

WINKING WORLD

80

SUMMER 2003



**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 was edited by Tim Hunt, up to and including this edition, but the next edition will be produced by the new editor, Andrew Garrard, 18 Abbey Grove, Abbey Wood, London, SE2 9EX. fluppeteer@hotmail.com, 07968 791892 (mobile). Contributions for publication in the next issue of Winking World should reach the editor by Friday 7th November 2003.

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 for 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.

THE FRONT COVER shows that rare thing, a victorious Oxford Varsity match team. Congratulations to them.

* 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 that is available.

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EDITORIAL

Tim Hunt

Hooray! Freedom! my last Winking World as editor is nearly finished. Just this editorial to write, just one more page to fill.

I am very grateful to Andrew Garrard to volunteering to take over. I have found some parts of the editor's job quite fun (and not just the moment when each issue is declared finished), and I hope that can derive some enjoyment from the editorship too.

As usual, it is my pleasure to thank a the many contributors to this issue: Charles Relle, Patrick Barrie, Ed Wynn, Matt Fayers, Larry Kahn, Julian Wiseman and Patrick Driscoll.

ON THE TYPOGRAPHY OF TIDDLYWINKS SCORES

Over the past six issues, I have been fairly consistent with the typesetting of tiddlywinks scores. And I thought I would describe exactly how it should be done, so that ever afterwards, I can tell people that they are getting it wrong.

A winks score is basically just two numbers separated by a dash, which seems simple enough. The first detail to get right is the dash. It is, of course, an en dash (Unicode U+2013). If the score contains fractions, the proper fractions characters should be used ($\frac{1}{2}$ U+2044, $\frac{1}{3}$ U+2045 and $\frac{2}{3}$ U+2046). If the game is a pot-out, this should be indicated with an asterisk, which should be superscripted.

Regrettably, not all fonts have all the required fraction characters. For example, this text is in Garamond, and the version I have does not provide thirds or sixths. One is then forced to improvise using the character U+2044 (fraction slash). The numerator is set in superscript before the slash, and the denominator remains aligned on the base-line, but the font size is reduced to match the numerator. Those of you with sharp eyes will long ago have noticed that this procedure does not give perfect results (compare $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$), but what else can one do without spending a fortune on fonts?

RECENT UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

I allude of course to the Varsity match. Cambridge never lost when I was on the team, and I do not see why they needed to start now. I trust that those responsible have done decent thing, and hope that everything will be set right next year.

It is no use complaining, as some Cambridge players seem to have, that the Oxford team have got better. They are quite entitled to do that. Cambridge simply have to ensure that they are better than whatever team Oxford happens to field each year, and this is what they neglected to do.

MISSING RESULT

James Cullingham beat Matt Fayers 18–17 in the Jubilee Trophy on Monday 5th May. I did not receive a write-up of this event, but I suppose it ought to be recorded for posterity. (Hello! posterity.)

ON TOURNAMENTS

Charles Relle

We need to review how tournaments are organised, especially the National Singles and Pairs. We announce the venues and dates of tournaments well in advance, and in this respect we are ahead of the Americans. Sometimes we announce a contact number for emergencies. This, I think, should become standard practice now that many of us have mobile phones. Also, many rely on motorways for travel, which is fine most of the time, but an accident or other blockage can ruin a person's timing. In this situation, it would be helpful to be able to call the tournament director.

We now have movements for all likely sizes of tournament, but we have not yet standardised the formats. This must be the next step. In the Singles, for instance, we should lay down that if the entry is below a certain number, the tournament will be all play all, and the numbers at which two, three or more leagues will be the format. We need also to decide once and for all whether equal numbers from each league will go through, or whether qualification will be by points per game. A similar structure should be devised and published for the National Pairs. These formats need to be endorsed by ETwA at a General meeting.

I felt that it was unsatisfactory to use the points per game system for determining qualification in the 2002 National Singles, because it had not been announced in advance. People should not come to a tournament expecting one system and find another. However, my remarks should not be regarded as an adverse criticism of the tournament organiser, since he could feel within his rights to set the format, because we have no set structure, and because there have been sudden departures from precedent in the past, some rather more extreme than this.

[Charles contacted me recently to say there was no longer any need to publish this article, because the Council had already adopted most of his suggestions. I decided to retain it, however, to show how ETwA listens to the views of its members.]



THE NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL HANDICAPPED PAIRS

PLAYED IN THE MURE ROOM, MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD ON
SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2002

Ed Wynn

Ah, this brought back some memories: assembling a Cambridge convoy outside Queens' porters' lodge one early morning in early winter. Dr Fatty streamed forward from Fisher, much cheered by the cold weather. Latecomers were found to be asleep. Waiting for them to hurry out of bed, we took turns to say, "Well, one car can go now." The ghosts of a Vauxhall Viva and a Renault 4 looked on at us kindly through their empty headlights; they were resting in the Grove, their push-start days long past.

When we arrived at Merton, the rain was strangely dry, and the car-parking convenient. Squidgers were borrowed and lent, handicaps were disputed. The draw arrived, and I found myself acting the junior partner to Matt Fayers. He pointed the way by potting out, but could not show me how to follow in. Further games brought out the traditional remarks: "Now, have you ever played a boondock?" "Er, squop-style, please, you'll need to go round that side and use this squidger." "Don't worry, it might be useful over there. Try to slide down the middle of the wink." "Left-handed? Oh, then play it away from yourself." (Sotto voce: "How's your potting, partner dear?")

Leaving for lunch, James Murray had over 6 P.P.G. after transfer, with Anthony Curl not far behind. Lunch was fairly short—such eagerness for winks! The stampede for the restart left SLU and me to paddle in a beer pond, but we re-joined a round later. The tournament's drop-in, drop-out design suited many people, although Bhaskar Thakur may have regretted his commitment to leave early, since he was almost winning. Rachel Chisholm missed the last round, a precocious victim of winks fatigue. So did Matt Fayers, perhaps realising that this was not his day; if he had been handicapped 0 rather than 7, he would have finished eighth.

Even with so many welcome novices, there was an overspill of narg-only games. In defiance of handicaps, these often had 6–1 or even 7–0 scorelines, which randomised the positions somewhat. I profited from a couple of these, and kept my missed game as a secret weapon. In the final round, I was glad to partner Laura Clarke, a Cambridge-trained novice, against Christine Barrie and Paula Foster, who had been introduced to the game only that day. As it turned out, Paula had improved quickly, but I was able to victimise Christine for a 5½. My secret weapon almost stayed secret, which would have meant Dan Choate being declared the winner. As it was, he was the top-scoring novice, with a p.p.g. of 4.8-something after transfer (and indeed 4.7-something before)—well done him.

The lessons are, I think, obvious: drink beer, play winks and pot out.

Pos	Name	Handicap	Raw points	Adj. points	Games	Adj. P.P.G.
1	Ed Wynn	6	34	31½	6	5.250
2	Dan Choate	0	28½	29½ ₁₂	6	4.847
3	Bhaskar Thakur	0	24	23¾	5	4.750
4	Benedict Dominey	5	24½	23¼	5	4.650
5	Alan Dean	6	34	32½	7	4.643
6	Charles Relle	6	35.5	32	7	4.571
7	Ben Fairbairn	2	34½	31⅔	7	4.524
	Cyril Edwards	3	11½	17½	4	4.375
8=	James Murray	3	25	28¼	7	4.036
8=	Nick Inglis	6	29½	28¼	7	4.036
	Andrew Allen	0	6½	7¾	2	3.875
10	Alan Harper	3	23	26¼	7	3.750
11	Anthony Curl	0	22½	22¼	6	3.708
12	Patrick Barrie	7	28⅔	25½ ₁₂	7	3.702
13	Paul Moss	4	22	25¼	7	3.607
14	Tim Jeffreys	5	15	20¾	6	3.458
15=	Christine Barrie	5	24½	23¾	7	3.393
15=	James Cullingham	5	23	23¾	7	3.393
17	Laura Clarke	0	22½	22½	7	3.214
18	Chris Abram	5	18½	19¼	6	3.208
19	Rachel Chisholm	0	15½	15	5	3.000
20	Patrick Driscoll	4	16½	17¾	6	2.958
21	Andrew Garrard	5	19½	20	7	2.857
22	Stew Sage	4	17½	18¾	7	2.679
	Sarah Stewart-Johnson	0	2	2½	1	2.500
	Simon Gandy	6	11½	9¾	4	2.438
23	Matt Fayers	7	16½	14½	6	2.417
24	Tim Hunt	6	17	16½	7	2.357
25	Charlie Oakley	4	10⅝	15½ ₁₂	7	2.226
26	Paula Foster	0	13	13	6	2.167
27	Oliver Frith	0	8	9¾	5	1.950
	Rob Payne	2	1	1½	1	1.500

WINKING COAST TO COAST

Charles Relle

Overheard at Richmond, Yorkshire: "There are two people doing it who are playing a game of Tiddlywinks every night". It was the Coast to Coast walk, and the two people were Alan Dean and myself. Why we had deemed the Coast to Coast itself insufficient challenge, I am not sure, but we did play a game every night, one at the starting point of St Bees, and one on each evening of the 190 mile walk, fourteen games in all. It is traditional to start the walk by dipping your feet in the water at St Bees, but I, enamoured as always of excess, persuaded Alan that we should go for a swim instead.

If you have a strong pair of boots and a good pair of feet to go in them, I strongly recommend the Coast to Coast walk. The walk itself is a challenge, the hospitality at the B&Bs on the way superb, and you can drink a different real ale every evening, and at some points even at lunchtime.

The tiddlywinks: sometimes we played in the pub, sometimes, if the pub had no table, in our digs; sometimes the table was full size, sometimes rather smaller. Sometimes there were spectators, occasionally not. Spectators tended to influence tactics: we did not consciously play to the gallery, but the gallery expected us to pot the winks, and we could not but be conscious of their expectation and try to fulfil it.

Some patterns emerged: Alan did better when the tables were smaller than standard; also, though I prefer playing Red and Blue, every game I lost, I lost playing those colours. Five games went to pot-outs, all by me. Once I was forced into this perilous strategy; Alan squopped all my blues and none of the reds, so I took the plunge. Once I was provoked by rage; during the day there was a long and steep climb, over which I laboured rather; Alan is much better balanced and more sure-footed. Towards the end of the climb, there were steps carved in the hillside. I said, "This is just like a staircase", and Alan replied, "Don't forget you broke your toe on a staircase"; true, but not encouraging. I said, "I'll beat you 7*-0* for that tonight", and I did.

This all happened on Friday September 13th. Being a churchgoer, I took my Bible on the walk, and each day read the passage prescribed in my parish magazine. On that day, the first verse I read was, "Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?" Believe me, I trod carefully.

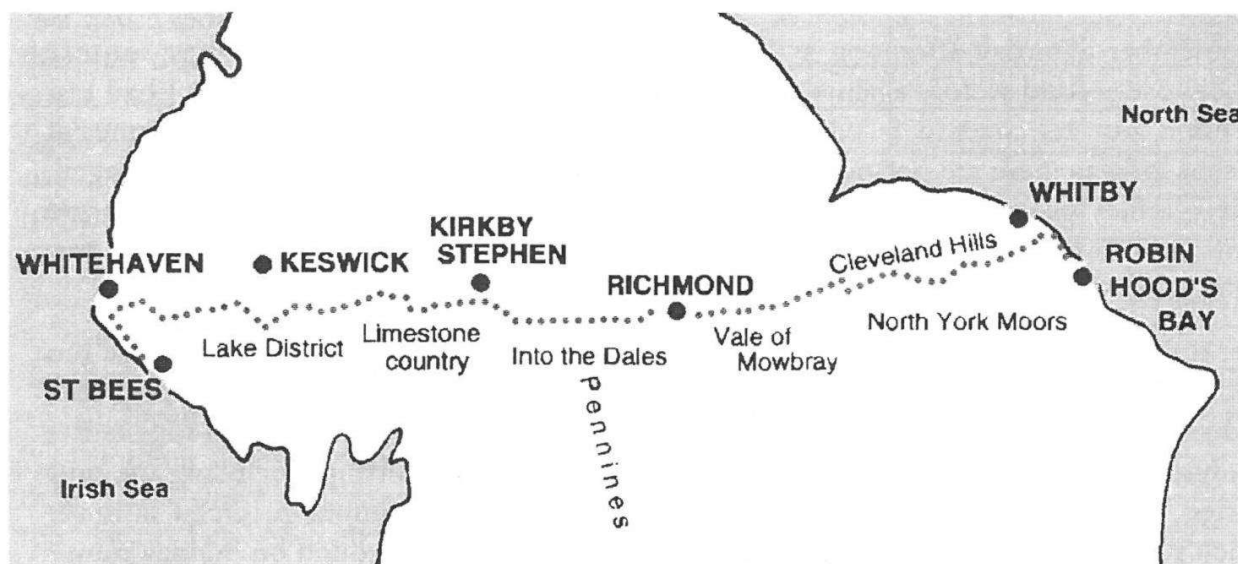
Our penultimate stop at Glaisdale was notable for two things. First: we played our regular game in the pub, and then were challenged by two local ladies, who were well stricken in beers and surrounded by clouds of tobacco smoke. In fact, we drew for partners, with the proviso that Alan and I should not play together. Alan won this game with a magical potout in round 5. Second: I remarked to our landlady that I was quite pleased to have accomplished the walk at my present age. She replied that another man staying earlier in the year had said the same thing. He was eighty-four!

More than once during the walk, Alan had produced a shot or series of shots to which there was no answer. At the end of the second day's walking, I found myself behind throughout the game, but, in rounds, saw a way in which I could win with Blue, which had won the squidge-off. However, with the penultimate turn of the game, Alan potted the top wink of a yellow-red-yellow pile, and then squopped a blue, leaving me with no effective reply. Three days later, he produced a series of typical Dean combination shots in rounds, ending my chances of a win. At the Black Horse, Great Broughton, one of the few pubs en route where the beer is not well kept, Alan, in round five, potted a yellow out of a pile, followed by two more to secure a 5-2 win.

Alan won the last game of the series 4-3, after battle in which I broke a pile potting two reds with one shot. I said I got two extra turns for this, and Alan asked whether it was in the rules. I replied that there was a precedent for it, because Duncan Budd had once accomplished such a shot in the National Singles. This was correct, and Alan should have remembered, because Duncan did it against him in the 1984 qualifying round.

Overall the score of the fourteen games was $67\frac{1}{2}$ - $30\frac{1}{2}$ to me. Before the walk, Alan had been working 14 hours a day for several weeks, and was very tired at the start, which was certainly why I started with two sixes. Again, many of the games were played in pubs, and beer is known to improve my game. I made notes on all the games, and kept a diary of the whole journey. The varying standard can be judged from two quotations; "For once, I played accurately all through the game", and, "Rarely can I have played so badly and won".

The tiddlywinks was, of course, an appendage to the walk itself. We were amazingly lucky with the weather, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours of rain in thirteen days of walking. Thus we could enjoy the scenery and the sheer pleasure of walking across England. It is a pleasure not to be missed.



THE CAMBRIDGE OPEN

**PLAYED IN THE BOWETT ROOM, QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE ON
SATURDAY 25TH AND SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 2003**

Patrick Driscoll

Patrick Barrie won the Cambridge Open 2003 with an extraordinarily high P.P.G. of almost 6. His world-beating doubles partner, Ed Wynn was the second-best player of the weekend, the only other player with an average of more than 5 (although Ed did not play enough games to put himself in the running for the title, and Charles Relle was in reality second).

Saturday morning was perhaps the most straightforward session of the competition for these leading players. In the absence of the computer (and of Geoff Thorpe) the only way to engineer a silly draw in the first round was to partner Ed and Patrick together. In fact, however, since they faced Charles and Stu Collins, even this did not produce a ridiculously one-sided contest. In the event, this round was noteworthy only because all the games ended with 6–1 scorelines.

By lunchtime, the tournament had settled into its normal shape: a big, fat, round one, that bounced along the ground. Despite Nick's arrival, or perhaps because of it, there were no pot-outs in the whole session, which disappointed those of us who like to see aggressive and adventurous winks. Fortunately this statistic soon changed after lunch, a reversal in the trend that was to last us all weekend. In contrast to this happy development, Saturday morning did see the arrival of a couple of other trends that were to last throughout the weekend. Patrick Barrie was unbeaten (he only lost one game all weekend), and Andrew Garrard was playing some of the worst winks of his career to date, probably the inevitable result of too much mentally destabilising practice with the mercurial Charles Relle.

I remember Saturday afternoon as being a happy and carefree time. This may surprise Ed, whose second victory against me in as many games led him to believe that I had lost all hope, but his concern failed to take into account my genuine love of the game (at least as long as there are pot-outs—even an opponent's pot-out is better than none at all, in my rather unsuccessful, but light-hearted book). In all, only one of my afternoon games did not end in a pot-out, and I ended up with a t-shirt that was given away free for buying beer. So pleasing.

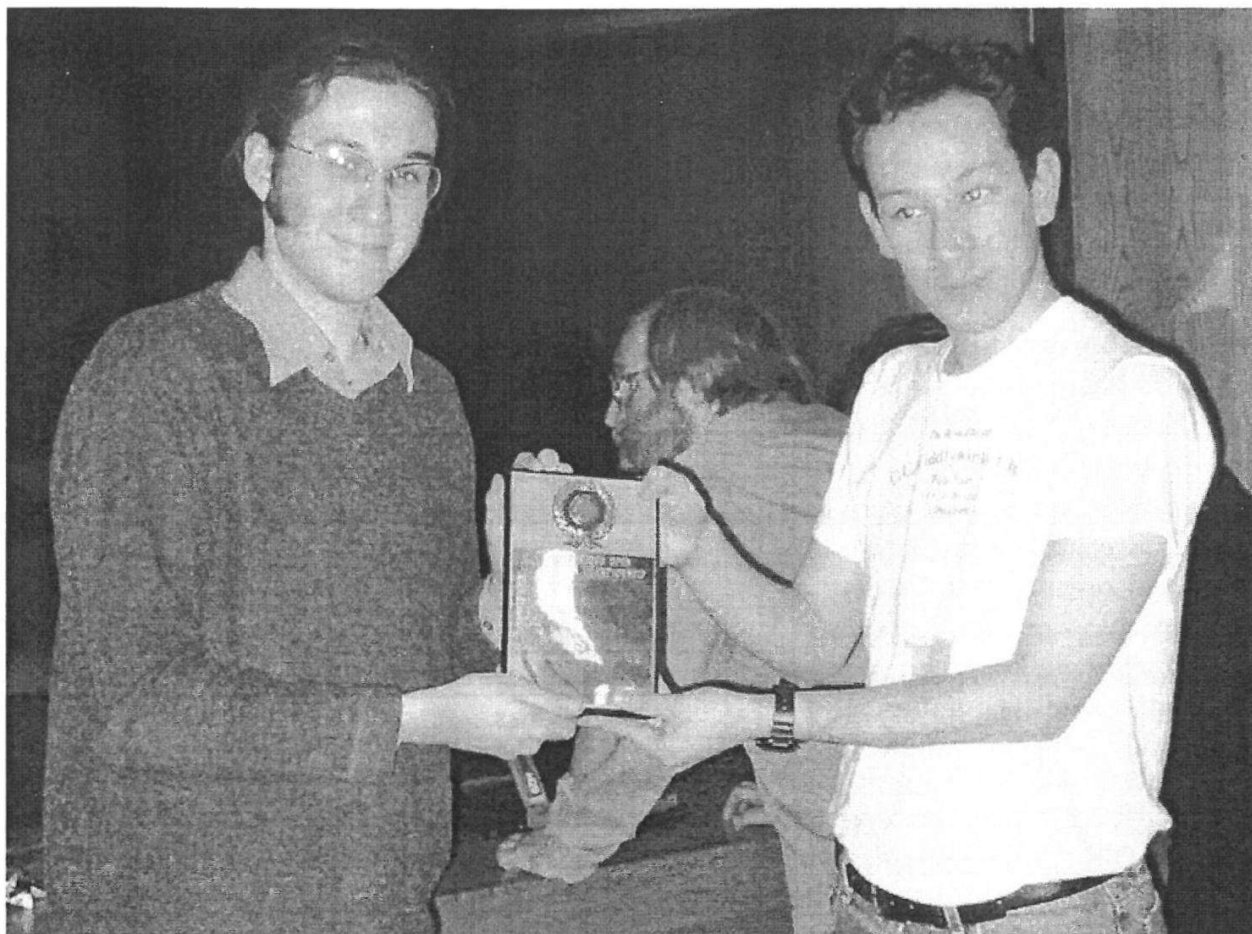
The only downside of my enjoyable Saturday was that I had done if anything a little too well, and found myself with a winning record at the end of day one. Fear of spoiling this, and my desire to finish the tournament ahead of Stew Sage in the World rankings rather inhibited my natural sense of optimism on day two, and partnerships including me only potted out twice on Sunday. Mind you, the Sunday at the Cambridge Open is never much fun anyway. Only eight people actually made it to the first round on Sunday morning, and some of those looked as though they wished they had not.

But enough about my happy-go-lucky tiddlywinks ideology. Some other aspects of the tournament deserve mention. It was heartening to see a good turn-out of Cambridge novices over the weekend, some of whom did not really play like novices at all. It was also pleasant to participate in a well-run tournament, and Andrew Garrard, Matt Fayers, and Tim Hunt all seemed to contribute significantly towards this (although it may be the case that some or all of these people were not really supposed to be doing as much organising as they did, and were just bossing people around for the fun of it).

Of course, one would like to thank the CUTwC hierarchy in particular for their hand in the tournament they organise and run every year for ETwA, but I do not think this would be possible without risking hypocrisy, and we all know that the power and organisational ability that underpins our game really lies with certain key figures in that august and venerable national body, whose wonderful job can only really be appreciated when they give up their Sunday lunchtimes to have obscure rants at the other end of the pub (and long may it remain the end of the pub at which I am not).

Nevertheless, the fact that winks is a rewarding and joyful sport was never more fully confirmed than last thing on Sunday afternoon, when hordes of major figures (and here I stress their size rather than their seniority) rushed back from the pub for the final round, giggling with glee, and otherwise quite unable to contain their delight in playing their last games in the Cambridge Open 2003. Such a delight. I think it was around this time that I did not manage to run away fast enough when Timmy said "You've been here almost all weekend."

Pos	Player	Points	Games	P.P.G.
1	Patrick Barrrie	69	12	5.750
	Ed Wynn	40.5	8	5.063
	Geoff Thorpe	15	3	5.000
2	Charles Relle	64	13	4.923
	Chris Abram	29.5	6	4.917
	Matt Fayers	42	9	4.667
3	Paul Moss	54.5	12	4.542
	Navindu Katugampola	9	2	4.500
4	Patrick Driscoll	48.5	12	4.042
5	Nick Inglis	48.667	13	3.744
	Matthew Rose	18.5	5	3.700
6	Tim Hunt	47.833	13	3.680
	Alan Harper	30.5	9	3.389
	Stew Sage	10.167	3	3.389
	Alan Dean	23.5	7	3.357
	Louise Murphy	6	2	3.000
7	James Cullingham	35.5	12	2.958
	Liz Batty	11.833	4	2.958
	Ben Fairbairn	27.5	10	2.750
	Stu Collins	10	4	2.500
	Claire Hart	5	2	2.500
	Paul Goodman	12	5	2.400
8	Andrew Garrard	24.5	11	2.227
	Laura Clarke	9.5	5	1.900
	Julian Hazeldine	2	2	1.000
	Sarah Quinn	2	2	1.000
	Anne Austin	1	1	1.000
	Naomi Stevens	2.5	3	0.833
	Andrew Hodges	2	3	0.667
	Liz Bertoya	1	2	0.500
	Kate Nicholls	0	3	0.000
	Katy Carson	0	2	0.000



ABOVE

PATRICK BARRIE RECEIVES THE CAMBRIDGE OPEN TROPHY FROM BEN FAIRBAIRN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY TIDDLYWINKS CLUB.

TOP OF THE OPPOSITE PAGE

THE DEFEATED CAMBRIDGE VARSITY MATCH TEAM. I BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO HANG THEMSELVES WITH THEIR QUARTER-BLUE SCARVES, HOWEVER THEY SEEM TO BE HAVING DIFFICULTY EVEN DOING THAT RIGHT!

BOTTOM OF THE OPPOSITE PAGE

THE OXFORD CLUB'S SECRET WEAPON, THEIR MASCOT, SWADDLED IN ITS QUARTER-BLUE SCARF, AND WITH ITS PAWS VERY FIRMLY ON THE TROPHY.



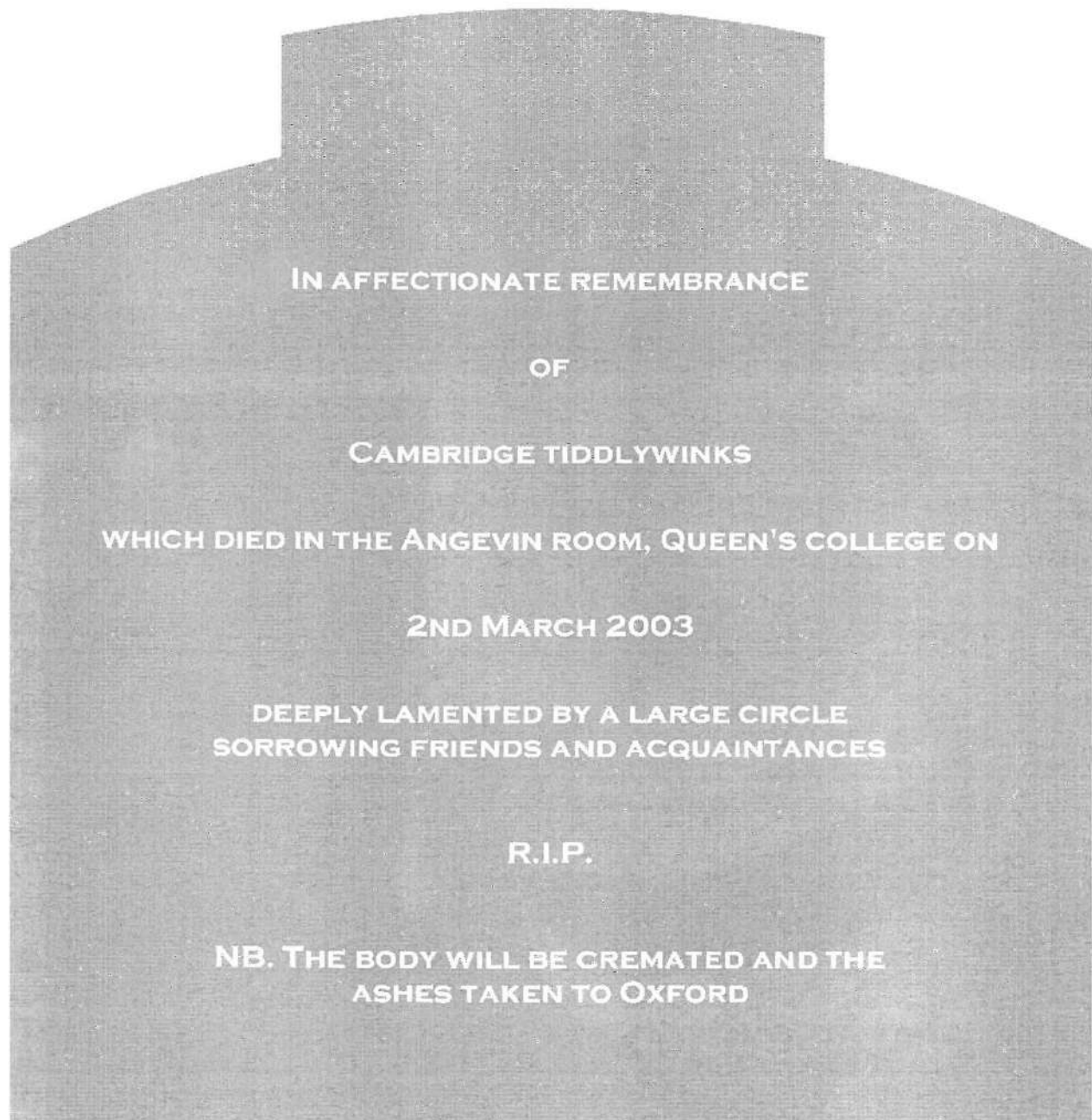
THE VARSITY MATCH

PLAYED IN THE ANGEVIN ROOM, QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE ON
SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 2003

REACTION OF THE LOSING CAMBRIDGE PRESIDENT—FROM THE
CUTWC EMAIL LIST

Ben Fairbairn

Yes, the unthinkable has happened. For only third time in the entire 48ish year history of the club, Cambridge were beaten in the Varsity match.



Oxford Cambridge	Charlie Oakley & Andrew Walpole	Matt Moorhouse & Andrea Gorman	Ann Carter & Rachel Gray	Rob Payne & Andrew Allen	Totals
Ben Fairbairn & Liz Batty	2* 5*	6 1	2 $\frac{1}{3}$ 4 $\frac{2}{3}$	4 3	13 $\frac{2}{3}$
Chris Abram & Sarah Quinn	4 3	4 3	4 3	2 5	14
Alan Harper & Laura Clarke	3 4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2* 5*	4 3	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Matt Harper & Navindu Katugampola	5 2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 3	1 6	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Totals	14	21	12 $\frac{1}{3}$	11	58 $\frac{1}{3}$ 53 $\frac{2}{3}$

A PROPER WRITE-UP

Patrick Barrie

This year's Varsity Match had always promised to be a close affair with the Cambridge team being weaker than in recent years. Cambridge fielded four new quarter-blues, and one player who had been brought back into the fold after almost a year away from the game. Oxford on the other hand fielded only two new quarter-blues, but their older players had less tournament experience than those based at Cambridge.

Cambridge started all four games in the first round well, but then let it slip by not potting early enough. Oxford realised that winks in the pot could mean points, and ended up winning all four games. This gave their players a confidence boost, and a healthy lead of 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ –9 $\frac{1}{2}$. The round two games were close and tense and narrowed the Oxford lead slightly to 31 $\frac{1}{3}$ –24 $\frac{2}{3}$. The round three games were also close but Oxford potted better to take a lead of 49 $\frac{1}{3}$ –34 $\frac{2}{3}$ into the last round. Possibly because there was now little expectation of victory, Cambridge then played well in the final round of games but they had left themselves too big a task.

The final result was Oxford's first Varsity match win since 1995. Congratulations to them, particularly to Charlie their President, and Matt & Andrea for being unbeaten and the highest scoring pair in the match.

THE TEAMS OF FOUR

PLAYED IN THE ARMITAGE ROOM,
QUEENS' COLLEGE. CAMBRIDGE ON
SATURDAY 8TH AND SUNDAY 9TH
MARCH 2003.

Ed Wynn

In a handicapped tournament, a 17–11 win (after transfer) is quite a healthy first-round score. The defending champions in the Fours, “Stupid” (short for “We’re too stupid to think of a team name”), started with that and followed with two 20–8 wins. Then they achieved a rather devastating 23–5—that’s four 6–1s, with a single point transfer—against “Bottom” (short for “The cavern of my bottom”). Their last round was their worst—a minor loss—but by that time it would have taken two enormous swings to discomfort them. In “Stupid”, Kilian Anheuser played far better than his handicap of 4, but the other three (Charles Relle, Alan Dean and Tim Hunt) have long been at sixes and sevens.

As usual in the Fours, the result would not have changed with any sensible adjustments to the handicaps. There are proposals to revise the entire system of handicapping; perhaps you’ll read about these elsewhere.

The format of the tournament had been adjusted: starting after lunch on Saturday, with Marchant games in the morning for the enthusiastic. The four teams played a double all-play-all, and thus completed a creditable number of games over the weekend, despite... [cue rant].

Winks fatigue was evident towards the end: Rupert Thompson was at

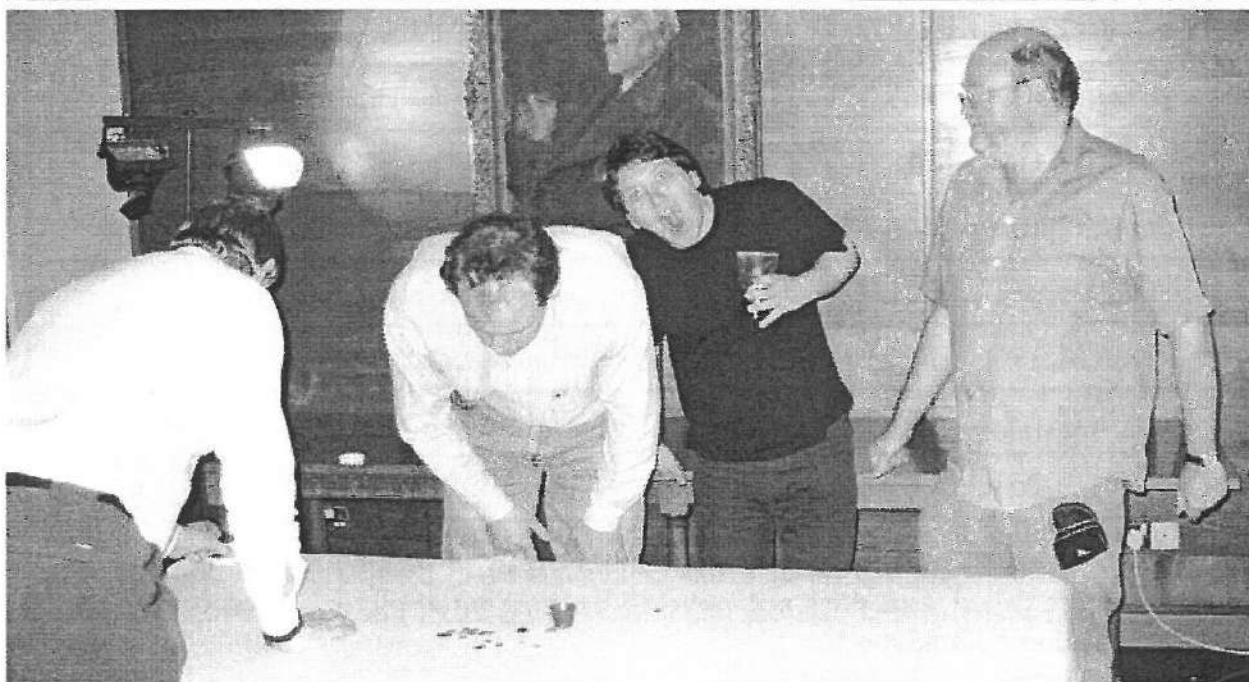


Player	Games	Points Scored	P.P.G.
Alan Dean	12	66½	5.54
Charles Relle	12	61½	5.13
Kilian Anheuser	12	59	4.92
Tim Hunt	12	58	4.83
Nick Inglis	12	46	3.83
Patrick Barrie	12	44⅓	3.74
Chris Abram	12	43	3.58
Ben Fairbairn	10	33½	3.35
Ed Wynn	12	37	3.08
Paul Moss	12	37	3.08
James Cullingham	12	36	3.00
Liz Batty	10	26⅓	2.63
Rupert Thompson	12	27	2.25
Patrick Driscoll	12	26⅔	2.22
Stew Sage	12	26	2.17
Alan Harper	12	21⅓	1.80

his most fractious, proof that the lunchtimes cannot have been completely deficient. In the last round, three-quarters of games were pot-outs, almost as many as in the first four rounds combined. Only one set of scores had obvious arithmetical errors, though, which is probably a record of some sort. Of the two teams involved, it's tempting to blame "SEPTIC", who were the whipping boys of the tournament. (I could also mention wooden spoons and trousers down, but the innuendo would be unbearable.)

The thinking behind the late start was that some students have Saturday lectures, and that some players seem unwilling to commit to two full days of play. We did have much greater team stability than in previous years (except that two members of "Mulch", Ben Fairbairn and Liz Batty, missed a game each for good works and singing respectively). Some players, myself included, might well have stayed away from the traditional format. So, a worthwhile experiment, I think. Another novelty was that the tournament organiser defined the format in advance, depending on the number of teams. (Having set us a rigorous schedule, he then departed.) You may hear about this elsewhere too.

Position	Team name	Players	Points
1	We're too stupid to think of a team name	Kilian Anheuser Charles Relle, Alan Dean and Tim Hunt	108½
2	Mulch	Patrick Barrie, Liz Batty, Ben Fairbairn and Ed Wynn	86⅓
3	The cavern of my bottom	Chris Abram, James Cullingham, Nick Inglis and Paul Moss	78
4	SEPTIC	Patrick Driscoll, Alan Harper, Stew Sage and Rupert Thompson	63⅙



FANTASY WINKS UPDATE

Tim Hunt

Pos	Entrant	Score	Team members
1	Ed Wynn	1226.83	(Wynn, P.Barrie, Relle, Rose, Walpole, Close)
2	John Stevens	1139.00	(J.Stevens, P.Barrie, Wynn, Inglis, Rose, Hedger)
3	Liz Batty	1082.83	(Batty, Fayers, D.Lockwood, Wynn, Rose, M.Harper)
4	Patrick Barrie	1051.33	(P.Barrie, Fayers, Garrard, Rose, M.Adams, Murray)
5	Charlie Oakley	987.17	(Oakley, P.Barrie, Wynn, Fayers, Walpole, Gorman)
6	Larry Kahn	973.00	(Kahn, Fayers, Mapley, Rose, Carmody, Walpole)
7	Peter Wright	939.83	(Wright, P.Barrie, Fayers, Wynn, Wiseman, Edwards)
8	Rob Payne	930.17	(Payne, P.Barrie, Wynn, Moss, S.Drix, Horton)
9	Patrick Driscoll	926.83	(Driscoll, P.Barrie, Wynn, Fairbairn, Oakley, Clarkson)
10	Chris Abram	920.33	(Abram, P.Barrie, Wynn, Thompson, Anheuser, Clarkson)
11	Dave Lockwood	917.33	(Lockwood, P.Barrie, Kahn, Lockwood, Lockwood, Lockwood)
12	Matthew Rose	917.00	(Rose, P.Barrie, Mapley, Driscoll, Oakley, Horton)
13	Andrew Garrard	898.17	(Garrard, P.Barrie, Wynn, Fairbairn, Deane, M.Harper)
14	Tim Hunt	872.33	(Hunt, Jeffreys, Batham, Hedger, P.Barrie, A.Dean)
15	James Cullingham	868.00	(Cullingham, Wynn, Garrard, Rose, Jeffreys, A.Lockwood)
16	Stew Sage	863.00	(Sage, P.Barrie, A.Harper, Jeffreys, Moss, Watt)
17	Ben Fairbairn	818.67	(Fairbairn, Wynn, Inglis, Driscoll, Oakley, Thompson)
18	Geoff Thorpe	801.83	(Thorpe, P.Barrie, Rose, Mapley, Horton, M.Harper)
19	Alan Harper	721.00	(A.Harper, Garrard, Sage, Moss, Fairbairn, Horton)
20	Paul Moss	652.00	(Moss, Cullingham, Sage, Oakley, Scarrott, Thompson)
21	Simon Gandy	478.50	(Gandy, Thorpe, Hunt, Scarrott, M.Lockwood, Jeffreys)
22	Charles Frankston	0.00	(Frankston, Gittelman, Ross, Steidle, DesJardins, Schiller)

Ed Seems to be running away with it. My cunning plan of picking a team entirely consisting of people called Tim does not seem to be working at all, it is even doing worse than Dave's team of Lockwoods.

WORLD PAIRS 25

PLAYED IN THE ERASMUS ROOM, QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE ON
SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 2003

Matt Fayers

Patrick Barrie Ed Wynn	1	1*	0*	1	3
Geoff Myers Matthew Rose	6	6*	7*	6	25

This reporter was late to arrive at the match, having slept through the onset of British Summer Time. By this time, Game two was under way, but I have Patrick's notes on game one.

GAME 1

"Matthew and Geoffrey try pot-outs for one shot each. Patrick loses some winks early. Ed plays near enough to be useless, except for one bounce on the pile, knock-off and squop (Dam-buster). All Ed and Patrick's winks under." [1-6]

GAME 2

Matthew has a very nice pot-out opportunity, and, remembering that the threat is more important than the pot-out, misses the first. Ed squops him. Meanwhile, Ed's blues are not horribly buried, but Geoff manages to occupy Patrick's thoughts.

Matthew digs out his squopped yellow; Geoff goes for a tough doubleton on the most likely of Patrick's winks to squop yellow. He subs, which makes Patrick's shot more awkward, but not nearly awkward enough to explain Patrick's dreadful shot which sends a red off. Matthew doesn't miss again. [2-12]

GAME 3

Matthew tries to respect the traditions of the games before and after lunch, and pots his two big winks, but then misses a small. Ed and Patrick both fail to squop, but then Matthew misses again. Ed squops, but after some tussling (and some good squopping from Geoff), Matthew is able to dig his winks out and pot them. [2-19]

GAME 4

Patrick and Ed are really up against it, and Ed's been at the beer again. A squopping game develops quickly, with Matthew and Geoff having an edge. In rounds, Patrick and Ed have options for getting perhaps three points, but fail to pot. [3-25]

So there it is; a record victory in World Pairs. Despite his claims, Geoff was playing really well, and Matthew gave Patrick cause to worry about his Singles title. Ed kept just missing a lot of squops, and Patrick was well below the standard he played at against me, for example.

BRISTOL THREE

Charles Relle

“Many players would not have shared Charles’s view that he shot was on”: so wrote Phil Clark in WW 51. This article looks at three wink Bristol positions from which you can squop a fourth wink. They are all high-risk shots, because if they go wrong, you give the opponents a squop and some guards.

We shall start with positions in which the winks to be Bristolled are all the same size.

Look at this position at the top of the page, the one that started my first article.

Now imagine there is another blue under the yellow, like this:

Whether the winks are large or small, this will still Bristol. You need slightly more downward pressure than for a two-wink Bristol shot, and great steadiness, especially if the winks are small, because of the risk of their slipping out.

Now consider this position:

This will Bristol too. You are aiming to put yellow and blue on the target red, while bringing the other red next to it. How do you accomplish this shot? Put your squidger on the middle of yellow, angling it towards 10.30 on the target red. If you get the pressure right, you should squop the wink at about 9.30. There are variations on this position, and to describe them all would make this article too long. Try them out, and see what will go and what will fall apart.

Sometimes you have a position in which the winks are spread, with yellow resting on the mat, as in the diagram below.

Place your squidger on the middle of yellow pointing along a line joining the centres of the three winks. Slide it off the yellow at 7 o’clock. You should squop the red anywhere between seven and ten o’clock, depending on the precise arrangement of the tripleton. This is a difficult shot, and it and similar shots need delicacy and practice. Make sure you try with large winks and small winks.

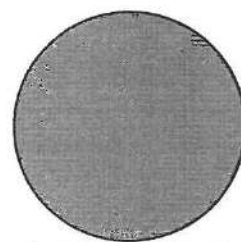
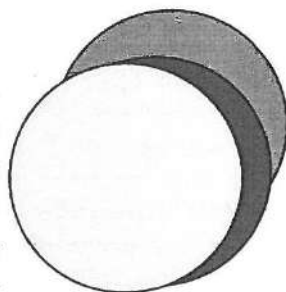
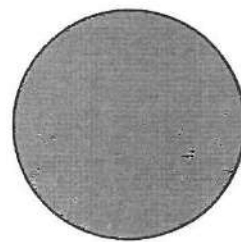
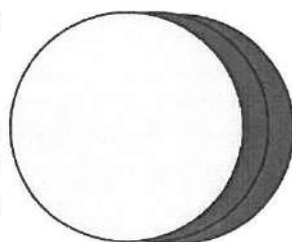
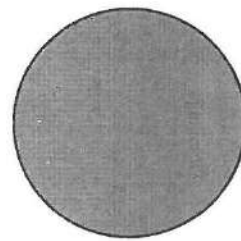
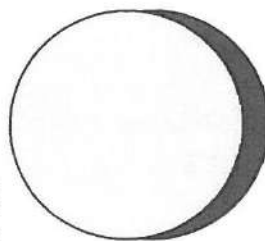
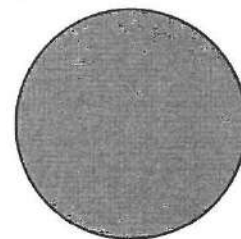
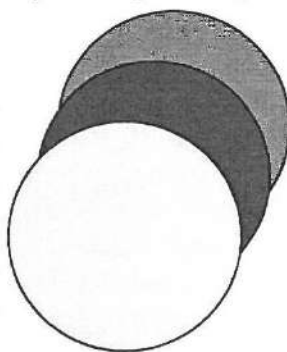
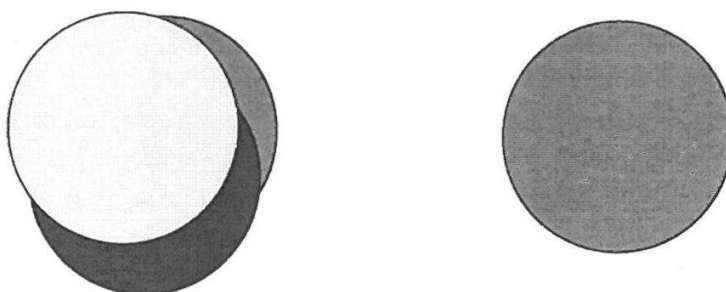


DIAGRAM A



Of course, the winks will not always be in a straight line. You need to experiment with variations, and see what will work. In general, it is surprising how far the lowest wink will be carried by the other two.

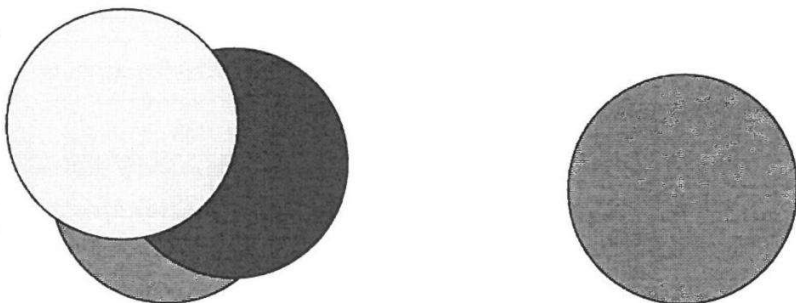
Diagram A is a Bristol position, so there is no good reason why three winks piled in a zigzag should not be a Bristol too. Like this:



The basic Bristol requirement is here: upper is behind lower behind lowest for the desired direction. Put

your squidger on yellow, pointing it at the target wink, and slide it back across the intersection between blue and red. Practise to get control, and the distance right. This shot is easy with large winks and hard with small ones. Try starting with the squidger fairly far back on the upper wink. The right position can be found only by experiment: too far forward and you drag the upper wink off, too far back and the whole thing may spill. You may be able to perform this shot with the winks spread further, but I think it is too risky.

A perfectly possible but largely unrecognised Bristol position is this:



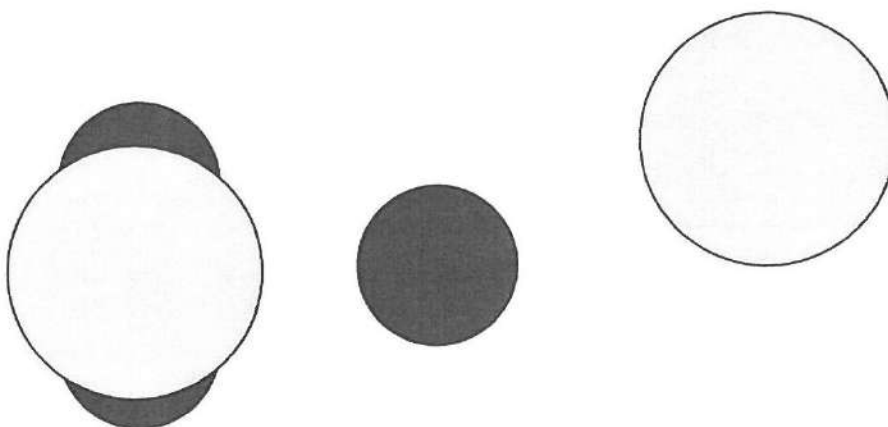
This looks unlikely, for in effect you are Bristolling red onto red with yellow; blue happens to be in the way, which

makes the shot harder. To compensate, you have to reach the target wink only with the wink nearest to it. To play the shot, rest on yellow in such a way that when you pull your squidger back you cross its edge at the point of intersection with red. This shot is playable with small winks, but is much easier with large ones.

In this article, I have discussed shots in which all the winks are of the same size. My experiments with winks of different sizes suggest they are very likely to spring apart when the middle of a pile of three is different in size from the other two. You can do some shots with large on two small or small on two large by following the principles I have outlined above. Every Bristol shot is different; you have to get the correct direction and squidger pressure for each one. This is of course true for all shots; with Bristols, however, you have to take more than one wink into account. Experience counts for a great deal, both your own and your partner's. Partnering Rob Cartwright in a tournament, I once suggested playing a tripleton Bristol that I thought obvious. He said, "Absolutely not", so I played something else. I remembered the position, and tried it at home that evening. The three winks all fell apart; Rob was quite right. A tripleton Bristol is hard to play, risky, and may not be the right shot anyway. So if you have not seen it work before, beware!

After that warning, look at this position:

Playing yellow, you decide to squop the small blue. Bristolling the pile onto it is obvious; only thus to you get the squop and a guard!



Dear Auntie Gertie,

Some winkers, and I realise that the number will be few, might be interested to learn that many of the individual pairs tournaments are now available at:

<http://www.jdawiseman.com/papers/tournaments/individual-pairs/individual-pairs.html>

This done, the tournaments on the web have become a strict superset of Dr Fatty's Originals, which can therefore start to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

A full description of the individual pairs may well appear in a later edition of this journal.

Yours etc,

Anne Opter Miser.

Dear Anne,

Your intense fascination with these matters is quite unhealthy.

Why don't you find a more wholesome way to pass your spare time, like jogging, swimming, or masturbation.

G

WHO IS THE BEST LOSER IN THE GAME?

Patrick Barrie

The following table gives the career average points per loss (P.P.L.) for players in the ratings database. It only includes players who have lost 20 or more games, and who have a P.P.L. higher than 1.7. Players with high P.P.L.s may be very good at minimizing their losses when they are going to lose. On the other hand, they may not be very good at gaining first place from a game in which they have second and third place...

POINTS PER LOSS IN RATED TOURNAMENTS SINCE NOVEMBER 1985

Player	Played	Lost	P.P.L.
Arye Gittelman	89	23	2.000
Ferd	164	72	1.938
Daniel Sachs	34	20	1.925
Mike Surridge	449	142	1.798
Bob Henninge	356	160	1.795
Aaron	43	23	1.783
James Orwell	65	41	1.780
Matthew Rose	855	291	1.759
Nathan Calhoun	36	20	1.750
Geoff Myers	884	258	1.740
Andy Purvis	1081	356	1.739
Peter Wright	296	127	1.717
Sunshine	78	34	1.716
Patrick Barrie	1537	538	1.708
Gary Shrimpton	207	93	1.706
Tim Hedger	406	167	1.705

The table contains Americans at the top of the list, both old-timers (Arye, Ferd, Bob) and youngsters (Daniel, Aaron, Nathan). This probably reflects the different style of play in America (e.g. fewer pot-out games). The table also includes some 'good' players—those who win far more games than they lose, and do limit the damage on the occasions when they lose (Mike, Matthew, Geoff, Andy). Possibly the strangest entry in the table is James Orwell (Oxford 1991-93). He has an unusually high P.P.L. despite the fact he lost 63% of the games in which he played. Of current players who have not yet lost 20 tournament games, it will be interesting to observe the progress of Liz Batty (played 18, lost 13, P.P.L. 1.936) and Laura Clarke (played 18, lost 12, P.P.L. 1.903).

WORLD SINGLES 57

PLAYED IN THE ERASMUS ROOM, QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE ON SUNDAY 6TH APRIL 2003

Patrick Barrie

Patrick Barrie	2	4	0*	1	2	9
Matthew Rose	5	3	7*	6	5	26

Matthew Rose became the sixth Briton to hold this title (to go with five Americans). His victory meant that he was the world everything, having won the World Pairs the week before.

The score line of 29–9 that reflects the fact that Matthew played very well, and that Patrick missed the occasional important squop in games 3 and 4.

WORLD SINGLES 58

PLAYED IN THE OLD KITCHENS, QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE ON FRIDAY 25TH APRIL 2003

Larry Kahn

Matthew Rose	2*	6	2½	2*	2	2*	15½
Larry Kahn	5*	1	4½	5*	5	5*	26½

Larry Kahn regained the World Singles title 26½–15½ over Matthew Rose in a pretty well played match that was a lot closer than the final score indicates. The match could have easily been tied (or close to it) going into game 7 had Matthew made one of several longish potout-saving squops in game 6. It was an odd match in that the three blitzes were all by Larry, who is not known for initiating lots of potouts. Overall, the play was fairly even, Larry may have had a bring-in advantage while Matthew's overall potting percentage could well have been higher than Larry's. Here are the game by game notes.

GAME 1

Good bring-ins by both sides provide some early pot-out threats. Solid squopping by Matthew gradually ties up Larry's reds. However, at this point Larry frees his sixth blue though one is awkwardly positioned on a singleton. Matthew doesn't attempt the easiest squop, but tries an alternative squop that if it misses will threaten several blues. Larry runs the six winks but good potting by Matthew gets 2 points. [2–5]

GAME 2

Again, there are early blitz threats by both sides. Matthew does well to induce Larry to play slightly in Matthew's area (where the last squopped reds are), and eventually achieves a squop-up. After repeated attacks on the main pile, Larry finally is able to blow it up at the end of regulation, with the possibility of salvaging some points. Larry then misses some shots, and sensible play by Matthew gives him a safe 6–1 win. [8–6]

GAME 3

This was a close squopping game which became a potting race in rounds. After good potting by both players, Larry has the chance to win by ending round 5 by potting blues off greens to give him a score between 4 and $5\frac{1}{2}$. Only one blue goes in, so it ends $4\frac{1}{2}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$ to Larry. [$10\frac{1}{2}$ – $10\frac{1}{2}$]

GAME 4

Larry brings in well with blue and decides to play aggressively. After boondocking one of the greens out of a doubleton, Blue now has six straightforward pots though one big blue is totalling a small green. Green misses a squop, while Yellow's squop attempt merely knocks the blue off the green wink, though it ends up in quite a nurdled position. Larry runs the six winks, and again Matthew pots well to gets a 2. [$12\frac{1}{2}$ – $15\frac{1}{2}$]

GAME 5

Some early bad luck by Matthew gives Larry a good position, but one in which there are few guards. Larry successfully defends all of the attacks until Matthew finally manages at the start of rounds to blow up the massive pile that has formed. Suddenly there are no winks whatsoever under enemy control (though there are a few same-side squops) and a potting race ensues. Larry plays well to get another 5. [$14\frac{1}{2}$ – $20\frac{1}{2}$]

GAME 6

This is the game that Matthew wants back for sure. Again, there are early pot-out threats by both sides; Larry temporarily defuses the red threat with a three-inch squop of the red farthest from the cup in an isolated area. Attention now turns to Larry's yellows, five of which are close while the sixth is only six inches from the pot. He starts the blitz, but ends up missing the pot of his fifth wink not once but twice. Larry is lucky that Matthew misses four squop attempts at yellow (all from 4–6 inches) before completing the pot-out for the match. Another 5–2 results after Larry's sixth green twice bounces out of a full pot. [$16\frac{1}{2}$ – $25\frac{1}{2}$]

THE BOUNDARY RULE—A FEWER CONTROVERSIAL SUGGESTION

Julian Wiseman

The boundary rule is subject to a long running dispute, about which agreement is far beyond any likely horizon. This short essay is not about that—it is about a different part of the boundary rule. Instead it asks about piles straddling the boundary. As an example, such a pile might start when a sixth wink bounces off the pot and off the table, is squopped at the edge during the missed turn, with other winks then joining in. So, though boundary-straddling piles are rare, they can happen. When they do, what happens? The October-2001 rules are clear:

7(a) ... Any wink wholly or partially leaving the field of play is immediately replaced on the field of play 22 mm from the boundary.

In other words, winks straddling the boundary are removed from any pile of which they may be a part, and replaced flat on the mat. Doing this may of course unbalance the pile, changing which winks are over which others. This would be unspeakably horrible for the umpire. And indeed, exactly because of this problem, winks within piles that are touching the internal boundary are left alone:

7(b) ... If a wink comes to rest in a position where it is neither squopping nor squopped but supported by the pot ...

Can something similar be done for the external boundary, and if so, what? There are several possibilities.

Gravity is King. There is a certain easy-to-adjudicate cleanness in saying that a wink on the floor is off the table, and a wink on the table is on. This would work well if all tables were sufficiently small that the mats overhung by so much that even the baselines were unsupported. But some tables are larger: typically the baselines are supported, as sometimes is the edge of the felt.

Instead something similar could be done by a **No External Support** rule, which would say that all the winks in a pile that has no external support are on, and likewise, if a pile is externally supported all its winks are off. But this would require a definition of ‘support’, a definition not used elsewhere in the rules. For example, if a fibre rises from the off side of a baseline to touch a wink in a pile, is that pile supported? If a wink rests on a small piece of fluff, such that it overhangs the baseline but does not touch the off side, would it be on? These questions are answerable, but would the new and large definitional apparatus really be worthwhile given how rarely it would come into force? My view is not.

An alternative, here labelled **Mandatory Unsquopped On**, says that if a pile contains an unsquopped wink that is not overhanging the edge, the whole pile is on, and if it doesn’t, it’s off. This rule has several disadvantages, alas not overwhelmed by its one fantastic advantage. The advantage is that a Thorpe’s Ring would be defined out of exis-

tence, thus shortening Rules Meetings by a significant fraction of an hour. That must have merit. However, this rule would still allow an unsquopped wink far from the felt, if on a 'xylophone' pile connecting it to an unsquopped wink on the felt. My instinct is not to like the playing of winks that are far from the felt, and it would be especially harsh if it were put there by a freeing shot.

So we move to **No Unsquopped Off**, which says that if a pile contains an unsquopped wink that is not wholly above the playing surface, then the whole pile is off. This has one small but tolerable disadvantage, which concerns the non-playing surface. The rules specify the playing surface

3. ... The mat should be placed on a hard smooth horizontal surface so that the whole of the mat's surface is itself horizontal. ... If the surface is unsatisfactory owing to bumps, ridges, cracks etc., the players must agree before the game commences what action is to be taken to avoid the surface's irregularities.

but the rules impose no constraints on the non-playing surface. Yet, for those winks wholly or partially off the mat, it would be necessary to judge whether they are squopped or squopping. If the non-playing surface is not flat, or even worse has caves or flaps, then this can introduce unwanted complications.

Many of these awkwardnesses can be avoided with a **One Out All Out** rule: if any wink is off, so are all the winks in that pile. This is the easiest to adjudicate, and minimises off-mat play.

My preference is for **One Out All Out**, with **No Unsquopped Off** as an acceptable second choice.

Either of these rules can cause many winks simultaneously to be deemed off. But it is still necessary to specify which point on the boundary the wink is deemed to have crossed, so that it may be replaced:

7(a) ... The wink should be placed as near as possible to the point at which it crossed the boundary

There are three obvious possibilities: the nearest point on the external boundary to the centre of the wink; the nearest point on the external boundary to the nearest edge of the wink (analogously to the squidge off); or where a straight line drawn from the centre of the pot through the centre of the wink crosses the boundary. [Of course, the first two of these possibilities are the same, I am surprised that Julian did not notice this]. I have no strong preference between these possibilities, but one should be chosen.

And what difference would all this have? In almost all games, none. In a minuscule proportion of games it will spare the umpire from playing Jenga with an important pile, at the price of making it slightly more difficult to hold down a sixth wink near the boundary. This is a reasonable exchange.

THE ETWA NATIONAL PAIRS

PLAYED IN THE BOWETT ROOM, QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, ON SATURDAY 26TH AND SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2003

Larry Kahn

All-play-all		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Tot
A	Matt Fayers Larry Kahn		5	5½	7*	5½	0*	7*	6	6	42
B	Nick Inglis Matthew Rose	2		2	5½	7*	4	7*	6	5	38½
C	Simon Gandy Ed Wynn	1½	5		2	1	7*	7*	3	5*	31½
D	Alan Dean Jon Maply	0*	2½	5		4½	3	6	6	6	33
E	Tim Hunt Charles Relle	1½	0*	6	2½		6	1	6	4	27
F	Patrick Barrie Paul Moss	7*	3	0*	4	1		2	1*	5	23
G	Dave Lockwood Max Lockwood	0*	0*	0*	1	6	5		4	1*	17
H	Chris Abram James Cullingham	1	1	4	1	1	6*	3		1*	18
I	Andrew Garrard Stew Sage	1	2	2*	1	3	2	6*	6*		23

Perhaps the reason I did so well at this year's pairs was because it resembled one of our own pairs tournaments. The number of entrants was small (only nine pairs) and 16.67% of the tournament came from the USA. The quality was quite high though, as Dave & Max found out. It has been years since you could just show up unpractised at an ETwA tournament and play your way into shape by the end. This approach will get you killed, since ETwA now has a ton of good players.

Format was all play all, followed by a split of the top five and bottom four; each of those groups playing a final full round robin. There was a somewhat clear top five, but always the possibility that one of the lower seeds could sneak in. Patrick & Paul (were they even lower seeds?) showed they were serious by taking 7 off of eventual winners Larry & Matt, but could not quite crack final five. No game was easy since any one of the pairs could easily beat any of the others.

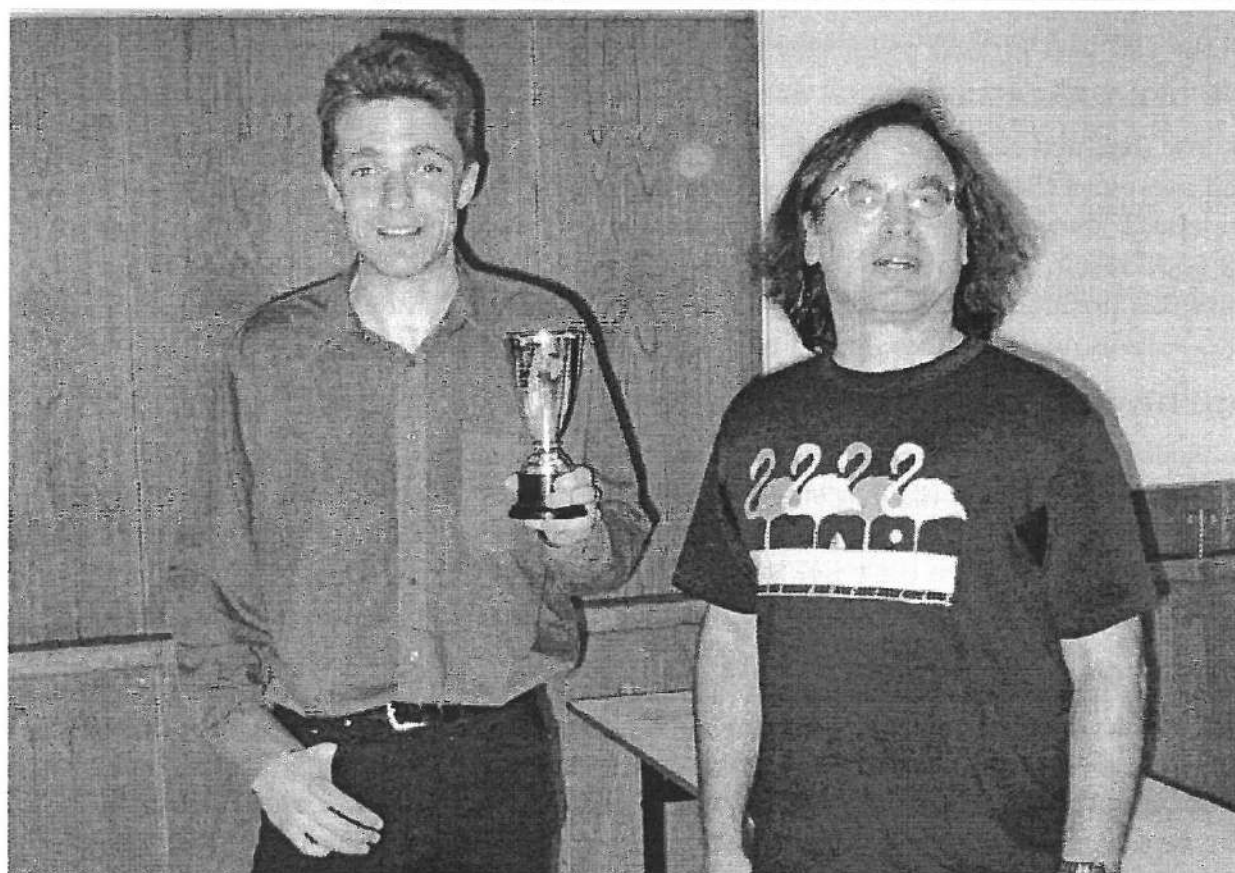
Eventually, things sorted themselves out, and on the second day it appeared to be a two horse race between Larry & Matt and Matthew & Nick. It was good to see this second pair since with Geoff unable to play, Matthew had not planned on being there, but at the last minute he was able to snare a comparable substitute in Nick. With their second place

finish (and WP challenge) it could set up a case for the “chosen substitute” rule.

Going in to the penultimate round Larry & Matt held a useful 3½ lead, but it looked like the final game (against Matthew & Nick) would likely decide the tournament. But a strange combination of events (Larry’s final round potout leading to a 7 and an upset 4–3 win by Tim & Charles over Matthew & Nick) made the final game moot as Larry & Matt successfully defended their title.

Top five		C/f	A	B	C	D	E	Tot
A	Matt Fayers Larry Kahn	42		6*	6	7*	5*	66
B	Nick Inglis Matthew Rose	38½	1*		4	7*	3	53½
C	Alan Dean Jon Mapley	33	1	3		6	4	46
D	Simon Gandy Ed Wynn	31½	0*	0*	1		6*	38½
E	Tim Hunt Charles Relle	27	2*	4	3	1*		37

Bottom four		C/f	A	B	C	D	Tot
A	Patrick Barrie Paul Moss	23		6*	6*	7*	42
B	Chris Abram James Cullingham	18	1*		6	6	31
C	Andrew Garrard Stew Sage	23	1*	1		1	26
D	Dave Lockwood Max Lockwood	17	0*	1	6		24



LEARNING FROM A NOCTURNAL COMPUTER PLAYER

Charles Relle

I have been playing a lot of friendly (no, really) games against Andrew Garrard recently. While it would be nice if I could say this experience has improved my understanding of the game, it has rather taught me that being puzzled by the play of my opponents may be more general than particular, and that the only way I can overcome their greater intelligence is to be able to play more bizarre shots at unexpected moments.

Nevertheless, I have learned something about Andrew as a result of these games, so naturally some observations about him may seep into this article; they are not intended as criticisms, and I would not want anyone to think they are.

NIGHT IS DAY

I am generally the one to contact Andrew for a proposed game. We play at my house, as I have a full sized table. The best time to contact him is just after I get up, at five-thirty in the morning. This way my emails get an immediate reply, just before he goes to bed.

TIME STANDS STILL

I have learned how to make allowances for my opponent's play, or rather for the timing of his arrival. When he rings up to say he is just setting out, I do not stop the clock after thirty seconds: I just allow for five rounds and twenty minutes; that is, five times round the M25 and a twenty minute dash down the M20.

IT'S ONLY A GAME

I know this, and here apologise to opponents and partners alike if I get more agitated than most and show it. I know it does not do much good. Being much older than everyone else, I always worry whether the tournament before any given tournament was my last good result, and whether I am finally over the hill. I do not expect anyone to understand this position, because I am alone in it. Deep down, I know it is only a game, and not a serious one, and this is why I play it, as opposed to, say, Bridge.

YOU HAVE BEEN THERE BEFORE

An older player knows the risks better, and the consequences when a potentially dazzling row of shots is interrupted by a single mistake. In the 1987 Singles, I potted three against Stewart Sage in the game after lunch, failed with the fourth, and lost 0*-7*. This probably cost me the tournament, as I finished 1½ points behind Larry Kahn. Games like these impress themselves on the memory, and make people more conscious of risks.

STRATEGY BREAKS

Or does strategy break down? If it is a good strategy to try to pot out before the opponent, what is the objection? Andrew avoids it "on grounds of tedium". What does this phrase mean? Is it tedious to pot out? No. Is it tedious to be potted out against? No; it may be humiliating, but not tedious. The players are left with a new game and a new

challenge; in fact, more fun. Having no strategy myself (so I am told), I naturally cannot work out the strategies of other people, so Andrew's bizarre strategy passes me by. I am at a loss to understand what wonders it has worked, given the results in terms of points (if he counts my paranoia as a result, he is wrong; many people will say I was always paranoid).

If I have no strategy, I at least have two strategic aims: the first is to put each wink in the place where I think it will most trouble the opponent; the second is to squop him up in round 2 or 3, with enough free shots not to have to think about the remaining rounds.

KNOWING YOUR OPPONENT

Some people, more cunning than myself, are aware of what strategies will work against a given opponent. I am gradually learning this, and try to play a kind of game my opponent will dislike; thus I will allow Andrew to dig his own grave with bizarre strategy. I am aware that other people can play some shots better than I can, and try to watch them in order to improve my own technique. This is how I learnt to play Bristol shots. One day I will master Andrew's millimetric nudges of piles, gromp as well as I can Bristol, and succeed with the Lennon.

One manoeuvre I disdain to use is the Scarrott Stop. This consists in so placing your forearm that if you overhit a shot, you prevent the wink from going off the mat.

BAD DAYS AND FORTUNE

Sometimes you play badly, and sometimes you are unlucky. Because bad luck can induce you to play badly, it is not always easy to make an honest distinction between the two. I am working hard on this, and, I think, mourn my bad play more than my bad luck, perhaps because the former is more frequent. I also try to acknowledge my own good luck and the good play of others. Andrew is right; when things are going badly, play less ambitiously.

And finally

Tiddlywinks, including my games with Andrew, has provided me with more good fun and good company than I can say.

THE HAMLET OF TIDDLEYWINK

From the London Metro, spotted by Patrick Barrie

The tiny hamlet of Tiddleywink is back on the map, years after its name sign was knocked over in an accident. The hamlet has just eight cottages and residents were determined to preserve its identity. Now they are celebrating because Wiltshire County Council has put up two new signs. Cllr Jane Scott, who represents the village, said: "It's a name that makes me smile when I drive through. When other people drive along here and see the name, it will make them smile too." Tiddleywink's name dates back to when one of the cottages was a pub. In rhyming slang, a drink is called a tiddleywink.

THE WORLD RATINGS—POST LONDON OPEN

The Algorithm

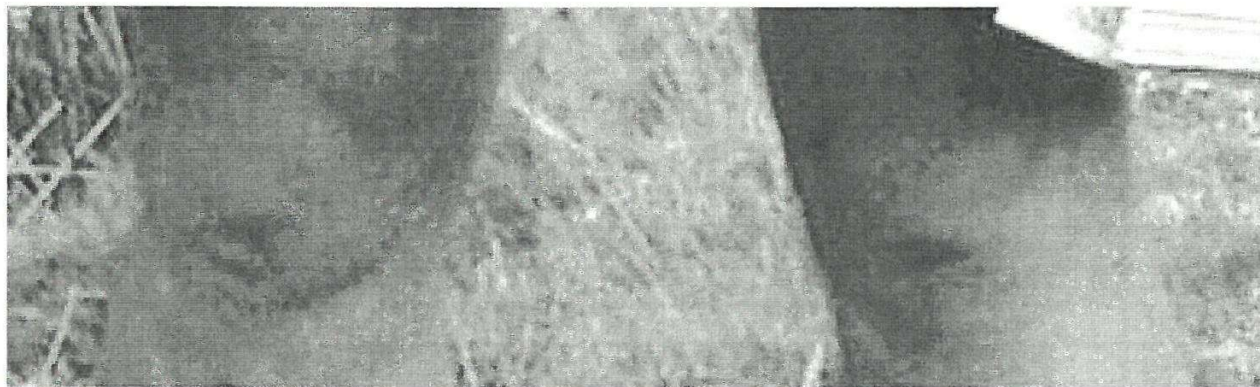
Position	Player	Rating	Rating reliability factor	Games in the last year	P.P.G. in the last year
1	Larry Kahn	2511	100	58	4.862
2	Geoff Myers	2443	88	4	6.25
3	Matthew Rose	2397	100	65	4.631
4	Patrick Barrie	2304	100	119	3.923
5	Matt Fayers	2296	100	77	4.468
6	Dave Lockwood	2266	100	51	3.804
7	Jon Mapley	2235	100	37	4
8	Charles Relle	2223	100	85	4.241
9	Bob Henninge	2205	94	14	4.75
10	Alan Dean	2198	100	87	4.082
11	Simon Gandy	2158	100	35	3.529
12	Nick Inglis	2128	100	59	3.901
13	Ed Wynn	2092	100	103	3.752
14	Ferd	2076	91	11	4.091
15	Severin Drix	2064	94	13	3.423
16	Andrew Dominey	2056	78	5	4.9
17	Tim Hunt	2036	100	85	3.522
18	Phil Scarrott	1945	94	14	3.262
19	Kilian Anheuser	1941	84	12	4.917
20	Geoff Thorpe	1937	100	17	3
21	Chris Abram	1932	100	62	3.452
22	James Cullingham	1897	100	90	3.039
23	Christine Barrie	1894	95	34	3.603
24	Mac McAvoy	1890	92	11	3.455
25	Tim Jeffreys	1889	92	20	3.625
26	Rupert Thompson	1884	100	19	2.132
27	Keith Seaman	1852	68	4	4.875
28	Paul Moss	1845	100	79	3.435
29	Patrick Driscoll	1816	100	45	3.085
30	Aaron	1804	80	13	3.577
31	Andrew Garrard	1796	100	65	2.838
32	Stew Sage	1751	100	77	2.626
33	Charlie Oakley	1739	95	18	3.213
34	Dan Choate	1726	40	6	4.722
35	Vanya Temnykh	1726	76	10	3
36	James Murray	1723	74	7	3.571
37	Bhaskar Thakur	1674	34	5	4.8
38	Cyril Edwards	1669	91	15	2.8
39	Tim Batham	1650	62	4	3.875

Position	Player	Rating	Rating reliability factor	Games in the last year	P.P.G. in the last year
40	Stu Collins	1640	63	4	2.5
41	Matt Moorhouse	1639	45	4	5.25
42	Paul Woodman	1603	62	2	1
43	Prabhas Pokharel	1601	78	13	3.615
44	Ben Fairbairn	1592	92	36	3.551
45	Paul Goodman	1576	70	12	3.083
46	Alan Harper	1574	100	72	2.294
47	Andrea Gorman	1568	37	4	5.25
48	Eric Trautmann	1538	35	1	0
49	Anthony Curl	1522	40	6	3.75
50	Pete Barton	1516	32	1	1
51	Rachel Gray	1505	25	4	3.083
52	Max Lockwood	1502	86	20	2.4
53	Daniel Sachs	1475	53	2	3
54	Rachel Chisholm	1456	29	5	3.1
55	Navindu Katugampola	1456	28	6	3.583
56	Jon Lockwood	1451	65	11	2.545
57	Robert Ochshorn	1451	58	7	2.214
58	Laura Clarke	1449	48	18	2.907
59	Peter Sherman	1449	46	4	1.5
60	Andrew Allen	1443	34	6	2.917
61	Louise Murphy	1439	20	2	3
62	Ann Carter	1429	27	4	3.083
63	Rob Payne	1428	46	5	2.4
64	Hane Maung	1428	13	2	3
65	Andrew Walpole	1420	41	4	3.5
66	Mike Tilton	1411	54	7	1.857
67	Julian Hazeldine	1410	18	2	1
68	Claire Hart	1406	9	2	2.5
69	Matt Harper	1402	29	4	3.125
70	Paula Foster	1401	22	6	2.167
71	Anne Austin	1391	9	1	1
72	Sarah Quinn	1377	32	6	2.667
73	Sarah Stewart-Johnson	1374	1	1	2
74	Liz Batty	1372	55	18	2.88
75	Poppy Aldam	1367	32	5	1.4
76	Naomi Stevens	1367	20	3	0.833
77	Oliver Frith	1365	25	5	1.6
78	Emma Drysdale	1363	16	2	0.5
79	Andrew Hodges	1358	21	3	0.667
80	Liz Bertoya	1350	17	2	0.5
81	Bryan Ellerbock	1341	45	7	0.571
82	Katy Carson	1327	13	2	0
83	Kate Nicholls	1320	16	3	0

PICTURE COMPETITION—WHOSE KNEES ARE THESE?

As winking world editor, I am sometimes disturbed by what arrives in ones inbox. Consider, for example, the image below, which was sent to me by, well, actually, he, or possibly she, requested anonymity. Not necessarily what one wants to see when one gets home from work and switches on ones computer to check ones email.

These are the knees of an eminent winker. It was suggested that I invite you to guess which winker they belong to. Submit your answers to the new editor on a piece of batter pudding.



NAME THE BABY COMPETITION

Tim Hunt

The birth of a son to parents, both of whom are tiddlywinkers, is a rare and important occurrence. The naming of such a fated child should not be left to chance, or to the mere whim of the parents. Well, actually, they called him Christopher, as I suppose is their right. But what should they have called him? The best suggestion of the name that Patrick and Christine's should have given their son that I receive before the end of the 2003 National Singles will win a bottle of fizzy wine.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Tim Hunt

Congratulations to Patrick and Christine on the birth of their son Christopher.

Ed Wynn is now gainfully employed in Birmingham.

I have had a paper published: T. J. Hunt and R. S. MacKay, "Anosov parameter values for the triple linkage and a physical system with a uniformly chaotic attractor", *Nonlinearity* 16 p. 1499–1519 (2003).

THE ETWA COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN

Patrick Barrie

15 Badminton Close
Cambridge
CB4 3NW

pjb10@cam.ac.uk

01223 501598 (home)

01223 331864 (work)

TREASURER

Stewart Sage

Queens' College
Cambridge
CB3 9ET

sos10@cam.ac.uk

01223 335607 (phone)

01223 335563 (fax)

TOURNAMENT ORGANISER

Matthew Fayers

Magdalene College
Cambridge
CB3 0AG

mf205@cam.ac.uk

01223 332157

SECRETARY

Ed Wynn

Flat 3, Warwick Crest,
Arthur Road,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham B15 2LH

ejwwynn@yahoo.co.uk

077 7171 4323 (mobile)

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Andrew Garrard

18 Abbey Grove
Abbey Wood
London
SE2 9EX

fluppeteer@hotmail.com

07968 791892 (mobile)

WINKING WORLD EDITOR

Andrew Garrard

18 Abbey Grove
Abbey Wood
London
SE2 9EX

fluppeteer@hotmail.com

07968 791892 (mobile)