eventually to get its way. After a headline in *The Spectator* asked "Does Prince Philip cheat at tiddlywinks?", CUTwC challenged the Prince to prove his honour, and to nominate the Goons as Royal Champions. They accepted and the Royal Tiddlywinks Tournament of March 1st 1958 was born.

The Secretary of CUTwC, Peter Downes, received by registered post a real hide leather gauntlet (costing 17/9d) and a message "Hear ye, Varlet, to your sword do take 'pon, the day to be fixed, signed Sir Spike the Milligan". CUTwC replied upon a scroll "Hear, Sir Spike the Milligan, be it known, mate, that ye Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club taketh up ye gauntlet, and will join battle with ye Royal Champion Goons early in ye New Year, signed Earl Arundale and Squire Peter D. Downes".

CUTwC, led by their President, David Arundale, trained on Babycham, who sponsored the club, and started a horrible tradition that was to last for several years (witness Babycham on ice on the cover of WW 75). The match was played in the Guildhall, Cambridge. The late Brian Johnston commentated for BBC radio, and John Snagge acted as MC. CUTwC nominated Chris Brasher as their umpire. The Goons chose Snagge, an Oxford man, as theirs. The Prince did not attend, but sent a message to be read to the crowd. "Please give my best wishes to the two teams taking part in the great contest, but try if you can, to do this in such a way that you convey that I wish the Cambridge team to lose, and my incomparable champions to win a resounding and stereophonic victory. At one time I had hoped to join my champions, but in practising secretly, I pulled an important muscle in the second, or tiddly joint of my winking finger. This is naturally very disappointing but at least it gives my side a very much better chance to win. Wink up, fiddle the game and may the Goons' side win. Philip".

The Guildhall was packed with spectators who paid 7/6d to watch the proceedings. Cambridge won all 16 games amidst much chaos caused by the Goons antics. The final score was 120½ – 55½. (At the time, 5 points were awarded for first place, 3 for second, 2 for third and 1 for fourth). The Mayor and Mayoress presented the victorious CUTwC with a tankard and all the participants with a toy Babycham chamois. Secombe, who captained the Goons, was then whisked away by helicopter to appear in pantomime in Coventry. Before leaving, accompanied on the Guildhall organ, he gave the first rendition of the Tiddlywinks Anthem, composed by the Rev. E. A. Willis and sung to the melody

of Men of Harlech:

Other nations are before us
With their Sputniks and Explorers
What can confidence restore us?
Naught but tiddlywinks.
On the fields of Eton,
Former foes were beaten.
But today all patriots play
This sport which needs such grit and concentration.
Through this game of skill and power
England knows her finest hour,
And her stronghold, shield and tower
Must be tiddlywinks.

In spite of the enormity of the occasion, the BBC disposed of their tapes in a litterbin in King's Parade. Fortunately these were salvaged by CUTwC and copies exist in the club's archive. The match was a great success, raising funds for the National Playing Fields Association, of which the Prince was President, and doing much to spread and establish winks in Britain. There was a great build-up to the match in the press, as well as extensive reporting at the time. Prince Philip went on to donate the Silver Wink for a British Universities' tournament, which was first contested in 1961.

Secombe went from strength to strength. In 1963 he was appointed CBE for his services to the Army Benevolent Fund, and in 1977 received the Silver Jubilee Medal (a personal award from the Queen). He was knighted in 1981. In 1979 he was diagnosed with 'the winkers' disease' and, as a diabetic, was encouraged to shed 5 of his 19 stones in 1983. In his more recent years, he suffered ill health with prostate cancer and a stroke, although he continued to perform. In his hospital bed he received a fax from Spike Milligan which read "I hope you go before me because I don't want you singing at my funeral". He died with his wife at his side on April 11th 2001.

Harry Donald Secombe, actor, comedian, singer and Captain of the Royal Tiddlywinks Champions, the Goons: born Swansea 8th September 1921; CBE 1963; Kt 1981; married 1948 Myra Atherton (two sons, two daughters); died Guildford, Surrey 11th April 2001.

ADVERTISEMENT

Copies of the recoding of the Royal Match are available on cassette or CD for the price of £7.50. Cheques should be made payable to "The English Tiddlywinks Association" and sent to the Treasurer whose address is inside the back cover.

SCORES FROM THE FOURS

ROUND 1: NARGY C.A.T. VS. YOU MAY STILL CALL ME GOD

SLU & Ed vs. Tim: SLU & Ed played well (Ed: "If I'd known I could squup like that, I'd have tried it last night"), and squupped Tim up. A series of boondocks & squup was followed, and not a single boondock left the table, much to everyone's satisfaction. For the last freeing sequence, SLU & Ed failed to count rounds, so piddled rather than pottig the one each that they needed. SLU missed; Ed didn't, so a solid 6:1 became 5:2.

SLU & Ed vs. Charles & Alan: Wheeeeee! Pot five, bring in, miss squup, bring in smugly, miss squup, all over.

Math & James vs. Charles & Alan: Math basically had the edge throughout. The champagne moment was as follows: Math (green) played his shot. Charles (blue) & Dispersion played a v. good bishol into pile. James (yellow) squopped it. Charles potted out that yellow played out of him, & the shot was taken back. Then Math noticed that blue, too, had played out of him, & therefore yellow's shot was, in fact, acceptable as it was our deemed acceptance of the previous out of the shot. So the yellow was put back on the pile, & there was much rejoicing.

~~Math & James vs. Charles & Alan: Math basically had the edge throughout. The champagne moment was as follows: Math (green) played his shot. Charles (blue) & Dispersion played a v. good bishol into pile. James (yellow) squopped it. Charles potted out that yellow played out of him, & the shot was taken back. Then Math noticed that blue, too, had played out of him, & therefore yellow's shot was, in fact, acceptable as it was our deemed acceptance of the previous out of the shot. So the yellow was put back on the pile, & there was much rejoicing.~~

SCORES FROM THE FOURS

ROUND 2: NARGY C.A.T. VS. PATHOS

TAC V N: Timmy has pot.

Andrew & Paul vs. Alan: Alan brought in threateningly with yellow, while Andrew tried the same, slightly less effectively, with red. Alan emerged on top of lots of piles with Paul almost out of winks. A very scrumbly game left Alan & Andrew with about the same number of free winks in rounds, but with Alan further from the pot and unable to match Andrew's pot count.

Charles & Timmy vs. Andrew & Paul: Winks well spread to start with, with Charles threatening to pot out. This didn't materialise, and a threat from Timmy was also neutralised. A large pile, mostly under Andrew & Paul, emerged by the pott. Andrew failed miserably to pot, and a rescue of Paul after Charles potted many left him and Andrew on 7, Timmy on six, and Charles well clear on 12. Paul got there via a long pot, since Andrew blew the pile with a lack of finesse.

Alan & Nick: Alan had six free winks. Nick left him with nothing to do but pot, so he did.

THE ETWA NATIONAL PAIRS

**PLAYED IN THE BOWETT ROOM, QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
ON SATURDAY 28TH AND SUNDAY 29TH APRIL 2001**

Matthew Rose

Another Pairs—it's a long time since I played in one of those.

But many things were the same; those lovely bouncing Bowett Room tables, moaning about the seeding and a pot crisis. And a Congress to look forward to—what fun?

There were only ten pairs this year (and no novices, which is a shame)—but all of a more even standard, at least on paper. No rabbits here. Simon's apology for the potential randomness of the seedings ensured a number of tough games all round to start off.

Ten pairs meant a rather awkward choice regarding the format, but eventually an all-play-all and two groups of five on the second day would ensue.

DAY ONE

Early on the Matt Fayers/Julian Wiseman combo appeared to be racing ahead, seemingly unstoppable. Geoff & Matthew and Alan & Phil stayed vaguely in touch but there was trouble for John & Simon who had a number of early losses, demonstrating the open nature of the field.

There were many wins for Andrew Garrard & Paul Moss, and Buster & Benedict, despite their lowly seedings. Stew & James, despite being relative shadows of their former selves, were definitely heavyweights but performing as (super) middle-weights!

Nick & Anthony had the most appalling bad luck, typified when Nick's wink rolled off the table against Geoff & Matthew, enabling Geoff to attempt and achieve a hero knock-off to free Matthew's winks after a badly attempted pot-out. A most undeserved outcome.

Geoff played possibly the worst pile shot ever to enable Matt & Julian to turn around a close game and take a lead going into the last round of the day, until the Barries (congratulations) slowed them down. Patrick had inexplicably missed a sixth wink against Geoff & Matthew the previous round but clearly did not let this affect him.

After a Congress which I suspect James will not wish to remember, and a lot of ranting about restart times, some fine beer and Dalmuti took place and no-one resolved the issue of whether Café Naz uses golden syrup for Peshwari nans!

All-play-all		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Tot	Pos
A	Geoff Myers & Matthew Rose		6	6	6*	2½	1	6	7*	6	4	44⅓	1
B	Simon Gandy & Jon Mapley	1		3	5	6	1	6	6	2	1	31	6
C	Ed Wynn & Chris Abram	1	4		4	1*	4	4	4	2*	6	30	7
D	Christine Barrie & Patrick Barrie	1	2	3		6	4	6	4½	3	3	32½	5
E	Julian Wiseman & Matt Fayers	4⅔	1	6*	1		6	6	6	7*	5	42⅔	2
F	Alan Dean & Phil Scarrott	6	6	3	3	1		3	5½	5½	6	39	3
G	James Cullingham & Stew Sage	1	1	3	1	1	4		4	1*	6*	22	9
H	Nick Inglis & Anthony Horton	0*	1	3	2½	1	1½	3		1	3	16	10
I	Andrew Garrard & Paul Moss	1	5	5*	4	0*	1½	6*	6		5	33½	4
J	Andrew Dominey & David Carslake	3	6	1	4	2	1	1*	4	2		24	8

DAY TWO

With only one round to go there were only three pairs definitely through to the top five and four others who might make it through. This meant a lot of watching others' games to see what happened. The first round therefore took over an hour which is disappointing.

John & Simon needed at least 3 off Geoff & Matthew but were fairly defensive and failed to pot well in rounds, and ended with a 1. Patrick & Christine edged out Ed & SLU, so that allowed Andrew & Paul to storm ahead into the final five.

That meant John & Simon, and Ed & SLU failed narrowly to qualify. John was not best pleased, but perhaps this was reward for one of the worst jokes on Essex I

can recall—not one that can best be described on paper, even though it is clean !

In the final four play-off games, in the lower division, John and Simon stormed through, ending with more points overall than many in the upper five, but were deemed to only be 6th (that is top of the bottom five). It was pleasing to see Nick and Anthony win their final game.

Bottom 5		B/F	F	G	H	I	J	Tot	Pos
F	Ed Wynn & Chris Abram	30		1	3½	6	2*	42½	7
G	Simon Gandy & Jon Mapley	31	6		6*	5	6	54	6
H	Andrew Dominey & David Carslake	24	3½	1*		6	1*	35½	8
I	James Cullingham & Stew Sage	22	1	2	1		7*	33	9
J	Nick Inglis & Anthony Horton	16	5*	1	6*	0*		28	10

In the top five play-off Geoff & Matthew were fairly solid, with Matt & Julian staying close behind—the final game between the two looked like being key.

Patrick had inexplicably missed a sixth wink against Geoff & Matthew again, and Matt & Julian eventually managed to complete a failed pot-out against Alan & Phil to keep the position even.

Alan & Phil had a poor run, and this allowed Andrew & Paul and the Barries to overtake them to end a very creditable 3rd and 4th.

In the final game, Julian & Matt, needing a 6 to win, chose not to try a pot out when not unreasonably set up, and despite being marginally ahead in a squopping game, eventually were reeled in by Geoff & Matthew, who took a six and won the tournament.

Many thanks to Dr. Sage for room bookings, and Simon for his fine organisation—it was a tough one to seed, a fairly enjoyable one to play as the number of games was not too excessive, but how can a tournament write-up go by without mention of the length of those lunchtimes.....

Top 5		B/F	A	B	C	D	E	Tot	Pos
A	Geoff Myers & Matthew Rose	44 $\frac{1}{3}$		6	4	6	6*	66 $\frac{1}{3}$	1
B	Julian Wiseman & Matt Fayers	42 $\frac{2}{3}$	1		5*	4	4	56 $\frac{2}{3}$	2
C	Alan Dean & Phil Scarrott	39	3	2*		0*	1	45	5
D	Andrew Garrard & Paul Moss	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	3	7*		3	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	3
E	Christine Barrie & Patrick Barrie	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	1*	3	6	4		46 $\frac{1}{2}$	4

SCORES FROM THE FOURS

ROUND 4: SEPTIC VS. PATHOS

Andrew vs Rupert & Stew: A good pile break, a pile flip, and a probably illegal pile break left Andrew with lots of free greens to pot (after a few attempts), and his yellows trying to hold down Stew & Rupert.

Andrew vs Christine & Anthony: Squopping game, Andrew's shots worked, Anthony's didn't, and Christine spent most of the game with a single free pink on a doubleton. Squop-up in rounds - one of these games.

Nick & Paul vs Rupert & Stew: Paul's spinning of the table's pot-out opportunity led to a drawn-out game in which Nick & Paul struggled to keep the upper hand. In the end, Paul's ~~shots~~ ^{shots} in the pot were sufficient to ensure 1st place, but he ~~missed~~ ^{hit} a final squop ~~for~~ ^{for} an extra half point.

SCORES FROM THE FOURS

ROUND 5: PATHOS VS. YOU MAY STILL CALL ME GOD

James & Matt vs Andrew & Paul: Andrew brought in disastrously & Matt survived an ineffectual attempt to stop him doing the obvious with his six winks near the pot. Paul almost had a counter-pot, and duly followed in, with James escaping a problem with a large wink that wouldn't pot thanks to Andrew's positioning.

THE WORLD RATINGS—AFTER THE ETWA AND NATWA PAIRS

The Algorithm (<http://www.cheng.cam.ac.uk/~pjb10/winks/ratings/method.html>)

Position	Player	Rating	Rating Reliability Factor	Games in the Past Year	P.P.G. in the last year
1	Patrick Barrie	2429	100	96	4.646
2	Larry Kahn	2397	100	53	4.925
3	Dave Lockwood	2294	99	30	4.383
4	Geoff Myers	2283	91	30	4.678
5	Matthew Rose	2269	98	36	4.523
6	Ed Wynn	2249	100	46	4.272
7	Andy Purvis	2245	1	1	4.000
8	Jon Mapley	2206	100	49	4.259
9	Severin Drix	2198	58	19	4.316
10	Julian Wiseman	2187	67	20	4.433
11	Bob Henninge	2122	98	20	3.425
12	Charles Relle	2116	100	46	4.141
13	Simon Gandy	2112	100	54	3.787
14	Tim Hunt	2061	100	59	4.441
15	Matt Fayers	2058	100	81	3.965
16	Alan Dean	2044	100	38	3.443
17	Andrew Dominey	2022	47	17	3.059
18	Tim Jeffreys	2005	25	7	5.000
19	Phil Scarrott	2001	98	33	3.545
20	Ferd	1985	75	18	3.583
21	Nick Inglis	1978	83	37	3.081
22	Joe Sachs	1955	35	6	3.083
23	Phil Carmody	1954	90	23	3.500
24	Rupert Thompson	1941	94	35	3.857
25	Ben Deane	1904	63	12	4.000
26	Patrick Driscoll	1902	60	19	5.237
27	James Cullingham	1895	100	78	3.481
28	Geoff Thorpe	1892	100	23	3.522
29	Mac McAvoy	1845	81	7	4.714
30	Andrew Garrard	1842	100	77	2.942
31	Chris Abram	1779	100	69	3.326
32	Jordan Usner	1762	34	15	3.533
33	Pete Keevash	1747	76	18	3.611
34	John Kane	1742	59	15	3.967
35	Stew Sage	1723	100	75	2.718
36	MP Rouse	1717	35	9	3.889
37	Julian Drix	1713	39	7	4.429
38	Paul Moss	1693	100	50	2.603
39	Christine Barrie	1684	100	71	3.007
40	Jacob Usner	1682	25	6	3.500

Position	Player	Rating	Rating Reliability Factor	Games in the Past Year	P.P.G. in the last year
41	David Carslake	1675	38	13	2.731
42	Gavin Keyte	1632	58	13	2.577
43	Cyril Edwards	1632	12	3	2
44	Elizabeth Whalley	1627	48	9	2.778
45	James Murray	1616	93	33	3.136
46	Antony Proietti	1613	66	7	2.571
47	Daniel Sachs	1600	32	6	3.083
48	Andy Young	1593	62	11	2.091
49	Max Lockwood	1580	42	22	2.773
50	Jeff Hillebrandt	1575	9	1	6
51	James Larkin	1574	12	7	3.571
52	Jon Williams	1568	47	9	3.111
53	Anthony Horton	1554	100	63	2.817
54	Marg Small	1517	63	17	3.853
55	Paul Roberts	1516	54	6	1.167
56	Yu Gu	1511	36	3	2.667
57	Daniel Cole	1502	26	9	4.167
58	Nick Germain	1484	46	10	3.1
59	Kevin Jaw	1482	7	3	2.667
60	Nathan Calhoun	1456	45	16	2.938
61	Vita Maynard	1448	1	2	3
62	Peter Sherman	1442	1	7	2.286
63	Jim Unsal	1437	1	5	2.2
64	Sarah Brown	1435	1	4	4.625
65	Jared Beitman	1432	1	4	1.75
66	Jesse Calhoun	1427	15	12	3.125
67	Charlie Oakley	1421	22	23	3.174
68	Nathaniel Drix	1388	1	4	4.125
69	Pat Mulcahy	1380	1	8	2.5
70	Andrew Walpole	1363	1	16	2.031
71	Jon Lockwood	1359	1	14	2.286
72	Rob Payne	1347	1	8	2.375
73	Rishi Shah	1346	1	9	2.944
74	Rami Hussein	1329	1	2	1.5
75	Alan Harper	1327	1	30	3.05
76	Sam Lockwood	1326	1	8	3.25
77	Ben Rockey-Harris	1321	1	3	2.333
78	Matthew Wachs	1296	1	1	2
79	Ann Carter	1289	1	11	2.455
80	Matt Moorhouse	1274	1	14	1.643
81	Anne Austin	1274	1	2	3.5
82	Chris Jones	1268	1	10	1.5
83	Catherine Goodwin	1260	1	10	1.15
84	Andrea Gorman	1208	1	14	1.429
85	Carie Barker	1200	1	5	0.8
85	Alex Lockwood	1200	1	3	1.333
85	Abigail Hancocks	1200	1	9	1.444

WHERE (OR WHAT) ARE THEY NOW?

Tim Hunt

Tim Hunt is now Dr. Timmy.

Christine, née Wiggins, is now Dr. Barrie.

Julian Wiseman is about to become a published author.

Rupert Thompson has a new leg that he says makes a much better nutcracker than his previous one.

Pete Keevash will be spending another year in Princeton after a brief return to this country over the summer.

Phil Rodgers (CUTwC Junior Treasurer, 1986-87) is Election Agent for the Liberal Democrats in Cambridge at the General Election.

RUPERT'S RECIPE: HORTA

TRADITIONAL GREEK MOUNTAIN GREENS

Rupert Thompson

Horta, it must be admitted, is Greek for “weeds”, but this is a truly exquisite dish, especially to be enjoyed with an accompanying glass of perfectly chilled dry Greek white wine. Or several.

First one needs to pick one's own *horta*. *Horta* grows on Greek mountains. So, first find a Greek mountain, say, Pelion or Taygetus. Then, in *horta* season, take your donkey onto the mountain and collect your *horta*. There doesn't seem to be any specific species of *horta*. Some resemble spinach; others dock leaves; and once, in the seaside town of Ouranoupoli, just outside the Theocratic Republic of Mount Athos, I have eaten *horta* that looked suspiciously like samphire.

Once you have your *horta* you should clean it thoroughly, separate off the leaves, and boil them slowly in a large pan of salted water with a little olive oil added. The crucial thing here is to boil the *horta* for the correct length of time. Too little, and the leaves are tough and inedible. Too long, and you get a foul mushy pulp.

Once cooked, drain the leaves and place them in a serving dish. Douse liberally with a good extra virgin olive oil, and the freshly-squeezed juice of at least one lemon (or, better, the juice of liturgical citrons from Kavala). Eat at least one mouthful of the leaves, just to experience how foul they are.

Now for the good bit. Throw the leaves away, and dip freshly baked bread into the combination of *horta*-juice, olive oil and lemon juice left at the bottom of the serving dish. *Kali orexi* as we say in Polish.

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