

QUIZBIZ – Prior to start of season

Opening comments Mike B:

The new season starts on Wednesday September 26th with the traditional pre-season friendly v Stockport League. At present the Cup is held by the Stockport League after their 11 point victory last September.

I've compiled a couple of Stockport-style rounds and Mike Wagstaffe is putting together 4 WithQuiz style rounds.

The first round of league matches will be on Wednesday October 3rd. The same 10 teams have registered. Having just 10 teams means that each week, there will be a 'Sitting Out' team. Following the closure of The Turnpike, the Shrimps will play at The Woodstock, whilst The Charas will be at home at The Victoria in Withington Village.



I have been redesigning the site: blue and white; columns on the Home page to make it a little easier to read; league table and results via the fixtures page; a direct access point for all the question papers on site (500-600 which roughly amounts to 35,000 questions); all the 'Archive' material accessed via 'WQ Archive' (earlier seasons from season 2000, potted summaries of the teams who've taken part in WithQuiz over the years, honours board (trophy winners as far back as our records go), etc.

LEAGUE MATCHES

3.10.2018 set by Electric Pigs.

Highest score 48 Prodigals (away v Bards 38)

Victory also for Dunkin' Dönitz (42), Mantis Shrimp (41), Opsimaths (39)

Average Aggregate score 79.3

Mike B:

...a cracking paper to kick-start the new League season....Charas leapt into a commanding lead... the home side clawed things back, running out victors by 5 points. ... it was great to be back in the regular WithQuiz routine....old friends doing what they usually do in the back rooms of drinking establishments.... plenty of points to be had with an average aggregate across the 4 matches well ahead of last year's overall average.

Mike H:

...off to a bright start with a reasonably well balanced quiz (though it always annoys me when particular question pairs are not fairly balanced - e.g. regarding football managers, one side of the pair stipulating Premiership only, and the other suggesting the answer could come from any league...Bards ahead on the first two rounds by 4 points then came Round 3 where Bards crashed 11-1....aside from that round, the scores were absolutely even (37-37). ... wonderful to see Dave again, looking great.

Kieran:

...for the third time in four seasons the opening fixture took us to the White Swan as was.... the relative ease of a four point victory was a new and very welcome experience..... we got them in ones and bonuses, outscored on twos...a very good paper to start the season; only three unanswered questions and nothing too obscure.

James H:

Our first game at The Woodstock got off to an inauspicious start as we were (very politely) asked to move from the otherwise empty first floor to the noisier surroundings of the ground floor. The match itself was a weird one as we managed to achieve a 17-4 lead after just two rounds. However Albert decisively won Round 3 to cut the lead to 7 points and then chipped away at that lead for the rest of the night. Nevertheless we managed to hold on and get the victory. Albert, as ever, were jolly opponents who made for a convivial night's quizzing.

Pairs: ROUNDS 3 & 6

Hidden themes: ROUND 7 ('Carry On'), ROUND 8 (Radio 4's Today presenters)

Announced themes: ROUND 1('The Three Rs'), ROUND 5 ('Land')

Bingo: ROUND 2 - 'Light Relief'

Oddities: ROUND 4 (the events referred to happened in chronological order)

Names: BONUS (Double Species Name)

10.10.2018 set by Albert

Highest score 52 Dunkin' Dönitz (away v Mantis Shrimp 33)

Victory for History Men 43 (away v Electric Pigs 41)

Defeat for Bards 42 (home v **Ethel Rodin 49**)

Victory also for Opsimaths 45 (away v Prodigals 41)

Average Aggregate score 86.5

Mike B:

...plenty of work carried out on the website - ...a direct link to all the site's (18 years) question papers, each paper summed up by repeating a few of the comments received from competitors at the time along with the aggregate score...

Ivor reports

... same faces (ageing but agile) and the same friendly rivalry... very few 'constipators'...announced theme rounds ...yield many more correct answers than unannounced themes and probably help with the tip of the tongue answers that so satisfy the quizzer...the questions favoured our elderly brains.

James W:

...high scoring game...Ethel nipped into an early lead which they sustained throughout....loads of twos (13 for the Bards and 17 for Ethel)....very few questions got handed over...fair and well balanced

Kieran:

...any paper that references Long John Baldry, Tony Hancock and the unfathomably weird *Triangle* is going to put the Shrimp at a huge disadvantage...this age bias caused Shrimp Richard to lament at the end of the evening "this is why we will never win this quiz league"....come now Richard you were within the tiniest sliver of winning the league last season and you and the other Shrimps would have been very deserving champions.

Bingo: ROUNDS 4 & 5

Run Ons: ROUND 6

Announced Themes: ROUNDS 1 (*UK breweries*), **2** (*musical instruments*), **7** (*'Size Matters'*), **8** - *'Born on this day'*

Words or letters: ROUND 3 (*three adjacent, consecutive letters*)

17.10.18 set by History Men

Highest score 42 Opsimaths (home v Mantis Shrimp 35)

Victory for Bards 38 (away v Albert 32)

Victory also for Charabancs (38), Prodigals (35)

Average Aggregate Score: 69.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 78.5)

Only the Opsimaths and the History Men remain unbeaten

Mike B:

...really enjoyed...for the themed rounds, a broad hint at the start of the round offered just the right level of assistance in unscrambling things....a very pleasant evening full of good humour...a strong Irish flavour as the Opsimaths were joined by erstwhile Opsi star, Paddy Duffy, on a return visit to the North - whilst question setter-in-chief, Ivor, came along to spectate and ensure that all went according to plan.

Tony

...a good night's quizzing...Albert took an early lead but thereafter the lead swung backwards and forwards until Round 5 when the Bards took the lead and managed to hold on...an enjoyable quiz not spoiled by the almost mandatory bloody bingo round....interesting that 1958 is significant for Ivor; that was the year I completed Bar Finals before being dragooned into the military....

Danny

...a historic night for the Prodigals at the toughest place to quiz, against the toughest opponents...a bad toss to win for the DDs... but we had to keep focussed and dig deep...we had a five point lead going into the last round so four conferred answers would have won it...however we managed to choose badly and got our first three questions wrong - so when Michael in seat four heard the words "Hugo Drax appeared in which Bond film" the sigh of relief could be heard on the Moon(raker)...

Kieran

...12 unanswered (rather high for a match between two of the best teams in the league)...Prodigals were great company, thoroughly deserving victors and the final result was only so close because they made some horrendous picks in the last bingo round.... Prodigals were six ahead at half time and maintained their lead up to the end of Round 7...the lottery of the bingo round almost did for them... as we came to the last pair of questions with only a one point advantage for our guests. I enjoyed putting them under pressure and causing something close to panic as we almost nicked it...but that would have been a travesty....

Damian

...our maiden appearance at our new home venue...the staff of the Victoria made us very welcome and apologised for the noise....there could be no better way for us to christen our new home venue than with a resounding victory....we led in every round bar one, surged ahead in Round 4 and never looked back...

Pairs - ROUNDS 1, 3, 5, 7

Lucky dip - ROUND 8

Hidden themes - ROUND 2 ('New Royalty', i.e. the Beckhams), ROUND 4 (Great War poets in Poets' Corner)

Announced theme - ROUND 6 (1958)

24.10.18 set by Mantis Shrimp

Highest score 47 History Men (away v Charabancs 31), and Prodigals (away v Ethel Rodin 32)

Victory for Bards 43 (away v Dunkin' Dönitz 33)

Victory also for Albert (40)

Average Aggregate Score: 77.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 78.2)

Mike B:

...a very respectable average aggregate for a paper that truly upset the form book.... we were well and truly done over by our visitors, a merited victory for the Albert....they went ahead early and were cruising by half time....for me the paper was pretty exasperating - but as Nick suggested to us at the close, it was a nicely constructed effort full of craft and thoughtfulness with plenty of points on offer...

Ivor

... we decamped to the nearby Albert, very reminiscent of an Irish pub c1970 (in all the best ways)... Charas are minded to relocate there permanently.... Charas won the toss and batted first but apart from the spares, that was to be the only thing they won....we got off to a flying start and were 12 up at half time before extending the lead to 16 - our best result for some time....I sympathise with setters because it is difficult to decide on the hardness equivalence and tonight Gerry (in seat 4) got 4 unanswered in his 8 questions whereas I got 6 twos in the equivalent seat....if the toss had gone the other way, I might be reporting as a losing captain....we remain the one unbeaten team of the season....who would have thought Tim knew a Kate Bush song?"

Damian tells it from the loser's angle

....neck and neck with our opponents for all of one round and then fell progressively behind by ever increasing margins....the quiz itself was a typically fascinating, if extremely wordy, affair from the Shrimps.... plenty of careful listening to be done but some very inventive and cleverly crafted stuff....

Tony

... this quiz suited the Bards rather more than the Grand Admiral....we do like ships and spaceships and geography....Tom likes pop music and TV...Jim matters Brazilian and a lot more beside....we took an early lead and extended it. Kieran and co. fought back valiantly but by then all we had to do was to avoid any chance of a Dunkers steal and we were home and dry....

Kieran...

... the Bards have been responsible for over 30% of all our defeats, more than twice as many as any other team. So it proved again tonight..... Bards were on top form, built a commanding lead within two rounds and never looked like letting us back into it....Round 5 before they failed to answer one of their questions and they regularly picked up bonuses from us and outscored us on twos.....only five unansweredjust not our sort of paper.

Paired - ROUND 1

Hidden themes - ROUND 2 (*Missions to Mars*), **ROUND 5** (*fictional ships*)

Announced themes – ROUND 6 (*conspiracy theories*), **ROUND 7** (*Halloween & Rachael's favourite holiday period*), **ROUND 8** (*endings and last things*)

Bingo Round - ROUND 4 (*H-A-L*)

Postcode Round - ROUND 3

31.10. 2018 set by Opsimaths

Highest score 47 Albert (away v Ethel Rodin 38)

Victory for History Men 46 (home v Bards 42)

Victory also for Charabancs (46) and Electric Pigs (41)

Average Aggregate Score: 84.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 79.4)

Ivor

...a third win in a row...some time since that happened... 11 points in the lead after two rounds but.....lead whittled away in the last three rounds...if there had been a ninth round we might well have been caught....in a rare example of not giving up too quickly with a question, we had a think for about the equivalent length of time it takes the Dunkers plus the Electric Pigs to ponder an answer times two, and then successfully came up with the late Rachael Bland.....this was in the last round when normally our response is "It's only a pub quiz just let's get on with it - we give up."....another of Brian's solo efforts, and like his previous compilations, a pointsfest with just the right amount of hinting in the question text for us to have a reasonable stab at every question....we enjoyed the questions tonight and the themes....

Tony reflects...

The Red Lion has one or two customers who think that it is necessary to shout loud enough to be heard three streets away....it doesn't help we poor quizzers just across the room....I found it frustrating, especially as I couldn't hear what our opponents were muttering to each other....having won the toss, an unfortunate decision to opt to play second....by the end of the first round, we were losing by an Irish Mile.....we did our best to pull back and in the end the scores looked respectable....it did not help my morale that the bitter ran out before we arrived and only came back on in time for The Ann to buy me a pint post defeat.... Brian, the quiz setter, was a not disinterested spectator. We spared his blushes but he was a tad dismayed by the seeming lack of balance in the first round. The paper taken as a whole was a good one. I was left kicking myself that I forgot I had an old client called Ivor Million who had also been at University with my wife, Sheila....

Mike H QMing:

Very good quiz tonight!several questions which could have been chosen as 'Question of the Week' and only seven unanswered, of which three came in Round 6.....the unanswered ones seemed to be those which were more subject to guesswork, e.g. the height of the cathedral.....most of the questions, though they took some time to read, were reasonably quick to answer. The most difficult part from the QM viewpoint was the competition in the room - having to speak clearly, slowly, and in quite a loud voice, for most of the evening. My wife often tells me that I speak too loud, but tonight it was certainly an attribute!

Damian:

... we celebrated our first victory in our new home pub, and first in ages against our customary nemesis the Mantis Shrimp....one of the highest scoring quizzes we have ever been involved in....a truly refreshing change from the week before....an almost mirror image.....our opponents won the toss, elected to go first and promptly galloped into the early lead only to get steadily pegged back so that by the halfway stage we had grabbed the lead and never relinquished it despite a valiant fight-back from the Shrimps which saw them close the gap to just 5 points at the end....the quiz cantered along at a steady pace and was done and dusted by about ten minutes past ten giving us plenty of time for post coital chit chat.....plenty of accessible answers that could be arrived at by either an individual answer or a judicious confer... thoroughly enjoyable from start to finish

Hidden theme - ROUND 1 (*People born in Belgium*), **ROUND 8** (*Beatrix Potter characters*)

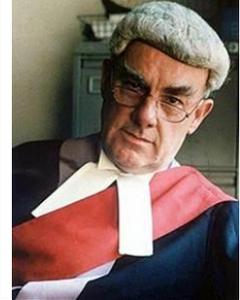
Announced themes - ROUND 2 (*interrogatives*), **ROUND 3** (*Advertising Slogans*), **ROUND 6** (*Numbers*)

Words or letters: ROUND 5 (*Chemical Symbols*)

Bingo: ROUND 4 (*Slough Hockey Club*)

Run-ons - ROUND 7 (*with a literary first half to each question pair*)

Interesting photos used by Mike B in October

People			
			
3/10 Welcome back Dave	31/10 Miss Ruston and her latest beau - Rome, 1953 (R1/Q7)	31/10 "... and who are The Beatles?" (R8/Q1)	10/10 Male of the (almost) Century. Happy 95th (R8/Q4)

Art			
			
3/10 Jean-Francois Millet's The Gleaners (R7/Q1)	31/10 Carrots looking for her boeuf bouilli (R4/Q5)	24/10 'Farewell to these shores' 19th century couple anticipate Brexit and leave for Oz (R8/Sp1)	17/10 Young David's historical masterpiece - Ivor leads his men towards another Waterloo (R2/Q2)

Art continued		
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31/10 "... and tell us about your Dad..."
(R2/Sp2)



3/10 Aurae Inter Salices
(R1/Q6)



31/10 Pointing Godwards - forever
(R6/Q8)

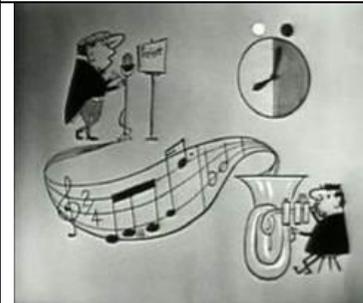
TV



17/10 Test Card girl 50 years on
(R8/Q12)



10/10 Archie, Tina, Gordon, Clarence, Maurice, Sydney and Gaffer
(R1/Q7)



10/10 It's H-H-H-H-Hancock's Half Hour
(R2/Q5)

History

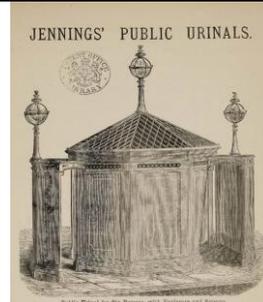
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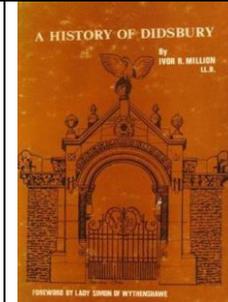
24/10 If only Harold hadn't been looking up history might have been a whole lot different
(R4/Q6)



24/10 The Vicious Vikings conquer America long before Christopher Columbus
(R2/Q6)



3/10 Caught short on the Street of Shame?
(R2/Q7)



31/10 A lot of local history
(R6/Q3)

7th November 2018 set by Dunkin' Dönitz

Highest score Prodigals 45 (home v Mantis Shrimp).

History Men score 35 (lost home to **Ethel Rodin 42**).

Bards score 30 (lost away v **Charabancs 40**).

Victory also for Albert (40).

Average Aggregate Score: 77.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 78.6)

Prodigals stay on top after beating the Shrimps; the History Men's 100% record falls

Danny (Prodigals)

...a lot of tension at the Albert Club tonight....not in the back room where City were taking out the Ukrainian 6-0....not in the main room where United were scoring two late goals to beat the Old Lady of Turin.....no, the real excitement was in the snooker room where The Prodigals won a last question thriller against an excellent Shrimp team.....never more than a couple of points in it for the whole match.....a great Round 4 because, instead of going to the gym in his lunch hour, Jimmy decided to research 'Born on this Day' questions. so we cleaned up on that round giving us a half time lead of 23-21,....by the end of Round 7, Shrimps had managed to level the match at 38-38 and it really could have gone either way...fortunately for us, our knowledge of far right newspaper editors was better than the Shrimps' so Rachael was unable to get the two points needed for the tie...
an evening where everyone was able to contribute....making it a great match....only four unanswered.

Damian.(Charas)

.... we had to wait patiently as our opposing captain, Tony, despatched one of his team to fetch straggling Bards...we elected to go first, a fortuitous move as we only conceded the initial round to our learned opponents going on from there to open up a steadily increasing lead.....romped ahead in the first half scoring 8 twos (compared to the Bards 2), successfully conferring most of the other questions.....in the second half the Bards improved their tally scoring 4 twos to our 1 but they couldn't overcome our already well established lead.... quiz played to our strengths.....perhaps lucky to be answering first because we only copped for one unanswered question out of the 9 that I counted - with the less fortunate Bards falling for the other 8!

Ivor...

...our first defeat (and unlikely to be the last) in a season where it seems every team can potentially beat any other.....the Red Lion was strangely subdued, presumably because Man Utd supporters are mostly non-Mancunians.....good scoring but it was Ethel who were doing it.....rounds 2, 4 and 6 (playing second) doomed us and we were lucky to only lose by 7 points.....just not our sort of quiz and the wrong seat syndrome was evident. Some good news....young David is back after recent illness and was as sharp as ever in spotting themes and rescuing points that might have slipped away. The paper itself did not find universal acclaim.... the saint's round was far too quirky to be welcomed at any point in the evening never mind as a final round....

Pairs: ROUNDS 2, 5, 6

Hidden theme: ROUNDS 1 (also paired – cocktails), 3 (The Confederate States of America), 7 ('First Men' – on the moon)

Announced themes: ROUNDS 4 ('Born on this day'), 8 ('Patron Saints')

21.11.18 set by Ethel Rodin

Highest score Mantis Shrimp 49 (home v History Men 32)

Bards score 38 (lost home v **Opsimaths 42**)

Victory also for Dunkin' Dönitz (40), Prodigals (39)

Average Aggregate Score: 74.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 78.0)

Shrimps and Dunkers come storming back after difficult starts to the season - but the Prods stay on top

Mike B:

...a most enjoyable paper....with few exceptions, the questions were straightforwardplenty of points on offer and very few unanswered questionsI enjoyed the company of tonight's arch-setter, Roddy, as we watched the two teams.... a fine match played in a good hearted way.

Mike H:

...what an absolute pleasure to QM tonight for two very good teams...a pity that I blurted out the answer (the name of one of my favourite directors, Kazan) while trying to rephrase a typing error question....a very close quiz with the winner only really becoming clear in the last round...Opsis are a team who never panic even when they go behind.....they play steadily with very talented players...well done to both teams!

Rachael:

...a most enjoyable evening...entertaining the delightful History Men....we took a slight lead in Round 1 which we gradually extended so that at the end we were a pleasing 17 points ahead....the paper was challenging, varied and generally interesting, though there were a few quibbles due to the phrasing of some of the questions.

Ivor:

We lost the toss, batted second and lost by quite a distance. It was not that we did not try...we had fewer unanswered questions (one to their four) but conceded 8 steals to them, getting none in return. Of the 22 twos the Shrimps had 13.now three losses in a row, mirroring our three victories at the start of the season...nevertheless it was a fun evening...the themes were OKish...the range of knowledge required to tackle the questions was high (which is good) and although there was some imbalance in the pairing, overall this seemed to even out....so well done, Ethel, and many thanks.

Danny:

...a comfortable night in the end for the Prodigals but it didn't start that way....after Round three, the score was 13-12 and then the Prods had an excellent Round 4 and were able to pull away and build up a decent score on what was a tough quiz....Mr Rainford was rock solid scoring the most two-pointers of the night....overall we had 11 unanswered questions which broke 7-4 against the Prodigals and only 12 twos all night.

Damian:

... Ethel's paper was a generally well-constructed affair with lots of variety and reasonably accessible questions.... we were just up against the better team on the night which is not exactly an unfamiliar experience for us when playing against the perennial league champions....

Kieran (Dunkers):

... a return to what was formerly our winning habit...Charas were always in the game but faded in the last couple of rounds when we extended a marginal lead into something that made us confident of victory.... Charas got the rough end of the unanswered, 7 to our 1...

Pairs: ROUNDS 2, 3, 5, 8

Hidden themes: ROUND 1 (*synonyms for 'more'*), **7** (*castles*)

Word games: ROUND 6 (*words that can be placed after the word 'light'*)

Names: ROUND 4 (*two answers, both people (real or fictional) with same given name and surname*)

28.11.18 set by Prodigals

Highest score Mantis Shrimp 50 (home v Electric Pigs 24)

History Men score 41 (away v Albert 40)

Victory also for Dunkin' Dönitz (46), Ethel Rodin (36)

Average Aggregate Score: 75.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.7)

Mike B:

...a pretty good average aggregate...I left the Griffin with my tail between my legs having scored no twos and barely understood the context of many of the questions yet alone known their answers.... Michael had a hand in the compilation of 4 of tonight's rounds and he is clearly on a mission to focus the questions on more up-to-date gen....tonight's tussle turned into a rout with theChamps home and hosed 13 points in front.....Opsis struggled with the popular culture questions Dunkers on top form and achieved most of their winning margin through steals....

Kieran:

...these matches always carry an extra edge and Opsis are very long-standing and enormously respected friends and adversaries....the teams' respective form so far this season could mean only one outcome...and yet....the match that puts us on our mettle more than any other, **THE** derby...when anything can... happen....six points ahead after Round One, seven by half time pulled out to twelve and finally a win by thirteen....only four unanswered, 3-1 against us, and 2 of them were minea paper right up our street - quite a lot of lowbrow 'pop' stuff (we know very little about anything important) and not much on our guests' favoured subjects...

Ivor:

...a neck-and-neck match....not for the first time, level pegging with two questions remaining and a head to head between Eveline and me....on this occasion, I got a two on Daniel Radcliffe whereas Eveline needed to confer for a one on Elizabeth Olsen....plenty of praise for the paper....good ideas, well crafted and the right level of difficulty.

Ashton:

...down to two regulars this week.... Steve and Simon on debut....both acquitted themselves admirably and were impressed by the quality of the questions....History Men had an infuriating habit on the night of pondering blankly for a few minutes then suddenly having a light bulb moment just as they were about to pass the question over with us ready to pounce...

Rachael:

...a very enjoyable evening ...this might be one of our highest ever scores and the final score could have been even higher had we not managed a couple of very near misses... pleasantly surprised by the proliferation of pop culture question....the whole paper just suited us

Damian (Charas):

... yet another defeat for us....it seems Ladybarn no longer smiles on us....I don't think we have won a quiz there since we became the visitors rather than the hosts....a close-run affair with both teams neck and neck from start to finish....never more than a few points between us but, significantly, those points were always in Ethel's favour.... the Prodigals paper just a little bit on the curate's egg side with some interesting stuff interspersed with perhaps rather too much modern....Ethel were definitely more 'down with the kids' and less primeval as they got quite a few steals from us on those questions....

Hidden theme: ROUND 4 (*characters created by Stan Lee for Marvel*), **ROUND 6** (*I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here contestants*)

Announced themes: ROUND 1 (*British Prime Ministers between 1815 and 1940*), **ROUND 7** (*best actress Oscars before 30*), **ROUND 8** (*persons born a year either side of the youngest Prodigal – round also paired*)

Bingo: ROUND 2 (*quiz shows*)

Names: ROUND 3 (*women whose surnames rhyme*)

Run On: ROUND 5

Interesting photos chosen by Mike B for November quiz league

Intriguing doubles



28/11 Unlikely sisters - part 1
(R3/Q4)

28/11 Last of the Summer Rhyme (R3/Q8)



28/11 Unlikely sisters - part 3
(R3/Q6)

28/11 Unlikely sisters - part 2
(R3/Q5)

Cinema

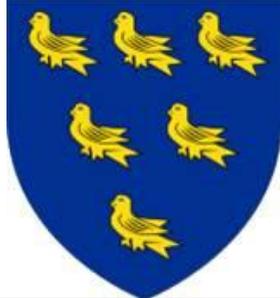


28/11 Mrs Holmes
(R4/Q3)

21/11 Kazan's masterpiece
(R3/Q3)

21/11 "Move yer bloomin' arse!"
(R7/Q3)

Wild life

			
21/11 Another choughing chough (R2/Q7)	21/11 A baby geep (R5/Q2)	21/11 A pizzly cub (R5/Q1)	21/11 Legless in Sussex (R2/Q8)

5.12.18 set by Charabancs.

Highest score Bards 50 (home v Electric Pigs 24)

History Men score 37 (home v **Dunkin' Dönitz 38**)

Victory also for Albert (40), Ethel Rodin (38)

Average Aggregate Score: 75.0 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.4)

...made up of four remarkably similar individual match aggregates (76, 75, 75 & 74) with two of the results determined by a single point

Mike B:

...at Ethel's Ladybarn base, all that disturbed us was the plop of the occasional snooker ball....I was QMing giving 'baby' Opsi Innis another chance to demonstrate his skills.... Opsi had their nose in front (just) for most of the contest but slipped up on the final pair....so victory for Ethel by a single point... the question paper was finely tuned....a well-earned victory for Ethel keeps the table wide open....

Tony...

...a very one-sided game at the Parrs Wood....we won the toss and elected to go second... Bernard, Tom and Jim all came up trumps....

Ivor:

...last week we edged in front in the last round to win by a point....this week we were overtaken in the last round to lose by a point....ahead by 6 points with three rounds to go but as seasoned quizzers know that is never enough against the Dunkers.....we had to relocate to the Albert in Withington....quiz stats showed a combined score of 75 with 9 unanswered and each side scoring 10 twos (everyone getting at least one).... just our age that we can remember most of the cabinet in the Wilson, Callaghan and Thatcher governments but would struggle to recall anyone other than Theresa May in the current cabinet...

Kieran: .

...we staggered with little enthusiasm and less urgency to the Albert....wiliness was key to avoiding the young alpha males listlessly hanging around the graffitied, shuttered shops and ancient empty takeaways too dead for eating, that litter a Wilmslow Road which once buzzed with

independent greengrocers, drapers and record shops....on such a 'trip back in time' night, the champs decided to disinter one of their classic performances, winning right at the death from an impossible position having been behind for almost the entire contest.... Historymen's six point lead shrunk and withered to nought at the start of the final round and from then on, there was only going to be one resultan odd, but good, paper which produced twos, bonuses, unanswered and conferred evenly spread across all eight rounds - and therefore a brilliantly exciting match...

QM Mike H:

History Men were forced to decamp from Lion to Albert....Lion had been packed with football fans, our usual spot packed with escapees from the football fans! Nevertheless, even at our replacement venue, the QM (me) had to raise his voice constantly and sometimes repeat questions to overcome the (mostly rather good) pop music....History Men started by losing the first round but then won the second round 7-1 to forge their way ahead - and they stayed ahead for most of the contest....a reasonable contest with only 9 questions going unanswered....eventually, as is their wont, DD came back, winning the final round 6-3. Once more History People clawed defeat from the jaws of victory.

Mike O'B (Albert):

It was good to see Dave looking better - a true sporting gent.the lead changed hands several times but after a sluggish start, we managed to crawl home on the last few questions of Round 8.

Dave:

Prodigals just came up short... a good tussle, going backwards and forwards, with the Albert just easing ahead, as tough to beat as always. ... well played both teamsan excellent quiz that had something for everyone....

Pairs - ROUND 1, 3, 5

Hidden themes - ROUND 2 (*Brexit resigned Tories*),

Themes - ROUND 7 (*births & deaths on December 5th*), **8** (*dogs*)

Bingo - ROUND 4 (*Avian*)

Run Ons - ROUND 6

12.12.18 set by Bards

Highest score Mantis Shrimps 51 (**home** v Ethel Rodin)

History Men score 42 (lost home v **Prodigals 43**)

Victory also for Opsimaths (48), Albert 46)

Average Aggregate Score: 83 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 78.0)

After 8 matches, Prods are still top on 12pts - but 3 teams are on 10pts and 3 more on 8pts

Mike B:

Bumper points on offer in this 'Christmas present' of a quiz from the Bards.

Next week all 10 teams play...I willset the paper masquerading as 'Guest'. Please be kind to me since...I will also be the birthday boy - a mere 42 years ahead of Prodigal Michael.

Ivor:

...for the third week in a row, the contest was decided by a single point....unfortunately we were the team who lost...41 all with two questions left. Michael got his two with the South Dublin drinking area and I failed to get my two for the draw on the George Clooney film....Our combined score was 85 which for a Bard's quiz is most notable. I recall a Bard's quiz in a cup game once where we were on the wrong end of a 20-18 result against the Electric Pigs.,, all aspects of human knowledge were tested including our perennial favourite,1970s sitcoms... Good to see a bit of hard physics too ...there will not be many quizzes in the country tonight with the Pauli exclusion principle and Bose-Einstein condensates as answers. ...

QM Mike H:

...a very enjoyable quiz....History Men lost by just one point, the major problem being the 'wrong seat syndrome' - always Tim seems to get the Pop music questions!!!

Mike O'B:

...we built up a big early lead and then watched it whittled away...typical of them, the Charas bailed us out by lending us their QM Jane who turned in a heroic performance ...

Damian:

...you kindly lend a team your QM and...they repay you....by inflicting a severe drubbing...we struggled mightily in the first half falling behind by 15. In the second half we began to perform a bit better and actually managed to take the lead in the last three rounds but it was all too little too late...

Rachael:

....a very enjoyable evening at the Woodstock....we took a lead in round one and managed to extend and maintain it throughout....a good, solid paper with lots of interesting and challenging questions...

Pairs – ROUNDS 4, 6, 7

Hidden themes: ROUNDS 1 (*famous footballers' nicknames*), **5** (*Mercury space programme*), **8** (*London Underground District Line stations*)

Announced themes: ROUNDS 2 (*word or name that can follow 'Captain'*), **3 - Announced theme** ('1936')

19.12.18 set by Guest (Mike Bath)

Highest score Albert 38 (home v Dunkin' Dönitz)

Bards score 35 (lost home v **Mantis Shrimp 37**)

History Men score 36 (lost away v **Opsimaths 37**)

Victory also for Ethel Rodin (37), Prodigals (34)

Average Aggregate Score: 70.2 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.1)

Setter and QM Mike B:

...scarcely a point between the two sides right up to the end...in the earlier rounds it was the History Men who led but they could never get away from their opponents and in the end Howell's Welsh heritage served him well...a great evening amongst good friends with loads of laughter.

Rachael:

...a nail-biting match... a very challenging paper... we seized victory by two points in Round 8.... Bards great company and put up a brilliant fight all night, leading for most of the match with only the 'Christmas round' allowing us to move ahead...the first half seemed to go on forever and we felt that some of the question pairs were very unbalanced. I enjoyed the Christmas round and was very honoured to have it dedicated to me!

QM Mike H:

Bards unfortunately had to perform with the invisible conferring man 'George' in number one chair...Jim was absent and his replacement also had to cry off at the last minute. Nevertheless, they did very well, ahead for the whole match, only succumbing finally on 'Rachael's round'....enjoyable as ever, with two friendly teams.

Damian (Charas):

...a real nail-biter...never more than a few points between us at any stage but...we could never quite catch the Prodigals....we could easily detect Birthday Boy Mike's customary well-crafted touch in assembling this varied and intriguing paper...a little on the tough side with plenty of 'well I never knew that' responses....12 unanswered with 8 of them falling our way which obviously didn't help...when the score was so close.

Gerry C:

...Prodigals are a mighty fine quiz team and will be there or thereabouts at the business end of the season.

Additional thoughts from Mike B:

Last Friday saw the unveiling of the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst in St Peter's Square. We should be very proud of two of our colleagues, Anne-Marie Glennon and Andrew Simcock.....Anne-Marie had the idea of increasing the pathetically low count of statues of women in Manchester City Centre - the idea led to the 'Womanchester' competition in which local people voted overwhelmingly for Emmeline Pankhurst. Andrew through his tireless work running the competition, raising the money, commissioning and overseeing the making of the statue and planning and executing the highly successful ceremony and celebrations, has acted throughout as project manager.

Pairs – ROUNDS 4 (Science) & 5 (Non-Science)

Hidden themes: ROUNDS 1 (sound of W – I – T – H – Q – U – I – Z), 3 (Bleak House)

Themes: ROUNDS 6 (Crap Culture), 8 (Christmas)

Bingo: ROUND 7 (Geographical)

Rhyme: ROUND 2 (pairs of well-known men whose surnames rhyme, regular WithQuizzers)

Interesting photos chosen by Mike B for December quiz league

Intriguing doubles

		
<p>12/12 Little Big Horn, Liverpool and England (R1/Q4)</p>	<p>12/12 Terrytoons, Liverpool and England (R1/Q5)</p>	<p>19/12 Brothers in Rhyme (R2/Q4)</p>

Sport

		
<p>19/12 Scotland - 3rd/4th tier staying power (R5/Sp)</p>	<p>19/12 Bags of experience! Just right for United? (R5/Q2)</p>	<p>5/12 Match of the Day scores at last (R5/Q2)</p>

Animals and Birds

			
5/12 The bizarre Secretary Bird could have been in Round 4 or 5 (R4/Q10-TSB)	5/12 Kieran trying to pick up the scent? (R8/Sp2)	12/12 The pooch that stuck with his owner (R6/Q6)	12/12 The pooch that kick-started the record industry (R6/Q5)

Places and people

			
19/12 The height of Manchester's Victorian heritage (R5/Q3)	19/12 The height of Manchester's 21st century legacy (R5/Q4)	19/12 'Our Emmeline' points out in Manchester (R5/Q8)	19/12 'Our Annie' rings out in Oldham (R5/Q7)

9.1.19 set by Electric Pigs

Highest score Mantis Shrimp 47 (home v Charabancs 35)

Bards drew home v History Men (41 – 41)

Prodigals home & Ethel Rodin also drawn (38-38)

Victory also for Albert (40)

Average Aggregate Score: 79.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.3)

Mike B

Well ahead of the season's average aggregate and clearly well-balanced with 2 ties and a 'last question' result.

Ivor

,,despite getting the *Tin Tin* theme and humming the melody, we were unable to dredge up Stephen 'Tin Tin' Duffy - and even though we spotted the 'percussion' theme, we had to concede *Cymbeline*....the city foundation dates were tricky (even though we had the leeway of four years for Salford, we managed to miss the mark by nearly nine centuries)...some impressive answering on display tonight....at least we didn't lose, so our run of three defeats by a single point has been stopped....Bards proved as tenacious as ever and despite being 7 points down with three rounds to go, managed to rally with the scores at 36 all going into the last round....not for the first time I had the chance of glory had I scored two on the last question....but no chance of that with *Home and Away* actresses... luckily David rescued the point....a tie the fairest result....very strange stats: we got fewer of the unanswered (2-4); 16 twos to the Bards' 9 but lost it on the steals which broke 2-7 in the Bards' favour.

QM Mike H

...a highly suitable result between the two teams for whom I regularly QM - a tie!entertaining quiz between two great teams....Rounds 4 and 5 quite complicated for the QM having to hand the page back and forth....in future could we have another copy for this type of round? also easier if each round on a separate page.

Rachael:

...most enjoyable....Charabancs were superb company and worthy opponents as always.....though we maintained the lead throughout the match, there was never more than five points between us....only 3 points ahead going into the final round but a very good Round 8 saw our lead extend considerably so that the evening ended with the Shrimps 12 points in front....lots of variety and good solid questions

Damian...

....Shrimps inaugurated the second half of the season by avenging their loss to us in the first half....fairly close all the way through except for an utterly disastrous last round for us which fell 9-0 to the Shrimps....the final score seems a little harsh on us.... we all did well scoring twos with Graham notching up no less than 4....it was our conferring which let us down at key moments as we managed to talk ourselves out of several correct answers....the Piggies' paper well thought out with a good variety of subject matter...

Howell:

...a very tense tussle at the Fletcher Moss....by Round 4, it was level at 19-19 and it continued neck and neck up to the last question....Opsimaths needed one point to win but none of us knew Isla Fisher and Albert swept in to take the victory....Fletcher Moss is proving an interesting venue....pretty full when we arrived but emptied out just as we were ready to start....for a few rounds, perfect for quizzing and then a big group turned up and it was almost impossible to hear the questions....fortunately, the questions on the whole fair though our slightly older Opsimath team struggled with the more modern pop culture questions....

Mike O'B:

...one of the best contests ever...when the last question arrived, all 3 results were possible and it fell to us as a steal...all the way through, the lead did not vary by more than a couple of points...

Pairs: ROUNDS 1, 3

Hidden themes: ROUNDS 2 (*Herge's Adventures of Tintin*), **6** (*percussion instruments*), **8** (*Scottish Hebridean islands*)

Bingo/ Lucky dip: ROUNDS 4 & 5 (*Islands of interrogatives*)

'Celebrity Anagram': ROUND 7 (*Jim Bowen*)

16.1.19 set by Albert

Highest score Opsimaths 48 (away v Charabancs 31).

Defeat for Bards 37 (home v **Dunkin' Dönitz 47**),

Defeat for History Men 46 (away v **Prodigals 47**),

Victory also for Mantis Shrimp (46)

Average Aggregate Score: 82.05 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.7)

Mike B

...a highly enjoyable paper...with a goodly score rate... Opsimaths' 'Chara jinx' is well and truly broken as the visitors notch a comfortable victory...the Albert is the perfect venue for a quiz about 1970s sitcoms and John Leyton hits...exactly what a pub should be like... prices, décor,...the amazing complexity of the exposed electrical wiring ... the two teams sat coiled like intellectual springs beneath an ancient notice board which displayed various yellowing and fading prints of great events....

Kieran:

... Dönitz beat our constant Nemesis for the first time in three outings...convincingly, ... with the result beyond doubt after Martin scored a two on the second question of the final round.... we took the lead after Round 3 and never looked back, extending the gap by a point or two each round...

Ivor:

...after our three narrow losses and a tie, tonight was a great victory....for the Prodigals....the writing was on the wall when after only four questions asked, we were 6-0 down and, although we had rallied to only one point behind by the end of Round 3, the Prodigals pulled ahead in the second half. ...16 twos to our 11 and superior in the steal rate (7-5). The Prodigals are already heading the league and on this performance they might already have their names on the league trophy for the first time.quiz was no constipator so there was plenty of time for chat.... Danny, John, Jimmy, Michael and David proved splendid company.....a good combined score of 84.... yet again 'wrong seat syndrome' (always bad when Tim gets a football question or anything on modern pop - i.e. anything since 1962)....

Rachael:

After an enjoyable evening at the White Swan, we finished the quiz 9 points ahead. The first two rounds were very close but by the end of the first half we had gone ahead by six points, a lead which we gradually extended through the rest of the match....generally an enjoyable paper, with plenty of variety and interesting questions.

Paired – ROUND 7

Hidden themes - ROUNDS 2 (*bodies of water*), **6** (*captains/presenters A Question of Sport*)

Themes: ROUND 1 (*Johns*)

Bingo: ROUNDS 4 & 5

Letters: ROUND 8 (*all answers begin with letters on the top row of a typewriter keyboard*)

Run-ons: ROUND 3

23.1.19 set by History Men.

Highest score Mantis Shrimp 49 (won away v Electric Pigs 27)

Bards score 27 (defeat away v **Ethel Rodin 39**),

Victory for Dunkin' Dönitz (33), Prodigals (40).

Average Aggregate Score: 69.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.1)

Mike B

...somewhat of a toughie with the aggregate 7.6 points down on the season's running average (77.1)... But full of interesting material ...displayed the interests and enthusiasms of the setters (medicine, Scottish mountains and South America in this case)...thanks to History Men for... the basis of a most enjoyable evening.

...an epic tussle at the Club... two really good quiz teams each weighing up the odds as to when conferring is the best bet and when to trust yourself with a two....Prods proved better at this and displayed more polymathy with Jimmy's encyclopaedic knowledge of Manchester bands,Dave's all-round mastery of quizzzy stuff, Michael with sports and history knowledge ...John who knows everything else....a truly good Prodigals team...

...delighted to see Dave mending bit by bit...joined at the Club by Brian (as QM), Jitka (of course) and question setters Ivor and Mike H eager to observe the fruits of their labour...

It's now 4 months since I devised and implemented the new style for the website the daunting task of converting 512 past question papers and 493 past QuizBiz articles ...to conform to the colour and style,,, completed about 20%....enjoyed browsing what we quizzed each other ...years back. For instance ...Brains of Oak (today's Charabancs) paper and Albert's in 2001, were each 70-question Bingo papers...questions almost all just one line long, with one or two word answers.... no themed rounds....much stuff that seemed important at the time has totally faded off the radar. I have also started putting some of the Albert Club Monthly Quiz material on... totally different from WithQuiz both in terms of presentation and in the type of challenge posed.

Kieran:

...Charas as good company as ever ... too many occasions where both teams were just guessing with very little help from the question, too many obscure subjects and difficult answers...282 Munros as a theme – really!.. too many unanswered questions (11 which, excluding the random nature of the last round, broke 7-4 against us)

Damian...

...some solace when in the middle of the current continuous chain of losses.... another tight one against one of our fiercest foes, one which might have been even tighter if only the standard of our conferring had not fallen short... Tonight's paper... was a bit of a curate's egg - fascinating little titbits... here and there buried amidst much that was obscure and impossible to work out....

Rachael:

...after a very enjoyable and lively evening of quizzing, we finished the quiz 22 points ahead... in front by the end of Round one, extended over the course of the paper... pleasantly surprised to find the History Men's paper far more enjoyable than the authors had led us to expect, with a wide range of interesting and varied questions which led to wild conferring and some inspired answers on both sides.

Paired – ROUNDS 1, 2

Hidden themes - ROUND 3 (*Old Testament books*)

Themes: ROUND 4 (*Scottish Munro mountains*), **5** (*Latin America*), **6** (*Body Parts*), **7** (*eminent scientists, Presidents of the Royal Society*)

Bingo: ROUND 8

30.1.19 set by Mantis Shrimp

Highest score Bards 51 (home v Charabancs 32).

Defeat for History Men 34 (away v **Dunkin' Dönitz** 48),

Victory also for Opsimaths (46), Albert (43)

Average Aggregate Score: 82.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.5)

Mike B:

Great paper which stretched the brain cells.... a goodly average aggregate, meaning few can have gone home without feeling they had contributed....

Mike H

...praise to the Shrimps for setting a good and fairly even quiz (they needn't have worried about their 70s/80s round – good preamble and all questions answered, even if only 2 twos...)..... my only quibble was Round 2... very much a guessing round once the theme had been sussed on the first question..... only 5 unanswered questions (including two in Round 2, and two more in Round 8). Charas had 9 twos to the Bards' 15....

Mike B:

Hilary was icebound so I was elevated from the bench to play alongside Brian, Nick and Innis...Liz was an excellent QM... Opsis went into a good lead early on but were slowly pegged back until the last few rounds when we pulled well ahead again. Nick was in good form and so was Innis our ex-UCer ...

Ivor

...a 14-point margin of victory by the Dunkers... who are not going to loosen their grip on the League Champions' Trophy without a fight...on the predicted coldest night of the year, pleasant to be in the hothouse (literally) that is the Griffin Hotel...entirely uninterrupted in the only room without a TV outlet....playing second, we got off to a bad start and never recovered.... there was a strong element of 'wrong seat syndrome'. Round 8 was a killer (we went down 8-1 and conceded 3 steals)...Quiz went down well with a combined score of 82 and only 7 unanswered questions...very content with the spread and subject grouping.

Kieran

...our most convincing win for three and a half months.... a belting Shrimp paper which delivered in every way

Paired – ROUNDS 6 (70s and 80s), 8

Hidden themes – ROUNDS 2 (English counties), 5 (island groups in the Pacific), 7 (University Challenge winners)

Themes - ROUNDS 1 (Papal Names), 4 (the execution of Charles Stuart in 1649)

Letters - ROUND 3 (J-A-N)

Interesting photos chosen by Mike B for January quiz league

An award... and famous Art

			
<p>23/1 Mike B presenting the Orkney Dark trophy to Dave (victors in the Albert Club derby)</p>	<p>9/1 Ambassadors Jean & George (R3/Q2)</p>	<p>9/1 Blue Boy Buttall (R3/Q1)</p>	<p>30/1 <i>The Misses Vickers</i> Officially the Worst Picture of 1886 (R1/Q6)</p>

Geography



9/1 Franco's stronghold (R1/Q8)



9/1 Ladies of the Vale (R3/Q3)



23/1 Spectacular Iguazo Falls (R5/Q7)



9/1 Alone and at sea but the PM's a rock nevertheless (R4&5/Location UK/Q1)



16/1 Georgian delight on the Welland (R4&5/Geography 1)



16/1 The latest V & A / On the Tay / As William McGonagall would say (R4&5/Museums)

Music etc & Literature



30/1 Venice's Opera House risen from the flames (R5/Q1)



23/1 Carols on the air for 90 years (R2/Q2)



30/1 Morland of Northanger – knowing to hide knowing (R3/Q6)



16/1 Anne resting beside the sea

			(R4&5/ Gravesites)
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Cinema & TV & more Art

			
16/1 The first Oscar John (R1/Q3)	9/1 Not that much of a laugh actually (R8/Q6)	16/1 The Vespasienne planning committee (R2/Q5)	16/1 Hogarth's view of life in London's slums (R4&5/Art 1)

History & Science

			
23/1 Farthing tails either side of the Irish Sea (R7/Q1 & Sp/Q3)	23/1 Dolly's daughters – but which 'D' is which? (R1/Q4)	30/1 The last of Jutland (R5/Q3)	23/1 Blackburn's 1964 Cabinet member (R1/Q5)

6.2.19 set by Opsimaths

Highest score Prodigals 47 (victory home v Charabancs 37)

Victory for History Men 45 (away v Ethel Rodin 36)

Victory for Bards 40 (away v Electric Pigs 38)

Victory also for Dunkin' Dönitz (39)

Average Aggregate Score: 77.6 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.6)

Ivor

...what a difference a week make....last week, the hottest of the quiz venues (the Griffin) where we were roasted in all meanings.....this week, the (physically) coolest (the snooker room of Ladybarn Social Club).... getting points in the league has proved difficult and after our promising start to the season, we had been in freefall.....Ethel are often our bogie opponents and much to our surprise, we managed to get a result at last. Seven points ahead at half time and, despite a wobble in Round 5, we advanced to a 9-point lead by the finish. Only two unanswered questions all night (both falling to Ethel)... the paper generally well received and played to the strengths of both sides.....plenty to challenge and amuse...Anne had one blurt ... but more than made up for her lapse with thorough knowledge of *Wonderful World* lyrics including the nigh on impossible *Blue Skies* film.....must have been a good paper as Tim showed his disdain for only one question (with his usual sotto voce 'ff's) expressed after only three words of the question: 'Which Harry Potter ...'.

spectator Mike H

Much enjoyed.....some very entertaining questions from the Opsimaths and excellent company....a good victory for the History Men....a phenomenon for me was the fact that two consecutive wrong answers (Round 3 questions 4 and 5) each received 2 points. First David got two for saying "Albert Shed" (since the paper said to allow any answer with 'Albert' in it) and this was followed by Roddy giving the answer "CUA" and getting two points even though the correct answer was CAU....

Damian:

....we lost for the fourth time in a row.....Prodigals kept a goodly lead over us right from the start and it gradually widened with each successive round..... all the Charas did manage to score 'twos' however and so have all qualified to play next week.....tonight's quiz was another tour de force from Opsimath Brian which we all enjoyed despite one or two of the questions being a bit convoluted....., the odd exceptions in a quiz that had an entertaining variety of themes, hidden and unhidden.

Kieran

...a classic Dunkers performance, the margin at the end of each round never being more than four and guess after guess coming good. ...a different Opsis effort from most of their recent offerings....a bit scratchy and nowhere near a pointsfest, but a great contest, a respectable aggregate score and only six unanswered (4-2 against us) - so an indisputable success.

Paired – ROUND 5

Hidden themes – ROUND 6 (*politics & physicians*)

Themes - ROUNDS 1 (*What a Wonderful World*), **2** (*islands*), **3** (*Pubs in WithQuiz land*), **4** (*Gender Neutral Given Names*), **7**(*beekeepers*)

Names: ROUND 8 (*Pairs of people with the same Surname*)

13.2.19 set by Dunkin' Dönitz.

Highest score 46 Opsimaths (away v History Men 33),
Bards score 38 (defeat away v **Mantis Shrimp 44**).
Victory also for Charabancs (41), Albert (44)
Average Aggregate Score: 80.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.8)

Mike B

Ivor has a unique way of delivering his blurts. He consults his team first asking them whether he should go for it or not. As they hold their heads in their hands, and before they have a chance to say "Pleeeeeease NO!", the deed is done, the blurt is out and the roof descends.it was a great fun evening with loads of laughter... Opsis moved ahead early on and just kept going. In a feeling of solidarity with their captain, the History Men managed to lose by a margin that meant Ivor could claim his blurts had no real effect on the match's outcome. Despite the 'dirty/dusty' slip in Round 4 and a few spots where question balance seemed.... well.... questionable, this was a great paper with a super-size aggregate score.

Ivor

After last week's unexpected win, we were back to our losing ways....the evening started badly as a series of texts from Mike Bath.....seemed on my phone to have come from Mike H. As a result, Mike H was left waiting at The Greenfinch for his lift....Fortunately Howell came to the rescue and Mike H was retrieved and duly installed in the QM seat. Once again the History Men suffered from 'wrong seat syndrome' and a series of blurts by yours truly.....a great display of individual knowledge by the Opsimaths left us 6 points adrift at half time and 13 points off the pace at the end.... of course our enjoyment was COMPLETELY marred by the *Macbeth* misquotation...perhaps the Dunkers have feet of clay after all...

Tom (Shrimp)

... a tight match throughout with never more than 3-4 points between the teams....equal on 35-all before Round 8 started but then in this final round, the questions fell very much in our favour and we were able to manage a win....Bards....sporting throughout, conferred efficiently; and had a number of spectacular solo efforts, particularly from Tony and John. Some tidy, stimulating rounds....the kind that teams can move through briskly and score well without ever feeling that their intelligence has been insulted.... all in all, a fine evening's quizzing...

Mike O'B

Another exciting quiz with the result being decided on the last few questions....a strangely structured quiz with each team being favoured by one half of the paper - so I suppose it worked out reasonably well in the end...

Dave

.. Prodigals were unlucky in many regards tonight....the questions simply didn't fall our way and we applaud the Albert for their victory including a full house in the decisive 'Casablanca Round'.... a convivial evening with great rivals and good friends....very congested at the top...we have now truly reached 'squeaky bum time'.

Gerry

... Electric Pigs rooted valiantly for the many truffles buried deep within the questions... eventually unplugged by the resurgent Charabancs who once more have the wind firmly beneath their wheels...only a matter of time before Fr Megson's gifted oldsters lift themselves into the coveted position of third last in the table.....

Damian:

...after trailing the Piggies for the first two rounds, we finally established a slender lead that we held on to for the remainder of the quiz... our first win of the year and, indeed, our first since November... tonight's paper an extremely decent offering from the Dunkers with an unexpectedly prominent musical flavour encompassing Grand Opera, Stage Musicals and Pop pot pourri past and present.

Paired - ROUNDS 1, 2, 7, 8

Hidden themes - ROUNDS 3 (*Casablanca*), **4** (*operas* – also Paired)

Announced theme - ROUND 5 (*stage musicals*)

Sequential - ROUND 6

20.2.19 set by Ethel Rodin.

Highest score 41 Opsimaths (away v Electric Pigs 35),

Bards score 30 (victory away v Prodigals 29)

Victory also for Mantis Shrimp (39), Albert (38)

Average Aggregate Score: 67.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.2)

Mike B:

...average aggregate was about 10 points below par for the season ...a pretty tough paper and it did arouse quite a few passions... Pigs were on great form and are really unlucky to be bottom of the table.

Michael T:

...Bards crept over the line with a conferred point on the very last question...congratulations to them. On other nights, such a margin would suggest a good, keen, competitive quiz, but this was not such a night... too many questions where there was no way in, too many that spoke only of the very particular interests of the setter, and too many about esoteric minutiae. This quiz also featured the least balanced pair of the season...quizzes should be accessible and not overly biased by a setter's age, location, or personal or professional interests...if the league wants to survive; if it doesn't want to diminish further in terms of numbers, it really needs to wean itself off... 'old man' subjects...

Ivor spectating.

I went to the Albert Club to see how teams coped with what is traditionally the hardest test in our league - an Ethel Rodin paper.

Unusually Tony was also a spectator as he was on the bench for the Bards. The Hammond dynasty was well represented with Tony's grandson Tom playing for the Bards and his daughter Kate playing for the Prods.....a very low scoring game...the first few questions were 'constipators', and the mathematics questions (though answered) brought back memories of the 'A' level (1976) exam that can still cause occasional anxiety dreams for your reporter...Bards were 2 points ahead going into the last round but a disappointment that the first two questions belonged to *Call My Bluff* rather than *WithQuiz* - with the next two, the Prodigals drew level...another two unanswered so a shootout on the last two

questions...with both teams failing on Rachmaninoff and Bernard for the Bards (who got four unanswered in Seat 1) finally becoming a hero instead of a 'zero' with his Strauss/Wilde back of-the-net rescue to get the vital point for victory.

QM Mike H.

...very glad I was able to participate as the Prods' QM...the quiz paper was rather less enjoyable...very much a 'confer-fest' - 36 of the 64 questions were conferred with only eleven twos all night...the first round was tied, but then the Bards went 1 point ahead, then 2, then 4, then 3, then 2 by the end of Round 7. At Round 8, question 4, tied and then three blanks with the Bards managing a point on the last question...in my relatively short time with WithQuiz I don't believe there has been such a low-scoring quiz...but having said all that, a very enjoyable evening as ever - and Ethel are a very pleasant team, whose company I much enjoy.

Rachael

After a very tense match, we ended up 5 points in front... scores were very close for much of the evening with rarely more than a couple of points between us, and the lead changing hands regularly...into the final round tied on 33 points each but the questions in that round worked more to our favour. The paper was tough but generally fair...nine unanswered questions in all... a good range of subject matter with something to suit most of us but also a fair few questions where we were left scratching our heads!

Mike O'B

...a tough old quiz but one with some imaginative themes....and a number of questions to which we thought we knew the answer but they turned out to be wrong!...

Damian:

...one of our worst scores ever in a WithQuiz contest...after last week's belated triumph, we were brought crashing down to earth by one of our steadfast and most relentless opponents....we led in Round 1 and then subsequently fell ever further behind with each successive round...not a night to remember ... little in tonight's paper that appealed to us or played in any way to our traditional strengths....some clever ideas for themes, but, in general, we tended to find them a hindrance rather than a help...we invariably found ourselves on the wrong side of the pairs, often able to answer our opponents' questions but not our own...far too many of the questions were of the 'either you know them or you don't' variety and too often we didn't. I counted 13 unanswered questions which broke more or less evenly between us.

Also from Mike B

This week I'm kicking off a 'Glossary of Quizzing terms'...

1. blurt /blûrt/ *transitive verb & noun*

The rapid delivery of an answer as a gut reaction without pausing to consider whether the rest of the team might know better than you. Even the Dunkers have been known to blurt, though minimising blurring has been a key to their success over the years. ...blurring only applies to wrong answers. Correct answers delivered without pausing for thought are regarded as inspirational. A well-known deviant version of the blurt is the '**Ulster Blurt**' where the competitor does ask team mates whether they should 'go for it' but then blurts anyway before the team has time to respond. The History Men are fine exponents of this refined form of blurring.

Pairs - ROUNDS 2, 3, 8

Hidden themes - ROUNDS 4 (*Roman numerals*), **7** (*birds*)
Themes - ROUND 1 (*nicknames of Division 2 football sides*)
Progression - ROUND 5 (*letters from the word 'WithQuiz'*)
Words - ROUND 6 (*words that may be preceded by 'Dutch' or 'French'*)

Interesting photos chosen by Mike B for February quiz league

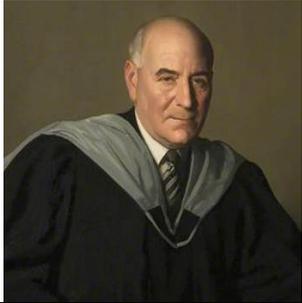
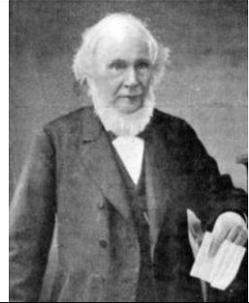
Animals

		
6/2 Durer's Leonine gift (R5/Q2)	6/2 The 'stay-at-home' sifaka (R2/Q5)	20/2 Madagascan native (R8/1)

Geography

			
6/2 A Nobel island (R2/Q8)	20/2 Beware! A Devil of a Lot crossing (R8/6)	13/2 Drood's Dome (R1/1)	6/2 Island retreat – but only for a brief stopover? (R2/Sp2)

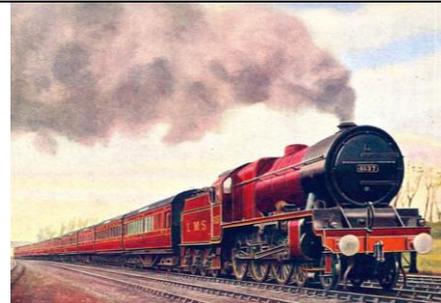
Local figures etc.

			
13/2 Lord Mayor with a tram stop (R7/4)	6/2 Doctor with Clock Tower relief (R3/Q7)	13/2 Manchester's industrial scale librarian (R7/7)	13/2 The Crowdaddy in Richmond where (according to Graham) the full Stones line up actually played their first gig (R2/6)

Other celebrities

				
6/2 "They are quite a model community, for they respect their Queen and kill their unemployed" (R7/Q5)	6/2 Lady Haden-Guest (R4/Q3)	6/2 Dr Death's missus (R6/3)	13/2 The eponymous Hungarian writer (R3/5)	20/2 The great transatlantic epistoler (R6/Sp1)

Also

			
<p>20/2 Euston to Glasgow back in the day (R2/7)</p>	<p>20/2...and Paddington to Penzance back in the day (R2/8)</p>	<p>20/2 The faces of chocolate before Lazenby (R6/1)</p>	<p>13/2 (Clockwise from top left) Bangs, Conk, Croydon facelift and Lob (R5/Sp)</p>
			
<p>13/2 Leibovitz on Lennon, Moore and Williams (R5/7)</p>	<p>20/2 Legendary Blues (R1/4)</p>	<p>20/2 Visited by Fr M on his mission to Eastern Europe (R4/8)</p>	

6.3.2019 set by Prodigals.

Highest score Dunkin' Dönitz 52 (v Ethel Rodin 26).

History Men 30 (defeat home v **Electric Pigs 40**)

Bards 33 (defeat away v **Opsimaths 40**)

Victory also for Mantis Shrimp (50)

Average Aggregate Score: 75.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.1)

Mike B:

Loads of interesting material and some snappy questions...at the Albert Club, all were appreciative - including myself as QM for the excellent layout making reading the questions (even with footballing cacophony in the background) a doddle. Slight grumble....round 3 with the 'strange words' answers was a 'know it or don't know it' round with no chance of an alternative way in....a cheery match with the lead ping-ponging between the two teams until half-time after which the Bards' challenge faded... at times hard work for the QM to keep the attention of all the quizzers whilst the excitement of the United match in Paris grew to a crescendo ..eventually we held a short impromptu quiz break as the football reached its nerve-tingling climax.... the non-football fanatics of the home quiz team were patient and their patience was rewarded with a stout victory....

Rachael:

After a most enjoyable evening of quizzing... we ended 18 points ahead..... many two-pointers on offer and very few questions unanswered...we all enjoyed the paper very much; lots of variety, fun themes and enough of a challenge to keep us thinking while never slowing the pace down too much....

Jame.

...we instantly took a shine to the 'Film Quotes' round, allowing us to open up a 3 point lead....the 21st-century bingo round was obviously to our liking....this paper well balanced, in terms of the subjects and time periods covered, and peppered with interesting and accessible questions.....the first 4 rounds under half an hour...a definite improvement on seemingly never-ending slogs...

Mike O'B

...simply not our kind of quiz...question after question on music and science sailed past us to be picked up by our opponents.... so little conferring that we shot through the first four rounds in less than half an hour.

Kieran

...Ethel found themselves on the wrong end of a quiz that could have been written with their opponents in mind...film tag lines, popular culture and sport everywhere....reflected in a 'two' count of 16 for us against Ethel's 7...nine questions went unanswered...seems high because the quiz didn't feel at all difficult....the last three weeks' fixtures look like they'll set up the mother of all title scraps with the Shrimp playing the Opsi and the Prodigals and the Donutz taking on the same two teams....and I wouldn't count the Albert out just yet...

Ivor:

...an impressive and deserved victory for this season's whipping boys....traditionally Pigs are end of season specialists as confirmed by their many successes in the Cup...tonight we were unfortunate to find them in such good form already....the margin of our defeat was due to them picking up no less than 9 steals to our three... some of these really irked because we kept plumping for the wrong answer of two....what's more we lost the confidence to risk a two-pointer on *Cocktail* because of blurtophobia....moderately hard quiz with some interesting themes...we struggled with the 21st century bingo rounds - personally I would have liked to have had the chance to pick a year when I was still full of vim and vigour (1976 springs to mind)....didn't spot the 1999 Man Utd theme...perhaps with a team of Liverpool, Everton and Spurs supporters, there was an involuntary blind spot...

Mike H.

....surprised by Ivor asking me to play rather than QM....but I managed to get Lonnie and Superman....the continuous noise of United supporters in the background alongside noisy neighbours in the quiz room meant that QM Alison had to struggle with repeats.....she did an admirable job.....too many questions either-or'invariably plumping for the wrong one, having discussed at great length which of the two it might be. So I'd like to propose that the quizzing glossary term 'Prodigal answer' given on the website last week might hereafter be known as a 'Ramprakash'.

Also from Mike B:

3. Tosca /'tos.ka/noun

A moment of extreme joy when a 'two' is scored for a correct answer following lengthy, agonising personal indecision.... it was named after an incident on May 24th 2006 in the Val Draper Cup Final between the Electric Pigs and FCEK. To tie the scores and move to the tiebreaker question 'Pig' Dave McColm needed a 'two' on the last question of Round 8. Each answer in the round included the name of an operatic heroine. The question was: "What was the name of Pat Smythe's champion show jumping grey horse?" After quite a few minutes,Dave spluttered "Tosca" and earned his team mates the tiebreaker question which they duly won thus gaining the coveted cup.

Pairs – ROUND 6

Hidden themes - ROUNDS 7 (*Brexit*), **8** (*Manchester United's treble-winning squad*)

Themes - ROUND 1 (*taglines of films*), **2** (*the answers are in themselves questions*), **3** (*single unusual word*)

Bingo: ROUNDS 4 & 5 (*21st century*)

13.3.19 set by Charabancs

Highest score 46: Mantis Shrimp 46 (home v Opsimaths 33)

Victory for History Men 36 (home v Albert 32)

Victory also for Ethel Rodin (35), Prodigals (40)

Average Aggregate Score: 72.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 76.9)

Mike B:

...seemed patchy to me QMing....some pretty hard stuff didn't feel like one of the Charas' best...

Ivor:

....we have always had a testing time against the Albert....when we joined the league in 2002, they were the last to fall to our sword (in 2005 I believe) and we only managed to snatch victory by a single point on the last question in our meeting earlier this season.....tonight was a game of four quarters....7 points behind after two rounds, recovered to 2 behind at half time, fell back to 8 behind by end of round 6 and then, unusually for us, managed to stay focused and finally get some questions we knew the answer to....round 7 ended 8-1 (at which point we were just one point behind) and then we feasted on a pop round with a sufficient number of historical questions to suit our complement of ageing pop pickers.....the round ended 7-2 in our favour and a victory for us....moderately hard paper with a combined score of 68 and no less than 17 'steals' breaking 9-8 in our favour....suggests that we knew each other's questions rather than our own and that if we had gone second rather

than first, the combined score might well have been greater.....some good questions... every week there are still many to delight and mystify....Anne was our star withan encyclopaedic knowledge of contemporary thespians of film and TV....

Mike H

....privileged to be a member of the History Men team... frustrated by getting Lola (a different decade) mixed up with Rita...good idea to have a pop music round with different decades thus making it fairer for those of us who are shaky on post-70s music...perhaps the turning point was the Spanish-based descalzado...what made me even happier was that Liverpool had a resounding victory in Germany....why are United fans always upset when Liverpool fans are happy?

Mike O'B dolefully reflects

...all going swimmingly - 8 points ahead with 2 rounds to go; then we were engulfed by a tsunami of ignorance....three points from the last 2 rounds!

Mike B

....Shrimps go roaring into their big showdown with the Prods next week whilst the Opsis have to lower their sights to a top four finish... the Shrimp were a player down.....so your non-playing correspondent became QM as Adam, Rachael, Tom and James entertained Nick, Howell, Brian and Innis....the hosts put on a display of awesome expertise as they cruised towards the evening's highest score....

Dave R.....

....more like Helter-Skelter than Lovely Rita...Donuts showed why they have won the league so often and were going again for their third successive title....their individual and team dynamic is so hard to beat...an epic struggle as the visitors tried to press home the advantage they had kept for most of the match....tide turned in Round 7.... the match ultimately hinging on Michael's knowledge of the Backstreet Boys, producing the two to clinch victory.excellent spirit, despite the implications for both teams' seasons and I applaud the Donuts for making it a brilliant contest, which as the score suggests, could have gone either way.....thanks to Anne-Marie for her expert handling of the QM's job....and to my team-mates Michael, John and Jimmy, who seem to be able to handle anything that is thrown at them, including my off-putting interventions preventing them from giving a correct answer that they already knew.... a season The Prodigals will never forget... a balanced quiz producing the ideal scenario from the setters point of view - a last question shoot-out....

Also from Mike B:

4. confer /kən-fûr'/*transitive verb* (conferr'ing; conferred')

The action of a quizzier when they have decided not to risk an answer on their own and so wish to consult the greater volume of brains available amongst the rest of the team, albeit for a one-point rather than two-point answer.there may be opposing reasons for conferring: cowardice (i.e. 'I think I know but I'm frightened to appear wrong to my colleagues' and wisdom as in 'I haven't got a bloody clue'). The cowardice version of these is usually kicked off by the original competitor saying something like, "I'll confer, but it isn't 'xyz' is it?", to which the rest of the team says something like "Of course it is you twat - why didn't you say that!".

An alternative version of conferring is the '**solo confer**' where a team member doesn't confer with others but talks loudly to themselves in the hope that a sign from one of the others helps whittle down the options without the need to forfeit the valuable two-point solo correct answer. This is strictly verboten but nevertheless has been known to occur (but never amongst the Pigs of course!).

Pairs – ROUND 7

Pot luck - ROUND 4

Hidden themes - ROUND 2 (*weather forecast terms*), **3** (*double consonants*)

Themes – ROUNDS 1 (*'Equine Musings'*), **5** (*'pairs'*) **6** (*computer programming languages*)

Bingo: ROUND 8 (*Pop in different eras*)

20.3.19 set by Bards

Highest score Dunkin' Dönitz 46 (home to Electric Pigs 23)

Victory for History Men 41 (home v Charabancs 31)

Victory also for Prodigals (42), Albert (44)

Average Aggregate Score: 75.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 76.8)

Mike B:

.... with the Prodigals winning a tight encounter against the Shrimps..., the Prodigals have the challenge of beating the Pigs next Wednesday to capture the league crown for the first time in their illustrious history. This has been the most exciting race for many years with 5 teams in the hunt right up to the last few weeks. It is certain that a new name will go onto the trophy with the Shrimps breathing down the Prodigals' necks in second spot being the only side capable of overhauling them.

Dave Rainford

....a fair contest...but there very slight grumbles....lots of interesting questions and an all round good effort from the Bards....quizzing doesn't get much tougher than this....our wonderful hosts Compulsory Mantis Shrimp pushed us all the way....played in the very best of competitive spirits, despite the importance of the fixture... a tense struggle, inevitably still in the balance going into Round 8...as you would expect from *University Challenge* alumni,Shrimps cover a huge area of general knowledge, no matter which four are playing...we had to dig deep to overcome them in their first defeat since November....we eked out an early advantage which we managed to maintain until the end, despite consistent Shrimp pressure.

Ivor:

....we used to be contenders in the distant past but now here we are at the end of the season playing a match that is a 'meaningless rubber' in determining who will lift the League Championship....not quite meaningless, however....we have a glimmer of hope of moving out of eighth place....Charas played three-handed tonight and they all did well in accruing twos....the margin of our victory was due to them leaking 9 steals to our 2....our combined score of 72 with only 10 unanswered questions was rather better than we usually manage with Bards papers....highlights of the evening included a 'considered blurt' from Anne (...a 'considered blurt' differs from the common or garden blurt but is just as annoying to the blurter....another highlight was Tim getting a pop question correct...Anne's blurt however was nothing compared with Graham's on the question "Which letter of the phonetic alphabet is the name of a fizzy drink?" Was this an attempt by the Bards to leaven their harder questions with a gratuitously easy one....Graham came up with "Tizer"....causing some merriment....

Mike H..

...a very enjoyable contest on a paper more accessible than the usual Bards' offerings....one of the most amazing twos of the night was scored by Tim on a pop music question (Shangri-Las), silencing Ivor's usual 'wrong seat' comments....the last question of the evening had the best possible answer (Liverpool) but unfortunately it remained unanswered.

Damian

Reduced to a 3-man team, we bravely went into battle against one of our all-time favourite opponents and... finished second once again....at no stage of the proceedings, could we narrow the gap to less than 2 points and we finished up 10 points adrift...the evening was one of the most enjoyable and entertaining we have had this season. Ivor and co. remind us time and again that our weekly Wednesday quiz outings are intended above all to be occasions of fun....tonight's paper a generally enjoyable assortment of themes, pairs and various trivia. Nominated Candidate for Best Answer of the Night (and possibly the Season)?...: Chara Graham answering ("What is the only fizzy drink in the letters of the NATO International Phonetic Alphabet?"). As we all sat back confidently expecting an instant 'two', with the Historymen having absolutely no hope for a steal, our Graham confidently leaned in to QM Mike and, with no hesitation whatsoever, shouted "TIZER"! Chara John speculating as to whether the history of cinema would have turned out differently if Marlon Brando had ever starred in a film entitled, *Last Tizer in Paris?* ...

Kierans...

...a chance for revenge....Mike Bath kindly stepped into the breach to QM ...he did a splendid job.... the quiz was wrapped up with plenty of time to spare....it is comforting to do what we've been quite good at for nearly thirty years and win a quiz game....all in vain as far as the title goes but it's all we know how to do and we are condemned to carry on doing it season after season....

Mike O'B:

.... a good quiz with plenty of points on offer and good opportunities for conferring....of course in the Albert team, conferring usually means talking someone out of a perfectly sound answer and into some sort of rubbish.... it was probably an advantage to lose the toss and go second....

Also from Mike B

5. run-on /run on/ noun & adjective

A specially concocted quiz question of two parts in which the last part of the answer to the first part of the question is shared with the first part of the answer to the second part of the question' e.g. 'And Quiet Flows the Don Revie' ...the fun of these questions often lies in the inextricable juxtaposition of two wildly differing elements....also it's good quizzing as competitors who can only fathom the answer to one part might well be able to stumble upon the other part and get the two points.... ..sometimes using sound-alike overlapsor overlapping syllables which sound the same but spelt differently ('*All's Well That Ends Welwyn Garden City*')....in the current season, run-ons have been employed less often....

Pairs – ROUND 4

Pot luck - ROUND 8

Hidden themes - ROUND 1 (*Wizard of Oz*), **5** (*Manchester City managers*), **6** (*Manchester or London music venues*), **7** (*capital cities of EU*)

Themes – ROUNDS 3 (*1943*)

Words – ROUND 2 (*words that can follow 'Doctor'*)

27.3.19 set by Guest (Brian McClintock)

Highest score Prodigals 51 (away Electric Pigs 39)

Defeat for History Men 39 (home to **Mantis Shrimp 46**)

Defeat for Bards 40 (home v **Albert 47**)

Victory also for Ethel Rodin (41), Opsimaths (49)

Average Aggregate Score: 87.0 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.4)

In 1994, Allan, Richard, John and Mark thought it would be a good idea to enter a team called The Albert Park into the Withington Quiz League; 25 years later their worthy successors Jimmy, John, Dave and Michael, skippered by Anne-Marie and now called The Prodigals, lifted the WithQuiz league trophy for the very first time, a great reward for 25 years of hard graft topped by an excellent 2018/19 season. Rachael, skipper of the ever-so-almost winners for the last two seasons, The Compulsory Mantis Shrimp, has this to say... "We...send our warmest congratulations to The Prodigals on their very well-earned victory....played brilliantly all season and are ...a brilliant bunch of people! Quizzing against them is great fun, even though they always beat us!"

....Anne-Marie... recalls the past players who have helped make playing for her team such an enjoyable and sociable experience down the years: Clive Berry, Allan Stores, Pete Conry, John Jackson, Richard Seed and of course Mark and Cheryl Bassett out there in Vienna....Prods reckon John Hewitt their Most Valued Player for his dogged consistency.....and I don't think any other WithQuiz players will disagree with that!

Dave Rainford...

We went ...in hope rather than any kind of certainty....Pigs are always capable of giving a team a bloody nose....beat the Prodigals last season and their 39 points were testimony to a team that could easily have been major party poopers.....formidable opposition and their tenacity admirable, even in the face of some rotten luck with the way the questions fell. We agreed it was a good toss to lose. ...we put on a solid team display which didn't allow any loose points to slip through....as well as the wealth of knowledge within the squad, this season we have displayed the essential ingredient....team matchplay...the core of John, Jimmy and Michael, who only missed a smattering of matches between them, are integral to our success...the contribution of Anne-Marie, Danny and Kate made sure we have become a hard team to beat....the class of our nearest challengers The Shrimps is obvious. Rachael's lovely congratulatory message showed why they are great.lovely adversaries ...Fulsome praise too to the Donuts, the Opsis and The Albert who all had title ambitions coming into the last few weeks of the season... The Albert beat us home and away.....the matches with the Opsis, Donuts and Shrimps were tight battles....matches we would have previously lost we sneaked and that resulted in an inaugural Prodigals title....thanks to all of our opponents for great nights in victory or defeat or crucially, in Ethel Rodin's case, a draw. Finally, it is the day of the Prodigals.....a special shout-out to Stella, who has been a constant, invaluable support to the team...and to the Prodigal friends...who all built the foundations of a team that I have always been proud to be a member of....

Rachael is the soul of generosity as her team miss out ... just a single point for the second year on the trot...

...after an enjoyable evening, we ended a very hard-fought match leading by 7 points....a couple of points ahead after Round 1 and extended our lead to several points by the end of the fourth round but our excellent opponents caught up with us in the second half so that there were just four points separating us towards the end of the match. The History Men were great company... conferred furiously on many questions and managed some inspired answers as a result....all enjoyed the paper; generally solid affair with plenty of variety....

Ivor

We were never in the hunt tonight...undone by a combination of blurts, a loss of confidence in going for twos and the downright superiority of the opposition....Shrimps have done their best and....finish second in consecutive seasons.....always the Cup to look forward to - though somehow despite our lowly standing, we seem to have a handicap of zero which will not help us much....unlike most teams when the wheels start to come off, there is no gentle 'paddle of rebuke' or commiserations of 'bad luck' in blurting or opting for the wrong possibility of two potential answers. It is full on "You cretin!" or "Don't you know anything?" or worse.

Many of the 'RIP answers' evoked comments such as "Is he really dead?"suggests we do not keep up with the new stuff ...or perhaps that we just forget it.... with the way our brains have been going, next year we will have even forgotten we have forgotten. The quiz paper was nicely set out in a grid and for fuss-pots like me, there was not a single inaccuracy...

Mike H...

....many congratulations to the Prodigals, a great team who really enjoy quizzing and make quizzes fun for others (as indeed do the Shrimps).... Shrimps thoroughly deserved their victory tonight but it should have been much closer as on several occasions the Historians conferred when the person being asked knew the answer all along....I have been thumbing through the WithQuiz papers from 2001 which are much easier to read from the QM's point of view - many of tonight's questions were so long - sometimes with more information than necessary.

Damian...

....what a cliffhanger.....ahead in almost every round until steadily clawed back in the last two, it seemed to be the story of our season....we thought we had dodged fate... up until the very last moment but....I couldn't, alas, connect the author of *You Only Live Twice* with *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* so we had to confer for a one instead of what would have been a tie-breaking two. ...we all enjoyed tonight's paper from Guest Setter Brian (maybe the Opsis could loan him out for this task on a permanent basis?), despite the occasional wordiness of some of the questions which....had us ready with the answer long before the QM had finished reading them.

Mike B...

....a great paper on which to end the league programme - 10 points above the season's overall average... fair to young and old this time round we were on peerless form.... no Opsimaths/Dunkers match is ever a breeze and it's always impressive to hear the collective Dunker cogs whirring as they weigh up when to confer and when to go for a two....surprisingly it was the steals what done it for the home side.

Hidden themes - ROUND 3 (*famous chefs*)

Themes – ROUNDS 1 (*Sports*), **2** (*Music*), **6** (*places*), **8** (*onomatopoeia*)

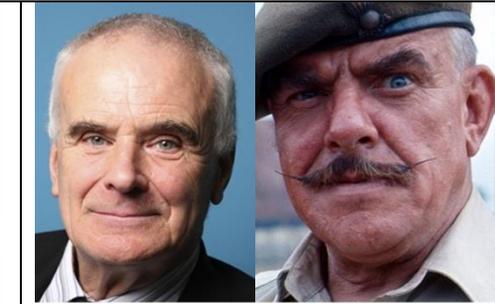
Names - ROUND 7 (*first names of pairs*)

Bingo - ROUND 4 (*deaths in 2018*)

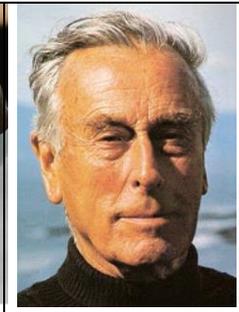
Run-Ons - ROUND 5

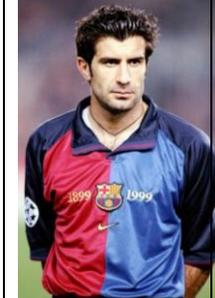
Interesting photos chosen by Mike B for March quiz league

League champions - & Unexpected 'siblings'

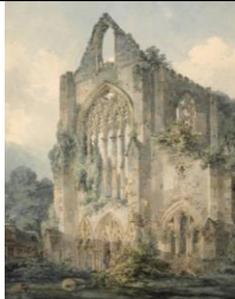
		
<p>27/3 The Prodigals win their first ever WithQuiz league title!</p>	<p>27/3 The Evans siblings (R7/Q5)</p>	<p>27/3 The Davies siblings (R7/Q4)</p>

Sport & other personalities

			
<p>20/3 Graham orders his Papa-India-November-Tizer (R8/Q5)</p>	<p>6/3 100 x 100 & 1000 (R6/1&2)</p>	<p>20/3 No Coward he! (R3/Q4)</p>	<p>6/3 DID you ever! (R4-5 - 2018)</p>

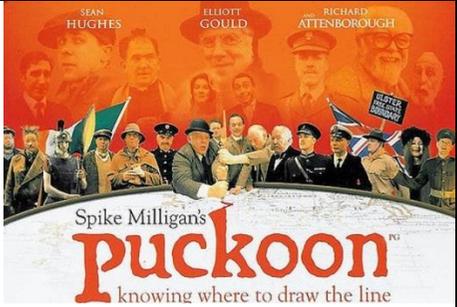
			
27/3 Pato players in action (R1/Q2)	20/3 Tony seeks forgiveness (R5/Q7)	20/3 El Primo Galactico (R4/Q7)	27/3 State sponsored sport in Maryland (R1/Sp1)

Art and the Arts

				
13/3 Thames Frost Fair by Thomas Wyke, 1683-4 (R2/Q1)	13/3 Jean Fish and her hidden computer programming ability (R6/Q7)	20/3 Turner's Cistercian Abbey (R1/Sp)	13/3 St Theresa gets high (R7/Q8)	27/3 Bert O'Lucci - giant of the Irish film industry (R4/Nov)
				

<p>27/3 Beaton's design for the Ascot Gavotte (R3/Sp2)</p>	<p>27/3 Shaken and stirred - but no Bond (R8/Q7)</p>	<p>6/3 Imre – breaking his nation’s Nobel duck (R4-5 - 2002)</p>	<p>27/3 The Four Tetrarchs cosy up in Venice (R6/Q2)</p>
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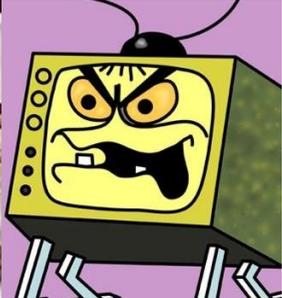
Brexit?!

			
<p>6/3 Milligan’s 2019 premonition (R7/Sp1)</p>	<p>13/3 Let’s have strict controls on immigration so that prats from down under can’t come here, nick our pubs and persuade us all to shaft our economy! (R7/Q5)</p>	<p>13/3 Still filling us in after all these years...: “...lots of exciting new words, like brextremist, brexorcist,... make it harder for foreigners to understand what we are saying. In a tough, new international business world, small advantages such as this can be crucial.” (R7/Q6)</p>	<p>20/3 Sorting out the world – in an age when politicians were big people (R3/Q3)</p>

Geography

			
20/3 Mons Calpe (R8/Q7)	13/3 Sharp Edge on Blencathra in the Lakes (R3/Q3)	13/3 Another 'shoddy' Scottish mountain (R3/Q4)	20/3 First US Consulate in Paradise Street (R8/Q8)

Other oddities etc.

					
6/3 Ashamed French diners polish off their songbird population (R3/8)	20/3 The box bites back (R2/Q3)	6/3 Reject of our Times (R8/7)	13/3 Oooh! That does look painful (R1/Q5)	13/3 Riders in the sky (R1/Q1)	

Final League Positions for 2018/19. Congratulations Prodigals – and Shrimps

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
Prodigals	18	13	1	4	742	666	27
Comp. Mantis Shrimp	18	13	0	5	785	662	26
Albert	18	12	0	6	717	661	24

Opsimaths	18	12	0	6	734	682	24
Dunkin Dönitz	18	11	0	7	733	644	22
Ethel Rodin	18	8	1	9	669	735	17
History Men	18	7	1	10	695	730	15
Bards	18	6	1	11	693	708	13
Charabancs of Fire	18	4	0	14	619	720	8
Electric Pigs	18	2	0	16	578	757	4

WithQuiz League summary of types of round 2018/19

Hidden themes: 44 (*Carry On, Today presenters, the Beckhams, Great War poets, Missions to Mars, fictional ships, Belgians, Beatrix Potter, cocktails, Confederate States of America, First Men on the moon, synonyms for 'more', castles, Stan Lee for Marvel, I'm a Celebrity, Brexit resigned Tories, footballers' nicknames, Mercury space programme, District Line stations, W – I – T – H – Q – U – I – Z, Bleak House, Tintin, percussion instruments, Hebrides, bodies of water, Question of Sport, Old Testament, English counties, Pacific islands, University Challenge winners, political physicians, Casablanca, operas, Roman numerals, birds, Brexit, Manchester Und treble, weather forecast, double consonants, Wizard of Oz, Manchester City managers, Manchester/London venues, EU capital cities, chefs*)

Announced themes: 49 (*Three Rs, Land, breweries, musical instruments, Size, Born this day, 1958, conspiracy theories, Halloween, endings, interrogatives, Slogans, Numbers, Born this day, Saints, British PMs, best actress Oscars, youngest Prodigal birthday, December 5th, dogs, 1936, Crap, Christmas, Johns,*

Munros, Latin America, Body Parts, Presidents of RS, Papal Names, execution of Charles Stuart, Wonderful World, islands, WithQuiz Pubs, Gender Neutral Names, beekeepers, musicals, Division 2 nicknames, taglines, questions, unusual words, Equine, pairs, computer languages, 1943, Sports, Music, places, onomatopoeia)

Pairs: 40 (*including Science, Non-Science, 70s and 80s*)

Bingo: 17 (*including Light Relief, H-A-L, Slough Hockey Club, quiz shows, Avian, Geography, Islands of interrogatives, 21st century, different eras of Pop, deaths in 2018*)

Run-Ons: 6 (*including one with literary first half to each pair*)

Lucky dip/Pot luck 3

People 4: (*rhyming surnames, first names of pairs, same first name, same surname*)

Words or letters: 9 (*Double Species, three consecutive letters, Chemical Symbols, words after 'light', words preceded by 'Dutch'/'French', words after 'Doctor'), top row of typewriter, J-A-N, words after 'Captain'*),

Sequenced 2 (*including 'withquiz' progression*)

Oddities 3: (*chronological events, postcodes, anagram of Jim Bowen*)

Cup Matches

26.9.18

WIST Challenge Trophy - Pre-season Friendly

Set by Mike Bath (WithQuiz) and Mike Wagstaffe (Stockport)

Winner Withquiz League 63 pts (v 48)

Average aggregate **111.0**

Mike B:

...good to see our mates from Stockport and catch up with fellow WithQuizzers following the summer break.... Nick captained the home team and was on sparkling form....the home sidea 6-point lead by the end of Round One....and never looked back.....final score wasa reversal of last season when the same 111 ...split 60-51 in Stockport's favour.....the TV screen....used to display entertaining pictures to illustrate the questions and provide the grids which gave the choices for the WithQuiz-style 'bingo' rounds.

Oral (Stockport format) - ROUND 1

Written (Stockport format) - ROUND 2 (*words with repeated letters*)

Bingo: ROUNDS 3 (*'this summer'*), **4** (*'Final Op'*), **5** (*Comedians*), **6** (*Beatles*)

14.11.18 WIST Quarter Finals and Lowly Grail Quarter Finals

Set by **The Stockport League** (John Palmer)

Average Aggregate: 76.5

WIST Champions Cup:

Highest score Opsimaths 56 (v Loko. Stöckpörtn 42)

Victory also for Mantis Shrimps (50), Dunkin' Dönitz (48) and for Ethel Rodin (41)

Lowly Grail:

History Men score 26 (lost at home v **Wandering Star** 30 of Stockport).

Victory also for Albert (49), Charabancs (42) and Prodigals (39)

Champions Cup

Mike B:

A fairly low aggregate....but the most intriguing feature was the wide range of aggregate scores...(98 Opsis/Loco...56 Stars/History Men)...In the Opsimaths' match, visitors' tally would have seen them through in most of the evening's other matches but the home team were on sparkling form...our newest recruit, (Innis Carson, last year's Edinburgh captain from University Challenge...) made his debut.... Loco were the best scoring team from the Stockport League!

Rachael:

...we finished a very enjoyable evening 22 points ahead....all charmed by the venue, particularly the pub's resident parrot, Mojo...and the delicious free food at the end of the quiz! by half-time we were fifteen points ahead....closer in the second half though we still managed to extend our lead...

Mike Wagstaffe:

...the future of quizzing is the Shrimps....very pleasant company....the paper played to their considerable strengths...worthy victors, winning five of the six rounds.... a very tough paper...a struggle from start to finish, although fair and balanced.....the first round wasn't too bad, but we found the theme in the written round rather obscure. One of the ideas behind using a theme...is that it can help teams fill in gaps once they've 'twigged' what the theme is....for this, the theme should be accessible, which (in our opinion) wasn't the case here.....most people would struggle to name *any* Thornbridge beer, never mind ten....

Lowly Grail

Gerry:

...both teams found it hard going...they are a team of veterans that have survived worse catastrophes; their home pub, redolent of 1950s charm and atmosphere, was falling down...long before it was condemned and finally demolished about five years ago...now the Railway on the A6, a decent pub with decent beer... sometimes it is good to meet fellow creatures who neither know, nor care to know, how little you know....

Mike H:

.....Ivor, away at a conference....another laid low....only three of us, Ann, David and myself with Alison QM (the star of the evening)....a very low-scoring evening (an aggregate of 58), with....History losing...lengthy too, with a finish at about 10.50.....our other star was Ann, with her, as ever, comic caustic comments....lots and lots of unanswered questions....curiously the Stockport-style rounds were won by the WithQuiz team and the 4 WithQuiz-style rounds by the Stockport team....only 12 twos all evening, 9 of those in the first round. Round 3 finished just 1-1!!!)....our opponents surged ahead in the penultimate round winning it 6-1..... Withquiz is never boring as the camaraderie is all important but... quiz-wise, this was not a night to remember.

Also from Mike B:

For 'question of the week'. I have chosen the Emmeline Pankhurst statue question....December 14th will be the unveiling in St Peter's Square...frumpy Queen Vic in Piccadilly Gardens will be joined - at last - by a truly great Mancunian woman, Emmeline Pankhurst, the only statues of women in Manchester City Centre.

Oral (Stockport format) - ROUND 1

Written (Stockport format) - ROUND 2 (Hidden theme: *Beers from Thornbridge Brewery, Bakewell*)

Hidden themes: ROUND 3 (*synonyms for 'song'*)

Announced themes: ROUND 4 (*Sporting Duallists*)

Words or letters: ROUNDS 5 (*words that link three entities*), **6** (*homophones C, Si, Sea and See*)

27.2.19 WithQuiz League WIST Champions Cup Semi Finals and Lowly Grail Semi Finals

Set by **Stockport League** (Mike Wagstaffe)

Average Aggregate: 87.3 WIST Ave Agg to date 81.9

WIST Champions Cup:

Highest score Mantis Shrimp (54 home beat Opsimaths 43)

Victory also for Dunkin' Dönitz (51)

Lowly Grail:

Highest score Prodigals 54 (won away at Albert 36)

Victory also for Wandering Star (36) of Stockport.

Kieran:

.... Donutz ... trailed by five points after only ten of the thirty Stockport round questions....but somehow....we ended that part of the evening with a 23-13 lead.... scores were level at 38 each with two rounds to go....and then came round seven eight questions on food related pop acts, playing a team that knows almost nothing about pop....we won that round 8-1, took a seven point lead into the final round and eventually won a quiz that had been an even contest almost all the way....we were very lucky....

Howell

...the evening was convivial....as always...Bob was an excellent quiz master...he showed great restraint when, on a few occasions, both teams spent an inordinate amount of time coming to the conclusion that they just did not know the answer!rounds about a particular subject are rarely loved by many, but universally hated by the team that suffers the ignominy of not knowing the answer, question after question.....

Rachael:

..we got off to a very bad start, trailing by twelve points at the end of the first Stockport round.....picked up a few points in the written round with some inspired conferred answers, but still trailing by seven points at half time.....things really turned around in the second half with a pop music round and a film quotes round that could have been written specially for us!

James:

...difficult to exaggerate how one-sided the second half was....as though written specially for the Shrimps - so much so that they turned round a sizeable deficit to win by a massive margin....whole rounds on a single topic risk delivering the kind of wipe-out scores we saw tonight.

Mike O'B:

....Prods' 5th Lowly Grail final in the 6 years of the competition....Prodigals were better than we were...the subject matter (e.g. the old music questions) did not suit our skill se....

Ashton:

.... Albert caught a one-way ticket to Palookaville.... unfortunately for us, an awful lot of questions from the 60s and 70s heyday of rock... the only member of the Albert who was even vaguely swinging in the 60s was Eveline and she was in the QM's chair....the hepcats of the Prods had no problem in ramming home their advantage....a chastening evening all round after our league double over them....

Also from Mike B:

Glossary of Quizzing Terms

2. prodigal answer /[prod](#) 'i-gl/ /[än](#) 'sər/ *adjective & noun*

An incorrect answer given after much conferring, during which the correct answer is suggested (often loudly and in the hearing of the opposite team) and is then discarded for one of a number of far less likely possible answers, often on the basis that the correct answer is too obvious.

Oral (Stockport format) - ROUND 1

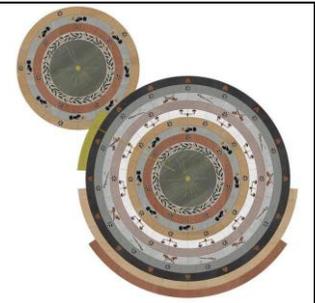
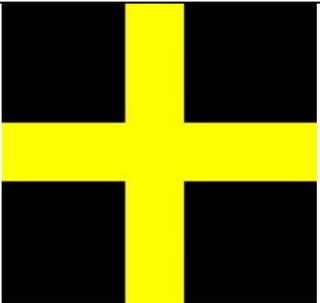
Written (Stockport format) - ROUND 2, 7 (*Extra time if required – pot luck*)

Hidden themes: ROUNDS 4 (*words from the lyrics of 'Jerusalem'*), **6** (*terms used in chemistry*)

Announced themes: ROUNDS 3 (*Film Quotes*), **5** (*food-related' musical acts*)

Interesting photos chosen by Mike B for Cup matches November to February

Places & a Flag

			
<p>27/2: Source of the Thames at Kemble during a dry spell (R1/Q8)</p>	<p>27/2: What passes for a border in the EU (R1/Q1)</p>	<p>14/11: The Peterloo memorial... “It’s not ...to be a memorial that people look at and admire, but a civil monument that people actually use. ... I want people to be able to sit on it and have their lunch.” (R1/Q18)</p>	<p>27/2: Wot! No dragon! (R2/Q4)</p>

Personalities (music, literature, TV)

<p>27/2: Mrs Sinatra clockwise from top left (R2/Q10)</p>	<p>27/2: Oh so nearly Anderson Council (R2/Q2)</p>	<p>14/11: The 'Kilmarnock Camus' (R1/Q14)</p>	<p>27/2: Peacetime for Dad's Army (R1/Q24)</p>

More: Football, nature, press, etc

<p>27/2: From David to Dieter - old Wembley's first and last (R1/Q15)</p>	<p>14/11: Halycon days (R2/Q5)</p>	<p>14/11: What The Sun headlined in 1935 (R1/Q11)</p>	<p>14/11: Dodgy Ernie: Southern Cemetery via Wallasey and Monaco (R2/Q8)</p>

3.4.19 Val Draper Cup Round 1 (h'caps apply)

Set by: **Mantis Shrimp**

Average Aggregate Score: 85.0 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.5)

Prodigals (40) v (39) **Charabancs**

Albert (43) v (46) **Opsimaths**

Mike B:

Handicaps work as Prodigals and Opsimaths gain narrow victories in high-scoring matches... Shrimps produce a fine paper with just a few days' notice

Fr M ...

The Charas - the crumbliest quiz team in the world. We had it within the palms of our hands all evening but ran out of stamina right at the end.....a breathtaking climax....great game, great opposition, great questions.

Mike O'B...

...a tense, thrilling and high-scoring match...the lead changed hands several times before we just lost out on the final pair...the opening round produced the first perfect score I can recall - 4 twos to each team.

Mike B:

A jolly end of season encounter between the teams that finished level on points in 3rd and 4th places....Cup handicap points (Opsis -2; Albert - 1) hardly mattered...the two teams stayed neck and neck throughout..... 8 straight twos in Round 1.... a wide spread of subject matter and techniques.... Opsis led into the animal-themed pop trivia of Round 5 but,devoid of any relevant knowledge, it was the Albert who led out of this round..... visitors caught up and edged ahead so that going into the final pair of questions, they were one point in front. Opsis conferred and Stephen had to get a two on the last question in order to earn a tiebreaker...he guessed wrong and the game was up....

Hidden themes: ROUNDS 2 (*Shakespeare's Sonnet 130...*), **4** (*London Underground lines*), **7** (*former ITV franchises*)

Announced themes: ROUNDS 3 (*dragons*), **5** (*pop music with animals*), **6** (*Classical & Books*)

Words or letters: ROUND 1 (*B-O-D*)

Pairs: ROUND 8

10.4.19 Val Draper Cup Round 2

Set by: **Charabancs**

Average Aggregate Score: 71.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.4)

Mantis Shrimp 29 **3** 43 **Electric Pigs**

Ethel Rodin 33 **4** 39 **Bards**

Prodigals 41 **5** 30 Dunkin' Dönitz

Opsimaths 34 **6** 36 **History Men**

Mike B:

...a very late start.... Albert Club hardly in a fit state to host one quiz match yet alone two...Prodigals at the Club first and grabbed the back room leaving the Opsimaths and the History Men roaming Didsbury looking for a football-free zone....the Parrswood.....despite the fact that Shrimps and Pigs in full session....so cavernous and empty that all four matches...could have been happily accommodated.... kicked off just

before 9pm.... History Men ahead all evening but never by much so ...in the balance right up to the end of Round 8. ...raucous and great fun (it had to be with Ann playing).... WithQuiz combines erudition, competitiveness and humour in a unique blend that makes our Wednesdays great fun.... a most enjoyable trip...aggregate score a bit below the season's overall average...on the tough side but full of interesting flourishes..

Also Mike B

A 6-point margin for Bards takes them into the semi finals....Ethel also through winning a place in the Plate as the evening's second highest scoring losers....upset of the round ...the high-flying Shrimps comprehensively defeated by the league's wooden-spoonists...as lowest scoring losers, Shrimps qualify as setters for next week's Cup and Plate semi-finals...Many thanks to Rachael, Tom and the rest of the Shrimps!

Anne-Marie:

... a fairly tough paper Donuts three-handed as Barry at Old Trafford watching the European Cup match.

Mike H (QM): ...an entertaining quiz against a rowdy background....southern accent may have been part of the reason for the frequent requests for repeats...

Pairs: ROUNDS 1, 3, 5

Hidden themes: ROUND 4 (*confectionery brands*)

Announced themes: ROUNDS 2 (*female monarchs*), **6** (*cookery*)

Bingo: ROUNDS 7 & 8 (*boy's or girl's name*)

17.4.19 Val Draper Cup & Plate S/Finals (h'caps apply)

Set by: **Mantis Shrimps**

Average Aggregate Score: 80.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.5)

Val Draper

Electric Pigs (45) v (43) Bards

Prodigals (36) v (37) **History Men**

Plate S/F

Charabancs (42) v (43) **Opsimaths**

Albert (38) v (45) **Ethel Rodin**

Mike B:

...aggregate, a few points in front of the season's overall average... Shrimps' papers are very distinctive.... 'Prodigals' theme in Round One was a lovely touch. Many thanks Shrimps!

Ivor:

...another entertaining evening in the Albert Club back room...the curtain could not keep out the excited cries of City fans nor the whoop of joy from the only Spurs supporter in the building (Ann) when City's last gasp 'winner' was judged offside by VAR (by the width of a blade of grass according to Anne-Marie)....by this time in the evening, we quizzers were getting a bit excited as well...handicap system had worked its magic to ensure a cliff-hanger finish on the last pair....we had seemingly squandered our 3-point handicap lead to be 3 behind with two rounds to play but managed to catch up...when Michael's Cirencester 'two' was matched by my Tewksbury 'two' we snatched victory.....of course, Prodigals had really won but it will be us in the final for the first time in two years..... occasional unevenness in pairing and some confounders but everything balances in the longer run...luckily, Ann seems to have seen almost every band you can think of at some time in her Salford days...the most intriguing rounds (though not the easiest) were the one where each question had a connection to the Book of Ecclesiastes (I doubt that has ever featured in any quiz league ever) and the Didsbury library round...essentially a quiz setter's daisy chain free thought association... so much better than the 'What is the capital of Outer Mongolia' type questions that other quizzes content themselves with....

Dave:

... you win some, you lose some...History Men showed tenacity and a breadth of knowledge that was just too good for us...great team play, punctuated by strong individual performances made for an irresistible formula.... lots of interesting facts across a wide number of subjects....a good effort from the Shrimps as usual....

Mike H (QM):

.many thanks to Prodigals for inviting me once more to be QM....a very exciting match on a pretty tough paper, especially in the first half where the total points scored was only 31 (16-15 to Prodigals)....the handicap system worked very well, producing another very close contest ...as QM with a lot of football-related noise from the other room, not easy making myself heard and I had to repeat a lot...the majority of the points came through conferring rather than individual twos (36 one point answers)....as for the football, Ann was close to tears until VAR came to her rescue....two more or less red herring rounds that were neither really about stations or Chorlton, the real question being the non-thematic element....a few questions rather abstruse...but an interesting quiz with a very exciting finish - and the Tiebreaker questions were excellent!

Howell:

....a gripping affair that went down to the wire!....Opsimaths started with a 6 point deficit.... level after Round 5 only to slip behind again until the last round...Damian had the final question with the opportunity to draw.... but just didn't know the answer so Charas went down by a single point....

Father Megson:

...an evening of high scoring and fine margins.... the marginally better team won by a marginal point.

Mike O'B:

What's all this about provincial trams and Parish Churches? It's as if the spirit of Dave Barras had moved amongst us wielding a terrible swift sword. We retreated to the Parrswood....to those who say it's like the Marie Celeste, I'd say the Parrswood is more like the lower decks of the Titanic....the score suggests that there were plenty of points on offer and, in fairness most of the obscure questions came with clues to aid deliberation.

Announced themes: ROUNDS 2 (*UK tram systems*), **3** (*book of the Old Testament*), **4** (*Didsbury Library*), **5** (*eateries in Chorlton-cum-Hardy*), **6** (*Post 1960s Music*), **7** (*Five Star Churches*), **8** (*1999*)

Words or letters: ROUND 1 (*four consecutive letters from 'Prodigals'*)

25.4.19 WIST Champions Cup & Lowly Grail Finals

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

Average Aggregate Score: 107.0. Season's ave. agg 83.9

WIST Champions Cup Final: Mantis Shrimp (60) v (56) **Dunkin' Dönitz**

WIST Lowly Grail Final: Wandering Star (34) v (64) **Prodigals**

Mike B (QM)

... a great contest worthy of the WIST title - the best 8 quizzers in south Manchester (does North Manchester have an equivalent competition?)....the scoring was prolific with the Shrimps getting off to a roaring start in Round One....Dunkers strong in the latter 4 WithQuiz-style rounds.....Greg gave us a super points-fest of a paper....the aggregate score for the four WithQuiz rounds was a massive 51....the themes were relatively easy to cotton on to and offered real assistance in getting the answers to the later questions....so despite missing the WithQuiz league crown by a single point for the second season running, Shrimps have proved themselves...

Charlotte (Wandering Star):

...a pleasure to welcome the Prodigals to the Armoury.....an enjoyable quizzing evening, relaxed and chatty.... we got trounced, but in the nicest possible way.....Q9 before we scored a point...and we emerged from Round 1 somewhat behind....moving on to the Withington-style rounds, we enjoyed the format, with the focus on the individual before conferring....we were pleased to get a 'win' on the *Fawlty Towers* themed round....a fair result, and a good game....congratulations to the Prodigals on their Lowly Grail victory, to cap their League triumph.

Dave:

....a trip across the Mersey to the Armoury, a lovely traditional pub with hospitable staff and welcoming regulars.....the Wandering Star...kindred spirits we had played before at the Star in Cheadle in the inaugural 'A-trophy' as it then was. the quiz suited our strengths and with the relentless knowledge of John and Jimmy added to the impressive Anne-Marie (unbeaten throughout this 2018-19 WithQuiz season), we established an early lead.....very lovely hosts.... good opponents who helped make the match fun ...convivial post-match conversation....a friendly pub...a good cup final rounding off the most successful season in the history of the Prodigals....a tour de force from Greg Spiller blending the best of the Stockport and WithQuiz formats.

Oral (Stockport format) - ROUND 1

Written (Stockport format) - ROUND 2 (*palindromes*)

Announced themes: ROUNDS 4 (*Haydn Symphony nicknames*), **5** (*Fawlty Towers*), **6** (*chocolate bars*)

Bingo: ROUND 3 (*Mr Men*)

1.5.19 Val Draper Cup & Plate Finals

Set by: '**K.O. United**' (amalgamation of all 6 teams who did not reach one of the two finals: Bards, Prodigals, Shrimp, Albert, Dunkers, Charas, each one complete round, plus 2 pairs of questions for Rounds 4 and 8)

Average Aggregate Score: 66.0 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 77.2)

Val Draper

History Men (35) v (34) Electric Pigs

Plate

Opsimaths (34) v **Ethel Rodin (36)**

Mike B:

....two very close finishes....a most enjoyable contest... a great wealth of question styles and subject matterwith plenty of banter....in a lengthy contest.... Chara John was impeccable as QM navigating various minefields....the first round ('Old School Tie') proved disastrous for the Opsis but thereafter the score gap was gradually narrowed.... we much appreciated the effort that had gone into the paper and found plenty of whimsy to enjoy as well as erudition to ponderWell done Ethel - a worthy victory....full marks to Barry for editing and ensuring a good balancethe result of the vote amongst the four finalists for the **Best Round**....gives a clear win for: **Round 1 ('Old School Tie')** set by the **Bards** who win a bottle of wine...

Ivor:

We relocated to the Parrswood Hotel....the absence of Sports guarantees an almost sepulchral atmosphere..... permeated by increasing excitement as the match slowly but surely reached its climax at about 11.10pm with the scores all square and two questions left. How did we get to that point? We were conceding a 7 point handicap and the Pigs extended this to 10 points by the end of Round 2. We pulled back to four adrift by half time but then lost ground again to be eight points behind with two rounds left....Round 7 (8-1 to us) turned the tables for ...an unlikely victory....this season we have made a habit of having matches decided by a point either way....usually it's us who implode but for once we stayed focussed....our opponents were as gracious in defeat as they would have been in victory....not one of the easier quizzes of the season....editor Barry did an excellent job modulating and balancing the various contributions from the 'Knocked Out United' teams....there were 14 unanswered (breaking 7-7) and 12 twos (breaking 6-6). We won because of a superior steal rate (our 6 to the Pigs 2)....there was much to interest and intrigue which provoked some inspired guesses....we did think the Germans might have done better to have used sausage skins for condoms, rather than for Zeppelins, given that gonorrhoea rendered many soldiers too unfit to go to the trenches to be machine-gunned and the only effect of Zeppelin warfare was the establishment of the House of Windsor....

Mike H (QM):

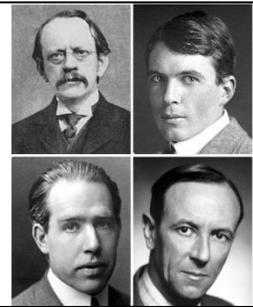
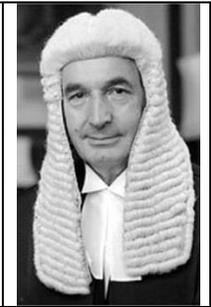
...went on and on, finishing too late for last orders - but a very exciting finish - once again on the last questiona very low overall score with lots of conferring (38 ones in all) and only 12 twos, 4 of which came in Round 2....I'm sure the missing History lady, Ann, would have had some choice words for some of the questions.... the QM role was a pleasure notwithstanding...quite a lot of the questions had to be repeated because of their complexity....

Hidden themes: ROUNDS 2 (Set by Prodigals: *Bohemian Rhapsody*), 6 (Set by Dunkin' Dönitz: *Captain Scarlet*)

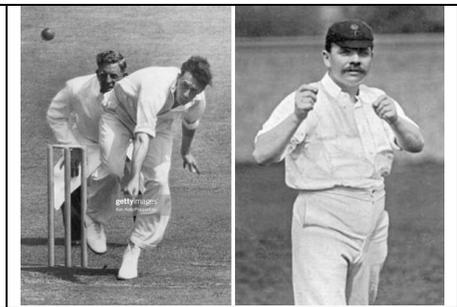
Announced themes: ROUNDS 1 (Set by Bards: *Old School Tie*), 3 (Set by Shrimps: *UK Bird Tour*), 5 (Set by Albert: *Round Britain*)

Pairs: ROUNDS 7 (Set by Charabancs), 4 (Set by 'Knocked Out United), 8 (Set by 'Knocked Out United)

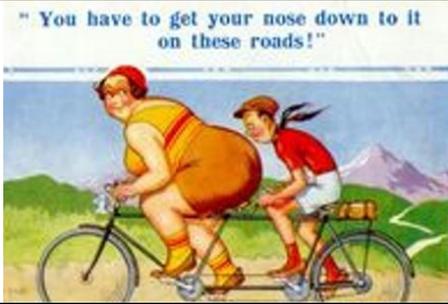
Interesting photos chosen by Mike B for Cup matches April to May

				
<p>25/4: Nobel Mancs (1 to r, top to bottom Thomson, Bragg, Bohr and Chadwick) (R1/Q14)</p>	<p>1/5: Last be-syrupped Speaker (R4/Q3)</p>	<p>10/4: Two very Scottish Scots (R5/Sp1)</p>	<p>10/4: From Mourneview to Parc des Princes – quite a season! (R5/Sp2)</p>	<p>25/4: Still crazy? Dave Beasant plays for Stevenage at 56 (R1/Q28)</p>

Politics, sport, the arts

			
<p>10/4: Towering figures for all seasons (Tiebreaker 3)</p>	<p>17/4: Lanky legends (Tiebreakers 1 & 2)</p>	<p>17/4: The Nobel Galsworthy (R1/Q2)</p>	<p>17/4: Kate Fowler-Tutt, strongly opposed to the frankness of the statue... would inflame the passions of the local soldiers</p>

Art, music

			
<p>3/4: Wyndam Lewis's magazine launches a new art movement (R8/Q3)</p>	<p>17/4: "Richly coloured, elongated portraits" (R1/Q8)</p>	<p>1/5: A French couple attempt population growth (see R7/Q5) (R7/Sp1)</p>	<p>3/4: Ravel's Piano Concerto in D Major for Left Hand - commissioned by a thoughtful man's brother (R6/Q7)</p>

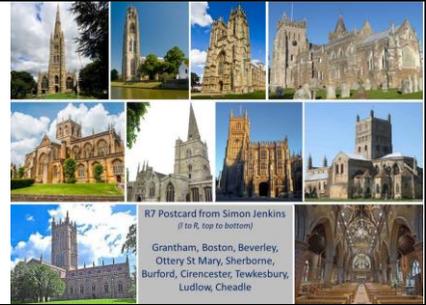
Music, cinema

			
<p>25/4: The man who claimed to have invented jazz in 1902 (R3/Q1)</p>	<p>25/4: Holly Martens in perhaps the greatest film ever made (R1/Q19)</p>	<p>10/4: Stan & Ollie go all modern in 1929 (R5/Q5)</p>	<p>17/4: Jean with her 'Crème de la crème' (R1/Q3)</p>

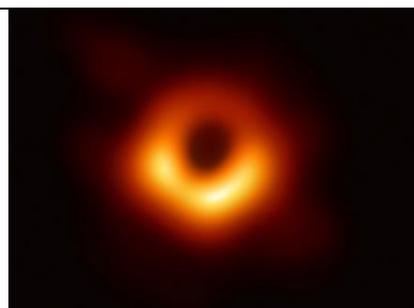
Cinema, places

		
<p>1/5: Extract from 1950s MGS annual school photo (R1/Q2)</p>	<p>25/4: Gloria Swanson and Blount in <i>Sunset Boulevard</i> (R1/Q12)</p>	<p>3/4: Great Northern Railway's architectural gift to Manchester (R4/Q3)</p>

Places

			
<p>17/4: R7 Postcard from Simon Jenkins</p>	<p>17/4: Didsbury Library - a Carnegie classic (Round 4)</p>	<p>1/5: Where falcons dare (R3/Q8)</p>	<p>3/4: "I only asked you to take your hat off when entering Notre Dame!" (R2/Q4)</p>

And, plus finally a mystery

		
<p>1/5: What became of all the German pigs in WW1 (R7/Q1)</p>	<p>17/4: Prödigs! What Prödigs? (R1/Q1)</p>	<p>10/4: From Fr M: "If you squint and look closely at the extreme top-left of this image of a black hole captured by the Event Horizon Telescope, you can just about make out Q17 from last night's quiz. How it got there from the Charas' printing press remains a mystery."</p>

8.5.19 End of Season at the Albert Club

Quiz set by Mike Bath

Winner: Prodigals, Runner Up: Ethel Rodin

History Men win 'Question of the Season' Trophy

The Prodigals just got the better of Ethel Rodin (by 1.5 points) to win the evening's quiz and pick up the wine. Before that Clive Berry (once skipper of the Prodigals) presented the season's trophies and give us some insights into the genesisof the Prodigals...

... by a short head, History Men won 'Question of the Season'....Charabancs finishing second and third....

What is the nickname of the New Zealand Men's Basketball team? **The Tall Blacks**

Words or letters: ROUNDS 1 (*Scottish Football Leagues*), **3** (*English Football Leagues*)

Top Fours: ROUND 2

Summary of all rounds, various Cups, including preseason and end of season

Stockport style

Verbal: 4

Written: 5 (including one words with repeated letters, one Hidden theme: *Beers from Thornbridge Brewery, Bakewell, one pot luck – 'xxtra time if required, one palindromes*)

Other WithQuiz format

Hidden themes 9: (*synonyms for 'song', words from the lyrics of 'Jerusalem', terms used in chemistry, Shakespeare's Sonnet 130..., London Underground lines, former ITV franchises, confectionery brands, Bohemian Rhapsody, Captain Scarlet*)

Given themes 21: (*Sporting Duallists, Film Quotes, food-related' musical acts, dragons, pop music with animals, Classical & Books, female monarchs, cookery, UK tram systems, book of the Old Testament, Didsbury Library, eateries in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Post 1960s Music, Five Star Churches, 1999, Haydn Symphony nicknames, Fawlty Towers, chocolate bars, Old School Tie, UK Bird Tour, Round Britain*)

Pairs 7

Bingo 7: (*'this summer', 'Final Op', Comedians, Beatles, 2 boy's or girl's names, Mr Men*)

Words or letters 6: (*words that link three entities, homophones C, B-O-D, four consecutive letters from 'Prodigals', Scottish Football Leagues, English Football Leagues*)

Top Fours 1

End of Season Presentation - 8th May 2019 – Photos:



The WithQuiz League Champions Shield
...and after 25 years the Prods storm to their first WithQuiz League triumph



The Val Draper Cup
History in the making



The WIST Pre-season Challenge Cup
Clive presents Nick with the mystery missing cup won back this year by WithQuiz



The WIST 'Lowly Grail' Cup
Anne-Marie gets the first of the Prodigals' haul of the evening



Ethel Rodin celebrate a season in which they stepped up to The Plate



The WIST Champions Cup
Richard hoists the Cup proving the Shrimps are the top quizzers in South Manchester



The WithQuiz Plate
Greg nabs the spoils for Ethel



Dave Barras 'Question of the Season'
Ivor gets the award for the History Men's 'Tall Blacks' chuckle of a question



The **Prodigals** reflect on being well and truly in from the wilderness



Dunkin' Dönitz smile at a rarity - a season without a trophy

History Men - for once not Spurred on by Ann (who was in Ibiza watching a TV)

Total number of questions asked, all weeks of league and all rounds of Cups (including spares, tiebreakers). (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, MW = guest Mike, JP = Stockport League (John Palmer), MB = guest Mike Bath, BM = guest Brian, G = Greg (Stockport), K = Knocked Out United, Pre = Pre Season)

The great strength of our league can be seen in the huge variety of questions – any setter will include most, at times all, of the following topics

Literature 236

A 17	B 8	C 25	D 16	El 18	Et 12	H 13	M 32	Op 20	P 19
MW 2	JP 13	MB 12	BM 8	G 12	K 5	Pre 4			

(where literature part of a question) 45

A 8	B -	C 2	D 6	El 1	Et 3	H 2	M 5	Op 9	P 3
MW -	JP 2	MB 2	BM -	G 2	K -	Pre -			

Theatre 63

A 10	B 2	C 9	D 11	El 4	Et 5	H -	M 6	Op 5	P 3
MW 1	JP -	MB -	BM 2	G -	K -	Pre 5			

Art/Architecture 76

A 5	B 8	C 5	D 5	El 6	Et 3	H 3	M 16	Op 5	P 3
MW -	JP 5	MB 5	BM 4	G 1	K -	Pre 2			

History 104

A 9	B 14	C 14	D 7	El 17	Et 3	H 4	M 9	Op 7	P 2
MW 4	JP 2	MB 4	BM 5	G -	K -	Pre 3			

Politics 144

A 16	B 2	C 17	D 11	El 6	Et 9	H 14	M 6	Op 14	P 9
MW 3	JP 5	MB 9	BM 4	G 10	K 4	Pre 5			

Military/Royalty 45

A 1	B 5	C 5	D 1	El 1	Et 2	H 3	M 10	Op 1	P 6
MW 2	JP 1	MB 2	BM -	G 4	K -	Pre 1			

Crime / Law / Arms 36

A 1	B 4	C 3	D 2	El 3	Et -	H 4	M 1	Op 2	P 5
MW -	JP 1	MB 1	BM 1	G 2	K -	Pre 6			

Transport / Shipping / Aviation / Motoring 41

A 6	B 1	C 3	D 1	El -	Et 3	H 5	M 5	Op 2	P 1
MW 5	JP 1	MB 3	BM 1	G 1	K -	Pre 3			

Education 17

A 1	B 2	C -	D -	El 1	Et 1	H 1	M 3	Op 1	P 2
MW -	JP -	MB -	BM -	G 5	K -	Pre -			

Cinema 193

A 10	B 18	C 20	D 15	El 16	Et 13	H 6	M 17	Op 8	P 28
MW 14	JP 2	MB 6	BM 1	G 11	K 1	Pre 7			

TV / Radio 127

A 17	B 11	C 10	D 3	El 4	Et 6	H 8	M 12	Op 12	P 10
MW 6	JP 2	MB 9	BM 2	G 4	K 3	Pre 8			

(where cinema/TV/Radio part of a question) 53

A 2	B 2	C 8	D 5	El 1	Et 5	H -	M 5	Op 3	P 4
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MW 1	JP 4	MB 1	BM 10	G -	K 2	Pre -			
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Pop / Rock 214

A 13	B 15	C 29	D 15	El 14	Et 7	H 11	M 33	Op 8	P 16
MW 21	JP 7	MB 11	BM 1	G 6	K -	Pre 7			

Music 70

A 6	B 3	C 4	D 7	El 2	Et 6	H 4	M 6	Op 3	P 3
MW -	JP 5	MB 1	BM 9	G 4	K 2	Pre 5			

(where pop/rock/other music part of a question) 40

A 6	B 1	C 5	D 4	El 1	Et 2	H 1	M 3	Op 3	P 3
MW -	JP 2	MB 5	BM 4	G -	K -	Pre -			

Sport / Games 201

A 13	B 12	C 18	D 12	El 13	Et 9	H 20	M 14	Op 7	P 21
MW 9	JP 12	MB 10	BM 12	G 5	K 3	Pre 11			

(where sport/games part of a question) 31

A 2	B -	C 5	D -	El -	Et 2	H 3	M 7	Op 3	P 2
MW -	JP 2	MB 2	BM 1	G -	K 1	Pre 1			

Myths / Legend/ Traditions 14

A -	B 2	C 4	D -	El 3	Et -	H 1	M 2	Op 1	P 1
MW -	JP -	MB -	BM -	G -	K -	Pre -			

Religion 38

A -	B 2	C 7	D 4	El -	Et 3	H 3	M 6	Op 4	P 3
MW -	JP -	MB 2	BM -	G 2	K -	Pre 2			

Science/ Maths/ Medicine 121

A 5	B 9	C 7	D 9	El 13	Et 12	H 8	M 16	Op 8	P 5
MW 5	JP 5	MB 12	BM 2	G -	K 1	Pre 4			

(where science/maths part of a question) 11

A -	B -	C -	D -	El -	Et -	H -	M 6	Op 2	P 2
MW -	JP -	MB -	BM -	G 1	K -	Pre -			

Food / Drink 64

A 1	B 8	C 10	D 6	El 5	Et 3	H 5	M 1	Op 10	P 2
MW 1	JP 2	MB 3	BM 3	G -	K -	Pre 4			

Animals / Birds / Nature 40

A 2	B -	C 5	D 1	El 2	Et 6	H 3	M 7	Op 4	P 1
MW 1	JP 1	MB 3	BM -	G -	K 1	Pre 3			

Manufacturing / Retail / Fashion / Communication / Finance 75

A 2	B 5	C 6	D 5	El 7	Et 7	H 6	M 6	Op 7	P 3
MW 2	JP 1	MB 6	BM 4	G 3	K -	Pre 5			

Geography / Space/ Geology / Flags 206

A 11	B 13	C 21	D 9	El 7	Et 17	H 14	M 40	Op 9	P 6
MW 11	JP 4	MB 16	BM 5	G 9	K -	Pre 14			

Language & word puzzles 40

A -	B 3	C 2	D 1	El 7	Et 5	H 1	M 14	Op -	P 4
MW -	JP -	MB -	BM 2	G 1	K -	Pre -			

Other questions involving two or several different subjects 19

A -	B 1	C 3	D 2	El -	Et -	H -	M 8	Op -	P 3
MW -	JP 1	MB -	BM 1	G -	K -	Pre -			

*Combining the various above involving more than one topic
199*

A 18	B 4	C 23	D 17	El 3	Et 12	H 6	M 34	Op 20	P 17
MW 1	JP 11	MB 10	BM 16	G 3	K 3	Pre 1			

Stand out subjects and setters marked in red:

Literature: Charas 10.6% of total this subject, Shrimps 13.6%

Politics: Albert 11.1%, Charas 11.8%

Cinema: Charas 10.4%, Shrimps 14.5%

TV: Albert 13.4%

Pop/Rock: Charas 13.6%, Shrimps 15.4%

Sport: Prodigals 10.4%

Science: Shrimps 13.2%

Geography: Charas 10.2%, Shrimps 19.4%,

Questions involving two or more different subjects: Charas 11.6%, Shrimps 17.1%, Opsis 10.1%

Overall: Charas 10.5%, Shrimps 12.5%

Totals

	A	B	C	D	El	Et	H	M	Op	P	MW	JP	MB	BM	G	K	Pre	Totals
Lit	17	8	25	16	18	12	13	32	20	19	2	13	12	8	12	5	4	236
The	10	2	9	11	4	5	-	6	5	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	5	63
Art	5	8	5	5	6	3	3	16	5	3	-	5	5	4	1	-	2	76
His	9	14	14	7	17	3	4	9	7	2	4	2	4	5	-	-	3	104
Pol	16	2	17	11	6	9	14	6	14	9	3	5	9	4	10	4	5	144
Mil	1	5	5	1	1	2	3	10	1	6	2	1	2	-	4	-	1	45
Cri	1	4	3	2	3	-	4	1	2	5	-	1	1	1	2	-	6	36
Tra	6	1	3	1	-	3	5	5	2	1	5	1	3	1	1	-	3	41
Edu	1	2	-	-	1	1	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	17
Cin	10	18	20	15	16	13	6	17	8	28	14	2	6	1	11	1	7	193
TV	17	11	10	3	4	6	8	12	12	10	6	2	9	2	4	3	8	127
Pop	13	15	29	15	14	7	11	33	8	16	21	7	11	1	6	-	7	214
Mus	6	3	4	7	2	6	4	6	3	3	-	5	1	9	4	2	5	70
Spo	13	12	18	12	13	9	20	14	7	21	9	12	10	12	5	3	11	201
Myt	-	2	4	-	3	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Rel	-	2	7	4	-	3	3	6	4	3	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	38
Sci	5	9	7	9	13	12	8	16	8	5	5	5	12	2	-	1	4	121
Foo	1	8	10	6	5	3	5	1	10	2	1	2	3	3	-	-	4	64
Ani	2	-	5	1	2	6	3	7	4	1	1	1	3	-	-	1	3	40
Maf	2	5	6	5	7	7	6	6	7	3	2	1	6	4	3	-	5	75
Geo	11	13	21	9	7	17	14	40	9	6	11	4	16	5	9	-	14	206
Lan	-	3	2	1	7	5	1	14	-	4	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	40
Vs	18	4	23	17	3	12	6	34	20	17	1	11	10	16	3	3	1	199
Totals																		
	A	B	C	D	El	Et	H	M	Op	P	MW	JP	MB	BM	G	K	Pre	Totals
	164	151	247	158	152	144	143	296	158	170	88	80	125	82	83	23	100	2364