

League matches

30.9.2015 set by Charabancs. Bards score 42 (highest Albert 45) Win v Electric Pigs (25)

Wins for the Bards, the Opsimaths, Mantis Shrimp and Albert

A tough paper with an average aggregate of 63.6 some way below the overall average for last season of 70.5.

Bards "We enjoyed a relaxed evening with the Pigs. Having four bingo rounds was certainly overegging that pudding although the Biblical Blockbuster Bingo was enjoyable. Quizzing was pretty much level pegging - indeed the Pigs enjoyed an early lead.

ROUND 1 - Themed - 'The first letter of each answer forms the name of a correspondent of John and Siouxsie'

Theme: **The answers spell out 'P-R-U-D-E-N-C-E' as in *Dear Prudence* written by John Lennon in 1968 and covered by Siouxsie and the Banshees in 1983**

ROUND 2 - Internally paired

ROUNDS 3 & 4 - 'Biblical Blockbuster Bingo'

Choose your question based on the initial letters of the words in the answer

Each answer contains the name of a person or place in the Bible

ROUND 5 - Themed - 'It's Bingo - but not as you usually know it!'

Theme: **In celebration of Yorkshire winning the County Championship for the second successive season this round consists of key words and phrases from Boycott Bingo, the game played by listeners to *Test Match Special* who tick off Sir Geoffrey's somewhat limited range of comments on the test match action**

ROUND 6 - Internally paired

ROUND 7 & 8 - 'Euro Bingo'

Just pick a number – Each answer is (or contains) a European city

7.10.2015 set by Opsimaths. Bards score 44 (highest Dunkin' Dönitz 50) Win v Mantis Shrimp (39)

Wins for Ethel, DD, Bards, Albert and the Pigs

A very high-scoring paper with an average aggregate of 86.6.

Generously Bards Sarah and Dom switched sides to help Rachael and Adam, and even up the contest. "A great paper with plenty of points to be hoovered up and not a Bingo round in sight! Some of the themes were a bit impenetrable but it didn't really matter."

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Tubular Bells** The classic record album released in 1973

ROUND 2 - 'Places with Airports'

While on his travels, the setter of this round has been to airports in the following places, but he never actually visited the town or city to which the airport belonged!

ROUND 3 - 'A Rose by Any Other Name'

A Round about Name Changes

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

The answers to the following all have something in common

Theme: **They all died in the bathroom or toilet**

Agamemnon, slain by his wife Clytemnestra in a bath; Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus, (161 - 192) strangled in his bath, by the wrestler Narcissus; George II, (1683 - 1760), died of an aortic dissection while using his toilet; Judy Garland, (1922 - 1969), died of a drug overdose in the bathroom of her London house; Jim Morrison, (1943 - 1971), died in the bathtub of his hotel in Paris, reason of death, unknown; Evelyn Waugh, (1903 - 1966), died while sitting on the toilet; Lenny Bruce, (1925 - 1966), died of a morphine overdose in the bathroom of his home in Beverly Hills, California; Jean-Paul Marat, (1743 - 1793), stabbed to death by Charlotte Corday in his bathtub; Whiney Houston (1963 - 2012), died in a hotel bathroom in Beverly Hills, of drowning and the 'effects of atherosclerotic heart disease and cocaine use'; Elvis Presley, (1935 - 1977), died of a heart attack in the bathroom of his home, Graceland, in Memphis, Tennessee

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Post-war England Wicket-Keepers**

Alan Knott 1967-1981; Bob Taylor 1971-1984; Paul Downton 1981-1988; Jack Russell 1988-1998; Arthur McIntyre 1950-1955; Alec Stewart 1991-2003; Jim Parks 1960-1968; Bruce French 1986-1988; Matt Prior 2007-2014; Geraint Jones 2004-2006; & Godfrey Evans 1946-1959

ROUND 6 - 'Addresses'

All the questions in this round involve addresses of places

ROUND 7 - 'Snap, Crackle & Pop'

All the answers in this round are onomatopoeic or contain an onomatopoeic element

ROUND 8 - 'Home, Sweet Home'

At least one word in each answer connects with the next answer in a disjointed sort of way

Link: **Words from the first stanza of Sir John Betjeman's poem *Slough***

"Come, friendly bombs, and fall on Slough! It isn't fit for humans now, There isn't grass to graze a cow. Swarm over, Death!"

14.10.15 set by Electric Pigs. Bards score 39 (highest Opsimaths 48). Loss to Dunkin' Dönitz (42)

Wins for the Opsis, DD, Ethel, the Prodigals and the Charas

Dunkin' Dönitz understandably ecstatic at having vanquished one of their main rivals. "A terrific battle, both teams at full strength. Rounds 2 and 3 were unusual in that we won Round 2 by 8 points to 2 and the Bards promptly returned our fire by taking Round 3 by 8 to 3. At the end of that the score was 15 all and thereafter the end of round scores were level, plus 2 to the Bards, plus 1 to the Donuts, level again and finally we ran out winners by three. Only 6 questions unanswered. "

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Theme: **All the answers contain the name of a jockey past or present**

Charlotte Brew, Ruby Walsh, Pat Taaffe, Royston Ffrench, Richard Hughes, Willie Carson, Richard Dunwoody, Tom Queally and Walter Swinburn

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Oxbridge colleges**

Lincoln ; Exeter ; Worcester ; Clare ; Corpus Christi ; Selwyn ; Merton ; St. Peter; Mansfield

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the surname of a member of the Shadow Cabinet**

Kate Green, Hilary Benn, Andy Burnham, Heidi Alexander, Lucy Powell, Tom Watson, Angela/Maria Eagle, Rosie Winterton and Gloria De Piero

ROUND 4 - Paired Questions

ROUND 5 - 'Top to Tail'

The last letter of the first answer becomes the first letter of the second answer and so on, with the last letter of the last answer becoming the first letter of the first answer

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme

There is a relationship between question and answer that is common to all the questions

Theme: **All answers are aptonyms, i.e the names are appropriate for their jobs**

(...in BOTH cases, you could argue, for the 2 Arsenal managers - Arsène Wenger for obvious reasons and Bertie Mee also as exemplified by Jose Mourinho, when it comes to football management, it IS all about me)!

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains a homophone of a country**

(Ghana, Mali, Ireland, Britain, Laos, Luxembourg, Korea, Chile and Greece)

ROUND 8 - Paired Questions

21.10.15 set by Dunkin' Dönitz. Highest score Ethel Rodin / Bards 50. Win v Opsimaths (36)

Wins for Albert, Ethel, Pigs. Bards hammer The Opsimaths; The History Men score their first league points of the season

Average aggregate just topping 80 points for the second time in the four weeks of the season played. Questions fair, well-balanced and generally enjoyable. Everyone enjoyed the 'Back To The Future' round.

Ethel Rodin now top, enjoying a one point lead over Albert. **Bards Tony** says "Tonight's quiz was played in the upper room at the Tennis Club, a splendid venue for a quiz. The Bar staff were most obliging, ferrying chairs, tables and beer in great quantities. Dönitz set a quiz which was supremely suited to the Bards' strengths with Steve and Sarah flourishing on a musical diet. There was only one unanswered question.

ROUND 1 - Sci-fi theme

Each answer refers to the title of a novel on Goodread's list of 100 best sci-fi books.

ROUND 2 - Initials theme

FFS - all the answers include a set of three initials

ROUND 3 - 'Man Booker' theme

All the answers contain the surname of a Booker Prize winner.

The authors and their works:

Graham Swift – *Last Orders*, Roddy Doyle – *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, Anita Brookner – *Hotel Du Lac*, Peter Carey – *Oscar and Lucinda* and *True History of the Kelly Gang*, Iris Murdoch – *The Sea, the Sea*, J.G Farrell – *Siege of Krishnapur*, Kingsley Amis – *The Old Devils*, Paul Scott – *Staying On*, Pat Barker-*The Ghost Road*

ROUND 4 - 'Back to the Future' theme

It's Back To The Future II day - yes 21st October 2015

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the name off a Scottish League Football team**

ROUND 6 - 'Top to Tail'

This is a top to tail round where the last letter of the first answer is the first letter of the second answer and so on, right up to the last letter of the last answer being the first letter of the first answer. It also has a musical theme and the eight first letters have an association with something musical.

The initial eight letters spell out M-E-A-T-L-O-A-F, who inflicted the *Bat Out Of Hell* album on an innocent world, this day in 1977

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme

Theme: **All answers refer to Tamla Motown artists....**

The Andantes, The Commodores, Marvin Gaye, The Miracles, Thelma Houston, Diana Ross, The Temptations, Duane Eddy and Smokey Robinson

ROUND 8 - 'It's as easy as 123 as simple as doh re mi'

All the answers include a set of three numbers

28.10.15 set by History Men. Bards score 33 (highest Ethel Rodin 44). Loss to Albert (39)

Wins for Ethel (stay top), Albert (beat Bards to stay a close second), Opsimaths, Prodigals, and The Men (first victory of the season)

The average aggregate at 66 was a tad below the season's average to date (74). A less than grunted Tony."The discerning reader will have noted that we were in the lead until the latter half of the quiz when the curse of the bingo rounds struck. Quizzing is a sport for those who prefer the mental rather than the physical challenges. I doubt if any other area of competition allows pure chance to influence the outcome. The quiz did not play to our strengths, although we did lead up to Round 5. Early in Round 8 the game was lost so we were safe in allowing Steve to dash for his bus as the quiz set by the History Men (in defiance of the new ethos) took ages to get through. I ascribe our defeat to the toss...We went first and paid the price."

ROUND 1 - Reverse pairs across Rounds 1, 2 and 3

ROUND 2 - Reverse pairs across Rounds 1, 2 and 3

ROUND 3 - Reverse pairs across Rounds 1, 2 and 3

ROUND 4 - Pictures

ROUND 5 - 'A Setter past his prime'

Each answer contains a number that is ONE more than a prime number between 0 and 100 e.g. an answer might include the number 24 which is one more than the prime 23

ROUND 6 - 'The Law of History'

Each answer contains a word to which the letters L-A-W or S-L-A-W can be added to make another word or pair of words - beware of sound-alikes

ROUND 7 - East Asia Bingo

All questions are connected with countries from the eastern part of the Asian continent. Pick a country.

ROUND 8 - Lucky dip

Pick any number from 1-14 for your question.

4.11.15 set by TMTCH. Bards score 41 (highest Dunkin' Dönitz 42). Win v Ethel Rodin (39)

Even closer at the top with Albert and Ethel losing and the Bards, Pigs, Dunkers and Opsis winning

The average aggregate was 74.6 - with plenty of close results - and nothing for the Bingo-haters to moan about.

Ethel Rodin loss ended the one remaining unbeaten run of the season, as well as hoisting themselves very much into the title race. *Tony* comments...."The lead changed hands several times and we didn't emerge as winners until question 6 in the final round. We were not overly impressed with the 'Great Continental Divide' question and didn't think Acker Bilk was anything to do with Scooby Doo.....well thought out themes and connections - no bingo, blockbusters or pick your own question rounds"

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Home sweet Home! All answers include a word that is a home, or at least a place of safety, for an animal wild or domestic.

ROUND 2 - Announced theme - "Here are your cards"

All answers include a word that can precede the word card and still make sense

ROUND 3 - Announced theme - "Let's play ball!"

All answers contain a word that is used in the game of baseball

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

All answers include the name of an insurance company that is or was active in the UK.

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

All answers include a word that could have started the next question

ROUND 6 - Announced theme - "Watching the detectives"

All answers include a word that is something a detective might use to solve a case - beware of police slang

ROUND 7 - Announced theme - "What's the point!"

All answers include a word that can precede the word point and still make sense

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme

All answers include a word that is something a car tyre may possess or display.

18.11.15 set by Mantis Shrimp. Bards score 36 (highest History Men 46). Win v Prodigals (34)

Wins for Opsimaths, Bards, History Men and Pigs; Men and Charas fight to a standstill in the season's second tied result

Average aggregate 71.8 If there are going to be paired questions involving more than one answer it would be better that each question required the same number of responses rather than asking one team for 2 answers and the other team for 3.

ROUND 1 - Given theme - 'Cottonopolis'

Where would Cottonopolis be without its mills? The answers to these questions are also to be found in the names of Manchester and Salford mills.

ROUND 2 - Paired

ROUND 3 - Given theme - 'To the memory of Mike Neiman'

This round is a tribute to Rachael's wonderful dad, Mike Neiman, who passed away earlier this year. He had a brilliant sense of humour and a great taste in comedy, literature, film and music.

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Theme: Each answer contains the name of a character from *The Muppets* (from the original TV series onwards)

Rizzo the Rat, Rowlf the Dog, Floyd Pepper, the Swedish Chef, Sam Eagle, Robin the Frog, Animal, Gonzo, Waldorf, Miss Piggy

ROUND 5 - Given theme - 'Science'

All these questions are about science in the news from recent days

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - Given theme - 'Rachael & Adam'

In honour of Rachael and Adam getting married in a couple of weeks, a few questions loosely connected by the subject of marriage

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme

Theme: Each answer contains the name of a board game

25.11.15 set by Bards. Highest score Dunkin' Dönitz 44.

Wins for Dunkin' D, Opsimaths, Pigs, Prodigals and Albert keeping the tussle at the top as tight as ever

Average aggregate a little low (62.8 – compared with season's overall average 72.4). Felt that the 'hardness balance' was tilted in favour of the team going second in the first half, with most unanswerable questions going to the team going first in the first half. "An interesting and reasonably well-balanced paper full of questions which, while we often didn't know the answer, we felt we could or should have done in many cases.

Quote from Pigs. "The Bards of course are very anti Bingo or random choice questions, but pairing questions well is difficult, and random choice can help eliminate pairing errors."

ROUND 1 - 'Paris Match'

A bit of WithQuiz solidarity following recent events

ROUND 2 - Paired

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Disgraced Members of Parliament**

Keith Best, Ron Davis, Tim Yeo, Cecil Parkinson, Harvey Proctor, David Mellor, Jonathan Aitken, Neil Hamilton and Lord John Sewel

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Theme: **The middle names of American Presidents**

Barack Hussein Obama, James Earl Carter, Harry S Truman, William Jefferson Clinton, Richard Milhouse Nixon, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Ronald Wilson Reagan, Gerald Rudolph Ford/George Walker Bush and Herbert Clark Hoover

ROUND 5 - Paired

ROUND 6 - Complete the Sequence

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer refers to a current League 1 or League 2 football stadium**

Adams Park, New York Stadium, Roots Hall, Abbey Stadium, Crown Ground, Kenilworth Road, Vale Park, New Den and New Meadow

ROUND 8 – Paired

2.12.15 set by Albert. Bards score 43 (highest Prodigals / Opsimaths 49). Win v TMTCH (31)

A setback for the high-flying Pigs but otherwise victories for all the top teams

A good high-scoring paper (Average Aggregate 83.4, the second highest of the season so far).

Tony.... " I like the recent trend to set cryptic clues and hope that we shall see more - but the 'Judges' round was just another bingo round with a legal ring to it. The other side was very much against me pressing the Bards to answer promptly because that only seemed to force them into coming up with the right answer rather than wandering off into false speculation. We finished in time for Steve to catch his bus - so a good evening all round."

Other quotes " Naturally, we particularly enjoyed the bingo rounds, especially the 'Pick Your Own Judge' " "We did enjoy the teasing at the expense of the Bards' dislike of bingo and mismatched pairs. In fact we are minded to have a Bingo round consisting of 64 questions just for Tony, with mismatched pairs containing hard ones (i.e. Tony doesn't know the answer) and easy ones (i.e. Tony does know the answer)."

ROUND 1 - Complete the sequence

ROUND 2 - 'Judicial Bingo'

All answers contain a word with a connection to a court of law.

ROUND 3 - Pot Pourri

ROUND 4 - Paired 'Pick Your Own'

ROUND 5 - Paired 'Pick Your Own'

ROUND 6 - Cryptic Clues

For each cryptic clue, there are two answers - add a letter to the first word to give the answer to the second clue, e.g. annoy a relative is bother/brother

ROUND 7 - Picture Round - 'Christmas Traditions'

In Catalonia, the figure of a pooping Catalan peasant man is an established part of any Nativity scene. He is called the Caganer, which means crapper in Catalan. The tradition also dictates that you can use a world figure, celebrity or other person of note. Name the following celebrity poopers.

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a fictional detective**

9.12.15 set by Prodigals. Bards score 43 (highest Ethel Rodin 50). Win v Charabancs (40)

Bards, Dunkin' Dönitz, Pigs, Opsimaths and Ethel Rodin all win on a high-scoring paper

An aggregate score of 79.4 meant that this season's trend of keeping 'unanswerables' to the bare minimum was maintained. Charabancs on losing to Bards "This is only the second time this season that we have notched up 40 points on a quiz paper and yet still come off second best, our highest scoring loss so far, and against one of the superstar teams of the league, so we actually felt more celebratory at the close of tonight's proceedings. Seemed like a game of 2 halves with the Charas quickly falling behind at the start of the match and the gap ominously widening with each round until half time. In the second half we gradually came into our own and reduced the gap with each round so that, for the first time in ages, it felt like we could actually have won if only there had been one more round to go." Tony.... "As the evening wore on and the Charas gained in confidence, we began to wonder if our perennial nemesis was about to strike again. The conviviality of the evening was greatly assisted by.....the Charas agreement that the definition of a 'hard' question should be one that neither team can answer and an 'easy' question as one that everyone in both teams can answer." "We appreciated the thought and homework entailed. The newly established 'Bingo on a theme' type of round does not attract criticism from the Bards as, for instance, a simple series of numbers undoubtedly would."

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme - 'Am I Missing Something?'

Theme: **Each answer contains the last name of a British Prime Minister, minus its first letter**

Thatcher; Wellington; Blair; Pitt; Eden; Peel ;Grey; Disraeli

ROUND 3 - Stated theme

Each answer contains a word or words that refers to a winner in the recent American Music Awards

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme - 'Leader of the Pack'

Theme: Each answer contains a reference to something, or someone, associated with Jeremy Corbyn

ROUND 5 - 'Close to our Hearts'

Initial letters of the answers will spell out an anagram of a word that is close to all our hearts

Initial letters of each answer make an anagram of 'WithQuiz'

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme - 'Eric, Alan, Hilton, John and Chas'

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a mammal which can be found in the UK**

(and Eric, Alan, Hilton, John and Chas were the first names of the 1960s pop band The Animals)

ROUND 7 - 'Last Name/First Name'

Each question contains two clues, relating to two separate people, both of which are in the same field or profession; the last name of the first person is the first name of the second person e.g. Meg Ryan and Ryan Gosling; name both

ROUND 8 - 'Disney Bingo' Round

Pick your own Disney film; the film you pick will have the name of a character from that film included in the answer, either as a whole word or part of a word

16.12.15 set by Ethel Rodin. Highest score Bards 44. Win v History Men (32)

Wins for Dunkin' Dönitz, Bards, Opsimaths, Albert and CMS

Average aggregate 66.8 below the season's average of 73.5 but there was plenty of interesting material and one or two controversies. Both hidden and given themes were well executed.

Quote from History Men who lost to **Bards**.. "A 12 point defeat is pretty bad and the only mitigation is that it could have been worse as we were 19 points behind after round 6. Unfortunately the first half of the quiz was somewhat unbalanced with the team going first getting all four unanswerables. The game ended on quite a high combined score but the Bards got rather more steals and Steve got far too many twos for us to have a chance tonight." *Other Quotes* "A quiz doesn't have to be a pointsfest to be good and this one certainly was full of enough interest to keep the brain cells twitching. We liked the words which could go before or after 'black' which had lots of tempting red herrings."

ROUND 1 - Anagrams

All the answers contain an anagram of the current or former name of a country

ROUND 2 - Pot luck

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Presented as pairs

Theme: **Star Wars film titles**

Return of the Jedi - The Phantom Menace - The Empire Strikes Back - Attack of the Clones - A New Hope - Revenge of the Sith - The Force Awakens - The Empire Strikes Back (again)

ROUND 4 - Paired

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains a reference to an item of ladies' clothing**

ROUND 6 - The 'Black Round'

Each answer contains a word that may be preceded or followed by the work 'black'

ROUND 7 – Paired

ROUND 8 - Pot luck

13.1.16 set by Charabancs. Highest score Bards 49. Win v Ethel Rodin (32)

Wins for Bards, Opsimaths, Albert, Shrimps and Pigs

Tony reports...."A very enjoyable evening"

History Men declared second best WithQuizzers of all time, ie sixteen years, 1999 to 2015 (despite never having finished first). Dunkin' Dönitz first. Bards placed 6th

ROUND 1 - Tarting up the Elements'

Each answer is the name of a chemical element

ROUND 2 - Paired

ROUND 3 - Paired

ROUND 4 - 'The 13th January' Blockbuster round

Dedicated to notable things that occurred on this day in history.

ROUND 5 - 'Ten things that Father Megson never knew'

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Sea-faring**

ROUND 8 – Paired

20.1.16 set by Opsimaths. Bards score 44 (highest History Men 48). Win v Charabancs (36)

Wins for Bards, Dunkin' D, Albert, Ethel and History Men

Overall aggregate average 83.2. Questions interesting and accessible.

Bards Tony "A most enjoyable evening. Dom was the stand-in QM. He proved more than able to withstand the persistent moaning, groaning and ribaldry. One or two questions along the way to which the answer seemed so obvious that everybody smelled a rat (or suspected there was a trap). We decided that, if the answer was obvious, we'd go for it. It was all bluff and double-bluff. Quizzing is all in the mind so who cares if you talk yourself out of a couple of points."

Other comments The papers which generate long-drawn out matches are those where there are too many questions which lead to lengthy conferences rather than those with lots of text.

"A scrupulously fair paper. We liked the sportsmen famous for other things and the 'Time Person of the Year' round. " "I had the bad luck to win the toss and after last week's experience I offered the choice to the Prodigals. They had been similarly skewered last Wednesday so they offered it straight back. Trusting to the Opsimaths' experience and fairness in question-setting, I opted for the default of going first only to discover at the end of the evening that we had twice the number of unanswered questions fired in our direction as our opponents" "We managed to score zero points on the beer questions, so clean living isn't what it is cracked up to be. "

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme appropriate to the round

Theme: **All the answers contain the number 1 in various languages:**

'Bir' in Turkish; 'Odin' in Russian; 'Ena' in Greek; 'Ett' in Swedish; 'Aon' in Gaelic; 'Un' in French; 'En' in Norwegian; 'Uno' in Italian and Spanish; 'Um' in Portuguese; 'Ek' in Hindi

ROUND 2 - 'Time Person of the Year Award'

Each answer in this round features a person who, according to Time magazine "for better or for worse...has done the most to influence the events of the year"

NB: the quotations given are not from the year of the award

ROUND 3 - Threesomes

Name the missing one in each of these threesomes

ROUND 4 - Foursomes

Name the missing one in each of these foursomes

ROUND 5 - 'The Sports Round'

All the people in this round were sportsmen, but are better known for other things

ROUND 6 - 'The Year, The Beer'

Certain beers, breweries, etc. are advertised in association with specific years all the following have years associated with them

ROUND 7 - Linked Round

All the people in this round's answers have something in common

Common link: **All the people named in the answers were or are vegetarian**

ROUND 8 - Just when you thought it was all over, A Christmas Round

All the answers include something associated with Christmas

27.1.16 set by Electric Pigs. Bards score 43 (highest Ethel Rodin 44). Win v Opsimaths (39)

Bards win the top of the table clash against Opsimaths and leapfrog to go top; wins also for Ethel, Dunkers, Albert and (at last) the Charas

Average aggregate 73.6. Hardly any moans about unfair balance and no excess of unanswerables. The Maths pair in Round 7 was an unfortunate inclusion.

Tony ... "An interesting quiz. .. a great and keenly fought contest. Both Steve and Sarah performed exceptionally well on the musical questions. Sarah did even better on the detective literature. I am not going to reveal our team tactics but sometimes my lot can be on tenterhooks lest I blurt. They never know if I really know the answer or am guessing. I shall have to talk to them severely as it is a mere mannerism of mine. The 'Samuel Beckett' question was a case in point. The team were suggesting I shouldn't chance my arm and blurt whereas I was telling them I didn't want to confer. Howell muttered darkly that it sounded like conferring to him after which I gave the correct answer without asking for, or receiving, any assistance. In the spirit of fairness, which our league usually demonstrates, I nevertheless conceded that I should only be awarded one point for my efforts."

Other comments The Bards are clearly the ones to avoid for the Opsimaths whose only two defeats this season have been inflicted by the team from the Cricket Club. "Good quiz - well balanced The pairing was a trifle suspect in one or two cases, for example was it really necessary to demand all four railway companies in R7 Q1 when only asking for one motor manufacturer in the accompanying pair? We particularly enjoyed the 'same initials' theme in R6."

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a US State capital**

ROUND 2 - Paired

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Theme: **All the answers contain the name of a character from the film *Blade Runner***

Rachel (Tyrrell's replicant 'niece' saved by Deckard at the end of the film); Roy (leader of the replicant gang); Tyrrell (owner of the Tyrrell Corporation and replicant creator); Bryant (Deckard's police chief boss); JF Sebastian (replicant designer and Tyrrell employee); Pris (replicant partner of Roy); Gaff (Deckard's origami obsessed *Blade Runner* colleague); Leon (member of the replicant gang)

ROUND 4 - Paired

ROUND 5 - Paired

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Both names in each answer have the same initial**

ROUND 7 - Paired

ROUND 8 - 'Home Sweet Home' - a Greater Manchester round

3.2.16 set by Dunkin' Dönitz. Bards score 37 (highest Albert 45). Win v Electric Pigs (34)

Wins for Bards, Albert, Ethel, Compulsory Mantis Shrimp and Charas

Average aggregate 74.2

Tony.... "Difficult although well-constructed. The evening began well enough for us and we built up a reasonable lead. The Pigs fought back and it was pretty level pegging for much of the game. The picture round nearly did for us and we scored a Norweige although the Pigs did little better. It came down to the last two questions of round 8. I opted for safety as I did not feel like appearing to be foolish. The Pigs needed a two to tie the fixture. Happily I had read my New Scientist and knew about pitch (or was it bitumen) so we ran out winners in a close fought and enjoyable encounter."

Other comments "Tonight's questions were made up entirely of given themes based on David Bowie albums, an amusing twist on the usual quiz format." "A great quiz, close throughout and well balanced. "The introductory rubric (the longest in living memory)."

ROUND 1 - Space Oddity - 1969

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a person who has spent time 'sitting in a tin can':**

Sally Ride, James Irwin, Frank Borman, Pete Conrad, Alan Shepherd, Tim Peake, John Young, John Glenn, Neil Armstrong and Edward White.

ROUND 2 - Drive in Saturday - 1973

Theme: **4 songs about cars or with the name of a car in the title – Little Red Corvette (Prince), Grey Cortina (Tom Robinson), Mustang Sally (Wilson Pickett), Total Eclipse Of The Heart (Mitsubishi Eclipse) (Bonnie Tyler) and four titles featuring Saturday and films one way or another.**

ROUND 3 - Diamond Dogs - 1974

Theme: **Each answer contains either a precious/semi precious stone or a type of dog**

ROUND 4 - Young Americans - 1975

Pictures of Americans taken when they were young - just name them

ROUND 4 (alternative without pictures) - Fame - 1975

ROUND 5 - Station to Station - 1976

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a railway station:**

Edinburgh (Waverley and Haymarket), Exeter (St. James's Park), Hull (Paragon) and London (Paddington, Marylebone, Charing Cross and London Bridge)

ROUND 6 - Low - 1977

ROUND 7 - Ashes to Ashes - 1980

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of an English or Australian Cricket Captain:**

Ricky Ponting, Michael Vaughan, Keith Fletcher, Len Hutton, Michael Atherton, Neil Harvey, Steve Waugh, Graham Gooch/Brian Close, Peter May

ROUND 8 - Scary Monsters (and Super Creeps) - 1980

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a Scary Monster or a Super Creep:**

Scary Monsters: Question 1 - Mr Hyde; Question 4 – The Hulk; Question 6 - Griffin; Question 7 – The Thing; Spare 1 – Pinhead; Spare 2 – Freddy Krueger)

The other four questions refer to things which took rather a long time – or are/were 'Super Creeps'

17.2.16 set by History Men. Highest score Bards 42. Win v Prodigals (32)

Wins for Dunkers, Bards, Ethel, Albert and Charas

Average aggregate 71.20

Tony "A good evening. The Bards took an early lead only to be reeled back so that the scores were level at half time. The Bards kept their nerve and prospered in the second half winning Round Five 9-2 and finishing the quiz with a comfortable margin."

Others "No obvious advantage to winning the toss. The mountaineering theme defeated both teams but the questions were gettable." "Questions generally fun and enjoyable to work out. a lot of questions that were just - but only just - beyond the tips of various tongues."

ROUND 1 - Connections

Each answer contains a word that might describe the state of mind of the History Men when they defeat Dunkin' Dönitz by 15 points

ROUND 2 - Seconds

To celebrate the fact that the History Men are the second best quiz team of all time, a round on 'seconds' and 'Number 2s'

ROUND 3 – Paired

ROUND 4 - Pictures

ROUND 5 - Paired

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - 'Climb Every Mountain - NOT'

Theme: Each answer contains the name of someone related to an Everest expedition that took place between 1921 and 1924

ROUND 8 - Lucky Dip Bingo

Pick a number from 1-10. The number concerned will appear somewhere in the question.

24.2.16 set by TMTCH. Bards score 38 (highest Albert 41). Win v History Men (31)

Wins for The Bards, The Opsimaths, Ethel Rodin, Albert and The Pigs

Quotes "Win or lose, I just find the range of subjects, the intriguing structure of the question text and the multitude of 'tip of the tongue' moments generate the essence of a really enjoyable quiz evening. The master of the themed round, giving just the right degree of assistance at the start of a round to ensure the theme acts as a real extra way into some of the answers." "Many occasions on which inspired guesses or just plain straining of the collective grey matter landed bull's-eye answers, the result of some highly accessible themes and plenty of information in the questions to give alternative routes into the answers."

ROUND 1 - 'Finders of the Lost Arc'

All answers include the word arc, that is a-r-c, hidden somewhere in a longer word within the answer

ROUND 2 - Paired

ROUND 3 - 'The Beautiful Game through the ages'

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Theme: 'All the nice quizzers love a sailor' - each answer contains the name of a British sailor

Note that the 'Francis' is for Clare Francis, and that the answer 'son of John Knox' is for Knox-Johnston backwards

ROUND 5 - Paired

ROUND 6 - 'A road trip through Britain from North to South'

All answers include the name of a British town consisting of 5 letters

ROUND 7 - 'The Ending is in Sight'

Each answer includes a word that can precede the word 'sight' or 'site' and still make sense

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme

Theme: Each answer includes the name of a city or town in Canada

2.3.16 set by Mantis Shrimp. Bards score 50 (highest). Win v TMTCH (19)

Clean sweep for the away teams as Bards, Dunkin' Dönitz, Albert, Opsimaths and History Men all win The Bards, 6 points clear and only 4 league games left, need to start losing pretty soon if they're to miss out on the league title

Average aggregate 71.4. Well-crafted with good variety.

*Tony.... " A cheerful night's quizzing. A typically modern-sounding paper but also included a round on 1916 and questions about 19th century authors. I must mention our Steve's 7 twos. It was a rare pleasure for me to help him out with *The Commitments*, which is likely to be my one pop music answer of the season."*

Other comments "Unremembered Presidential hopefuls, very short-lived Chinese emperors and non-entity Australian politicians are not the stuff that good quiz papers are made of." Charabancs at the Turnpike. "An engaging evening with our favourite opponents. The bar ran out of real beer and offered a stone dead cryogenically preserved cold/smoothflow alternative as if it were acceptable."

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Paired

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a West End Theatre**

(Gielgud Theatre, London Palladium, Cambridge Theatre, Novello Theatre, Dominion Theatre, Apollo Victoria and Victoria Palace Theatres, Ambassadors Theatre and St Martin's Theatre)

ROUND 4 - 'That Was the Week That Was'

All of this round's questions have been inspired by events from the past week

ROUND 5 - 'Mash-ups'

Each answer in this round can be constructed by combining the two things referred to in the question into one answer. Both things will be connected by a common word, falling at the end of the first part and the beginning of the second. For example, if you were asked to combine a Botticelli masterpiece with a carnivorous plant you would give the answer 'The Birth of Venus flytrap'.

ROUND 6 - 'A Hundred Years Ago'

All of this round's questions have been inspired by events from the year 1916

ROUND 7 - Paired

ROUND 8 - 'Academy Awards - Nominees for Best Picture'

Each answer in this round will contain at least one word that has appeared in the title of a Best Picture nominee since the 84th Academy Awards, which were held in 2011.

9.3.16 set by Bards. Highest score Mantis Shrimp (41).

Albert keep up the title chase with a confident home win whilst elsewhere Shrimps, Opsimaths, Prodigals and Ethel all gain victories

Average aggregate 7 points below the season's overall average of 73.2, so a tad on the hard side but full of variety and interest. The hidden themes were quite accessible and well-used. One problem was how the QM should react to answers that were three-quarters right. If you give the answerer the chance to elaborate, then you have let the other side know that the answer given is almost right. If team A gets it nearly right but then team B gets it completely right **without any delay** in answering, the points should go to team. If however team B didn't add any more information to an 80% correct answer then team A should get the point. Regarding whether second AND first names of people are required for the point, answers like 'Rachmaninov' would be acceptable without 'Sergei' - but 'Jones' needs to be qualified with a 'Tom'." *Comments* "Tonight's paper was the usual assortment of themes and pairs. We generally liked the ideas behind the themes especially the 'Shared surnames' and the one where the answers contained the number of the question. Some of the pairs were a tad uneven and the questions in general seemed a bit top heavy on politicians, familiar and obscure" "The 'Harrovians PM' question was a bit sneaky, though if it had been stated it was not a British PM it would still have been tricky. No one remembered that *TGI Friday* dished out the first £1M TV prize."

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a character featured in the title of one of the *Canterbury Tales***

ROUND 3 - Paired

ROUND 4 - 'Numbers'

Each answer contains the number of the question or a sound-alike thereof

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a Sea Area from the Shipping Forecast** (or in one case the former name of the Sea Area now called German Bight)

ROUND 6 - 'What's the Surname?'

The answer to each question is the surname shared by the three people described

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a member of the England 1966 World Cup Squad:**

Gerry Byrne, Ian Callaghan, Bobby Moore, Roger Hunt, Terry Paine, Alan Ball, Martin Peters, Gordon Banks, John Connelly

ROUND 8 - Paired

16.3.16 set by Albert. Bards score 38 (highest score History Men 43). Loss to Mantis Shrimp (41)

The Bards slip in the home straight making next week's Albert v Bards contest a likely title decider; elsewhere wins for Prodigals, Pigs, Ethel and History Men

Next week's showdown at the Moss between our leading two teams (both with almost identical points differences) will surely determine the fate of the league title. The scores on the paper varied from a lowly aggregate of 65 to 79 in the CMS/Bards match.

Tony "The Shrimps have recruited a couple more players who are more than useful. The game was even throughout with the teams neck and neck most of the evening. The quiz was tricky but interesting. There were 8 unanswered questions, 7 of which fell to the team going second."

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a writer of detective fiction:**

Erle Stanley Gardner; Ellis Peters; Agatha Christie; Arthur Conan Doyle; P D James; Wilkie Collins; Elmore Leonard; Dashiell Hammett; Stieg Larsson

ROUND 3 - 'Raiders of the Lost Albert' - the Archaeology Round

ROUND 4 - 'All Mixed Up'

Each answer has two answers - the second is an anagram of the first

ROUND 5 - Paired

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a BBC newsreader/news presenter:**

Martha Carney; Fiona Bruce; Kirsty Wark; Reeta Chakrabarti; Andrew Marr; Eddie Mair; Huw Edwards; John Humphreys; Sarah Montague

ROUND 7 - 'Before or after having a Bath'

Part of each answer can be preceded or followed by the word 'bath'

ROUND 8 - Pot Pourri

23.3.16 set by Prodigals. Bards score 36 (highest score Opsimaths 42). Draw with Albert

An Albert/Bards tied result means the destination of the League trophy will not be decided until the final day; elsewhere another tied result in the Ethel/Pigs match and wins for Opsimaths, CMS and Dunkers

Average aggregate 66.0 points but it managed to notch up two tied matches, a unique feat this season. All eight rounds were themed - two announced and the rest hidden though a number of the hidden themes were heavily hinted at by the round title.

A win for the Bards would have secured the title; a win for Albert would have placed them in pole position going into the last round of matches. As it was a tie, that means that on April 6th, if the Bards lose to the Dunkers whilst Albert beat the Opsimaths (both plausible outcomes), then Albert nip up on the rails and swipe the league title from the Bards' grasp. Any other combination of results on April 6th means that the Bards win it. What a great finish to our season with two very worthy teams in contention!

Tony "We enjoyed an exciting evening of quizzing. The lead changed hands more than once during the contest and we entered the final round just one point ahead thanks to my feeling too intimidated in the Bruce Springsteen round to go for Jacob's Ladder to gain two points rather than play it safe. On the last question of the night, Albert could only manage one point with Vittoria de los Angeles so we ended 36 all."

Others "A splendid, old style Withquiz evening. Jokes, banter, cross talk and attempts to wind up the opposition." "There was some controversy over the Portland question. The Bards came up with 'Portland Bill' which our QM rejected. We responded with 'Isle of Portland' which was nearer to the given answer. We were prepared to concede the point because their answer included the word 'Portland' but the Bards chose to concede the point to us. This was a very gracious act on their part, given the state of the scores. If they go on to win the league (which I believe they will) they will be worthy champions."

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme - 'Back to the Drawing Board'

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a cartoonist:**

Garry Trudeau; Will or Maurice Dodd; Bill Tidy; Charles Schultz; Ralph Steadman; Gerald Scarfe; Steve Bell or Alex Graham; Carl Giles; Mark Davies

ROUND 2 - 'Manky Pubs'

All the answers contain a key word from the name of a well-known Manchester or Salford city centre pub - past or present

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme - 'A Foot in Both Camps'

Theme: Each answer contains the name of a footballer who has played for both Manchester United and Manchester City:

Billy Meredith; Denis Law; Peter Barnes; Brian Kidd; Andy Cole; Peter Beardsley (played once for United and 6 times for City); Wyn Davis; Mark Robins (played for City twice in 1999); Owen Hargreaves

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Theme: Each answer contains the name of a summer or winter Olympic host city

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Theme: Each answer contains the name of a Gerry Anderson character

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme - 'It's All Greek to me'

Theme: Each answer starts with the anglicised version of a Greek letter

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme - 'Who's the Boss?'

Theme: Each answer contains a key word from the title of a Bruce Springsteen song

ROUND 8 - 'Land of the Free'

All of the answers in this round contain the name of one of the United States 100 most populous cities

6.4.16 set by Ethel Rodin. Bards score 40 (highest). Win v Dunkin' Dönitz (37)

The Bards cap a magnificent season with a close victory in a high-scoring game - many congratulations to our very worthy League Champions! Elsewhere victories for Opsimaths to nick second place, Shrimps who qualify for 'Europe' for the first time, Prodigals, and History Men

Average aggregate 65.6, slightly on the tough side but well within the acceptable zone.

The Dunkers pushed The Bards right up to the end and consequently the aggregate score was 11 points higher than any of the other four matches of the evening. Bards have been the outstanding performers. Congratulations to Jim, Sarah, Steve, Dom, Eric and, of course, Tony on a great season.

Tony "We went into tonight's quiz without Jim. Dom stood in and performed extremely well. A very well-balanced paper. The unanswered questions didn't just break equally to both teams, but also broke equally within each team. The match was played in a very friendly atmosphere but with no quarter given or asked. There were never more than a couple of points between the teams until the final round. Three questions from the end Dunkers said 'Congratulations, you've won the league!' - and so indeed we had. We were truly delighted not to have won by default. We now look forward to what has become a return match when we play the Dunkers again in the WIST Cup final."

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a motorway service station:

Heston (M4), Michaelwood (M5), Burtonwood (M62), Birch (M62), Frankley (M5), Rivington (M61), Corley (M6), Keele (M6)

ROUND 3 - 'The Master Round'

Part of each answer can be placed before or after the word 'master' to make another word

ROUND 4 - Paired

ROUND 5 - Paired

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a celebrated British painter

ROUND 7 - 'Capital Confusion'

Each answer contains an anagram of the capital city of a country

ROUND 8 - 'Electric Light Orchestra Bingo'

After over 30 years of avid enthusiasm for all things Jeff Lynne, here's a bingo round featuring some of their best known song titles.

Winning team



Shorter version of League Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points	Handicap score
Bards	20	16	1	3	832	694	33	-5
Opsimaths	20	15	0	5	800	662	30	-4
Albert	20	14	1	5	790	661	29	-3
Ethel Rodin	20	13	2	5	772	706	28	-2
Dunkin Dönitz	20	12	1	7	792	718	25	-3
Electric Pigs	20	9	1	10	676	723	19	2
Comp. Mantis Shrimp	20	8	0	12	690	728	16	2
Prodigals	20	7	0	13	697	736	14	1
History Men	20	7	0	13	719	775	14	0
Charabancs of Fire	20	4	1	15	648	760	9	4
TMTCH	20	1	1	18	553	806	3	9

Quiz League summary of types of question

Hidden themes

54 hidden themes, in a very wide range of topic 3 Rock / Rop (Motown, Springsteen, Tubular Bells)
 11 Sport and Games (2 cricket, 4 football, 1 horseracing, 1 mountaineering, 1 sailing, 1 Olympics, 1 Boardgames), 1 Education (Oxbridge), 5 politics (including one American), 5 Geography (homophones, US capitals, Canada, Shipping, Railway Stations), 3 Motoring (Tyres and Service Stations)
 1 Insurance, 7 Cinema and/or TV (Star Wars, Blade Runner, Muppets, Gerry Anderson, Newsreaders, etc.)
 1 Animals, 1 Space Travel, 1 Theatres, 3 Literature (2 Detectives, 1 Canterbury Tales),
 2 Art (Cartoonists, British), 5 Language (apronyms, link words, initials, number ones, Greek letters)
 5 Others (homes, seafaring, ladies clothing. Vegetarians, diamonds and dogs, and possibly the strangest, deaths in the toilet)

Announced themes

39 themed or announced or given or stated or connected or linked ...etc.
 2 Pop / Rock (Awards, Dear Prudence), 7 Geography (Paris, addresses, airports, Manchester and Salford pubs, mills and places, Britain, USA), 5 Words (initials, 3 including part words, onomatopoeia)
 3 Numbers, 2 Literature (Scifi, Booker prizes), 4 Dates (21st October, 13th January, 1916, last week)
 3 Sport (Sportsmen more famous elsewhere, Baseball, the Beautiful Game), Science (recent and elements)
 1 Cinema (Oscars), 2 People (Young Americans, Person of the Year) 8 Other (Detectives, Beer, Christmas, Number 2s, Archeology, state of mind, Marriage, and Rachael s Dad)

Paired

39 paired or internally paired or reverse paired

Photos

4 Rounds of Photos, including Caganers, and Young Americans

Bingo

11 Bingo and 2 'Pick Your Own' rounds, including Biblical (double round which also Blockbuster, initials provided), European Cities (double round), East Asia, Lucky Dip (2), Judicial, Disney, ELO and Boycott.

Linked

5 Linked rounds, including 2 where answers linked last letter of one to first of next, one of which based on Pop/Rock's Meatloaf, 1 with each question having two similarly linked name answers, 1 on same surname of three separate persons, 1 based on Betjeman's 'Slough'

Sequences

4 Sequence rounds (including 1 to give next in group of 4, and 1 next in group of 3)

Anagrams and other word games

7 of this type, including 1 combining two separate answers, 4 anagrams (including 2 on geographical names, another with two answers, one being an anagram of the other, and 1 where initials of answers an anagram of WithQuiz), 1 cryptic (two answers, the second being the first with an additional letter), 1 on name changes.

Answers containing particular words or letters

5 where the answers include, or can be preceded by a particular word or group of letters

Pot luck

6 of this type, including 4 titled pot pourri or pot luck, 1 of the Bowie quiz rounds, and 1 intriguingly titled 'things Father Megson never knew'

Summary of all rounds, various Cups, including preseason

Stockport style

Three matches, so three Verbal Stockport style, and

Three **Written** Stockport style, one of which 9 clips of music and one voice clip, each about 30 seconds, and each accompanied by a question, with a hidden theme (mode of transport), another a word game

Other non Stockport style

Hidden theme

15 hidden themes. (1 Beatles, 1 Rivers, 1 Trees, 1 Pears, 1 Footballers, 1 WithQuiz teams. 1 Diesel engines, 1 brand of car, 1 Royal Houses, 1 maths, 1 legend, 1 Captains, 1 Suicides, 1 Pi, 1 Deaths of Musicians in 2016)

Announced theme

Thirteen. 4 Words (2 can be preceded by .., 1 'words that rhyme', 1 repeated syllables), 1 Lunar walkers, 1 Persons with same name, 1 Currency, 1 Initial letters give City, 1 French Départements, 1 Shakespeare in Music, 1 Colours, 1 Pubs, 1 'Finally'

Paired

Twelve in all, two of which picture rounds, one of these being Tennis, two being paired together

Pot Pourri/Pot Luck

3

Bingo

1 which also Blockbuster

Others

One Blockbuster (pick initials), two linked (two answers – last word of first = first word of second)

Comments for Future and Upcoming Cup matches

Everybody agrees that some weeks, matches go on too long. General opinion is that matches should finish by 10 p.m. or 10.30 p.m. The general diversity of our papers and the high level of craft that goes into their composition is acknowledged and greatly appreciated, so we do not want to suppress the creativeness that goes into the quiz paper production process. No more than 10 minutes per round would allow a balance of more time for the more complicated questions but less for the straightforward - but this may be too complicated for QMs; so suggestion is that the QM should hurry things along question by question, with a reminder after a minute for just 10 more seconds to think before the question is passed over and then 10 seconds for the second team if the question is passed over. Suggest try during Cup matches.

Cup Matches

17.9.15 WIST Pre-season Cup

Pre season friendly set by Mike Bath. Winner Stockport League 65 pts

Stockport retain the WIST Cup with a convincing victory

WithQuiz were outgunned in the first half of Stockport-style rounds and never managed to claw their way back as the **Stockport Quiz League** notched up another convincing win. The final margin was 8 points. Very few questions remained unanswered In a brand new departure, there was a music/sound round.

ROUND 1 – Verbal Stockport style

ROUND 2 – Written Stockport style

9 clips of music and one voice clip – each accompanied by a question. There is a broad theme – often hidden within the text of the answer and once using a 'soundalike'. Each clip lasts about 30 seconds, can be repeated.

Theme: **Every answer contains the name of a mode of transport:**

Bus, Cab, Gig, Car, Van, Plane, Tram, Laurie (Lorry), Tug, Wagon and/or Train

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains a key word from a song on the Beatles *White Album*:**

Savoy Truffle, Birthday, Good Night, Sexy Sadie, Martha My Dear, Rocky Raccoon, Glass Onion, Happiness is a Warm Gun, Helter Skelter, Blackbird, Julia, Why Don't We Do It in the Road, Dear Prudence, Revolution 1 or Revolution 9

ROUND 4 - Picture Pairs

ROUND 5 - Blockbuster

Pick the initials of the answer from the list provided

11.11.15 (WIST Cup) set by Men They Couldn't Hang). Bards score 46 (highest Opsimaths 51). Win v Travellers Call (40)

Semi final places for Opsimaths, Bards and Dunkin' Donitz. The Alex the only remaining for Stockport. The Prodigals, Albert, History Men and Charas make it a clean sweep in the A-Trophy

Average aggregate across our 8 matches was 79.4 points.

Bards Tony reports.... "Traveller's Call were delightful and challenging opponents. They led by two points at the end of the first, Stockport-style, round and maintained that lead to the end of the second round. The Bards scored 4 twos and a bonus in Round 3 to take the lead."

The Opsimaths quote "We seem to be getting quite good at sparking unlikely answers off one another from standpoints of wide-eyed ignorance. From my long experience of pub quizzes a correct answer emerging from the dark due to the combination of brains is the most satisfying experience available!"

ROUND 1 - Verbal

ROUND 2 - Written

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Theme: 'All answers contain the name of a British diesel engine maker –

ROUND 4 - Picture Round - 'Anyone for Tennis?'

It is a picture round where the questions are also paired, and all answers include a word or words from the world of tennis.

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Theme: **'Many rivers to cross' - all answers contain the name of a British river**

ROUND 6 - Announced theme - 'All's well that ends well'

All answers include a word that precede the word 'well' and still make sense

10.2.16 (Cup) set by League (Greg of Ethel Rodin).. Highest score Bards 64. Win v Alexandra (34)

Dunkers and Bards go through to an all WithQuiz WIST final; History Men and Prodigals contest the A-trophy final for the second year running

Average aggregate 94.0. Plenty of good brain teasers. A good enjoyable evening's quizzing.

Bards Tony reports.... "Highly suited to a Withquiz team. All of our team played well. The team going second had the edge. Some very interesting rounds but the connections round at the end was highly exercising to the mind. Bond Street and Income tax were very clever connections."

Others "A feast of themes, pairs, connections and written rounds all well executed and reasonably uncontroversial. "Bards were simply too good for us and they were home-and-dry by half-time, more than worthy winners. We wish the Bards well in the final - they'll take some stopping." "As one wise sage once put it 'there's no such thing as good or bad questions just ones that you know the answer to and others that you don't.' Tonight's paper was excellent and an aggregate score of 94 is pretty much on the money for a WIST contest.

A-Trophy Semi Finals

Charabancs "Is Wistquiz just becoming another form of Withquiz? There seems to be a dearth of Stockport teams actually participating these days."

ROUND 1 - Verbal

ROUND 2 - Written

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains a mathematical term**

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Theme: **Each answer contains a reference to Arthurian legend**

ROUND 5 - Paired

ROUND 6 - Linked Questions

Each answer is a connection between items specified in the question, and each question from question 2 onwards is linked to the previous question

Tiebreakers

Add together the answers to the following questions

ROUND 1: Six of our 11 teams will play in Round 1 with the questions being set by the first team 'out of the hat' that gets a bye straight into Round 2 (**Charabancs**). The three Round 1 losing teams will go forward to the Plate semi finals and the lowest scoring Round 1 loser will set the questions for Round 2.

ROUND 2: The three Round 1 winners plus the remaining 5 teams will play Round 2 matches with the highest scoring losers becoming the fourth team to make up the Plate semi final line up, and the lowest scoring losers setting the questions for the semi final matches.

Questions for the finals will be set by 'Knocked Out United' - that is a round from each of the 7 teams not involved in the final plus a round of paired questions with each pair selected from submissions from the same 7 teams.

13.4.16 Val Draper Cup set by Charabancs. Bards score 41 (highest). Win v TMTCH (33)

Bards overcame a 14 point handicap disadvantage; with equal handicap starting scores The Dunkers beat Albert; The Shrimps turned their 2 point handicap advantage into a 7 point victory over The History Men

Tony "A great night. Enjoyable and well set in the traditional spirit of the end of season knock outs. The new time rules worked very well as the question master gave a little leeway to get used to the new rules. We started a tad late but had finished before 10.10pm."

Others "The Charabancs served up a splendid mix of the gettable, the ungettable and the unforgettable questions that regularly delight us."

New timekeeping rules, no problem. An excellent paper and totally in keeping with our new resolution to reserve at least the last 40 minutes or so of any quiz evening for conversation.

Update of league table since 1999 shows Donuts remain first, History Men drop to fourth, St Catherine's go second, Opsimaths third, Bards remain 6th

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme - 'Give us a Hug'

Theme: **Each answer contains the name (or the sound of the name) of a tree**

ROUND 3 - 'Cents and Pence-ability'

Each answer or question contains a reference to a unit of currency

ROUND 4 - A Fluid Blockbuster Bingo Round

Choose your question from the initials of the answer

ROUND 5 - 'Mmmmmmmmm, Spell that City'

In sequence the first letters of each answer give the name of a capital city

The initial letter of the answers spell out **DUSHANBE** (the capital of Tajikistan - and, of course, the Persian word for Monday)

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - Paired

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme - 'It will all end in tears'

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of a footballer that featured in the England football squad for the Italia 90 World Cup**

20.4.16 Val Draper 2 set by Albert. Bards score 40 (highest Mantis Shrimp 49). Win v Opsimaths (33)

Wins for Prodigals, Dunkers, Shrimps and Bards to take them through to the Val Draper semis in a fortnight; Pigs are highest scoring losers so take the last place in the Plate semis; The Pigs losing score was equal to the highest winning score in the other three matches.

Many congratulations to Albert for producing a paper quick and easy to play. Average aggregate 80.5.

Tony reports.... "A closely fought contest. The Bards eventually overcame the handicap, but not until the very last question. Steve scored perfect 8 twos, applauded enthusiastically by both teams."

Other comments: "No sharp words or demands for an instant answer, just clearly and quickly delivered questions and gentle persuasion to both teams that time is up...." "We couldn't think of any questions we might have been able to answer better under the old, take-as-long-as-you-need system."

ROUND 1 - 'The Paper Round'

One of the words in each answer can be preceded or followed by the word 'paper'

ROUND 2 - 'The Sound Round'

Each answer consists of two words, or compound single words which rhyme.

ROUND 3 - 'The Round Round'

In each answer a word or pair of words feature repeated syllables or sounds.

ROUND 4 - Pot pourri

ROUND 5 - 'The Walk Round'

Part of each answer contains the surname of a man who has walked on the moon.

ROUND 6 - 'The Double Round'

'Different People, Same Name'. Each answer is a full name which satisfies both parts of the question.

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme - 'The Peared Round'

Theme: **Each answer contains the name of one of the 3,000 varieties of pear**

ROUND 8 - Pot pourri

27.4.16 Val Draper 2 set by Mike Bath. Bards score 58 (highest). Win v Dunkin' Dönitz (50)

Bards lift the WIST Champions Cup whilst The Prodigals nick the A-Trophy

Tony.... "A great night out..The Bards now play The Dunkers in the Val Draper semis next week.....The quiz was one of the best of the season."

ROUND 1 Stockport style - Verbal

ROUND 2 Stockport style - Written - 'Down and Out'

Each answer includes a word that can be preceded or succeeded by the word 'down'

ROUND 3 WithQuiz style Paired with Round 6

ROUND 4 WithQuiz style - 'Secret Department'

Each answer contains the name of a French Department as the last part of one of its words

ROUND 5 WithQuiz style Hidden theme - 'WISTful thinking'

Theme: **Each answer contains a key word from the name of one of the quiz teams currently competing in the Stockport and Withington Quiz Leagues:** Alexandra, The History Men, Compulsory Mantis Shrimp, The Printers, Bull's Head, Albert, Electric Pigs and The Star

ROUND 6 WithQuiz style - Paired with Round 3

4.5.16 Val Draper & Plate S/F set by Ethel Rodin. Bards score 31 (highest Prodigals 38). Win v Dunkin' Dönitz (29)

The Bards march on towards the treble; Albert overcome 12 point handicap to meet History Men in Plate Final

Average aggregate 63.5 was on the low side, but no complaints about imbalance. A good paper with plenty of questions to encourage conferring.

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - 'Shakespeare in Music'

ROUND 3 - Linked Pairs

Each question has two answers - the last word of the answer to the first question is the first word of the answer to the second question

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a brand of car

ROUND 5 - Paired

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a Royal House

ROUND 7 - 'Colours'

Each answer contains the name of a colour

ROUND 8 - Pot luck

11.5.16 Val Draper & Plate Finals set by 'Knocked Out United'. Bards score 29 (highest Prodigals and Albert, each with 35). Lost to Prodigals



After 3 years with the Charas the Val Draper Cup goes to Anne-Marie's Prodigals

Bards were denied their treble (after handicap); Albert nicked Plate from History Men in a tense finish. The feeling after the first 4 rounds was that it was a toughie, but a final aggregate of 68 was not too bad. In the Red Lion the aggregate was slightly higher at 72.

Val Draper Cup Final Only the handicap system separated two teams who ended up tied on the points scored on the night. It was Round 3 before Bards' score turned positive. After the match ended, we pretended there had been no handicaps and the match had been tied - so we tried the tiebreakers which

ended up one apiece - all of which proves that next season, there will be precious little between these two teams.

The setters '**Knocked Out United**' are the following teams: Compulsory Mantis Shrimp (Round 1), The Men They Couldn't Hang (Round 2), Opsimaths (Rounds 3 and 6), Electric Pigs (Round 4), Dunkin' Donitz (Round 5), and Charabancs of Fire (Round 8). In addition, round 7 was set, two questions each by all the former except Donitz.

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - 'Crawling the A6'

A pub crawl along the A6 from Levenshulme to Disley – the names pubs en route in order.

ROUND 3 - Hidden Theme

Theme: *Well-known Captains: Kirk from Star Trek, Darling from Blackadder, Hook from Peter Pan, Flack from the Trumpton Fire Brigade, Morgan the privateer, Nemo from Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Scarlet (and the Mysterons), Mainwaring from Dad's Army, Haddock from Tintin, America cartoon superhero*

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Theme: *Each answer contains the name of a well-known person who committed suicide.... Robin Williams (actor), Kenny Carter (speedway rider, Halifax & England), Stuart Adamson (rock musician, Big Country & Skids), Alexander McQueen (fashion designer), Keith Emerson (rock musician, The Nice, ELP), Eva Braun (Hitler's mistress), Gary Speed (footballer), Sylvia Path (writer) and David Bairstow (cricketer)*

ROUND 5 - Hidden Theme

Theme: *Each answer contains the name of a musician who has died in 2016*

Billy Paul, Glenn Frey, Merle Haggard, Keith Emerson, George Martin, Peter Maxwell Davies, Prince and David Bowie

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme

Theme: *Each answer contains progressively the elements in the value of pi to 8 decimal places – i.e. 3.14159265*

ROUND 7 - Paired

ROUND 8 - 'And Finally.....'

Total number of questions asked, all weeks of league and all rounds of Cups (including spares, tiebreakers) 2143. These split into different subjects (a difficult task as so many questions include two or more subjects) as follows (in most cases, a very well balanced split)

Literature (including where literature part of a question) 243

Theatre 172, Art 32

History 117, Politics 136, Crime / Law 27, Transport / Motoring 61, Education 15

Cinema (including where cinema part of a question) 266, TV / Radio 141

Pop / Rock (including where pop/rock/other music part of a question) 226, Music 72,

Sport / Games (including where sport/games part of a question) 239

Religion 49, Myths / Legend 13

Science and Maths 83

Food / Drink 61, Animals / Birds / Nature 26

Finance 21, Manufacturing / Retail / Fashion 52,

Geography / Geology 158

Language 53

Other questions involving two or several different subjects 105

18.5.16 End of Season at the Albert Club

'Dr O'Neil Reunited' (a mash up of Ethel Rodin and The History Men) squeaked home in the evening's quiz
Another excellent End of Season. We were royally entertained by Dunker Barry with an eclectic mix of questions (these questions are not available for inclusion here). Barry summed up the season emphasising the greater competitiveness our league has acquired in the past few years. He was also pleased that the recent efforts to get our matches finished between 10pm and 10.30pm has paid off - without too much heavy-handedness on the part of the QMs. Only one of the captains was in favour of strict adherence to timekeeping rules. All the other captains thought earlier finishing could be achieved through a combination

of self-discipline and the QM being a bit more forceful on the time taken to confer (especially on passed over questions).

Tony suggested that the present handicap system used in our end of season Cup competitions, should only be calculated on performances in the second half of season as this better reflected a team's strength going into the Cup matches.

Barry's one slight regret was the inexorable spread of the themed round. Perhaps we could use our ingenuity to fashion other types of rounds.

Compulsory Mantis Shrimp won the vote for Question of the Season: The title of which Beatles song, also covered by the Carpenters and released on the album *Help!* may have referred to cards indicating a clean bill of health carried by Hamburg prostitutes in the 1960s? *Ticket to Ride*

Photos from end of season



Jim lifts the Withington and District Quiz League trophy for The Bards



Jim picks up the WIST Champions Cup



The Bards minus their leader with a tableful of trophies



Anne-Marie collects the Val Draper Cup on behalf of the Prodigals



Prodigals are also awarded the WIST A-Trophy



Mike picks up the WithQuiz Plate for Albert