

Welcome to the new (2017/18) Season

Just 10 teams will compete... Sadly The Men They Couldn't Hang have had to drop out. Losing Dave was a massive blow and now other members of the team have moved away from the area. However, Graham has had a 'free transfer' to Charas.... No new teams have been recruited... Each week of the season (apart from January 10th and April 11th) there will be 4 matches with one team setting and one team sitting out. On these dates, there will be 5 matches and we will invite a guest setter to create the papers for these weeks. As this is WithQuiz's 40th season, there will be a special evening to celebrate, provisionally Wednesday December 20th.

League matches

4.10.2017 set by The Opsimaths. Bards score 46 (won v Electric Pigs 42). History Men score 42 (loss to Ethel Rodin 51 – highest). *Victories also for Albert (48), Mantis Shrimp (48)*

Aggregate score 92.8, spectacularly high, compared last year's highest aggregate of 88.2

Quotes from Mike B: '.... plenty of twos (indeed if you were in any doubt and didn't go for a two then there's a good chance that your team lost).... But a new type of round ('Quote/Misquote', i.e. decide whether two well-known quotes ...were both accurate, both misquoted or one of each) missed the mark...it's hard to devise a new format for a round but always worth trying....' '...last season's champs, Dunkin' Dönitz, lost at home to last season's third placed team, Albert.'

Quotes from Ivor: '...Greg from Ethel Rodin got a perfect 8 twos.... almost as rare as 147s in snooker so congratulations to him. Others: '...the quotations round caused a few problems as it called for too precise knowledge... gambles which sometimes paid off and sometimes didn't....with a bit of tweaking, this could be a good round...' '...an interesting idea but too nit-picky...it seemed to go against the grain of the well-known 'near as dammit' spirit of WithQuiz...' '...encouraging start to the season with a derby match, just managing to lose with a walloping great score of 47 points!...must be a bit of a record, surely... but it was a great night and an exciting contest all round....'

Turnpike derby: 'This week's Setters (The Opsimaths 32) met this week's Sitters (The Prodigals 30) in a friendly, ...the question paper sourced from another North West Quiz league. The paper consisted of 70 general knowledge questions arranged in no particular order. Each question was addressed to the whole team in conferring mode for one point. If the team initially asked the question got it wrong (or couldn't answer) then it went over for a bonus point to the other team....

The special 'WithQuiz at 40' evening has been rescheduled ... for March 28th next year (the Wednesday before Easter) ...the Christmas break will now be 3 weeks, rather than 2, and the season will finish with the 'End of Season evening' a week later than previously planned - i.e. on May 30th rather than May 23rd.

ROUND 1 - The 'A' Round *all the answers in this round start with the letter 'A'*

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme *(Bathroom plumbing)*

ROUND 3 - Paired Transport Round

ROUND 4 - Quote/Misquote Bingo Round Each player picks a topic from the Bingo sheet. The QM will read out two quotations relating to that topic. Players must decide: *Both are correct; A is correct and B is incorrect; A is incorrect and B is correct; both are incorrect*

ROUND 5 - 'Run Ons' *...double questions, the last word of the first answer is the same as the first word of the second answer...*

ROUND 6 - 'A Bit of a Din' *All the answers in this round contain the consecutive letters D-I-N*

ROUND 7 - A Religious top-to-tail Round *The last letter of each answer is the first letter of the next answer.*

ROUND 8 - Blockbuster Bingo *12 questions labelled with abbreviated forms of their answers. Each player must choose the question by nominating an abbreviation*



11.10.2017 set by Charabancs

History Men (at Cricket Club) **score 42** (won v Bards 38). (**Highest Dunkin' Dönitz** (v Prodigals 42) and **Opsimaths** (v Albert 36) **each with 43**. *Victories also for Mantis Shrimp (39).*

Another high-scoring quiz with an average aggregate just shy of 80 points

Quotes from Mike B: '...greatly enjoyed by all...(though The Bards expressed their traditional concern over the unfairness of bingo rounds)...most seemed to enjoy the craft that went into the Bingo rounds...well-judged questions with plenty of quirky information.... Dunkin' Dönitz last week lost by a single point; this time they won by a single point.... '...Compulsory Mantis Shrimp emerged from the evening as table toppers with their second consecutive victory.... a very satisfactory start to the season for the Opsimaths who sit out next week and look forward to the possibility of being bottom with a 100% record!...'

Quotes from Ivor: '...a very well-balanced paper with only four unanswered questions and a combined score of 80.... 20 twos which rather fewer than in last week's pointsfest.... a paper full of interesting questions...there seemed to be a large number of questions where answers were successfully dredged up from the deepest archives of memory, so deep that I cannot recall ever laying down the memory in the first place.... always more satisfying than knowing the answer before the question is finished...a game of two halves with the Bards racing to a 6 point lead by the mid-point interval....usually we lose focus when we're adrift but not tonight; we'd levelled the scores by the end of Round 6....then came the two bingo rounds...once again the Bards selected with less luck than their opponents....' Me: 'definitely a game of two halves with the History Men storming back after the break... great fun QMing with Dom...History Men had expressed some concern that their season starting with three away matches (although their home ground is definitely not in the process of refurbishment)...they feared that they might 'do a West Ham', but needn't have worried!'

Others: '...a very good Charas paper produced a very good contest...' '...the paper inspired plenty of frantic conferring on both sides but we all enjoyed it even though it took a lot longer to finish than last week's offering...'

ROUND 1 - 'A Poptastic Start'

All answers are titles of songs that contain at least one man's forename). Only the song name is required.

ROUND 2 - Pairs

ROUND 3 - 'Your Five a Day Round'

Each answer references a fruit, vegetable or salad plant

ROUND 4 - Connections

ROUND 5 - Pot Pourri Pairs

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme (*variety of cake (sweet or savoury)*)

ROUND 7 & 8 - 'English Town Bingo'

each answer is (or contains) the name of an English town



18.10.17 set by Bards

Our prayers go to Dave Rainford who is ill in a Glasgow hospital.

History Men 21 (lost away to **Mantis Shrimp 42 highest score**). Victories also for Albert (29), Mantis Shrimp (39), Dunkin' Dönitz (31), Charabancs (35)

Average Aggregate Score: 58.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.0)

Quotes from Mike B: '...certainly not the cascade of points that we had in the season's previous two outings but nevertheless an engaging challenge...plenty of puzzled brows ...but much to relish...'

Quote from Ivor: '...we didn't enjoy the quiz tonight... this is our second lowest score ever, our lowest being 20 also on a Bards paper...congratulations to our opponents who went 11-0 up in the first round... Shrimps scored no less than 14 steals to our 5...'

Quotes from others: '...a low-scoring Bards paper with no sign of tricks and cleverly concealed clues... but a great game and a fantastic finish...and we (*Dönitz*) are still third in the league with a negative points difference... there is no way Ethel deserved to lose...there were never more than 3 points in it at the end of any round ...Ethel were in front from question 3 in Round 3 until the bonus we scored on the final question of the night... in Round 8, we started three points down...a lucky guess of Clytemnestra cut the deficit to two...two absurd long shots levelled the scores...as soon as I heard 'rollers' I remembered the scene in *The Silence Of The Lambs* ... I told my fellow Dunkers my Lecter idea...far from convinced, but with nothing to lose since by drawing a game we thought we'd lost a couple of minutes earlier, we went for it...' '...much trickier than the two previous pointfests, but a great deal to enjoy, a lot of challenging and intriguing questions on a wide range of subjects...' '...gave me (*Albert*) the opportunity to introduce a new corporate image...'



ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme (*Famous European horse races*)

ROUND 3 - Paired

ROUND 4 - Pot pourri

ROUND 5 - Paired (but not sequentially)

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - Paired

ROUND 8 - Potpourri



25.10.17 set by Albert

Bards score 36 (won away v Charabancs 24). History Men score 33 (loss at home to **Dunkin' Dönitz 45-highest**). Victories also for the other away sides: *Opsimaths* (44), *Ethel Rodin* (42)

Average Aggregate Score: 70.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 75.3)

Quotes from Mike B: '...at the Albert Club we enjoyed the paper greatly... who would have thought you could squeeze 8 very reasonable questions plus a spare out of Hartlepool? ...it was a healthy average aggregate across all the matches...' '...the evening was full of fun with the racket from the quiz room overwhelming the somewhat sombre mood from the main lounge where Spurs were sinking to the Hammers...Charabancs lost at home to Bards who seem to be starting this season with a bit more panache than last season...'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '...despite our mauling, we largely enjoyed the questions.....the teams in our quiz league are a bit like North Korea in that meritocracy very closely resembles dynastic inheritance....tonight saw the debut of Ruth (David's daughter) for the Dunkers who rather discomfited us with a two on her very first question...after our record defeat by the Mantis Shrimp post-grad students last week, our confidence is so shattered we worry that a team from Beaver Road Year 6 might take us to the wire...tonight also saw the return of Anne's niece Vanessa whose last game saw us snatch the Cup from Ethel on the last question...tonight she was introduced to our more usual style of play...staying in touch only a few points behind until our implosion in Rounds 7 and 8...the Swedish Round started promisingly with Tim recalling *Wild Strawberries* but

concluded with three steals for the Dunkers... there was some debate on how Paired Bingo should be played ... it was decided as a 'pick your own from the grid' type of round...' as QM, Mike H added: '...the strangest thing...was that there was no explanation for how the bingo rounds should be played....fortunately the teams were able to agree...' Winning opponents, Dunkers: '...we are in positive points difference territory and it's only taken us four games to get there... we called on a sub...not supersub Simon but David's daughter Ruth... she started in thoroughbred style, confidently scoring a two for 'Strider' on her first ever question; thereafter she caught the old-hand quizzer's 'I know the answer to everyone else's questions except mine' malaise but enjoyed the evening anyway...the Historymedics managed not to embarrass themselves over anatomy or medical terms and Tim scored his most lowbrow two ever by knowing the Paltrow/Martin quotation... he may never live that down...the match was won by our six bonuses while our hosts got none...'

Others: '...after being even Stevens with the Bards for the first 3 rounds, we fell away quickly and never quite recovered... our first two quizzes of the season had been amongst our best ever results but tonight was a desultory return to the worst of our form from seasons prior... for us everything depends on the type of questions set...'

ROUND 1 - Pot luck

ROUND 2 - 'A Hartlepudlian Round'

ROUND 3 - 'Warriors'

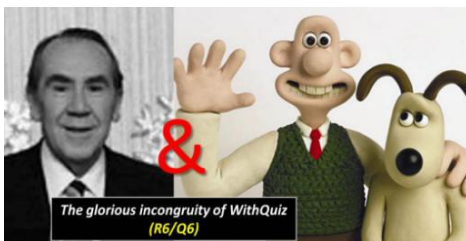
ROUND 4 - Bingo - Pick Your Own Subject (part 1)

ROUND 5 - Bingo - Pick Your Own Subject (part 2)

ROUND 6 - Run Ons (*last word of first answer is the first of the second*)

ROUND 7 - A Swedish Round

ROUND 8 - Pot luck



1.11. 2017 set by Ethel Rodin.

Bards score 33 (lost home v **Prodigals 43**). **History Men score 43** (won away to Albert 32). **Highest score Mantis Shrimp 44** (v Electric Pigs 42). *Victory also for Charabancs (40). The Shrimps strengthen their hold at the top.*

Average Aggregate Score: 78.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 76.0)

Thoughts from Mike B: '...not a typical Ethel paper...erudition yes, but ... quite a bit of playfulness...peaking in invented spoonerisms...' '...an epic struggle with the visitors leading up to the break, and then the Opsimaths creeping into pole position....until a swing of fortune in Round 8 left the Charas ahead by two points at the final whistle...'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '...must have taken a year or two to craft ...namesakes and spoonerisms are as rare as interesting questions on Munros or naval ordnance...' '...an unexpected victory...we gained a lead in the first round and pulled steadily ahead...' Mike H, QMing for Bards: '...Prodigals got off to a good start... won every round except Round 6 which was tied, and Round 7...looked as if Bards might be making a late comeback, but lost the last round, probably the most difficult of the evening, 5-0....'

Others: Mike O'B of Albert: '...we were a total Shiloh Pitt tonight...' Rachael of Shrimps: '...a very enjoyable evening...we just pulled ahead to beat our excellent opponents by two points...after falling behind in the first round, we made up lost ground and were neck and neck by half time...in the second half, we remained within a point or two of each other, with the Shrimps just clinching victory on the last question...' Anne-Marie of Prodigals: '...lovely evening at the Cricket Club...Danny and I inspired by our visits to see David who is now on the mend and back in Manchester at Trafford General...'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme (*Greater Manchester breweries*)

ROUND 2 – Namesakes (*answer to each question is a name shared by two people, real or fictional*)

ROUND 3 – Spoonerisms (*two parts where answer to second part is a spoonerism of the first*)

ROUND 4 – Paired

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme (*English and Welsh castles*)

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - The 'Workout Round' (*All the answers contain words that can be placed after 'work'*)

ROUND 8 – Paired



15.11.17 set by Electric Pigs

Bards score 34 (lost away v **Dunkin' Dönitz 40**). History Men score 33 (lost home to **Prodigals 42**). **Highest score Mantis Shrimp 44** (v Opsimaths 28). *Victory also for Albert (39)*.

Average Aggregate Score: 74.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 75.8)

Thoughts from Mike B: ‘...another good paper full of diverse subjects and engagingly varied ways of seeking answers...the level of difficulty seemed just right...the Opsimaths got well and truly thumped by **Mantis Shrimp**..... the range of knowledge displayed by the Shrimps was gobsmacking...they were unstoppable....Opsimaths were on poor form...we did get a slightly harsher 'rub of the green' with seven unanswerable questions to the Shrimps four, but Shrimps’ 15 twos to our 5 shows who was in charge...’ ‘...we fell to chatting about ... the appeal of our quiz league to those slightly younger..... Shrimps are keen to spread the word amongst current Manchester University *University Challenge* hopefuls that participation in our league will make them more likely to succeed against Jeremy....they also like the fact that we have our own folklore which conveys a sense of history and permanence...’ ‘...Charabancs keep getting on the wrong end of close encounters... only one point in it at the death...’ ‘...we’re rightly proud ...of having sustained our quiz league for so long...the standards we’ve attained are high ...we should pat ourselves on the back for this achievement ...but we shouldn’t rest on our laurels...setters could think hard before setting popular culture questions from 40 or 50 years back...questions need to be accessible to most competitors....seek to make their question text shorter and more succinct... players find it harder to absorb all the information presented and will ask for the text to be repeated.... ask QMs to press for answers....market ourselves in a more systematic fashion...’ ‘...Mark and Cheryl Bassett have agreed to be our Guests of Honour ... at our Celebration Evening...they played for The Prodigals for many years until just last year when they moved to Vienna... Mark's an energetic and enthusiastic speaker and is relishing the prospect of saying a few words on this momentous occasion - as well as acting as QM for the evening's quiz...’

Thoughts from others: Ivor: ‘...great victory for the Prodigals... however, we always have an entertaining evening ...we were actually ahead at one stage and only two points behind before our usual collapse in the final two furlongs...the main problems tonight included...unlucky seat positions (Tim getting football and pop singers for his first three questions)...unexplained brain failure (optician David forgetting about Daltonism, Tim knowing Heights of Abraham but unable to think of a 19th Century novel ending in 'Heights'...my honorary Everton supporter status shown up by failure to suggest Romelu Lukaku as a promising youngster and Gordon West as a legend.... a combined score of 75 with just 8 unanswered breaking 4-4... it was Round 7 that really did for us....’ QM Mike H: ‘...question setters should take care to balance their questions...if one team is asked for a three-part answer, the other team should get a similar question with a multi-part answer...,, an immensely enjoyable evening...both teams were a great pleasure to be with...’

Kieran of Dunkin' Dönitz: ‘...Bards remainthe only team in the league with a winning record against us since 'Nemesis' six and a half years ago...but the margin has narrowed...twice in their trophy-gathering seasons, they've beaten us three times in three different competitions in the space of four or five weeks so it was

especially satisfying to be able to raise our colours ...in this season's first encounter....Bards took an early lead but we levelled by the end of Round 3....we'd stretched our lead to four at the start of the final round and were confident of success....our home fortress is looking down at heel, and no longer appealing...though one of the founding venues of the league, we're seriously considering relocating at the end of the season if not earlier...'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme (*autumnal colour of brown*)

ROUND 2 – Paired

ROUND 3 - Announced theme (*words that can precede 'ful'*)

ROUND 4 - Run-ons - *last word of the first answer is the first word of the second*)

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme (*Wilfred Owen WWI poem Dulce Et Decorum Est...*)

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 – Paired

ROUND 8 - Pick Your Own - 'Manchester Matters'



22.11.17 set by Prodigals.

Bards score 26 (lost home v **Opsimaths 37**). History Men rested.. **Highest score Dunkin' Dönitz 46** (v Mantis Shrimp 32). *Victory also for Charabancs (38), Ethel Rodin (40).*

Average Aggregate Score: 67.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 74.6)

Thoughts from Mike B: '...little enthusiasm at the Cricket Club for the round asking us to 'Spot the Year' from three desultory and totally unmemorable facts...the opening of the first KFC outlet in Salt Lake City is something I have managed to avoid being confronted with for most of my life...however the resulting conferences in this round were most pleasurable leading to all sorts of reminiscences (but not many points)...

...the Cricket Club provided the perfect environment... a thoroughly civilised and enjoyable contest with the added bonus of a muted TV set providing a grandstand view of United being rolled over in Switzerland...

Down at the Griffin, arguably the match of the season so far, was taking place between last season's champs, Dunkin' Dönitz, and this season's hundred percenters, Compulsory Mantis Shrimp... something had to give and the visitors duly lost their perfect record in a high-scoring contest...'

Kieran of Dunkin' Dönitz: '...I wasn't expecting that.... it just went completely our way; questions far more suited to us than our opponents...an almost perfect performance... the Prodigals heroically ignored recent pleadings to consider younger players when setting questions....we were 15 points ahead at half time and the second half was more or less drawn...we won it on bonuses, 11 vs 3... a paper more or less designed for our just-about-remembered old fart knowledge... Rachael scored six twos in her team's losing cause and was by a long way the best player out of the eight of us...'

James of Rodin: '...plenty of occasions when individuals contributed parts of an answer that was then put together by the team....we liked the questions where there were several ways in...non-questions of the week were the pair of acronyms which yielded a total of 0 points....'

Mike O'B of Albert (lost to Rodin): '...on an evening when just 10 twos were scored by the two teams put together, Ethel won because they were clearly better at conferring....'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme (*leading members of popular Mancunian 'bands'*)

ROUND 2 - 'Gone Missing' *Who or what is missing from each list?*

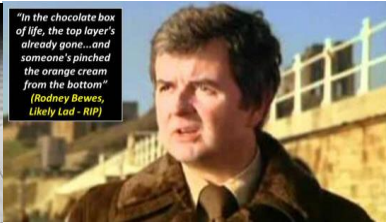
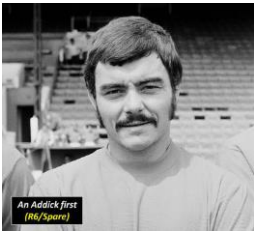
ROUND 3 - Run On Round

ROUND 4 - Name the Year (*three clues to a particular year*)

ROUND 5 & 6 - Reverse pairs

ROUND 7 - "You Called Your Child What!" (*odd names for children of celebrity couples*)

ROUND 8 – Metrolink (*stations in Manchester Metrolink network*)



29.11.17 set by Dunkin' Dönitz

Bards score 32 (lost home v **Mantis Shrimp – highest score**), **History Men 38 (home v Opsimaths 37) Victory also for Prodigals (37), Ethel Rodin (40).**

Average Aggregate Score: 73.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 74.6)

Thoughts from Mike B: Dunkers exceeded all expectations with their 'Run On' round. The Bards lost to the Shrimps who were back at their magisterial best and returned to the top of the table. Ethel are sitting just behind the Dunkers and the Shrimps and are well placed to pounce if either of the table toppers flag.

The History Men just squeaked past The Opsimaths with Ivor going for a two on the last question to give the home team a one point victory. Guesting for the Opsis was Joe, student from Manchester University who is reserve on this year's *University Challenge* team – he is keen to play in WithQuiz.

Thoughts from others: Mike H: '...a very enjoyable quiz...very close with an equal number of unanswerable questions and an equal number of 'twos'' going to either side.... Ivor, who had earned a few jeers for blurting 'Bend It Like Beckham' for his answer in round 1, made up for this with his clinching two pointer on the final question of the evening ('the hills are alive to the sound of Ivor'...')

Damian: '....a bit of a curate's egg with a few nuggets of gold....'

Rachael of Shrimps: '....a very enjoyable paper with a lot of variety.... plenty of challenging questions that led to furious conferring.... a very enjoyable evening with our excellent opponents, The Bards...'

ROUND 1 - 'Elementary' *Each answer begins with the two-letter chemical symbol of an element*

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme *(surnames of science fiction writers....)*

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme – *(Bank Holidays)*

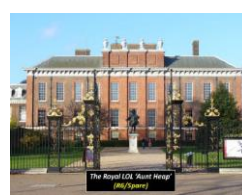
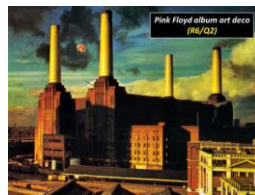
ROUND 4 - Run Ons

ROUND 5 – Paired

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme – *(parliamentary constituencies gained by Labour from the Tories in June)*

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme – *(things you find in the ocean....)*

ROUND 8 - 'WithQuiz's Youth policy' - announced theme - *words relating to types of music/youth cults*



6.12.17 set by The History Men.

Bards had the week off. History Men set the quiz. **Highest score Ethel Rodin 44** (v Prodigals 31) *Victory also for Opsimaths (43), Dunkin' Dönitz (42), Mantis Shrimp (41)*

Average Aggregate Score: 72.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 74.3)

Thoughts of Mike B: '....a fairly conventional paper...the themed rounds were typical of a new trend where the theme is half given in the introduction...but more is waiting to be discovered as the round progresses... a good 'down the middle' paper that gave us an enjoyable evening.... Opsimaths got back to winning ways...the first two rounds went decisively to the visitors but a dramatic turnaround in Round 3 saw the home team gain the lead and keep it from thereon...'

Thoughts from others: Rachael: '...lots of variety...many of the questions were challenging and interesting and inspired much heated conferring....it was lovely to have Ivor in attendance to oversee the success of his

paper...’ Mike O'B: ‘...the questions were fair enough but in places the pairs were unbalanced...we contributed to our downfall with a surfeit of blurting... Mantis were surprisingly well up on Old Culture...we suffered a disastrous Round 7 which put them out of sight...’ Damian: ‘...we didn't find the History Men's questions as Chara-friendly as in the past... too much politics, ... obscure film lore, ... too much sport...throughout the first half, Dunkers were well ahead and, then, at the start of the second half, we started to make a comeback and led in every round until the last when we got utterly sunk by Bingo... it's very embarrassing for the Charas, proud inventors of the Bingo round, to have to admit this...have the Bards, those well-known lovers of Bingo rounds, been at the ouija board again and summoned up some dark entity from ...Hades to torment us whenever it is our turn to pick a number?... here's hoping for a very merry Christmas and New Year to everybody in WithQuiz...’

ROUND 1 – Paired

ROUND 2 - 'No Sniggering at the Back'

ROUND 3 - 'Missing from the List'

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme (*Names from the 1970s/80s series Dallas (357 episodes)*)

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme (*Names of former MPs, also with a unique common connecting theme, the eight sitting members of the House of Commons who have been murdered.. Lord Frederick Cavendish (1882, Irish Nationalists), Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson (1922, IRA), Sir Anthony Berry (1984, IRA), Reverend Robert Bradford (1981, IRA), Spencer Perceval (1812, angry constituent), Airey Neave (1979, INLA), Jo Cox (2016, Neo-nazi) and Ian Gow (1990, IRA)*)

ROUND 7 – Paired

ROUND 8 - Lucky Dip



13.12.17 set by Mantis Shrimp

Bards score 27 (lost home v **Ethel Rodin 31**), **History Men 35 (home v Electric Pigs 28)**. **Highest score Opsimaths and Dunkin' Dönitz, each with 43 in a drawn game.** *Victory also for Albert (36).*

Average Aggregate Score: 67.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 73.6)

Thoughts from Mike B: ‘...at the Albert Club, the aggregate score was a mighty 86 points...elsewhere, however, the aggregates hovered around 60, a wide divergence between the various aggregate scores...every round themed on a particular topic....loads of invention special praise from me for the Post Code lottery....a classic case of shared knowledge intersecting to provide a plausible answer.... Opsimaths tied with Dunkin' Dönitz...but for a run of 7 superb twos right at the end, Dunkers would have lost to the home team who were ahead throughout...the final question came to me with the Opsimaths one point behind for almost the first time in the evening.... I conferred and fortunately Nick remembered the cricketer....so a tie...great cheers from all sides....a great match... plenty of mutual respect for a fantastic evening of high class quizzing....’

Thoughts from others: Ivor: ‘...the combined score suggests a hard quiz though one not without interest...thirteen questions went unanswered.... some questions fell to the right seat...young David has only just returned from Iceland and was very familiar with the Yule Lads....a strangely empty Red Lion....perhaps incessant rain had put a damper on any kind of merriment except for the joy of quizzing.....not a game of two halves; more a game of seven eighths....we won the first round against a three handed Pigs team 8-0 (due to four steals) to take an early lead....however the next seven rounds were won by the Pigs 28-27....’

Mike O'B (Albert): ‘...both teams found the first half of the quiz hard going but the second half seemed far more accessible.... the postcode round was very imaginative....’

James (Ethel Rodin): ‘...quite painful at times....lots of good ideas....but perhaps it needed one or two slightly less arcane rounds....Bards are happy that their reputation as lowest scoring quiz setters has been firmly grasped by the claws of the Mantis Shrimp....’

Kieran (DD): ‘...a cold, wet December night.... the setting for the latest clash of the Opsis and the Donuts, a 'no quarter asked nor given' rivalry half as old as time that always, always delivers.... a huge amount of respect

on both sides.... only 7 unanswered....an aggregate score of 86 and a quiz so evenly balanced says a lot for the Shrimp's skill in setting a paper to bring out the best in both teams.... Opsimaths led from the start (we never got ahead until question five in the final round), but it was only 2 or 3 points all the way through the first five rounds....then we got hammered on the postcodes round....seven points behind against the Opsis with two rounds to go, David said it would be a good one to win from here...or at any rate a great one to draw... I screwed my courage to the sticking place and thank God I was right....my fellow Dunkers exploded... over to Mike, needing a one for the draw and a two for a sensational win... Opsis duly got the one point to draw the match and it would have been a complete travesty if they hadn't....'

ROUND 1 - Science Pairs

ROUND 2 - 'Loser' Pairs

ROUND 3 - 'The 2017 Round'

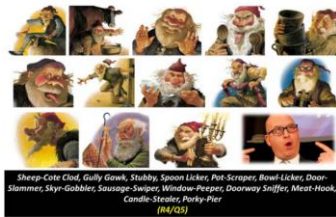
ROUND 4 - Christmas Around the World

ROUND 5 - Run Ons *One half of each answer relates to a UK Christmas hit single*

ROUND 6 - 'Post Code Lottery' *UK Postcode Areas whose two-letter codes are abbreviations of other things. Use the code to answer the question that follows.*

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme (Each answer has 'Y' as its second letter)

ROUND 8 - 'Add a letter' *two single-word answers that differ only by the addition of one letter*



Sad News - Gerry Hennessy



Sadly we have just heard that our good friend Gerry Hennessy died earlier this week. Latterly a stalwart of the Electric Pigs team, Gerry was one of the founders of this quiz league back in 1977 and was much loved and respected by all who knew him. Many of the longer-serving members of the league will remember him for his wonderful Red Lion quizzes which he set and QMed for many years. Setting quizzes was his forte... Back at the end of the 2007/08 season (7/5/2008) at the Albert Club we chose to thank Gerry for all his tireless service...by presenting him with a 'lifetime achievement' award. Dave Rainford gave the speech and presented the fine glass trophy inscribed: *To Gerry Hennessy KWE (Knight Commander of the Withington Empire) commemorating his 60th birthday and acknowledging his immense contribution to quizzing in South Manchester and profits in the Red Lion – The Withington Quiz League May 2008*



We now take our 3 week Christmas break. When we return on Wednesday January 10th all 10 teams will be engaged in matches so we will be using a Guest to prepare the paper...John Tolan (formerly of Ethel Rodin). In the meantime a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all

Wednesday March 28th is the 40th anniversary of the formation of our Quiz League. Each of the existing 10 teams will be limited to 7 invitations. The organising group will add in invitations to former players who fall outside the range of existing teams and special guests. There will be a few words from our special guest Mark Bassett, a short quiz prepared by Roddy from as many of our 40 years as he can recall, a vote for the 'Question of All Seasons', material to remind us of how the league was formed back in 1977, recollection of the more colourful WithQuiz folk heroes, and a gallery of pictures

10.1.18 set by Guest (John Tolan)

Bards score 41 (lost away v **Albert 43**). **History Men 45 (highest, home v Charabancs 38)**. *Victory also for Dunkin' Dönitz (43), Ethel Rodin (44). Mantis Shrimp and Prodigals drew (34-34)*,

Average Aggregate Score: 78.6 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 74.1)

Thoughts from Mike B: '...a gloriously retro evening perfectly in tune with our celebration season.... like settling down in a comfortable armchair to watch the telly and accidentally switching to BBC4 where they're showing one of those nostalgia-fest programmes dressed up as serious history..... a paper redolent of our wonderful past when facts were facts, questions all fitted on a single line, answers were no longer than two words, matches finished at 9.30 or earlier....no themes, no pairs, no run-ons, no bingo and no essays attached to the answer.... the whole affair could have been a Bingo paper where you just chose a number between 1-64... the Opsimaths started the new year off poorly by going down to title hopefuls, Ethel Rodin....the lead changing hands on a number of occasions...in the end Ethel were worthy victors...'

'The History Men recorded a comfortable win over The Charas...after a few years of doom and gloom, Ivor's crew are drifting back into contention...to reach fourth place in the table... Dunkin' Dönitz took advantage of the Shrimp's tie against The Prods, moving back into first place in the table....'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '....as expected from John Tolan, formerly of the Red Lion team, a good old traditional quiz....no themes, a sprinkling of gee-whizzes, some quiz classics and the occasional chestnut, with a difficulty level to ensure everyone went home with a couple of 2s and the feeling one's brains had been lightly exercised rather than flogged to death....in what must be the shortest quiz paper of the season tucked into an A5 envelope with barely a question longer than a line and all compressed onto two sheets of paper, there was even time for jokes during the quiz...testing areas last visited at primary school....the only curiosity was the greyhound racing colours question as no one had ever seen a race with more than six traps... we started the new year well for once with a victory over one of our oldest foes...of course we are not foes and tonight, in about our 40th meeting, we all had a very merry evening...' Mike H chips in: '...a very enjoyable quiz in the company of two very friendly, humorous teams....the questions being on just two sheets were difficult for the QM to navigate...it would not have been difficult to get into the *Two Ronnies* situation where the answer to a question was given to the preceding or following question...but I survived with just one faux-pas...'

Kieran: '...he quiz was a throwback.... though there was something dislocated about it...a sense that this used to be great and it's nice to experience it just once more but things have moved on and now we're playing a different game entirely...a decent win to start the new year against old rivals and friends, the Electric Pigs, comfortable enough in the end...'

Mike O'B: '...the quiz was a throwback to the early years of the League... allowed relatively little scope for using logic to work out an answer and hence relatively little scope for conferring... the questions were reasonable and there were very few unanswered...much to our chagrin we arrived at the Fletcher Moss to find it closed for what looks like a radical refurbishment...we transferred to the Crown which proved to be a surprisingly good venue...had a comfortable lead until the last two rounds but then The Bards finished much more strongly so that in the end we only just scraped home...'

Shrimp Tom: '...Shrimps and Prodigals alike will remember this paper for the unfortunate pairing of Dennis the Menace and Vera Menchik, which gave plenty to talk about at the half-time break...but to retain only this memory would be unfair and unfortunate; it was really quite a good paper, with short, pithy questions, good balance of subject matter and plenty of what I call 'inherent interest'.... commentators seem to think we failed to win because of 'oldie' questions...this is not true, the paper suited us...we failed to win because the Prodigals knew a lot of stuff, conferred well... and because we made a number of incorrect 50 / 50 calls...none was in our

condemned category: 'nostalgic but dead and buried as far we are concerned'...I'm still surprised that WithQuizzers don't seem to see the distinction between these two categories....'

ROUNDS 1-8 Pot Pourri



'...news has reached me...of the death of Andrew Simpson, erstwhile player in our league....Brian writes...' Andrew used to play for the Albert... he was a small quiet person, with a very mellifluous voice...a gentleman of the old school...'

'Make sure you've got **Wednesday March 28th** in your diaries as this is when we will be gathering to celebrate our 40th anniversary. A few days ago I sent this message to all Team Captains....' '...we want Team Captains to be responsible for issuing the bulk of the invitations....we have decided that we should limit each of our 10 teams to 7 invitees (current and past players)....you are urged to make an effort to contact former players and get them in...please send me a list of those that have accepted your invitations by February 10th....no individual attending will be asked to pay anything...we will cover the cost by asking each of the current 10 teams to pay (what we currently estimate to be) £50....a few words from guest speaker Mark Bassett; a short quiz based on some of the question papers from the early days of WithQuiz (prepared and delivered by Roddy)...plenty of material about the origins of the league, the highlights of its first 40 years and memories of its most colourful characters...a vote for the 'Best WithQuiz Question' of the first 40 years ...but mainly each other's company'

17.1.18 set by Opsimaths

Bards score 37 (victory home v Albert 38), History Men 46 (victory away v Electric Pigs 35), Prodigals 43 (victory home v Mantis Shrimp 40. Highest score Dunkin' Dönitz 47 (home v Ethel Rodin 38).

Average Aggregate Score: 79.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 74.6)

Thoughts from Mike B: 'Not very high-scoring at the Cricket Club where I was QM'ing the Bards/Albert encounter. The Opsimaths had compiled a paper made up of at least one round from each player. My own contribution was the final round themed on the quizzing life of Gerry Hennessy...I hope you all thought this a fitting conclusion to a week in which we said goodbye to a close friend. Bards led from the start and gradually increased their advantage...running out victors by 5 points...Tony's grandson, Tom, played for the Bards as did student Joe Hanson reducing the average age of the Bards to something between 40 and 50....'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '...both teams enjoyed the paper tonight...not too many Scottish rivers and mountains though just enough to mark it as an Opsimath Quiz...relocated to the Red Lion from the closed (for refurbishing) Fletcher Moss...Pigs won the second half but they had fallen irretrievably behind after the first three rounds...joining their team ...was another veteran, Barry.... Who used to assist the QMing and marking at Gerry Hennessy's famous Monday night quizzes at the Red Lion, where (in April 1989) the first incarnation of the Historymen saw the light of day....as others have reported, Gerry's quizzes were a delight...every week he produced 60 questions that playfully probed all human knowledge, but were beautifully constructed so that there was always a chance of delving out an answer....we must have been posed 30,000 questions in that period, hardly a repeat and never a dull one...tonight's last round was a fitting tribute...'

Anne-Marie: '...very interesting and enjoyable...some questions guessable and some impossible, but on the whole a balanced paper...it does help that I sit next to J B Priestley's great niece at work... a very close game which came down to the last question...it helped that Prodigals had guessed the theme when it was announced....a fun evening with the lovely Shrimps and ...a spectating crowd of two, Mike H and Liz, who gave their support to both teams in equal measure....'

Further on Gerry: Gerry's family and friends (amongst whom many WithQuizzers past and present) gathered on Monday morning at Southern Cemetery to say their farewells....speakers at the service included ... quizzing pal Robin, ...in with Gerry at the very start of our league 40 years ago.

Celebration Evening Indications are that a few teams may want to invite more than the 7 allocated...if so, we may have to look for a bigger venue...In a week when we are mourning the passing of Gerry Hennessy, it's great to see Barry back with us quizzing in the same team that Gerry played for... it was Barry who started our own league back in 1977 by trekking around local pubs and clubs recruiting teams to play in a quiz league. He is going to join us on March 28th for our 40th birthday...'

ROUND 1 - Announced Theme – Around 14 people have been Prime Minister of the UK on two or more separate occasions Each answer contains the name of one of these (with one sound-alike).

ROUND 2 - 'We're not really here!' Questions on things that don't exist

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme – Theme: Answers are names that, when turned into sets of initials, have their first two initials progressing alphabetically from 'JA' to 'JB' to 'JC' etc.

ROUND 4 - 'Up the Rebels!' Bingo Round Slough Town FC, nicknamed 'The Rebels', play in the the Evo-Stik League South Premier Division. Pick a question about other towns which have teams in this division.

ROUND 5 - Paired Quotations

ROUND 6 - 'Speaking of the Opsimaths' The answers to questions 1 to 6 (and the 2 spares) contain adjectives that Opsimaths would love others to use to describe their question papers – sadly, however, the adjectives featured in the answers to questions 7 and 8 have been used more

ROUND 7 – Pairs

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme – 'Farewell' Theme: Gerry Hennessy (Quiz Master Extraordinaire of the Red Lion, and faithful member of the Electric Pigs at the Fletcher Moss) RIP and Thanks!



24.1.18 set by Charabancs.

Bards score 23 (defeat home v **Ethel Rodin 38**), History Men 30 (defeat home v **Mantis Shrimp 45 highest score**). Victory also for *Dunkin' Dönitz* (34), *Albert* (40).

Average Aggregate Score: 66.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 74.0)

Thoughts of Mike B: '...a lower aggregate than usual for a Charas' paper (their paper before Christmas had an average aggregate score of 79.8)...pretty tough but full of variety and plenty of interesting material...at the Griffin,there were 18 unanswered questions and plenty of debate...(for instance...Comanche was not General Custer's horse but that of Captain Keogh who fought alongside Custer at the Little Bighorn).....

Dunkers ended up victorious against Opsimaths ...pointwise Dunkers are now ahead, but it didn't seem that would be the case at half time when they were trailing by 8 points...the second half more than swung their way with a 6 point winning margin at the final whistle....Dunkers are razor-sharp on knowing when to confer and when to go for a two....History Men lost at home to Mantis Shrimp...which means Shrimps are still firmly in the title hunt, underlining the fact by registering the top score of the evening....'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '...a combined score of 75 suggests a 'good standard par' quiz...however we found it rather taxing and, whether we got harder questions or whether the Shrimps were just better, can be debated until the cows come home on Salt Island....I suspect if the *Pointless* team asked 100 people in County Down if they had ever heard of it, it might even be a pointless answer. I checked on Wikipedia and it has no separate page which, considering Wiki now has 5, 557,123 entries, must make that answer pretty obscure.... we had a few good rescues with Comanche (not Apache) as the horse, *Alice in Wonderland* and Jonny Wilkinson...mostly the questions fell to the wrong seat (though Mike got his two on the location of that well known film starring Harrison Ford (!!!) *Romancing the Stone*....)...interesting thoughts about changing times...a policeman who laughed when given half a crown - presumably corrupt... the French do political

scandals better than any other country...gives a new meaning to 'dying on the job'....Shrimps beat us by 21 points at our last meeting so I suppose a 15 point deficit suggests a degree of improvement...we were only 7 points behind going into the last round before a 9-1 score condemned us....Shrimps have a seemingly endless supply of players tempered in ...*University Challenge*...tonight it was Charlie who appeared in the Manchester team of two years ago....'We didn't do very well then,' he reported...well he did very well tonight, along with James, Tom and Rachael; 15 twos between them compared to our 5'

Mike H: '...found the quiz less enjoyable than on other occasions...a bit one-sided, more difficult questions than usual and not a lot to get involved with...'

Rachael: '...we all enjoyed the quiz, a good range of topics and themes which inspired a lot of fevered conferring....after a very enjoyable evening...we finished 15 points ahead....it was a pleasure to spend the evening with the History Men who are always delightful company and worthy opponents....we took a slight lead in Round 1 which we steadily extended....though I think we had the luck of the draw in a few cases...'

Kieran: '...close and inevitably uncertainuntil question five in the final round....it was the archetypal game of two halves....Opsis stormed away with the first four rounds by 20 points to 12....we replied by taking the second half 22 to 8....neither team chose well on the bingo rounds but Opsis did betterand worked a four point lead up to an impressive eight at the break...Opsis had some terrible luck: '*Man About The House*' rather than '*Doctor In The House*' and '*Apache Guevara*' instead of '*Comanche*'.....there's a very long way to go in this season butwe've been a different team for the last eighteen months or so....we're looking forward to the remaining games with a justifiable optimism...'

Mike O'B: '...occasional griping about the wording of some of the questions...'

Roddy: '....we were playing at the cricket club but we were fortunate to gain entry as Tony had thought that the Bards were playing at the Red Lion....so Bards were down in Withington until they realised the mistake....when they arrived back at the cricket club, they were a question master short and had to play 3-handed....'

Celebration Evening

Make sure you've got Wednesday March 28th in your diaries....nominating invitees indicate that numbers will be nearer 100 than 80 so the organising group have decided to switch the venue from the Cricket Club to Didsbury Sports Ground....which can accommodate 100 fairly comfortably....I've been getting information together about the formation of the league in the late 1970s....interesting to compare archives for the late 1970s to 1999, and those for 2000 onwards when the website became our means of keeping in touch....from 2000 onwards, pretty everything ...is documented and available on the website archive.... from 1977 to 2000, Barry's complete records amount to 5 scraps of paper from a 1984 personal diary with some scribbled match results...maybe we were better off then with just rosy memories and none of the archived data and opinion recorded for posterity that we have these days....'

ROUND 1 – Pairs

ROUND 2 - Given theme names of Irish islands (in a river, lough or off-shore): Achill (Mayo), Great (Cork), Tory (Donegal), Spanish (Cork), Clare (Mayo), Inch (Donegal), Puffin (Kerry), Castle (Down) and Salt Island (County Down)

ROUND 3 & 4 - Pick Your Own Subjects: *Historical Mysteries, In the Beginning, Anyone For Tennis?, Political Scandals, Romance, Science Fiction, Water, water everywhere, Telly Addicts, In the End, Watching the Skies*

ROUND 5 - Hidden Theme - 'Cheeky Girls': *All answers contain names of parts of the body*

ROUND 6 - Run Ons

ROUND 7 - Offset pairs

ROUND 8 - Titled and Themed - 'Gizza Job'



31.1.18 set by Bards

History Men score 32 (victory away v Charabancs 18), Prodigals 17 (defeat home v Albert 28). Highest score Mantis Shrimp 38 (away v Electric Pigs 19). Victory also for Opsimaths (31). .

Average Aggregate Score: 52.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.5)

Thoughts of Mike B: '...a very low-scoring paper tonight (the lowest of the season to-date, eclipsing the previous lowest set by the Bards before Christmas) with quite a few grumbles....when one of our longest serving and best established squads (the Charabancs) spend three whole rounds without scoring any points it can't be much fun....Electric Pigs lost at home to Mantis Shrimp who thereby return to the top of the table on points difference.'

Thoughts from others

Anne-Marie: '...not impressed with a match aggregate of a mere 45 points, a massive tally of 26 unanswered questions, a minimal 7 twos ...and a score in the final round of 1-0 (to the Prodigals as it happens).'

Ivor: '...tonight was the first super blue blood moon for almost a century and a half, and we spent it in the comfort of the Turnpike...sadly we did not have a super blue blood quiz and there was not much fun....we did not even get much pleasure from our 12 point victory....25 unanswered questions and only 9 twos between us....Charas had three rounds where they failed to score a point at all...the last round of 8 questions had 7 unanswered....I do not think we gave up at that point but perhaps we should have had an inkling of how unfathomable it would be when Jane the QM smiled and said 'You think it has been bad so far...!...low scoring quizzes can still be interesting - most however are not...there might well be aficionados of the tram system, and statisticians of baby conception and baby holiday venues, but not in the Turnpike tonight.'

Ethel's James suggests that if 'Unanswered Questions' had been playing as a third team, with two points per question, they would have walked away with an easy win....

Rachael: '...we generally enjoyed the paper, with a number of questions causing furious conferring on both sides....we appreciated the inclusion of more science questions, which definitely worked in our favour.... our match got off to a shaky start as we were a few points behind at the end of Round 1...however we soon turned things around and were able to extend our lead slowly but surely...finishing the night 19 points ahead....Pigs were excellent company as always and put up a valiant fight in the face of some tricky questions.... the last round was pretty unpopular, given that about half of the questions, particularly the first two, could only be answered by guesswork."

ROUND 1 - 'A look back at 2017'

ROUND 2 – Pairs

ROUND 3 - Pairs

ROUND 4 - 'Top to Tail' *The first letter of each answer is the same as the last letter of the previous answer*

ROUND 5 - Pairs

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme: *Each answer contains the name of a British World War II Bomber*

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme: *Each answer contains the name of an Irish Whiskey*

ROUND 8 - Travel pairs



7.2.18 set by Albert

Bards 41 (victory away v History Men 36), Highest score Prodigals 42 (victory home v Ethel Rodin 33). Victory also for Opsimaths (41). Dunkin' Dönitz (36)

Average Aggregate Score: 74.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.6)

Thoughts of Mike B: '...a wonderful evening of intelligent banter and erudite debate.... the overall opinion was pretty favourable.... plenty of good thoughtful stuff - but it does seem to me that the 'Run Ons' format has now run on a little too long....the Opsis were glad to welcome Clare back from her peripatetic University

Challenges which take her round the country at this time of year seeking young quizzers ready to stand up to the Paxman glare.... she was on great form as Rachael, Adam, Richard and Tom were just outplayed... Opsimaths just kept their noses in front amassing 11 twos to the Shrimp's 9'.

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '...good questions and interesting variety.....a number of examples of the right question falling to the right seat: medic Bernard getting the PET question, lawyer Tony getting the case hanging on a comma, me getting the Irish Republic party names.....playing first we were always behind in tonight's match, but going into the final round only 3 points behind there was always a chance....however, sadly not tonight....ironically I had my best performance of the season with seven consecutive twos until I was bowled out with the question on the Peugeot item manufactured since the 1840s....had I been allowed 10,000 guesses there is perhaps a remote chance I would have come up with the correct answer but I would not have wagered money on this....a question like this on the very last question of the night!...'.

Mike H: '...a very enjoyable quiz with various good questions though not regrettably the last one.....a pity as the result might have come down to this....'

Danny: '....the game seemed closer than the final result suggested...Prodigals got off to a flyer in Round One.... thereafter Ethel could never quite catch up....'

Kieran: '...that was some game.....ahead after Round One then behind all the way to the end of Round Six, finally just about hanging on to snatch the win by two....we scrapped for points anywhere they could be found....I was completely exhausted by the end...several contenders for the best Run Ons ever.... 'Fabrizio Ravanelli the Elephant....'Danny La Roobarb and Custard' 'Debbie Does Da-Last Of The Summer Wine' was simply breathtaking....'

Damian: '...a thoroughly enjoyable affair with plenty of varied questions... a somewhat closer affair than our performance against the History Men last week... pretty much neck and neck all the way....'

ROUND 1 - 'A Pink Round'

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme: *Each answer contains the name of a unit of measurement*

ROUND 3 - Run Ons (part 1)

ROUND 4 - 'What is it?'

ROUND 5 - Announced Theme *Each answer contains the nickname of a US State*

ROUND 6 - Links *What links the following?*

ROUND 7 - Run Ons (part 2)

ROUND 8 - Pot pourri



21.2.18 set by Ethel Rodin.

History Men 37 (defeat away v **Dunkin' Dönitz 40**) Bards score 34 (defeat away v **Mantis Shrimp 38**).

Highest score 41 Charabancs (away v Electric Pigs 30), *Victory also for Prodigals (39)*

Average Aggregate Score: 73.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.7)

Thoughts of Mike B: '...Opsimaths suffered another derby defeat at the hands of The Prodigals....tough going for valiant QM Stella as she battled the Head Roast that turned out to be Round Two and the TV-watching United fans in the front lounge....she soldiered on....a close run quiz that saw the Prodigals just creep home in the last round....Opsimaths got the majority of the unanswered questions (by a margin of 6 to 1) but the Prodigals were good value for their win..... a most enjoyable evening....on the whole....we prefer today's more complex brainteaser style whilst at the same time begging setters not to overdo things (we're all getting older and deafer...)... Man U fans in the front lounge made the delivery of the early rounds with their complex instructions and lengthy text very difficult for both the QM and the worn out ears of the participants.... a curate's egg of a paper, overly complex at times but full of fascinating teasers....spoonerisms nice try, but no

cigar....the trouble with spoonerisms is that viable examples are too few and far between to make for natural question construction.... when length is accompanied by three totally different strands of knowledge (not to mention ambient noise) it becomes well nigh impossible.... the second half speeded up and the dreaded 11pm finish was comfortably avoided....'

'....on Wednesday March 28th at Didsbury Sports Ground, ... it seems between 90 and 100 will be therethe venue can cope with over 100.....no charge for entrance and food on the night...I will ask each team to reimburse me after the event (probable cost £50-£60 per team).... '

Thoughts from others: Ivor: "...we like to give the Dunkers a bit of a scare even though we seem to lack the ability to deliver the coup de grâce these days....at one stage we got seven consecutive twos and were five points ahead by the end of Round 6, then one point ahead after Round 7, setting up the game for an exciting finish....the wheels came off with three unanswered to us in the last round which led to a comfortable win for the Dunkers....young Elizabeth made her debut in the QM seat, and - considering this paper had the most complex rubric yet, ...she did a splendid job...the match speeded up in the second half....as can be imagined, the complexities of spoonerisms and run-ons did result in a few 'constipaters' in the first half....'

Kieran: '....almost all the stats were evenly balanced....the only tiny difference was that the History Men copped for four unanswered to our three and in contests as tight as this that makes a huge difference... Ethel... crafted a paper which produced yet another superb finish... somewhat complicated and rather wordy... our debutante QM...coped admirably with the paper's difficulties... our opponents ...are the most affable companions to spend a Wednesday evening with...our usual approach of letting the opposition draw out a significant lead which we then reel in right at the death has worked well all season so why change it now?... the stars were Barry and Anne who each reeled off four second half twos to keep the pressure on both teams...'

Rachael: '...a most pleasant evening in the company of the Bards...first half very close with the lead changing hands a few times but never being more than a point or two....we pulled ahead a little in the second half and finished four in front....a fun and challenging paper which provoked much furious conferring on both sides...'

Damian: '...in a crowded pub...Charas took on the Piggies whose number included the welcome presence of one of the very founders of our quiz league, Mr Barry Whitehead....Piggies decided not to follow Man U's lazy example of settling for a goalless draw and decided instead to seize the bull by the horns and win their first match of the year....after drawing in the first round, we duly led in every subsequent round and managed to stave off a Piggie revival....each member of the team scored at least one two-pointer....with new boy Graham the star of the evening, notching up four of the little blighters!....tonight's paper...was a real brainteaser....especially in the first half where we had further parts added to questions that were already two part in their format...upshot was some very wordy and lengthy questions that elicited some very lengthy conferring stretching proceedings to the limit..... generally well received with plenty of variety, and the pace picking up in the second half.....'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme: *each answer contains name of a Scottish Football League ground when the word 'Park' is added to it*

ROUND 2 – Spoonerisms: *answer to the second part is a spoonerism of the answer to the first*

ROUND 3 - Run Ons

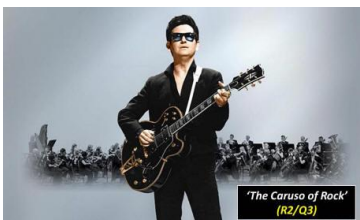
ROUND 4 - Announced theme *Each answer contains a christian name*

ROUND 5 - Run Ons with a twist - answer already given but vowels removed and consonants re-spaced.

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme - 'Xīnnián kuàilè' - 'Happy New Year!' *Each answer contains an animal featured in the Chinese zodiac*

ROUND 7 – Pairs

ROUND 8 – Pairs



28.2.18 set by Electric Pigs.

History Men 30 (defeat home v **Ethel Rodin 46**). **Highest score Dunkin' Dönitz 49** (v Prodigals 34). *Victory also for Opsimaths (41), Mantis Shrimp (45)*

Average Aggregate Score: 82.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 73.2)

Thoughts of Mike B: 'If Gerry Hennessy is up there watching... he will certainly have approved of his colleagues' efforts... 'one of the best papers this season' ...varied in format and content, well-balanced and concise...great scores too... a most enjoyable evening in one of the two historic centres of South Manchester quizzing (the other, of course, being the Red).'

Thoughts of others: Ivor: '...Snow might well have deterred many from visiting the Red Lion but it never deters the Withington League quizzers....all wrapped up a bit warmer...but the same eight players that have met come rain or shine over the last few seasons....we were well beaten in the end but were ahead after three rounds....it was the 'pick your own' questions that did for us.... Geoff impressed us all with his encyclopaedic knowledge of football and tennis trivia.... I parked for years in Oldham Athletic's ground at Boundary Park next to Oldham's Royal Hospital, but never knew they were once called Pine Villa...Electric Pigs served up a well-received quiz with plenty of point scoring opportunities, very few unanswered (5) and not too many arguments...'

James: '...really enjoy playing the History people...always one of the more entertaining evenings of the season.... snow ensured an unusually quiet venue...a close run affair....but, as so often the case, rounds designed to even out the risks of uneven pairings, actually proved the turning point of the quiz, with Ethel winning those two rounds 15-7, 8 points happening to be our winning margin for the quiz as a whole....one of the top few quizzes of the season...a solid and interesting set of questions with only 5 unanswered...'

Kieran: '...after three weeks of nail-biters decided on the last question, we come up with our biggest win, and highest points score, of the season... the whole quiz was right up our street...we need five more points to be certain of the title and with only four matches left there's scarcely any room for slip-ups...next Bards who have a winning record against us over the last six or so seasons...'

Rachael: '...after a thrilling evening, we finished an extremely close fought match three points in front...Charabancs pulled ahead to a one point lead after the first round and we remained within a point or two of each other all night, ending Round 4 on a tied scoreline...we took a slim lead at the start of the second half that we were just able to cling on to... an excellent quiz with plenty of variety ...our favourite paper of the season so far..'

Damian: '...throughout the match the gap between us was never more than 3 points, the exact margin by which we lost...a fun match from start to finish with chances to win for both teams... one of the best papers of the season with plenty of finely judged themed, paired and 'choose your subject' rounds...only 3 unanswered...'

ROUND 1 – Pairs

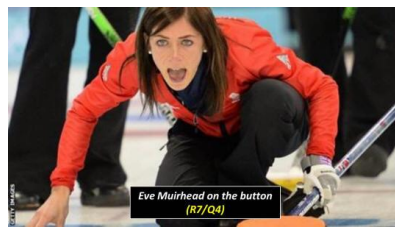
ROUND 2 - 'An Elementary hidden theme' *Each answer contains a key word from the titles of Arthur Conan Doyle: A Study in Scarlet, The Sign of Four, A Scandal in Bohemia, The Valley of Fear, The Hound of the Baskervilles, The Adventure of the Speckled Band, The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet, The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle, The Five Orange Pips*

ROUND 3 - 'The Greats'

ROUND 4 & 5 - Pick Your Own *Choose your question based on the Quiz Show shown*

ROUND 7 - A Themed Round *A country has won 2 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals at the Winter Olympics - these are displayed symbolically in the answers: Each answer starts with either 'au' signifying gold, or 'ag' signifying silver, or 'sn' or 'cu' signifying tin and copper which together make up bronze*

ROUND 8 - Pairs





7.3.18 set by Prodigals.

Bards score 34 (victory home v Dunkin' Dönitz 28), History Men 30 (defeat away v Opsimaths 36 highest score). Equal highest score Charabancs 36 (away to Albert 26). Victory also for Electric Pigs (33).

Average Aggregate Score: 62.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.7)

Thoughts of Mike B: '...Bards beat Dunkin' Dönitz ... Upsetting...race for the title...Shrimps and Dunkers have 3 games to play with almost identical score differences and Dunkers just 2 points ahead... a very real prospect that the final league game of the season between the two of them will decide the title....could this be the year of the crustacean?.... Pigs have broken their duck.... with average aggregate for the evening being 10 points below the season's overall average, quiz...was clearly on the hard side....when I arrived from the Etihad, Ivor told me the first half had belonged to the History Men who went into the interval three points ahead....Opsis...edged ahead in the second period....'

Thoughts from others:

Tony: '„,the evening did not start well since the Cricket Club was locked and shuttered...hardly surprising as we haven't had a home game since human memory began, or almost...we decamped to the Parrswood, in a corner perfect for quizzing....for the Bards, it proved an interesting paper and a successful evening.... I was miffed to be outvoted on Dale Carnegie and Djibouti, but very pleased with the individual performances of our players...we took a 7-1 lead in Round 1 and never lost it...by Round 3 our lead was 19-18...in Round 4, Bards failed to trouble the scorer, thus demonstrating a preference for early repose....to a night on the tiles in Manchester City Centre....at the end of Round 6, scores were 23-20 in our favour, then the curse of Bingo struck....this time, to my amazement, it struck in our favour and the quiz finished with us 6 points to the good...paper was a curate's egg....'

Gary (Pigs): 'if Pigs had lost tonight, it would have added a most unwelcome record to our illustrious history: an entire year of unremitting losses...illustrious, proud heritage unsullied (relatively speaking)!'

Damian (Charas): '...the Fletcher Moss was eerily quiet...and naturally we weren't complaining....Charas continued their recent run of good form capping a narrow loss last week to the Shrimps with a comprehensive victory over Albert.....we led right from the start and, for once, never relinquished a fairly commanding lead...honours were split evenly with each member of the team scoring 2 twos.....we... finished 10 in front by half time....in the second half, honours were evenly split with 16 points each....16 unanswered questions,split 9-7 to the Albert...'

Mike O'B (Albert): '...we won the toss and made ...a disastrous decision to go first... we had to wait until Round 5 to score a two....'

ROUND 1 – Pairs

ROUND 2 - 'AKA' alternative names

ROUND 3 - Announced theme 'History repeating....'

Three actors/actresses who have all played the same historical character on the big screen (release years given). Give name of the historical character.

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme 'A Good Night Out'

Names of Mancunian night spots from compiler's younger days: Tiffanys, Pips, The Man Alive, The Ritz, 42nd Street, Rotters, South, The Boardwalk, The New Continental and The Millionaire

ROUND 5 - Announced theme 'A Walk around the Northern Quarter'

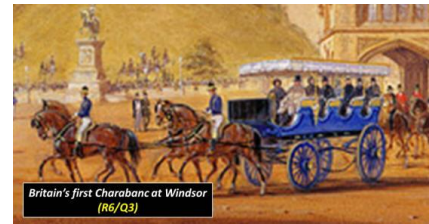
Names of streets in the Northern Quarter of Manchester

ROUND 6 - Announced theme 'WithQuiz'

Each question gives a nod in the direction of a WithQuiz team name

ROUND 7 & 8 - Pick your own Bingo '1977 and All That'

WithQuiz started in 1977 - each question is related in some way to that year



14.3.18 set by Dunkin' Dönitz.



Bards score 34 (lost home v Charabancs 39), History Men 41 (victory away v Prodigals 30). Highest score Mantis Shrimp 42 (home to Albert 38). Victory also for Opsimaths (39).

Average Aggregate Score: 73.6 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.7)

Thoughts of Mike B:

Mantis Shrimp edged a thriller against the Albert.... and thereby returned to the top of the table...same league points tally as the Dunkers but a slightly better score difference..... looks like a stunning end to the league season with a showdown between the two teams that have dominated the table throughout....Bards lost to Charabancs...in the Bards' new home The Parrswood Hotel.... Opsimaths victorious....result in the balance until Round 7 when the Opsimaths leapt into the lead.....a first rate paper with plenty of points to be had....'

New web site: '...I'm keen to redevelop this website to make it both easier on the eye and more 'user-friendly'..... note the totally new design for the home page...any feedback would be most welcome...'

Thoughts of Others:

Damian: '...we tackled tonight's paper with the same gusto as last week seizing the lead from the start.... we thoroughly enjoyed tonight's paper which seemed to play to our strengths.... 13 unanswered which, unluckily for the Bards, broke 8-5 to them....'

Ivor: '...plenty of laughs at the Albert Club, as there always is when the Prodigals play the History Men....we do take quizzing seriously but the prime aim is merriment...we got off to a flying start (playing first) and for once did not crumble in the last rounds... plenty of tip of the tongue teasers...'

Rachael: '...a thrilling evening of quizzing!...scores too close to call for the first three quarters of the match, with the end of each round seeing just a point or two between us and with the lead changing hands.....thanks to a minor surge in the last couple of rounds we were able to establish a slender lead and finished the night 4 points ahead of excellent opponents....'

Mike O'B: '...a good competitive quiz, undone by a very poor Round 7....plenty of variety and lots of questions which invoked spirited debates...'

ROUND 1 - 'The First Cut is the Deepest'

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme - 'Something worth watching'

Name of a birds Dipper, eider, roller, harrier, crane, cuckoo, knot, swallow, jay and raven

ROUND 3 - 'The Question Round'

Each answer contains two words starting with consecutive letters of the alphabet

ROUND 4 - 'Two for the Price of....Two'

Each answer is the name of two famous people with the same surname but different first names

ROUND 5 - "I Wonder What He Meant by That?"

....as Talleyrand supposedly said of the death of the Turkish ambassador, or Metternich said of the death of Talleyrand. So what was being said or meant in the following?

ROUND 6 - 'The Backwards Alphabet Round'

Each answer contains two words starting with consecutive letters of the alphabet but in reverse order

ROUND 7 - Pairs

ROUND 8 - 'This Could Be the Last Time'



21.3.18 set by History Men.

Bards score 37 (victory home v Electric Pigs 28), Highest score equal Mantis Shrimp 46 (away to Ethel Rodin 29) and **Prodigals 46** (away Charabancs 35). *Victory also for Dunkin' DönitZ (39).*

Average Aggregate Score: 71.0 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.6)

Thoughts of Mike B:

'A wide range in the aggregate scores...from 81 points at The Turnpike between two bottom half teams to a paltry 63 between two top-flighters at the Fletcher Moss... Sitting looking on at the Turnpike, I really enjoyed the knowledge stretch that Ivor's team had concocted...elicited plenty of tip-of-the-tongue moments from the two teams... the announced Prime Minister theme in Round 3 gave just the right scope for helpful sideways hints...when answers share a theme, this provides a further puzzle, running concurrently with the questions themselves...Charabancs looked like winning, but ...they were pegged back and ultimately overtaken in a high-scoring...affair...I was privileged to be a spectator as two very good teams from the bottom half of our table racked up a feast of points...a really enjoyable evening...'

'Bards beat Pigs...Bards have been an enigma this season; hovering near the bottom of the table yet upsetting the applecart by thumping the Dunkers and setting up the mother of all league season finishes... Rodin have faded towards the closing stages of the season and this week were roundly beaten by Shrimps.'

Thoughts of others:

Kieran

'...we rather enjoyed.... the evening...Albert had won four of the last six against us...but ...we were ten points ahead after two rounds... still ten ahead at the end of Round 6...Round 7 went seven nil to us...Ivor was guest QM and I think he'll be happy enough with the reception for the History Men's paper although the random facts bingo round at the end didn't live up to the preceding rounds... title will be decided in the final match of the season against the Shrimp at the Turnpike....shades of Arsenal going to the Theatre of Total Delusion in 1989....'

Mike O'B....

'It was a clever paper...unfortunately much of the time too clever for us...we were rather thrown by pulling two unanswerables in our first four questions and sadly never recovered....'

Rachael

'...a solid effort with lots of interesting material.... a lot of the questions were tricky and involved long-winded conferring...much complaining from all quarters about 'the pope surname' question.... a tough but fair paper...the first half proved particularly tense as Ethel kept up the pressure, at one stage sitting just a single point behind us...our luck changed significantly in the second half...both teams put up a great performance, with some impressive conferring leading to correct answers being dragged from the depths of our collective memories...'

James

'...Ethel were heavily beaten, despite being just one behind at the halfway point....an uncanny stream of about 8 questions in a row, where all three other members of our team knew the answer, but the person being asked didn't....compounded by a series of six or seven 50/50 answers where we unerringly chose the wrong option....'

Gary

'...sorry, but consensus tonight was that the quiz was below averagetoo many 'straight up and down' stuff which you either knew the answer to or didn't....'

Mike H

'...much time was spent conferring and the first half didn't finish until after 9.45....nevertheless a very good 9 point win for the Bards, even though they lost Round 7 by one point to the Pigs' 6....there were a few instances when both sides talked themselves out of the right answer (frustrating to a QM who hears the right answer but has to keep quiet while the teams carry on conferring)....'

ROUND 1 - Reverse pairs

ROUND 2 - Reverse pairs

ROUND 3 - Announced theme

Every answer contains the surname, or the title, of one of the 25 men (in chronological order) who held the office of First Lord of the Treasury (de facto Prime Minister) between 1721-1850.

ROUND 4 - Announced theme

The first year of our league concluded in 1978 but what else happened in that year?

ROUND 5 - Reverse pairs

ROUND 6 - Reverse pairs

ROUND 7 - A Round dedicated to the Celebration of our 40th (ruby) anniversary

ROUND 8 - Pick Your Own Lucky Dip

13 questions on random unconnected topics.



28th March



40th anniversary of the formation of our Quiz League at The Didsbury Sports Ground, Ford Lane, Didsbury. Have so many 'harmless obsessives' ever gathered together in one spot in South Manchester before? Last night around 80 of us stopped tussling for our league title and just celebrated that we've been at this pub quiz thing for 40 years. We were joined by many friends from the past and the present who have shared our obsession.... Barry Whitehead who founded the league and kept us on track for most of the first 20 years - back playing for the Electric Pigs (Barry was presented with a bottle of champers for his efforts).... our mates from the Stockport League.....some quizzers involved in the late 1970s.... good friends who have left our ranks more recently....the husband of the late, lamented Val Draper.... and, to fanfares from all present, Dave Rainford was able to make it despite the ailments that have kept him away from quizzing for over 5 months - his entrance brought a smile to all our faces and ...it will have done his recovery process a lot of good too.... Roddy obliged with a nostalgia-fest of questions drawn from his recollections of question papers from the first 22 years of the league....Roddy's own team (perhaps because they included the heaviest concentration of 'early years WithQuizzers') came first

with 20 points, followed by the Dunkin' Dönitz squad on 17 points.....Mugs ...were awarded to the first 4 teams.....the walls of the two lounges of the Didsbury Sports pavilion were decorated with posters telling the story of our league presented as a series of newspaper front pages....we voted for Question of the Quadricenniumthe best question of the 15 years since we started voting for a Question of the Season back in 2002/03:

Ethel Rodin (2007/08) 65 What links the Sahara Desert, Lake Nyasa, the River Avon and Pendle Hill?

They are all tautologies (i.e. 'Sahara' means desert, 'Nyasa' means lake, 'Avon' means river and 'Pendle' means hill)



...emails received from those who came alongshow how much the evening was enjoyed....

Kieran... It was particularly fitting that Barry Whitehead was there....he couldn't possibly have imagined what he and a few Revenue mates were startingit was good that Gary's refusal to give in twenty or so years ago were recognised....most of all I want to acknowledge the immense contribution that Mike Bath has made to the happiness and well being of harmless obsessives everywhere... Mike has turned what was once scribbled down in the back of someone's diary into the go-to website for pub quizzers not only in South Manchester but countrywide and....there's an archive of around 30,000 questions that we know has an audience far beyond the Red, the Griffin or the Fletcher Moss..... thanks Mike, and I hope you continue for many seasons to come.' Finally a few photos... now we stop quizzing for an Easter break with 'hostilities' resuming on April 11th.



The Upper Lounge



Prodigals past & present

(l to r) Clive Berry, Anne-Marie, Dave Rainford and Michael Taylor



More bar chat

(l to r) Ivor Cartmill, Mike Bath, Colin MacKenzie and Bill Souster

4th Apr



11.4.18 set by Mantis Shrimp.

Bards score 27 (defeat home v **Prodigals 48 highest score**), *Victory also for Dunkin' Dönitz (44), Charabancs (44), Ethel Rodin (46).*

Average Aggregate Score: 72.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.6)

Thoughts of Mike B:

'...plenty of points on offer and for most, a well-liked set of questions.....the paper was heavily skewed in favour of the team going first in the first half.... Prodigals recorded the highest score of the evening ... defeating Bards....everything is set up for next week's final round of league matches when the Shrimps and the Dunkers go head to head....Shrimps need a victory by 4 points or more to hoist the league title..... Charabancs beat Opsimaths...of the 11 unanswered questions, 8 fell to the Opsimaths with quite a few of the pairings seemingly skewed towards the home team....'

Thoughts from others:

Kieran: '...we found it one of the best papers of the season with loads of variety and answers accessible from many routes...any result up to a three point defeat next Wednesday will see us retain the title for the first time in eight seasons.... Pigs were great hosts and opponents, and pushed us all the way to the last round...'

James: '...a well constructed quiz...plenty of interest and opportunities for logical guesses....'

Anne-Marie: '...we got the 'rub of the green' but a great team effort and a quiz which played to our strengths....'

Mike H: '...such a one-sided game,...definitely favouring whoever went first...'

Other comments from Mike B: '...a big cheer for Prodigal Michael for his excellent run on *Mastermind* finishing in third place...he has been superb throughout only just missing out to a truly awesome winner....' '...time to prepare for the Val Draper Cup and the Plate competitions.... same handicap system... setters for Round 1 will be Bards...'

ROUND 1 - Pairs

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme - Theme: *mid-17th century Civil Wars, 1st, 2nd and 3rd 'English Civil Wars'*

ROUND 3 - Run-ons - Musically themed - *at least one of the clues in each question relates to a song, band or artist*

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme - Theme: *Each answer contains one half of a comedy double act....*

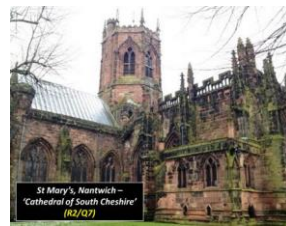
French and Saunders, Abbott and Costello, Mitchell and Webb, Laurel and Hardy, Cheech and Chong, Morecambe and Wise, Lee and Herring, Reeves and Mortimer, Martin and Lewis

ROUND 5 - The '70s!

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme - Theme: *Each answer contains at least part of the name of a current or defunct F1 constructor...Jordan, Force India, Red Bull, Stewart, Williams, Manor, Lotus, Arrows*

ROUND 7 - Run Ons - *the 'run-on' component is the last three or four letters of the first answer and the first three letters of the second*

ROUND 8 – Connections



18.4.18 set by Guest (Mike Wagstaffe)

Bards score 34 (lost away v **Opsimaths 35**), History Men 37 (lost home v **Albert 38**). **Highest score Mantis Shrimp (home) 44 drawn with Dunkin' Dönitz 44**. Victory also for *Ethel Rodin (39)*, *Electric Pigs (37)*.

Average Aggregate Score: 74.2 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.7)

Thoughts of Mike B:

Mike Wagstaffe of Stockport League, served up the perfect paper on which to end our league season. Of the five matches one was tied, two were decided by one point margins, and one by a three point margin. On top of which, Mike...served up a new format, 'Take A Letter' (two part questions where the answer to the second part is the same as the answer to the first part minus one letter)... a great season, our 40th, draws to an exciting conclusion with a head-to-head, table-topping, nerve-tingler... **Dunkin' Dönitz** are our 2017/18 League Champions following a tied match....many congratulations to Kieran, Barry, Martin and David - but also to Rachael and her squadron who will surely sail through to triumph in the league pretty soon....a fitting result that means that the Dunkers retain their crown by two points at the top of the table.... **Opsimaths** consolidated their position as fourthby beating Bards ...by a mere one point...it was a jolly match....'

Thoughts of others:

Damian (losing at Ladybarn): ‘...there was some good news and some not so good news for the Charas.... we all scored at least one two pointer and so qualified for the team the next time we meet... not so good is that we got trounced once again by our inveterate trouncers, Ethel Rodin...tonight's questions were the usual tour de force, containing a wide variety of head-scratching facts and figures....’

Rachael: ‘...a very tense evening...where there were never more than three points between our scores, we fittingly ended the evening with a tie....very few steals...and only two unanswered....Donitz stayed calm and managed to avoid blurring while we tried for a few risky two-pointers, ...because we knew we had to win by 4 points to secure the league title....while some of our blurts paid off royally, a few didn't....congratulations to the excellent Dunkers on another well-deserved title....we are very much looking forward to another season in this wonderful league....we enjoyed the paper greatly; lots of variety and some very tricky questions.... a very fair and enjoyable paper....’

James: ‘...an amazing match....the match was really even throughout...we were 2 points ahead going into the final round, but the Dunkers were just too strong at the end.... the match was tremendous fun to play and was played in the best of spirits... a fantastic quiz paper...a plethora of interesting questions, very well balanced and covering a great variety of subjects... definitely a quiz worthy of such an important match’

Kieran: ‘...many, many thanks to Mike Wagstaffe for producing such a brilliant, fair, competitive paper.... maybe the greatest quiz game we have played in all our twenty seven seasons... the result was the only one appropriate to the evening....both teams playing at the absolute peak of their abilities with the title on the line, desperately aware that the slightest error could see seven month's work slip away in thirty seconds.... the Shrimp were as magnificent in defeat as they had been all evening ... a huge amount of conferring and all our experience brought to bear to secure points on the way to retaining the title.... we were outscored on twos (16-10) but steals were always going to be key and we got five of those, only giving up one to the Shrimp all evening.....19 one-point conferred answers to our hosts 11.... the end of round scores were (Shrimp score first): 6-6, 11-13, 19-19, 23-23, 30-27, 34-33, 40-38 and ending at 44-44.... Shrimps Richard and Rachael went through every kind of agony on their own questions, knowing that they had to go for twos to try to build a lead over us and apologising to their team mates in advance should they be wrong...they kept on pulling out two after two so that we could never feel secure...on our part we had to keep minimising the damage with those 'team effort' answers...what a night, what a season, what a completely brilliant way to spend Wednesday evenings...thanks to you all for your fantastic efforts in question-setting, for the challenge you brought to us keeping our brains just about functioning as we approach retirement and for your excellent humour and your company....thanks especially to Tom, James, Richard and Rachael for an evening none of us will ever forget and for putting us under the greatest pressure I've known in nearly thirty years of this silly but addictive and wonderful pastime....’

Mike O'Brien: ‘...at last a win, although it has to be said that our one point victory came courtesy of a very sporting concession by the History Men on the question concerning the darkness movement....otherwise it would have been a tie... the paper was very fair with few unanswered questions and plenty of conferring...’

Ivor: ‘...only five unanswered questions, though only 16 twos; this was a quiz where conferring was the best approach....Mike W from the Stockport league was the setter...he has really got the feel for what makes a Withington Quiz...we failed to do the double over the Albert in a close fought but amiable quiz night...both of us used to be contenders in the 2000s but tonight was a good lower table contest...Albert's victory ensures them a place in the Lowly Grail next season....we had a four point lead at half time whittled away to a two point lead in the last round when the first blurts of the evening were our undoing... Evelyn in the head-to-head with me with the last two questions proved the match-winner....she had a two to win or a one to draw....she kept her nerve...’

Mike H, QM: ‘...very good compilation of questions, and a very close, entertaining contest...had it not been for a blurt by Anne on the Banana question, and a spot of generosity by the QM..., the result would have been a draw or more likely, a marginal victory by the History Men...’

ROUND 1 – Pairs

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme - Theme: words linked to classic TV sitcom *The Good Life*...

ROUND 3 - 'Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad' give any two of the three possible answers

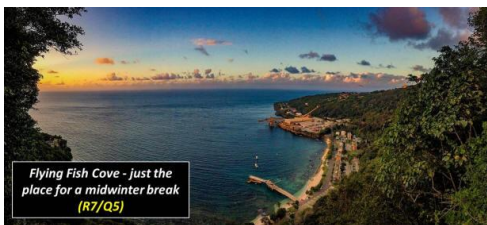
ROUND 4 - Hidden theme - Theme: words that can precede 'road' to make a well-known phrase

ROUND 5 - 'Size Matters' words relating to size and/or magnitude

ROUND 6 - 'Take A Letter' - Each question requires TWO answers, b) almost identical to a), but with one letter removed.

ROUND 7 - 'The Mamas and The Papas' - words that can be preceded by either 'Mother' or 'Father'

ROUND 8 - 'On This Day' - events that happened on 18h April.



	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points	Handicap score
Dunkin Dönitz	18	14	2	2	739	629	30	-5
Comp. Mantis Shrimp	18	13	2	3	743	640	28	-5
Ethel Rodin	18	11	0	7	683	610	22	-2
Opsimaths	18	10	1	7	663	634	21	0
Prodigals	18	8	1	9	639	657	17	1
History Men	18	8	0	10	661	682	16	0
Albert	18	8	0	10	602	664	16	3
Charabancs of Fire	18	7	0	11	643	653	14	1
Bards	18	6	0	12	614	669	12	2
Electric Pigs	18	2	0	16	555	704	4	6

Quiz League summary of types of round (up to and inc 18.4.18)

Hidden themes 33 (*Bathroom plumbing, cakes, European horse races, Greater Manchester breweries, English and Welsh castles, autumnal colour of Brown, Wilfred Owen WWI poem, popular Mancunian 'bands', science fiction writers....., Bank Holidays, constituencies gained by Labour from Tories, found in the Ocean, Dallas, murdered MPs, second letter Y, Progressive initials, Farewell to Gerry, Irish islands, body parts, British World War II Bombers, Irish Whiskeys, units of measurement, Scottish football league grounds, Chinese zodiac, Conan Doyle, Gold Silver & Bronze, Mancunian night spots, birds, Civil Wars, Comedy double acts, F1 constructors, The Good Life, words preceding 'road'*)

Announced themes 32 (1 fruit & veg, 1 song titles, Hartlepool, Warriors, Sweden, odd names for children, netrolink stations, types of music/youth cults, 2017, Christmas round the world, Prime Ministers, Things that don't exist, adjectives for Opsis, jobs, 2017, pink, US State nicknames, what is it?, Christian names, The Greats, Northern Quarter streets, Withquiz teams, first, last, what was meant, Prime Ministers, 1978, 40th anniversary, the 70s, size, mother or father, 18th April)

Paired 44 (1 transport, 1 pot pourri, seven reverse pairs, 1 science, 1 'loser', 1 quotations)

Photos 0

Bingo or 'Lucky Dip' 16 (1 Quote/Misquote, 1 abbreviations, 2 English towns, 4 pick your own subject, 'Manchester Matters', 1 towns in Evo-Stik League South, 1977)

Sequences or 'Missing from the List' 2

Three possible answers (give two) 1

Same surname and different first names 1

Connections 2

'Run-ons' 13 (1 relating to Christmas Hits, 1 with Always Connect twist, 1 musically themed, 1 last three letters)

Top to Tail 1

Links 1

Anagrams and other word games 3 (religious top-to-tail, additional letter, second answer drops a letter)

Names with consecutive letters 2 (one reverse)

Crossword 0

Name the year 1

Historical characters in film 1

AKA 1

Answers containing particular words or letters 5 (words starting with 'A', answers containing D-I-N, after 'work', precede 'ful', beginning with the two-letter chemical symbol)

Pot luck/ Pot Pourri 14 (including one with saucy names)

Spoonerisms 2 (answer to second part is a spoonerism of the first)

Namesakes 1 (answer to each question is a name shared by two people)

Post Code Lottery 1

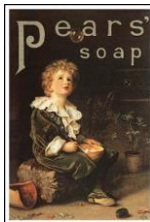
Cup Matches

28.9.17 WIST Cup - Pre-season Friendly

Set by Mike Bath (WithQuiz) and Mike Wagstaffe (Stockport). Winner Stockport League 60 pts (v 51)

Thoughts of Mike B: '....making full use made of the TV screen in the Albert Club's back lounge,. Mike W had a picture to support every one of his 60 questions, either as essential, helpful clues, or relevant colour....

WithQuiz were trailing from early in Round 1 and never managed to get back within touching distance....we only managed to field a team of 5 (Nick, Damian, Mike H, James and Tony) whilst Stockport had the full complement of six (including Roddy of Ethel Rodin who moonlights each Thursday for Smart Italics in Stockport).'



86 Palatine Road, West Didsbury

'In last Monday's *Eggheads*, Rachael and her Shrimps well and truly beat the Eggheads. Only Adam failed to reach the final round which pitted Shrimps Rachael, James, Mike and Paul against Eggheads Dave (of this parish) and Lisa. Mike vanquished Egghead Kevin recently crowned World Quiz Champion for the sixth time.'



ROUND 1 - Stockport format - Verbal

ROUND 2 - Stockport format - Written

'**Forty Years On**' *This season marks the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Withington Quiz League (WithQuiz). Each answer in this round contains one or more numbers which in total add up to 40.*

$$7 + 0 + 3 + \frac{1}{2} + 4 + \frac{1}{2} + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + 5 + 18 = 40$$

ROUND 3 (WithQuiz format)

'**The County Set**' *Every answer contains the name of a UK county, **past or present***

ROUND 4 - (WithQuiz format)

Choose your own subject - 'Mash Up'

ROUND 5 - (WithQuiz format)

Choose your own subject - 'Trees'

ROUND 6 - (WithQuiz format)

Choose your own subject - 'Metrolink stops'

8.11.17 WIST Quarter Finals and Lowly Grail Quarter Finals

Set by **The WithQuiz League** (*Gerry Collins*)

Average Aggregate: **98.3**

WIST Champions Cup: Highest score Dunkin' Dönitz 65 (*v Travellers Call 34*), *Victory also for Mantis Shrimps (52), of WithQuiz, and for Smart Italics (51) and Alexandra (56), both of Stockport League.*

Lower Grail: Bards score 60 (*won at home to Loko. Stöckpört 48*), *History Men 42 (lost at home v Printers 52). Victory also for Prodigals (52) of WithQuiz and HMRUFC (49) of Stockport.*

Thoughts from Mike B: '...an entertaining and thoughtful paper...plenty of erudition and not a little whimsy.... themes excellently executed... and balance worked out well...' '...Opsimaths lost...two defeats on the trot... this time to Stockport's joint league winners from last season... the lead veered backwards and forwards...'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '...a bit of a hard quiz - though it didn't phase the Printers, several of whom have faced the late William G Stewart in *Fifteen to One*....the usual hard luck stories...opting for the wrong either/or answer, blurts, sitting in the wrong seat,...total incomprehension or ignorance (Stockport footballers in their prime before even Tim was born)... I was posed the 'Stolen from Ivor' question which I did not know, but luckily the answer was stolen by Tim rather than the opposition... we were losing to our opponents 24-15 after Round 1 and, although we staged a recovery to be only 3 points behind after Round 3, we lost the last three rounds to be well beaten... the Printers were actually the reserve team for the Lowly Grail as winners of last season's Stockport second division title... a good night's entertainment...'

James: '...if the league is to continue to thrive in the longer term, it's going to have to attract more young players...if upon debut, their confidence is destroyed with a raft of questions based ...on the cultural experiences of people twice their age, ...the number of teams gradually shrinks rather than grows...'

Mike Wagstaffe: 'an absolute gem of a paper...very few unanswered questions...no obvious imbalance...the match was always close...'

Rachael: ‘...generally interesting and well balanced... neck and neck going into the last question, we ended a thrilling evening just 2 points ahead...’

Kieran: ‘...a paper which suited us perfectly, all our informed guesses coming good...’

Anne-Marie: ‘...all over by five to ten and hot dogs laid on...what a lovely pub and lovely team!...’

ROUND 1 - Stockport format – Verbal

ROUND 2 - Stockport format – Written

ROUND 3 (WithQuiz format)

Hidden theme (*All answers contain in part just one letter*)

ROUND 4 - (WithQuiz format)

Hidden theme (*All answers contain an irregular past participle*)

ROUND 5 - (WithQuiz format)

'Of Brits and Brexit'

ROUND 6 - (WithQuiz format)

Paired

14.2.18 WithQuiz League WIST Semi Finals and Lowly Grail Semi Finals

Set by **The WithQuiz League** (*Brian McClintock*)

Average Aggregate: **99.0**

WIST Champions Cup: Highest score Alexandra of Stockport League (**57** away beat Smart Italics 52).

Victory also for Dunkin' Dönitz (55), of WithQuiz

Lowly Grail: Bards score 60 highest (won away at Prodigals 47. *Victory also for Printers (43) of Stockport.*

Thoughts of Mike B: ‘...praise all round for Brian's paper....In the WIST Champion's Cup, Dunkin' Dönitz beat Mantis Shrimp in a thrilling match...the margin was a mere one point and there were so many moments during the evening when a slightly different course of events would have led to a different outcome. In the

Lowly Grail Cup, Prodigals enjoyed their evening ...but nevertheless lost to The Bards

Thoughts of others: Anne-Marie: ‘...very good quiz and well done Brian...good fun tonight but alas we lost...Bards took the lead in the first half and held on despite a good run by us...beaten on the night by the better team...’

Danny: ‘...Bards got off to a good start (36-24 after Round 2) ...the key was an excellent team performance from Bards with contributions from all corners...the paper was very fair giving both teams opportunities to score well...no controversies.... a total of 11 unanswered questions which broke 6-5 against the Prodigals...’

Kieran: ‘...Ops! Brian yet again produced a superb paper, perfectly balanced to give both teams a very fair chance of victory... outscored on twos so...our victory was due to conferring...we're not *getting* too old for this; we already *are* way too old to withstand this kind of heart-stopping game with the result in doubt right till the last...for the sixth time in fourteen outings this season, the final margin was three points or fewer...wherever it's played, we have a WIST final to look forward to; our seventh in eleven seasons...’

Mike W (Alexandra): ‘...a very enjoyable quiz and a great paper with an excellent mix of twos, ones and unanswerables...we shaded the first two (Stockport format) rounds to establish a 6-point half-time lead....stretched to 10 points by halfway in the WithQuiz rounds... our cluelessness on the tribes of Israel meant we had a (slightly) nerve-jangling 5-point advantage going into the last round, which was drawn....’

ROUND 1 - Stockport format – Verbal

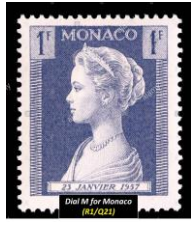
ROUND 2 - Stockport format – Written

ROUND 3 (WithQuiz format) - A Round of Hoaxes, April Fools & the Like

ROUND 4 - (WithQuiz format) - 'Our EU Neighbours'

ROUND 5 - (WithQuiz format) - Hidden theme (10 from a group of 12): *the 12 Tribes of Israel. Levi, Asher, Gadd, Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Zebulon, Reuben, Judah and Simeon (Naphtali and Issachar are the other two)*

ROUND 6 - (WithQuiz format) - Hidden theme: fish



25.4.18 WIST Champions Cup & Lowly Grail Finals

Set by: **The WithQuiz League** (*Greg Spiller*)

Average Aggregate Score: **99.5**

WIST Champions Cup Final: Alexandra (50) v (59) **Dunkin' Dönitz**

WIST Lowly Grail Final: Bards (42) v (48) **The Printers**

Thoughts of Mike B:

‘...a well-crafted paper that seemed a suitable examination for the 4 teams contesting...in the Alex v Dunkers match, there were very few that went unanswered and plenty that yielded a reward after some inspired conferences..... much entertainment....the magic of the Dunkers' conferences gave them the edge... time and again they go into a huddle with not one of them any idea of the answer and then emerge a minute later having reached the correct conclusion. How do they do it?’ ‘...next week we start the annual Val Draper Cup competition with ...handicaps based on total scored points over the season by each team...’

Thoughts of others:

WIST Champions Cup Final:

Kieran: ‘...Alexandra are old friends - it doesn't seem right to call them opponents....tonight's match was a repeat of the 2010 final and the result was exactly the same, a Dunkers win by 9 points....each team had added 10 to its total score in the intervening 8 years...After last week's nail biting title decider, this was much more straightforward.... Alexandra were splendid hosts... we're double winners once more and this was our 30th major trophy.... congratulations to Greg for a paper well worthy of a WIST final....’

WIST Lowly Grail Final:

Thoughts of Mike B: ‘...Bards lost to Printers who become the first Stockport team to hoist the Lowly Grail (formerly A-Trophy) Cup....many congratulations from all in South Manchester....’

Thoughts of others:

Ivor: ‘...it was the written round that was Bards' downfall...Printers spotted the theme whilst the Bards did not...the round ended up 14-4 in favour of The Printers....Stockport teams often struggle with the WithQuiz format but The Printers have obviously learned a trick or two....and ...know when it is better to play safe for a one if a two is an unnecessary risk.....certainly worthy winners having despatched the History Men by 10 points in the quarter finals and the Rugby Club by nine points in the semis....surprisingly they report that they are in the relegation zone of their league.....Greg had set an excellent quiz; just the right level of difficulty and much to interest and entertain....as an observer, my favourite round was the Dundee comic classic characters....young people think our childhood world was pictured in black and white but it wasn't (though our TVs were)....Dennis, Figaro, Pansy Potter and Little Plum were black and red....’

Mike H: ‘...excluding the second 'Stockport-style' round, Bards won 38-34, but overall they lost the match by 6 points...plenty of variety with some good questions....’

ROUND 1 - Stockport format – Verbal

ROUND 2 - Stockport format - Written

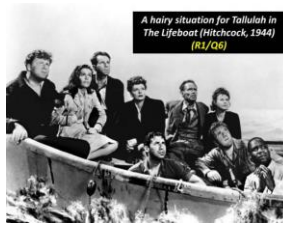
Hidden theme: *board game Cluedo*

ROUND 3 - (WithQuiz format) – Pairs

ROUND 4 - (WithQuiz format) - 'You Can Say That Again!'

ROUND 5 - (WithQuiz format) - 'D C Thomson's Finest': *names of characters in D C Thomson comics*

ROUND 6 - (WithQuiz format) - 'The Name's the Same' *two parts - answers are different people with the same given name and surname*



2.5.18 Val Draper Cup Round 1

Set by: **Bards**

Average Aggregate Score: **68.0** (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.6)

History Men (30) v (34) **Opsimaths**

Ethel Rodin (31) v (34) **Dunkin' Dönitz**

Thoughts of Mike B: '...we very sadly learned at the start of the evening (of the loss) of Peter Morgan, for many years a stalwart of our league and more recently of the History Men. Our condolences to his family... Peter was always kind and generous and fun to be with...'



I was chatting to Jim earlier in the week and he said the Bards' aim this time was to achieve an average aggregate in the 70s...it was 68...plenty of interesting material... quite a few unanswered... at the Red, we ...had a first rate QM in Alison who delivered the paper with patience, clarity and good humour amidst ...a pretty raucous atmosphere...at the end of the first half we feared the worst with an aggregate of just 23... but the second half picked up... the theme in Round 2 was nicely done with it taking until the latter half of the round before Brian had a eureka moment... it could have gone either way until pretty near the end...the scant points on offer in the earlier rounds went in the home team's favour but when the more pointilicious second half came along it was the visitors' turn to prosper....Ethel Rodin lost to Dunkin' Dönitz at the Ladybarn Club, keeping the Dunkers' hopes of a treble alive...'

Thoughts of others:

Kieran: '...to find both handicaps wiped out by the end of Round One and the Donutz ahead by the end of Round Three was surprising and very welcome....we never relinquished the lead though Ethel closed to only two points behind at the end of Round Six....an enjoyable evening....next week the Albert and an 8 point deficit...that is going to be difficult...only three unanswered each and a decent aggregate score... the Bards should be congratulated for producing a very decent paper at short notice...'

Extra: a recent article by Anna Leszkiewicz in the New Statesman which quotes Shrimp Tom Benson, University Challenge's Question Editor: '...**Why University Challenge is deliberately asking more questions about women**': 'when University Challenge first started in 1962, some Oxbridge colleges were still refusing to admit women as undergraduates; in the decades since, women have been consistently outnumbered by men, with all-male teams a regular occurrence....so, how satisfying to see two women carrying their teams in last night's final, Rosie McKeown for winners St John's, Cambridge, and Leonie Woodland for runners-up Merton, Oxford, both secured the majority of points for their teams...but in another respect, I noticed a shift....more women seem to be making their way into the questions.... *University Challenge's* questions editor Thomas Benson confirms that there has been a deliberate attempt to redress a gender imbalance in the quiz... it's easy to brush off the significance of a Monday night quiz show, but *University Challenge* ...has a cultural significance that outweighs its viewing figures....it helps to shape our understanding of which subjects are intellectual or important, which are history's most notable achievements, and who is worth learning about....'

ROUND 1 – Paired

ROUND 2 – Paired

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme dances

ROUND 4 – Links guess the link

ROUND 5 & 6 - Events of May 2nd *Pick your year for a question*

ROUND 7 – Paired

ROUND 8 - Top-to-tail *The first letter of each answer is the last letter of the one before*



9.5.18 Val Draper Cup Round 2

Set by: **History Men**

Average Aggregate Score: **67.0** (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.4)

Bards (25) v (36) **Charabancs**

Prodigals (43) v (26) Mantis Shrimp

Opsimaths (40) v (32) Electric Pigs

Dunk. Dönitz (29) v (40) **Albert**

Thoughts of Mike B:

‘ as usual at this time of year, with Val Draper, Charabancs perk up and start winning....Prodigals beat Shrimp convincingly by 17 points (or 11 before handicaps).....Opsimaths beat Pigs to edge into the semis next week..... Dunkin' Dönitz.....capitulated to Albert,....not the first time this season.... full marks to the History Men for getting a goodly paper off the production line for this week's quizzing....’

Thoughts of others:

Damian: ‘....before proceedings got under way, we drank a toast in honour of Chara Graham's recently deceased father Les Wiggins, a former cinematographer who worked on many films including *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and one which was the subject of a quiz question tonight....after this, the spirit of Val descendedseeing us safely through to yet another semi-final in her honour....we led right from the start and never looked like forfeiting the comfortable lead we had established.... Yours Truly was the only one of our team tonight not to score a two.....however, Father Meggers was in an unusually benevolent and forgiving mood and solemnly bestowed his absolution....we thoroughly enjoyed tonight's paper from the History Men.....a set of questions that suited us....we were especially moved by the tribute round to recently deceased former Historyman, Peter Morgan....memories of dear Peter nodding off in mid-question but waking up in time to hear the answer will never leave us....RIP Peter!...’

Mike H (QM): ‘Tony struggled to get a team together but succeeded....winning the toss and choosing to go first (rather than their tradition of opting to go second) proved unkind to the Bards as they only won two of the rounds....they lost on twos (4-6), ones (14-23) but cornered the market on unanswered getting 11 to the Charas four....surprisingly neither team got the Meghan Markle answer...’

Howell (Opsimaths): ‘...the quiz survived a very sticky start...Opsimaths lost the first two rounds to slip 9 points behind as the Pigs made the most of their 6 point handicap....from then on the home team moved inexorably closer so that scores level at 32 apiece at the end of Round 7....the Bingo Round proved a round too far for the Pigs, who succumbed to an 8 point defeat....unfortunate with the unansweds which split 8-4 against them....bad luck topped off by some unlucky Bingo number selections leaving them with another two unanswered questions.....Ivor commanded the arena imperiously as Guest QM...’

Ivor (QM): ‘...Opsis and Pigs made do with the main lounge.... to be fair to the relaxing tennis-playing ladies,...they made rather less noise than the three ladies in the Red Lion last week.... Going into the last round it was 32 all....sadly Lady Luck was not on the side of the Pigs as they lost the round 0-8...there were 12 unanswered in the first 7 rounds and these broke 8-4 against the Pigs...as a setter I always find it difficult to

balance questions because...all the answers are known to the setter and so evaluation of what is difficult is therefore very blunted....and what is a hard question anyway?

Mike (Albert): ‘...the fact that our opponents were giving us 8 points on the handicap system and that there were only 2 of them clearly played no part in the result...next week we might have an even greater triumph if none of the opposing team turn up....the paper was fair enough - the unanswered questions broke 5 each....’

ROUND 1 – Pairs

ROUND 2 - Pairs

ROUND 3 - Announced theme *every answer contains the name of a Grand National winner since 1950*

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme: *characters in Guys & Dolls: Lt. Brannigan, General Cartwright, Benny Southstreet, Sarah Brown, Sky Masterson, Nathan Detroit, Miss Adelaide, Nicely-Nicely Johnson,*

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme: *members of Liverpool's 1963-4 Championship squad: Tommy Lawrence, Jimmy Melia, Willie Stevenson, Ian Callaghan, Ron Yeats, Roger Hunt, Ian St John, Tommy Smith, Peter Thompson, Gordon Milne, Gerry Byrne, Alf Arrowsmith*

ROUND 6 - Pairs

ROUND 7 - A tribute to Peter Morgan: *eight other Morgans*

ROUND 8 - Random Bingo: *between 1 and 13*



16.5.18 Val Draper Cup & Plate S/F

Set by: **Mantis Shrimps**

Average Aggregate Score: 72.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.6)

Val Draper

Charabancs (35) v (42) **Prodigals**

Opsimaths (50) v (34) Albert

Plate S/F

History Men (29) v (40) **Electric Pigs**

Ethel Rodin (29) v (34) **Dunkin' Dönitz**

Thoughts of Mike B: ‘...in no time flat, Shrimps conjured up a paper of great merit that nicely hit the season's average aggregate score.....Val Draper Cup specialists, The Charabancs of Fire, tumbled out of the competition by losing their home fixture to Prodigals..... Opsimaths decamped to the Fletcher Moss.... And ... powered to 50 points with a 16 point margin of victory (19 points but for the handicap)... Hilary got 5 twos and the others...4 twos apiece....a good solid performance to whisk them to the Val Draper final, ...a trophy they've never won in their 30+ years history...in the Plate Semi Finals, History Men lost to Electric Pigs in the Red Lion...results for the Pigs have been pretty dismal this season - but as ever when the cup competitions come round, so do they....next week's setters will be 'Knocked Out United', an amalgamation of all 6 teams who have not reached one of the two finals: Bards, Mantis Shrimp, Albert, Ethel Rodin, and History Men, each to prepare one complete round and 2 pairs of questions (to go towards Rounds 7 and 8)...

Val Draper Cup Semi Finals:

Damian: ‘...the doors of the Turnpike remained firmly unresponsive no matter how hard we banged on them and pleaded for entry...but...we managed to find a welcoming host in the nearby Albert Pub which...seemed keen for us to return and ply our trade there on a more regular basis....now more bad news... the spirit of Val, after teasing us for the best part of 6 rounds, finally refused to descend upon us...and instead smiled on the Prodigals...tonight's quickly put-together quiz set by our fellow Turnpike orphans, the Shrimpers, played fairly

well to our strengths...or so we thought as we went toe to toe for 6 whole rounds with never more than a couple of points between us...we snatched the lead in Round 4 and kept it throughout Rounds 5 and 6...the paper was ably QM'd by Bard Tony...eventually we came unstuck in Rounds 7 and 8 by falling into the trap yet again of choosing all the wrong questions in the Bingo Rounds...it's as if your very own love-child rises up against you and repeatedly kicks you in the softer and more delicate parts of your anatomy! Nonetheless we could not fault the quiz for its overall fairness and variety asonly 6 unanswered which broke evenly between us at 3 apiece...best of luck to the Prodigals in the final....'

Plate Semi Finals:

Andrew: '...Electric Pigs storm into the final ...with this emphatic victory over one of their oldest and dearest rivals, The History Men...after a thoroughly convivial evening...with QM Alison at her mordant, yet patient, best, Pigs won through without needing the six point handicap cushion....considered discussions for one point rather than flashy drives for two that ended up in the wicketkeeper's gloves...'

Ivor: '...a great victory - for the Electric Pigs...they might have been the whipping boys in the league this season but they always perk up in the knockout cup and plate games and tonight they would have won 34-29 even without the handicap... tonight they moved to such a commanding advantage that the game was won with a round to spare....and this was accomplished with their so called 'B' team.... a week is a long time in quizzing...the quiz was certainly a challenge, of *University Challenge* standard...by the end of the first half we had scored a total of 6 points to the Pigs' 26 (or 16 before handicap)... more points were obtained in the second half (23 to us, 18 to the Pigs)...18 unanswered questions which broke 8-10 so the paper was well-balanced....'

ROUND 1 – Pairs

ROUND 2 - Food in Literature

ROUND 3 - 'Redressing the Balance' *all of the questions are about women.*

ROUND 4 - Follow On Answers *The first letter of each answer is the last letter of the one before*

ROUND 5 – Colours *each answer is a colour: the first four concern HTML colours; the second four 'Colour of the Year' by Pantone.*

ROUND 6 - 'The Anna Nana Naan' Round *all answers begin with either 'an' or 'na'.*

ROUND 7 & 8 - '....and the Winner is....' Bingo awards of varying levels of prestige.



"Yes, I remember Adlestrop—
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly, it was late June.
The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.
No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop—only the name
And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadow-sweet and hop-wood-dry.
No whit less still and lonely fair,
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.
And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire."
...and then the First World War happened (R4/Q2)



23.5.18 Val Draper Cup & Plate Finals

Set by: 'K.O. United'

Average Aggregate Score: 74.0 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.4)

Val Draper

Opsimaths (38) v (40) Prodigals

Plate

Dunkin' Dönitz (39) v (33) Electric Pigs

Thoughts of Mike B:

Thoughts of Mike B: '...a suitably interesting paper with which to close the 2017/18 campaign proving that when everyone pulls together the sum of WithQuiz's parts can be greater than any one team's contribution....Gerry and his Chara editors had done a great job in melding and sequencing the submissions from each non-finalist team.... next week we celebrate the whole of the 2017/18 season with our traditional

Presentation evening at the Albert Club....James from Ethel Rodin has set a quiz for the evening and a local celebrity will be on hand to present all the gongs...'

Val Draper Cup Final:

'...in a packed back lounge at the Club, the two local teams ...in a keenly fought 'derby final' with The Prodigals ultimately clinging on to their match-long lead to beat The Opsimaths by a mere 2 points.... Prodigals started with a single point handicap advantage which they extended in the first few rounds maintaining a strong lead throughout until the Opsis rallied late on and very nearly snuck it at the last.... there were 25 twos scored during the evening (14 for the Prods to the Opsis' 11) and 11 questions went unanswered (7 falling to the Prods and 4 to the Opsis)....a contest of great enjoyment...not only was the keenness of the contest



proof...but the presence of almost as many spectators as players testified.... excellent quizzing from both tables.... the Rhyming Couplets Round ... was the clear 'Round of the Paper' winner at both Final venues and had us all smiling... Last Tango in Withington' from Compulsory Mantis Shrimp came an honourable second...last year's Val Draper winning captain, Ivor, was on hand with a finely polished trophy to present an ecstatic Anne-Marie with her just desserts... and from all of us at the Albert Club to the missing Dave 'this one's for you!...'

Plate Final:

'...at the Griffin, Dunkin' Dönitz were beating The Electric Pigs to hoist the Plate

Thoughts of others: '

Kieran: '...we set about our task in the same way we have in every match this season...we took the lead on the last question of Round 3, never to relinquish it...unanswered went marginally against the Pigs (6 to our 4) but on an unadjusted score of 44-27 that made little difference...the Charas' Rhyming Couplets Round was voted the best of the evening... a great idea...so a season that will live long in our memories ends...three trophies, innumerable knife-edge games decided at the last by pulling some scarcely remembered, deeply buried, apparently useless piece of trivia from God knows where, and of course that unbelievable match against the Shrimp five weeks ago when we just secured the title...but above all that, just a whole bunch of fun every Wednesday night from October to May with a whole bunch of friends sharing a harmless obsession and making it better and better year after year....thanks to everyone for so many fantastic memories....'

ROUND 1 – Pairs ('Knocked Out United')

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme (Bards): *Beers and their breweries*

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme (Ethel Rodin): *Hotels*

ROUND 4 - Pairs with theme (Mantis Shrimp): *Nato phonetic alphabet*

ROUND 5 - Rhyming Couplet Pairs (Charabancs): *TWO questions, answers forming a rhyming couplet*

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme (History Men): *titles bestowed on the groom in Royal Weddings: Earl of Wessex (Prince Edward), Nothing (Mark Phillips and Timothy Lawrence), Duke of Cambridge (Prince William), Duke of Sussex (Prince Harry), Earl of Snowdon (Anthony Armstrong Jones), Duke of York (Prince Andrew), Duke of Fife (Alexander Duff, then Earl Fife), and Duke of Edinburgh (Philip Mountbatten)*

ROUND 7 - Announced theme (Albert): *British Birds*

ROUND 8 – Pairs ('Knocked Out United')



Summary of all rounds, various Cups, including preseason

Stockport style

Four Verbal Stockport style, and

Four Written Stockport style (One hidden theme Cluedo, One 'Forty years on' where sum of all answers adds up to 40: $7 + 0 + 3 + \frac{1}{2} + 4 + \frac{1}{2} + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + 5 + 18 = 40$)

Other WithQuiz format

Hidden themes 9 (*just one letter, irregular past participles, Tribes of Israel, Fish, dances, Guys & Dolls, Liverpool FC 1964, Beers, Hotels, titles given to groom at Royal Weddings*)

Announced themes 10 (*'Brits and Brexit', EU Neighbours, Hoaxes and April Fools, Grand National winners, Morgans, food in literature, women, colours, British birds, D C Thomson comics*)

Paired 12 (*one with theme: phonetic alphabet*)

Photos

Bingo 8 (with photos: one 'mash up', one 'trees', one 'metrolink stops', awards, May 2nd)

Sequences

Anagrams and other word games: top-to-tail 2, Rhyming couplets

Answers containing particular words or letters 2 (each answer contains a county, starting 'an' or 'na')

Pot luck/ Pot Pourri

Repeat names

Same names

Links

Total number of questions asked, all weeks of league and all rounds of Cups (including spares, tiebreakers) (up to 23.5.18, but excluding anniversary night below):

Literature 279 (including where literature part of a question)

Theatre 63, Art/Architecture 55

History 100, Politics 142, Military/Royalty 63, Crime / Law 25, Transport / Shipping / Aviation / Motoring 60, Education 14

Cinema (including where cinema part of a question) 282, TV / Radio 128

Pop / Rock (including where pop/rock/other music part of a question) 189, Music 67,

Sport / Games (including where sport/games part of a question) 253

Religion 57, Myths / Legend /Traditions 22

Science/ Maths/ Medicine 129

Food / Drink 70, Animals / Birds / Nature 39

Finance 14, Manufacturing / Retail / Fashion / Communication 49,

Geography / Geology 168

Language & word puzzles 28

Other questions involving two or several different subjects 21

Anniversary night:

Literature 6 (including where literature part of a question)

Art/Architecture 1

Military/Royalty 1, Crime / Law 1,

Cinema (including where cinema part of a question) 3,

Pop / Rock (including where pop/rock/other music part of a question) 4, Music 3,

Sport / Games (including where sport/games part of a question) 2

Myths / Legend .Traditions 1

Science/ Maths/ Medicine 4

Food / Drink 3,

Geography / Geology 8

Language & word puzzles 2

Note is taken of compilers, using following abbreviations:

A = Albert , B = Bards, C = Charabancs of Fire, D = Dunkin Dönitz, El = Electric Pigs, Et = Ethel Rodin, H = History Men, M = Mantis Shrimp, Op = Opsimaths, P = Prodigals, St = Stockport, WQ = withquiz
MW = guest Mike