

WITHQUIZ 2016/17 SEASON – MIKE H'S SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

During the course of this season one of our newer players, Mike H, has been keeping an eye on the website and compiling a summary and statistic of our harmless entertainment. As the season closes he has completed this under various sections entitled:

Section 2 - Week by week League matches

Section 3 - Summary of types of question in all League match papers

Section 4 - All Cup Matches (WIST/Val Draper/Plate)

Section 5 - Summary of types of question in all Cup match papers (WIST/Val Draper/Plate)

Section 6 - Overall summary of question subjects in all matches

Section 7 - Overview of the setters

Section 8 - In memory of the quiz-setting of Dave Barras ('The Master Sett Valley Setter')

You will note that many of the specific comments relate to the Bards and the History Men – the reason for this is that Mike has been more closely involved with these teams than others.

I will provide a link to this document on the QuizBiz page for the End of Season evening so that you can browse it online at your leisure.

Over to you, Mike....

2. WEEK BY WEEK LEAGUE MATCHES

28.9.2016 set by The Prodigals. Bards 23 (lost v **Electric Pigs 34**). History Men 30 (lost to **Opsimaths 38**). **Highest score Albert 48** (v TMTCH 22). *Victories also for Mantis Shrimp (41), and Dunkin' Dönitz (38)*

Average aggregate 63.6, some way below the overall average for last season of 70.5.

Quotes from participants: '... no tired over-stretched themes...' '...an excellent effort from the Prodigals to start off the new season - full of variety and with something for everyone...' '...even when the pairs were imbalanced, they broke fairly evenly for both teams.' '...last season's resolve to move things along at a reasonable pace has carried on into the 2016/17 season....'

Last season's champions lost to The Electric Pigs at The Fletcher Moss – Bards were without Steve, Jim and Sarah but 'the new, younger Bards show there should be a bright future...the Electrics took an early lead and clung on.'

ROUND 1 - Pot Pourri

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme

Each answer has a double letter in alphabetical order 'AA' to 'HH'

ROUND 3 - 'Three's a Crowd'

Who or what is missing from groups of three

ROUND 4 - 'September 28th' (date of the quiz – the date in history) – a paired round

ROUND 5 - 'Richard Seed'

A round in memory of Richard Seed of the Prodigals

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 & 8 - Bingo 'In The Beginning'

Pick a book of the Bible and answer a general knowledge question based on the name of that book

5.10.2016 set by Compulsory Mantis Shrimp. Bards 30 (lost v **Dunkin' Dönitz 37**). History Men **38 (draw v Electric Pigs 38, highest score)**. *Wins also for The Opsis (35), Ethel (37), The Prods (37)*

Average aggregate 69.6.

Quotes from participants: '...some juicily accessible rounds mixed in with some not so juicy... the railway station codes round was a big no-no...' '...'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

A surname that contains a colour (Red, Blue, Grey, Pink, Green, Brown, Black, White and Orange)

ROUND 2 – Paired

ROUND 3 - Given theme

Some aspect of a popular pantomime.

ROUND 4 - Given theme

People born on October 5th.

ROUND 5 - Given theme

Railway stations in Greater Manchester and their three-letter codes

ROUND 6 – Paired - Science

ROUNDS 7 and 8 - Bingo 'A Millinery of Hats'

12.10.16 set by Albert. Bards 39 (lost v **Mantis Shrimp 48**). **History Men 47** (beat Charabancs 42). **Highest score Dunkin' Dönitz 63** (v TMTCH 25). *Wins also for The Opsis (53), Ethel (49)*

Average aggregate 88.6.

Quotes from participants: '...this was predominantly a paper for those that like their answers hinted at cryptically....' '...lots of well-constructed and interesting questions...' '...a thoroughly entertaining evening all round.' '... Dunkin' Dönitz are full of beans...three games - three wins... an enormous 63 scoreline ... I think this is an all-time WithQuiz record.'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains a word used in the phonetic alphabet

ROUND 2 - 'Changing Characters'

Each cryptic clue leads to 2 six-letter word answers which differ from one another by a single letter

ROUND 3 - 'Hidden Capitals'

Each answer contains the name of a capital city

ROUND 4 & 5 - Paired Bingo

ROUND 6 - 'Run-ons'

Two answers to each question- the last word of the first answer is the first of the second

ROUND 7 - 'Hidden Gods'

Each answer contains the name of a god - often hidden

ROUND 8 - Paired

19.10.16 set by Dunkin' Dönitz. Bards 39 (lost v **History Men 42**). **Highest Prodigals 49** (v Electric Pigs 35).

Wins also for Prodigals (49), Albert (45), Shrimps (43) and Opsimaths (46), the latter two maintaining their 100% records; no joy yet for The Bards, The Men or The Charas.

Average aggregate 80.8.

Quotes from participants: '... another enjoyable offering...' '... plenty of 'tip of the tongue' moments... Round 1 was the only slow round ...' challenging questions but all very fair, entertaining and interesting...', '...very few unanswered questions but a lot of 'ones' so plenty of opportunity for conferring...'

Regarding Bards, from History Men: '.... tonight in an almost deserted cricket club, we took a lead in the first round and held on.... Bernard a strong deputy for Steve....'

ROUND 1 - 'The Day Yesteryear'

Events connected with October 19th

ROUND 2 - 'Alliterative Answers'

ROUND 3

All answers contain part of the name of an NFL team

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Each answer includes the name of a Book of the Old Testament (Chronicles, Ezra, Amos, Kings, Exodus, Samuel, Ruth, Numbers, Daniel & Genesis)

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the surname of a member of the cabinet (Boris Johnson, Amber Rudd, Damian Green, Theresa May, Jeremy Hunt, David Davis, Greg Clark, Philip Hammond, Liam Fox and Michael Fallon)

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - 'Just Visiting'

ROUND 8 - 'Incomplete Quartets'

Supply the fourth member of a quartet

26.10.16 set by Ethel Rodin. Bards 36 (lost v **Opsimaths 45, highest**). **History Men 35 (beat TMTCH 29)**.

Victories also for all the 100%ers: Opsis (45), Shrimps (38), and Dunkers (43). Win also for Charas (39).

Average aggregate 71.8

Thoughts from Mike B: 'Perhaps not as easy as some but by no means a 'toughie'.... Ethel's papers are rather like a school examination... the student's range of interests is lot different from the examiner's... precious little popular culture but a good dose of art and 'high-end' stuff'.

Thoughts from other participants: '...everyone would know this was an Ethel paper....' '...a few controversial questions but overall well-balanced and enjoyable.' '...the harder papers keep the tension going as they require a greater amount of concentrated fact-dredging.' '...the Charas' losing juggernaut was brought to a shuddering halt tonight....though our winning score was less than some of our previous weeks' losing scores...' '...Bards on good form but absolutely everything fell right for the visitors... the Bards will win plenty of matches in due course - especially when Steve returns... the whole evening was summed up by Sarah's lament that having been a devoted worshipper many years of Aztec Camera, the question about them fell to the Opsimaths.'

ROUNDS 1, 2, 3, 5 - Paired

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a variety of apple

ROUND 6 - Pot pourri

ROUND 7 - Linked pairs

Each question results in two answers, the first of which has its last word in common with the first word of the second answer

ROUND 8 - 'The Last Round'

Each answer contains the word 'last'

2.11.16 set by The Bards. History Men 30 (lost to **Prodigals 35**). **Highest score Ethel Rodin 36** (v TMTCH 15). *Victories also for Shrimps (32), Dunkers (29), Electric Pigs (29).*

Average aggregate 55.8. (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.7)

Thoughts from Mike B: '...a very tough paper... there were matches where up to 20 questions in the paper went unanswered by either team, leading to...a feeling of frustration...generally well-received Round 1, but then a descent into fewer and fewer points.....' Thoughts from others: ;...lots of interesting content which pushed our brains to the limit...' '...a most convivial evening, which became even more convivial as the evening wore on....sadly despite its quirky nature, the last round proved far too difficult... the final round should afford the opportunity for a team behind to make up ground with tip of the tongue questions....' '...a lengthy but very good-natured contest... the Albert Club seemed a Media City backroom with 6 *University Challenge* folk involved... the Shrimps are fast becoming the bookies' favourites...' '.....tonight's paper was one of the hardest and quirkiest we've had so far this season. A real mixture of the fascinating and the obscure... teams scored less in the second half than they did in the first...'.

ROUNDS 1, 5, 6, 7 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains a word from the title of a Ken Loach film (Hidden Agenda, Cathy Come Home, Riff Raff, Carla's Song, I Daniel Blake, Lady Bird Lady Bird, Sweet Sixteen, Bread and Roses, Land and Freedom)

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a small arms manufacturer

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains part of the name of an English Premiership Rugby Union team

ROUND 8 - 'Very curious'

Pubs and nursery rhymes

16.11.16 set by Opsimaths. Bards score 45 (victory v Prodigals 36), highest equal with Donitz (v History Men 40) and Mantis Shrimp (v Pigs 41). Victories also for Albert (40) and TMTCH (40). No team has failed now to win a game. Dunkers and Shrimps continue undefeated

Average aggregate 80.6. (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 73.8)

Thoughts from Mike B: 'Full credit should go, yet again, to Brian ...well-established as the Opsimaths' 'go to setter'. '... a game of considerable quizzing expertise...it is quite wrong to think of our league as a few superstar teams at the top, a clutch of middle-rankers and a scrabbling bunch of no-hopers at the foot of the table ... there is precious little difference between the teams top to bottom. Perhaps the greatest difference is that the confidence to go for a 'two' is greater in the top teams than in the others.'

Thoughts from participants: '...accessible questions, serious points on offer, ... just what Wednesday evenings should be.' '...greatly enjoyed ..., lots of interesting and entertaining questions...' '...a fair, balanced quiz...' '...have the papers got harder?... more inclined to feel that our power of recall had declined alongside a general slowing down of our mental processes...'

ROUND 1 - 'Famous Firsts'

ROUND 2 - 'Best of the Worst' (or Pot pourri)

Reference to Can Hieronymus Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humppe and Find True Happiness?' (1969 film)

ROUND 3 - Paired Transport questions

ROUND 4 - 'Myths & Legends'

Each answer contains a mythological, legendary, or folkloric name

ROUND 5 - 'Commemorative Plaques'

All the answers involve people, buildings, or events commemorated by blue, red, black or green plaques in Manchester (all in the town centre, unless otherwise stated)

ROUND 6 – Paired

ROUND 7 - 'A Sports Round'

ROUND 8 - 'Famous Lasts'

23.11.16 set by The Men They Couldn't Hang. Bards score 39 (victory v Charabancs 31). History Men 31 (lost v Albert 40). Highest Opsimaths (v Electric Pigs) and Ethel Rodin (v Mantis Shrimp), each with 43. Victory also for Dunkin' Dönitz (39), the only team still undefeated.

Average Aggregate Score: **76.0** (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 74.1)

Thoughts of Mike B: 'What an excellent paper.... replete with interesting facts and never without some sort of handle for the competitor to grasp... question-setting at its highest level...'

Thoughts from others: 'the paper was... perfectly balanced, full of interest and capable of getting you thinking ...a paper to maximise excitement and tension...' '...a mixture of the incredibly easy with the exceptionally hard...' '...cleverly constructed with some major challenges ...connections such as 'Loo-pin' and 'Terra-pin' illustrate a fiendish setter mind...' '...Charas led all the way through the first half but with steadily diminishing leads, Bards seizing the reins in the second... seemed as if the team who went first had the better pick of the questions... 13 unanswerables altogether...'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

All answers contain cockney rhyming slang.... Ruby Murray – curry; plates of meat – feet; cobbler's awls – balls; china plate – mate; barnet fair – hair; apples and pears - stairs; whistle and flute – suit; Jacob's crackers – knackers; Rosie Lee – tea; gypsy's kiss – piss

ROUND 2 – Paired

ROUND 3

All answers include word that can precede 'pin' or 'pins'

ROUNDS 4 & 5 - 'Toolbox Bingo'

Mostly part of full name of tool depicted appear in the answer (but 5 have name in the question)

ROUND 6 – Paired

ROUND 7

All answers include a word that can precede 'fire' or 'fires'

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme

All answers include something a plane may possess, or a manoeuvre it may undertake

30.11.16 set by **The Electric Pigs**. **Bards 40 (victory v TMTCH 20)**. History Men 29 (loss to **Ethel Rodin 39**). **Highest Albert (47 v Mantis Shrimp 35)**. *Victories also for Prodigals (39), and Dunkin' Dönitz (45), still undefeated*

Average Aggregate Score: **73.4** (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 74.0)

Thoughts of Mike B: 'The subjects covered, and the format were as diverse as could have been wished... popular except for The Parris Wood Hotel where Bards and TMTCH 'uninspired'....' '...at last the Bards seem to be recovering some of their form from last season.' 'Dunkers ... even greater keenness to wrest back the league crown ... they're on track with 8 played and 8 won...3 of those victories have been by margins of 2 points or less - so there's plenty of hope for the rest of us. '

Thoughts from others: '... bags of conferences, so time extended beyond 10.30pm...hated at first and then grew to love more and more...' 'the hidden themes were well hidden...'

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - 'Old Mancunians'

All answers are former students of Manchester Grammar School

ROUND 3 - Pot pourri

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the first name of one of the world's current top 8 ranked male tennis players.... (Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka, Gael Monfils, Milos Raonic, Novak Djokovic, Kei Nishikori, Marin Cilic, Dominic Thiem, Rafael Nadal, Tomas Berdych)

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of an English cathedral

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains a 'celebratory day' (VJ Day, St George's Day, Mother's Day, D day, May Day, Valentines day, Pancake day, Boxing day, New Year's day)

ROUND 8 – Paired

7.12.16 set by **The Charabancs**. Bards 30 (lost v **Ethel Rodin 37**). History Men 34 (lost v **Mantis Shrimp 36**). **Highest Prodigals 48** (v TMTCH 20). *Victories also for Opsimaths (41) and Dunkin' Dönitz (39), still unbeaten, with 4 point lead at top of table*

Average Aggregate Score: 69.2 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 73.5)

Thoughts of Mike B: 'The average aggregate (by no means the only measure of a successful paper) ...a little below the season's overall average....but was full of variety Bingo roundsnicely formatted provides a welcome alternative to the usual format (except for The Bards who reject serendipity in favour of proper balance in the relative hardness of the questions).....'

Thoughts from others: 'we love the incongruous answers that are required in the 'two linked answers' round....'

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the forename of a professional dancer from 2016 *Strictly*: Anton du Beke, Pasha Kovalev, Natalie Lowe, Kevin Clifton, Brendan Cole, Karen Clifton, Giovanni Pernice, Janette Manrara and Joanne Clifton)

ROUND 3 - 'Not Really a Theme Round'

Each answer ends with the letter 'O'

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Each answer refers to a villain from a James Bond movie: Rosa Klebb (*From Russia with Love*), Hugo Drax (*Moonraker*), Mr. Big (*Live and Let Die*), Julius No (*Dr No*), Ernst Stavros Blofeld (several films), Alec Trevelyan (*GoldenEye*), Auric Goldfinger (*Goldfinger*), Elektra King (*The World Is Not Enough*), Le Chiffre (*Casino Royale*), Colonel Moon (*Die Another Day*)

ROUND 5 - Pot pourri

ROUND 6 - Overlapping answers

Last word of the first answer is the first word of the second answer

ROUND 7 & 8 - 'Blind Date Bingo'

Each answer contains a girl's name

14.12.16 set by **The History Men**. Bards 22 (lost v **Albert 49 - highest**). *Victories also for Dunkin' Dönitz (45), Electric Pigs (39), Charabancs (37), and Prodigals (45).*

Average Aggregate Score: 74.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 73.6).

The History Men introduce the paper as follows: 'We present a traditional quiz with our usual obsessions (old TV, old music, old history, exotic geography...).'

Thoughts of Mike B: '....a paper that seems to have just the right degree of difficulty/easiness... far-ranging and diverse in content, and not a little owlsh.... In general quiz papers are made up of questions with a variety of motives, including:... I think this is an amusing/odd/unlikely bit of knowledge; ...you'll enjoy discussing possible answers to this one...generally known but if I dress it up in an entertaining way, you may well struggle until the penny will drop...this paper was a good mix ...' '..Bards have suffered the cruellest reversal of form following their 'sweeping everything before us' triumph of last season...perhaps the reversal will reverse itself..'

Thoughts from others: '...full of old-style questions....not necessarily the taste of the young ...' '...a quiz paper avowedly and unashamedly set by old people for the benefit of even older people...'

ROUND 1 - Reverse paired with Round 2

ROUND 2 - Reverse paired with Round 1

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains a word taken from the legal world

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of an Imperial measure of length

ROUND 5 - Reverse paired with Round 6

ROUND 6 - Reverse paired with Round 5

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of an insect

ROUND 8 - Bingo

Pick a number between 1 and 15 to get your question

11.1.17 set by **The Prodigals**. Bards 28 (lost v **Albert 49 - highest**). History Men 33 (lost v **Mantis Shrimp 46**). Victories also for *Dunkin' Dönitz (40)*, *Charabancs (39)*, and *Ethel Rodin (36)*.

Average Aggregate Score: 71.0 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 73.4).

Thoughts of Mike B: '...very 'Marmite', with total scores varying between 57 and 79....the balance in each round seemed to veer a bit dramatically.... the '*Only Connect*' round was a little unfair to the team going first... future *Only Connect* rounds should not have questions paired....'

Thoughts from others: '... some excellent ideas... both teams had to work hard to score....' 'a real effort had been made to tweak the traditional forms of themed rounds....' '... thoroughly enjoyable..., practically every form of quizzing known to Withquiz... subject matter well varied...' 'Bards played 3-handed because Tony was indisposed....someone had forgotten to tell the Cricket Club there was a match on ... able to repair to The Didsbury Hotel and...the Bards were able to return to the establishment which ... gave rise to their current identity...they are much mellower now...'

ROUND 1 - Paired

ROUND 2 - Hidden sequential theme

The answers contain the first eight consecutive numbers in a Fibonacci sequence (each number is the result of adding the two previous numbers together)

ROUND 3 - Famous Mancunians

Each answer gives the full name, or contains the surname of, somebody born or bred in Greater Manchester

ROUND 4 - "Read all about it!"

Each answer contains the suffix of a British local or regional newspaper

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the surname of a winner of the Man Booker Prize

ROUND 6 - 'Goodbye to all that'

A paired round on 2016

ROUND 7 - Only Connect – paired

Work out the connection and state what comes fourth in the sequence

ROUND 8 - 'University Challenge' Bingo

There are 16 names of Universities or Colleges who have won University Challenge since its inception - pick one to get a related question

18.1.17 set by Mantis Shrimp. Bards score 36 (won v Ethel Rodin 33). History Men 30 (lost v Opsimaths 41 - highest). Victories also for Dunkin' Dönitz (40), Prodigals (38), and Albert (37).

Average Aggregate Score: 68.0 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 73.0).

Thoughts of Mike B '...a toughish paper... very slow start with just 5 points in Round 1...put your easiest round up front to get everybody in the mood!...' '...Dunkin' Dönitz just can't be bested..' '...The Bards of Didsbury scored a welcome victory'

Thoughts from others '...entertaining... intriguing...'

ROUND 1 - 'Following the Leader'

A set of questions on leaders

ROUND 2 - 'Four letters'

Each answer is a four-letter name, term, suffix or acronym

ROUND 3 – Paired

ROUND 4 - Paired - The Arts

ROUND 5 - Paired - The Sciences

ROUND 6 - 'Local Derby'

Locality names, mostly towns and villages, in or within two miles of, the Peak District National Park

ROUND 7 - 'The Hipster'

Characteristics associated with hipsters ("A person who follows the latest trends and fashions, especially those regarded as being outside the cultural mainstream")

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme

Monty Python's Flying Circus..... (Carol Cleveland, Dead Parrot sketch, Sam Peckinpah's Salad Days sketch, Upper Class Twit of the Year sketch, Lumberjack Song, Ministry of Silly Walks, The Life of Brian, Monty, Flying Circus, Spanish Inquisition, Python)

25.1.17 set by Albert. Bards 46 (highest - victory v Dunkin' Dönitz 31), History Men 39 (victory v Electric Pigs 38). Victories also for Mantis Shrimp (39), Prodigals (40), and Opsimaths (42).

Average Aggregate Score: 74.6 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 73.1).

Thoughts of Mike B '...a thrilling match with a very close finish....' '...the standout result of the evening (and season-to-date)...Dunkin' Dönitz comprehensively done in by last season's champions, Bards who finished 15 points up...Steve was back in the line-up... Dunkers remain 6 points clear of their nearest rivals...'

Ivor: '...the excavation of barely remembered facts....we found the cryptic capital cities more difficult than we should have done luck of 'the right person in the right seat for the question' phenomenon...' '...a game of eight eighths.... We were 10 behind at half time but managed to seize an unlikely victory on the very last question...' Mike H: 'one team romping ahead in first half and the other catching up in the second...as soon as Ivor realised on the final question James Mason, he won the two points – if he'd conferred, it would have been a draw.' Thoughts from others....'... nice variety of themes.... something for everybody...'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a Radio 1 Breakfast Show DJ

ROUND 2 - Cryptic Cities

Identify the cities from cryptic clues

ROUND 3 - Plants

Either the answer or the question contains the name of a plant

ROUNDS 4 & 5 - Paired Bingo

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme

Each answer or part of an answer includes the name of a Manchester pub (all part of the Manchester Evening News Shuttle Bus Pub Crawl): The Fitzgerald; The Black Dog Ballroom; The Moon under the Water; The Knott Bar; The Paramount; The Lower Turk's Head; The Molly Bar and The Alchemist

ROUND 7 - American Presidents

ROUND 8 - Run-ons

The last word of the first answer is the first of the second

1.2.17 set by Dunkin' Dönitz. Bards 39 (won v Electric Pigs 33), History Men 36 (won v Prodigals 32). Highest Ethel Rodin 43 (v Charabancs 34). Victories also for Opsimaths (40), Albert (38).

Average Aggregate Score: 70.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 73.0).

Thoughts of Mike B: '...a cracking effort... close-fought match ...'

Thoughts from others: '...harsh to have just one question asking for three answers...' '...a moderately hard quiz... some excellent teasers ... most are comfortable with old film questions but modern films seem to pass us by...' Ivor: '...a rare example of us coming from behind and actually accelerating in the final round... - regular readers will know we have imploded more times in quizzes than stars in a Foundation universe.'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme - 'Hail to the Chief'

Part of each answer makes a longer phrase when placed before the word 'bath'....: ice bath; bubble bath; early bath; bloodbath; tin bath; cold bath; eye bath; bird bath; hot bath; shower bath

ROUND 2 - Announced theme - 'The Names of The Beatles'

Each answer contains names used in songs by the Beatles: Martha My Dear, Father McKenzie, Eleanor Rigby, Hey Jude, Mean Mr Mustard, Polythene Pam, Maxwell's Silver Hammer, Loretta Martin and Lady Madonna

ROUND 3 - Mixed pairs

ROUND 4 - Paired

ROUND 5 - Announced theme - 'Do the Maths'

Each answer contains a term used in Maths (including abbreviations) pi, matrix, real, equal, ratio, infinite, cos(ine), tan(gent), degrees

ROUND 6 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a gemstone

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a bird

ROUND 8 - Announced theme - 'Tom, Dick or Harry'

The answer to each question contains the surname of a famous (or infamous) Tom, Dick or Harry

15.2.17 set by Ethel Rodin. Bards 30 (lost v Charabancs 31), History Men 35 (won v Albert 34). Highest Dunkin' Dönitz 51 (v TMTCH 17). Victories also for Prodigals (40), Electric Pigs (37).

Average Aggregate Score: 67.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.6).

Thoughts of Mike B: '...a paper remembered for ... the imaginative device of omitting different questions on the 'different copies' of the paper...a horrible accident ... a mysterious and embarrassing computer malfunction. As Roddy admitted... for some reason Open Office decided to print different versions of the paper, omitting some questions and duplicating others... there may have been 5 different question papers

out last night.... It gave the QMs a chance to show their mettle by devising ways round the glitch.... Round 4 on classical music was brilliantly put together ...' '... next season will be the 40th season that WithQuiz has been in existence. How should we celebrate the fact?' '...Bards ...beaten in a cliff-biting, nail-hanging, one-point thriller ... the lead changing hands from round to round, ending in a tie in several of them.'

Thoughts from others: '...a tad on the toughish side... broad variety of subjects and themes...' '...generally well received...' '...always challenging but some interesting questions...' Ivor '...an up and down season for us... after 7 consecutive defeats, we have now had three wins in a row, two of these by a single point.... everything hinging on the last two questions....'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains things you might use in the garden

ROUND 2 - What's My Line?

Each answer contains the name of a profession, vocation or trade (sometimes in a fairly wide interpretation)

ROUND 3 - 'GER'

Each answer contains the letters 'ger' consecutively in that order

ROUND 4 - Paired Musical Pictures

ROUND 5 - Linked pairs

Each question consists of two answers joined together - the last word of the answer to the first statement is the first word of the answer to the second statement - full names of people are required where relevant

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - Paired

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a person who was famously assassinated

22.2.17 set by Bards. History Men 22 (won v TMTCH 19). Highest Mantis Shrimp 43 (v Dunkin' Dönitz 27). Victories also for Charabancs (37), Ethel Rodin (33), Opsimaths (34).

Average Aggregate Score: 59.2 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 71.8).

Thoughts of Mike B: '...a tough paper with an average aggregate about 10 points below the season's average... one or two questions where answers were open to dispute... the first taste of the 'hidden theme' wasn't hidden at all....'

Thoughts from others: '...tough going at times with some uneven pairing ...' '...the Bards did a wonderful job of including science in the quiz...' '...a more disciplined approach to conferring combined with some lucky guesses ...confirming one of the golden rules of quizzing: if you don't know the answer, guess it right!'"

ROUND 1 - Paired Science Round

ROUND 2 - Paired

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

The text of question 1 and the text of each subsequent answer includes reference to South Africa

ROUND 4 - Paired

ROUND 5 - Paired

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - Paired

ROUND 8 - Paired

1.3.17 set by Opsimaths. Bards 40 (drew v TMTCH). History Men 36 (drew v Charabancs). Highest Dunkin' Dönitz 51 (v Prodigals 38). Victories also for Ethel Rodin (43), Mantis Shrimp (46).

Average Aggregate Score: 80.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.3).

Thoughts of Mike B: '...loads of points on offer and a stark contrast to the mindbender set last week....the strength of our league...' '...Bards and Men enjoyed a high-scoring tie...'

Thoughts of others: '...a points-full paper....an absence of inaccurate answers or misleading questions...varied subjects which caught the interest of all...' 'beautifully balanced ...' '... well received ... plenty of variety... loads of interesting and challenging questions on a wide range of topics.' Ivor: '...our four match winning streak came to an end tonight with an exciting tied game... we have played the Charas nearly forty times in league and cup games over the years and contests are always close run and played in such an amicable way that the winners inevitably feel a tad embarrassed in inflicting defeat...'

ROUND 1 - 'A Floral Round'

All answers have a flower in them

ROUND 2 - 'Body Parts'

All the answers include parts of the body

ROUND 3 - 'Protected Status'

All questions relate to items with PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) or PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) status, e.g. Cornish Pasties have PGI status and must be produced in Cornwall using a traditional recipe, with at least 12.5% beef and 25% vegetable content"

ROUND 4 - 'There's Alcohol in It' - Part 1

All the answers contain some alcohol

ROUND 5 - 'There's Alcohol in It' - Part 2

All the answers contain some alcohol - usually foreign in origin

ROUND 6 - Paired Science Round

ROUND 7 - Paired Transport Round

ROUND 8 - 'Batman v Superman'

All the answers make reference to characters in the Batman and Superman comic strips – Dick Grayson: Batman's ward, a.k.a. Robin; Commissioner James Gordon of the Gotham City Police or his daughter Barbara a.k.a. Batgirl; Lex Luthor: Archenemy of Superman; Jimmy Olsen: Daily Planet photographer who often works with Lois Lane and Clark Kent; Alfred Pennyworth: Batman's butler; Lois Lane: An award-winning reporter and Clark Kent/Superman's primary love interest; Lana Lang: Superman's teenage romantic interest, while growing up in Smallville; The Joker: Archenemy of Batman; Perry White: Clark Kent's boss, the chief editor of the Daily Planet; Bruce Wayne: a.k.a. Batman

8.3.17 set by TMTCH. Bards 41 (highest - won v Mantis Shrimp 26). History Men 40 (won v Ethel Rodin 37). Victories for Albert (36), Opsimaths (39), Electric Pigs (38).

Average Aggregate Score: 72.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.4).

Thoughts of Mike B '...pretty well-balanced ... took a while to get through with plenty of lengthy (fact-filled) questions...' '...keenly fought, always courteous and no whinges at the outcome... a great example of why this pub quiz stuff is so enjoyable...'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '...TMTCH never produce a bad quiz and as is their hallmark, many of the questions wrapped in grace notes hinting tantalisingly at an answer...' 'rather a complicated quiz with so many long questions, needing more repeats than usual...' '...'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a brand of jeans which were in the top ten selling brands in 2016

ROUND 2 - Paired

ROUND 3 - 'A Cut Below'

Each answer includes a word that can precede the word 'cut'

ROUND 4 & 5 - Blockbuster Fruity Bingo

A selection of 20 fruits to pick from and a list of the topics to which each fruit is linked.

ROUND 6 - 'Wise Saws'

Each answer contains a word that can precede the word 'saw' - questions are paired

ROUND 7 - Pot pourri

ROUND 8 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of an inter-galactical space traveller

15.3.17 set by Electric Pigs. Bards 35 (won v History Men 29). Highest Albert 47 (v Prodigals 30). Victories also for Dunkin' Dönitz (40), Mantis Shrimp (37). Dunkin' Donitz have clinched the league title, with two weeks to spare. The match between Opsimaths and TMTCH was not played, in memory of the very sad passing of Dave Barras. Please see Section 8 of this Commentary

Average Aggregate Score: 69.8 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.3).

Thoughts of Mike B: '...Dunkers became WithQuiz champions 2016/17... a thoroughly deserved victory in a season where it took until January 25th for any to get the better of them (Bards who did it having bombed for most of the rest of the season!)...'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: "'Hard quiz.... much controversy over the crossword grid...fortunately both teams (History Men and Bards) had already qualified for 'Europe' ...but neither wish to rest on their laurels and the tussle for seventh place continues...we lost the toss, were put into bat and got 10 of the 14 unanswered questions...' Others: '...we all enjoyed tonight's offering, so movingly dedicated to our departed friend...'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the surname of a knighted actor.....Sir Tom Courtenay; Sir Henry Irving; Sir Alec Guinness; Sir Lenny Henry; Sir Michael Caine; Sir Laurence Olivier; Sir Nigel Hawthorne; Sir John Mills; Sir John Hurt

ROUND 2 - Paired

'obvious to a 20 year old'

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains one word from the title of a British sitcom.....: Yes Minister, Whatever Happened To The Likely Lads, Fawlty Towers, Peep Show, Not Going Out, Father Ted, Only Fools and Horses, The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin, Rising Damp and Dad's Army

ROUND 4 - A Crossword Round

Select your clue and fill in the answers as you go

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a Devon river: Exe; Axe; Plym; Sid; Yeo; Dart; Teign; Otter; Tamar

ROUND 6 - 'Word in common'

A certain word occurs somewhere in each answer: 'ear'

ROUND 7 - 'The Electric Pigs Porcine Posers'

ROUND 8 - Blockbuster Bingo

Choose your initials

22.3.17 set by Charabancs. Bards 31 (lost v **Opsimaths 48**). History Men 27 (lost v **Dunkin' Dönitz 49 - highest**). *Victories also for Prodigals (46), Albert (38). The match between Electric Pigs and TMTCH was not played, in memory of the funeral today of Dave Barras.*

Average Aggregate Score: 77.3 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.5).

Thoughts of Mike B: 'An excellent paper with plenty of interesting subject matter ... 'two answers run together' has become the most popular innovation of the season... conjures up surreal images...'

Thoughts of others: '...a very entertaining quiz...' '... great variety of questions with something for everyone...' Ivor: '...just not our kind of quiz...' Comment from Dunkin' Dönitz: '...we're very happy to have won our eighteenth title in a season in which there were six realistic contenders well into the second half...should have been seven but the Bards' curious homage to 'Chelsea 2015/16' and 'Leicester 2016/17' left them stranded...except on the occasion when they managed to put their first team on the pitch...'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

'Semper Ubi Sub Ubi': items of female underwear

ROUND 2 – Paired

ROUND 3 - Announced theme

'Goddesses of the Silver Screen': Elizabeth Taylor, Marilyn Monroe, Clara Bow (The 'It' Girl), Joan Crawford, Bette Davis, Grace Kelly, Katherine and/or Audrey Hepburn, Greta Garbo, Carole Lombard, Lana and/or Kathleen Turner

ROUND 4 - Linked pairs

Each question consists of two answers joined together

ROUND 5 - Hidden theme

Fish: ray, eel, sole, koi, brill, hake, pike, char and bass

ROUND 6 - Announced theme

'Water, Water, Everywhere'

ROUND 7 & 8 - 'Blind Date Bingo'

Each answer is, or contains, a boy's name

29.3.17 set by History Men. Bards 37 (lost v **Prodigals 38**). **Highest Mantis Shrimp 49** (v Ethel Rodin 35). *Victories also for Charabancs (41), Albert (42), Opsimaths (39).*

Average Aggregate Score: 73.6 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.5).

The League Champions, the Dunkers, lost to Albert, emphasising just how close a contest this is. The top 4 in the final table are:

Dunkin' Donitz (32pts - score difference 159), **Opsimaths** (28pts - score difference 89), **Albert** (26pts - score difference 124), **Mantis Shrimp** (26pts - score difference 50)

Thoughts of Mike B: '...a great paper to finish the league season...plenty of points on offer....' '...round 5 took as long as Rounds 1 to 4 to complete and after that it was slow-going...next season is the 40th anniversary for WithQuiz... the Wednesday before Christmas might be put aside for a celebratory evening...' Thoughts from others: '...the History Men... one of the few remaining teams ...who continue to speak our language quiz-wise ...' '...a wide range of subjects and a plethora of interesting facts...' '...a very good paper which produced an exciting quiz in which the lead changed hands several times....' Bards: ...a very good quiz...a very close match in which the Bards scored more twos but the Prods more steals...Bards led at first, lost the lead in Round 3, got the lead back in Round 7, but eventually lost by one point...an exciting and enjoyable quiz with no excessively complicated questions...'

ROUND 1 - 'The Culture Round'

Each answer contains a city, a European Capital of Culture between the years 1985 and 1999 (years there was a single city per year)

ROUND 2 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a herb

ROUND 3 - Paired with Round 4

ROUND 4 - Paired with Round 3

ROUND 5 - The 'Missing from the List' Round

ROUND 6 - Paired

ROUND 7 - 'A Spirited Round'

A word in each answer can be preceded or followed by the word 'spirit': Blithe spirit, Fighting spirit, Kindred spirit, Mean spirit, Spirit Level, Sprit of St Louis, Teen spirit, Team spirit, Ardent spirit

ROUND 8 - Lucky Dip Pot Pourri

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE & WINNING TEAM

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points	H'cap score
Dunkin Dönitz	20	16		4	829	670	32	-5
Opsimaths	19	14		5	754	665	28	-3
Albert	20	13		7	783	659	26	-3
Comp. Mantis Shrimp	20	13		7	780	730	26	-3
Prodigals	20	11		9	770	729	22	-2
Ethel Rodin	20	10		10	758	724	20	-2
History Men	20	8	2	10	683	748	18	2
Bards	20	8	1	11	706	737	17	1
Charabancs of Fire	20	6	1	13	683	718	13	2
Electric Pigs	19	5	1	13	629	722	11	3
TMTCH	18	1	1	16	456	729	3	11



3. SUMMARY OF TYPES OF QUESTION IN ALL LEAGUE MATCH PAPERS

Hidden themes 39 (*double letter in alphabetical order, surname that contains a colour, word used in the phonetic alphabet, the name of a Book of the Old Testament, surname of a member of the cabinet, variety of apple, Ken Loch films, small arms manufacturers, English Rugby Union teams, cockney, plane item or manoeuvre, top male tennis players, English cathedrals, celebratory days, Strictly dance professionals, answers end in O, James Bond villains, the legal world, imperial measures of length, insects, Fibonacci sequence, Man Booker Prize-winners, Monty Python's Flying Circus, Radio 1 Breakfast Show DJs, M.E.N. Shuttle Bus Pub Crawl, 'baths', gemstones, birds, things you might use in the garden, persons famously assassinated, South Africa, jeans, space travellers, knighted actors, British sitcoms, Devon rivers, a word included in all answers, items of female underwear, fish, herbs*)

Announced themes 41 (*2 date of quiz, aspect of pantomime, people born on..., Railway stations and their codes, 'Just Visiting', the word 'last', 'very curious', 'firsts', myths and legends, plaques, unusual sports, 'lasts', word preceding 'pin', word preceding 'fire', Old Mancunians from Manchester GS, people born or bred in Greater Manchester, suffix of British local or regional newspapers, leaders, four-letters, Peak District, the Hipster, Plants, American Presidents, names in Beatles' songs, maths, Tom Dick & Harry, Professions or Trades, 'ger', flowers, body parts, 'protected status', two on alcohol, 'Batman v Superman', preceding 'cut', paired preceding 'saw', porcine, screen goddesses, water, European Capitals of Culture, spirits*)

Paired 51 (*inc two on transport, one inc girls' names; four reverse pairs, two rounds paired, one only connect, one on 2016, one on arts, two on sciences, one mixed pairs, one science, one 'obvious to 20 year olds', one linked*)

Photos 1 (*musical pairs*)

Bingo or 'Lucky Dip' 19 (*8 doubles: 'Books of the Bible', 'Millinery of Hats', Paired, tools, University Challenge winners, 'fruits' one paired, one with initials*)

Sequences or 'Missing from the List' 3 (*threes, fours*)

Anagrams and other word games 7 (*cryptic with two answers differing by a letter, cryptic cities, 5 with two answers last word of first = first of second, alliterative*)

Crossword 1

Answers containing particular words or letters 3 (*capital cities, gods, NFL teams*)

Pot luck/ Pot Pourri 6 (*inc one based around 'worst movie title ever'*)

In Memoriam 1

4. ALL CUP MATCHES (WIST/VAL DRAPER/PLATE)

WIST

21.9.16 WIST Pre-season Cup

Set by Mike Bath (WithQuiz) and Mike Wagstaffe (Stockport League). Winner WithQuiz 58 pts (v 54)

WithQuiz snatch back the WIST Trophy after a year in the care of the Stockport League

A close encounter at the Albert Club. Scores were on the low side but the two sides were always within touching distance of one another. Stockport started at a gallop but were pulled back and overtaken in the second period of the first half. After the break WithQuiz maintained this lead running out victors by just 4 points. On Stockport's request (their usual tradition), Quizmaster Mike Bath was requested not to give away the theme in Round 2 and he suspects this made the round rather too hard.



Back over the Mersey – the WIST Cup returns to WithQuiz



Nick's winning WithQuiz line-up

ROUND 1 – Verbal Stockport style

ROUND 2 – Written Stockport style

Each answer includes a word that can be preceded by the word 'With' or 'Stock' to make a longer word

ROUND 3 – Bingo

Each player in turn chooses a question – the answer begins with the letter(s) given.

ROUND 4 – Themed

Each answer contains at least one word from the title of one of the 20 best-selling albums in UK music history

ROUND 5 – Themed Pictures

Each answer contains the surname of a British gold medallist at the recent Rio Olympics

ROUND 6 - Choose Your Own Subject

9.11.16 Stockport League WIST Quarter Finals and A-Trophy Quarter Finals. Set by Stockport League.

WIST: Bards 46 (loss v Alexandra 55). Victory also for Travellers' Call (45+5). Albert and Opsimaths go through as opponents unable to field a team

A-Trophy: Victories for Dunkin' Dönitz (52), Electric Pigs (51), Mantis Shrimp (53), Prodigals (63) - highest Average Aggregate: **94.3**

Thoughts from Mike B: Aggregate scores were quite respectable. Ethel Rodin lost to Travellers Call 4-5 on the tie-break round (the spare questions). Thoughts from others: '...a paper with lots of points available and little controversy...' '...a good quiz, well compiled.' '... the night was fun, interesting and convivial.' Alexandra: 'We've been keeping an eye on our opponents' recent (lack of) form and we just knew they would kick-start their season when they met us. Wrong. We went (slightly) ahead in the first round and

managed to keep the Bards at arm's length for the rest of the quiz... it helps when the right questions go to the right people.'

ROUND 1 – Verbal Stockport style

ROUND 2 – Written Stockport style

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains a code name for an Operation in World War 2 (Jupiter, Eclipse, Thunderclap, Noball, Birdcage, Dickens, Crossbow, Chariot and Puma)

ROUND 4 – Themed

Each answer ends with the letters 'ad'

ROUND 5 – Themed

All answers contain 3 consecutive letters from a 'wrap-around' alphabet

ROUND 6 - Pot pourri

8.2.17 Stockport League WIST Semi Finals and A-Trophy Semi Finals. Set by Stockport League.

WIST: Victories for Travellers' Call (48), and Albert (58 – highest.

A-Trophy: Victories for Mantis Shrimp (54), and Prodigals (57)

Average aggregate score **99.8**, substantially above the average of 93.6 for WIST matches of the past 2 seasons)

Thoughts from Mike B: '...another excellent paper...' Thoughts from others: '...we really liked this paper...it covered a wide variety of subjects...' '...no obvious bias to either team...'

ROUND 1 – Verbal Stockport style

ROUND 2 – Written Stockport style

ROUND 3 Announced theme

Each answer contains a word or phrase that can precede or follow the word 'wheel'

ROUND 4 - Paired

ROUND 5 - 'Bingo Lingo'

Choose a number from the following and answer a question relating to its bingo call

ROUND 6 - Linked Pairs

Two answers joined together - the last word of the answer to the first question is the first word of the answer to the second question

26.4.17 Stockport League WIST Final and A-Trophy Final Set by Stockport League.

The average aggregate score was **106**, substantially above the overall average of mid-nineties for WIST matches).

Traveller's Call win WIST final (55 – 50) to take the trophy back to Stockport for first time in five years.

WIST Final '...Travellers Call...have been in the WIST competition for most (if not all) of its ten seasons but, until this year, have not managed to get to the final yet alone win the cup...'

Prodigals beat Mantis Shrimp 61 – 46, to win the A-Trophy for the second year in succession.

WIST A-Trophy Final ‘...in a reversal of their usual role, the heavy dividing curtains were closed to protect the main lounge ...from the quiz hysteria that gripped the back room...there was a gaggle of spectators... neutrals and 'bench' players... suggestion is we introduce a Dave Barras cup for the Question of the Season...’

Thoughts from Mike B: ‘...just the right mix of rat-a-tat knowledge testers in the early Stockport-style rounds followed by more 'ponder-ful' themed rounds in the WithQuiz-style second half... the contest started with a string of twos only broken by ...the American Puritan minister, Cotton Mather, whom nobody had ever heard of...’



ROUND 1 - Stockport format – Verbal

ROUND 2 - Stockport format – Written - Hidden theme

Theme: *Each answer contains the name of an artist or group who have performed the theme tune to a James Bond film: Tom Jones (Thunderball), Tina Turner (GoldenEye), Carly Simon (The Spy Who Loved Me), Alicia Keys (Quantum of Solace, with Jack White), Wings (Live and Let Die), Chris Cornell (Casino Royale), Matt Monro (From Russia with Love), Rita Coolidge (Octopussy), Madonna (Die Another Day), Lulu (The Man with the Golden Gun)*

ROUND 3 (WithQuiz format): 'Three of a kind'

Given two items in a group of three; you need to supply the third

ROUND 4 - (WithQuiz format): 'Signs of the Zodiac' Bingo style

ROUND 5 - (WithQuiz format) 'Initial impressions'

All the answers consist of two words both of which start with the same letter

ROUND 6 - (WithQuiz format) - 'Pick a year' – Bingo style

Choose a year - question relates to an event from that year - additionally, each answer is the name of a person whose first name is an American state capital

EXTRA TIME ROUND - Stockport format – Written

VAL DRAPER CUP & WITHQUIZ PLATE

Handicap points, based on the team's performance in the league, are added or subtracted to/from a team's score to determine the result. ROUND 1: Six of our 11 play in Round 1, questions set by the first team 'out of the hat' who get a bye straight into Round 2. The 3 Round 1 losing teams go forward to the Plate semi finals and the lowest scoring Round 1 loser sets the questions for Round 2. ROUND 2: The 3 Round 1 winners plus the remaining 5 teams play Round 2 matches, the highest scoring losers becoming the fourth team to make up the Plate semi final line up, and the lowest scoring losers setting the questions for the semi final matches. Each of the 7 teams not involved in the final set a round, plus a round of paired questions from the same 7 teams.

5.4.17 Val Draper Cup Round 1 (Handicaps apply) set by Opsimaths.

The History Men 37 (victory v Dunkin' Dönitz 29) Victories also for TMTCH (34 v Electric Pigs 33), and Charas (37 v Prodigals 36).

Average Aggregate Score: 65.0 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.3).

Thoughts from Mike B: ...a lengthy, lowish-scoring paper... lots of lengthy conferences as teams struggled ...a good many memorable questions that raised a smile...there was speculation that Dave B might have put away a stash of future quiz rounds for coming seasons...it would be good news for the Men whose greatest fear is not losing matches but having to emulate Dave's awesome question-setting feats...'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '...we really liked this quiz... we had a good win ... by a point without our handicap advantage....really rattled through the questions...an early finish left plenty of time to sup ale and bask in the glow of an uncommon victory over the quiz league's No 1 team....the difference tonight was that we did not leak steals...we only conceded two but gained five... Anne was on top form for twos and 'rescues'... we did not have a single blurt all night...as Gary Player once said,.....: 'I find the more I practice the luckier I get'....'

ROUND 1 – Paired

ROUND 2 - 'A Question of Transport'

ROUND 3 - 'Letters from the Opsimaths'

Each answer in this round contains one or more individual letters of the alphabet separate from the other words of the answer

ROUND 4 and 5 - Blockbuster Bingo

ROUND 6 - 'Numbers from the Opsimaths'

Each answer in this round is a number, or contains a number

ROUND 7 - 'I Could Tell You the Answer, but Then I'd Have to Kill You'

Each question in this round relates to spies, secrecy, espionage, etc.

ROUND 8 – Paired

12.4.17 Val Draper Cup Round 2 (Handicaps apply) set by Dunkin' Dönitz.

Bards 36 (lost to Opsimaths 40) but have a 'stay of execution' as highest scoring losers. The History Men 35 (victory v beat Albert 34), thanks in part to handicap system. Victories also for TMTCH (37 v Mantis Shrimp 31), and Ethel Rodin (38 v Charabancs 32).

Average Aggregate Score: 69.5 (Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.2).

Thoughts from Mike B: '...an excellent effort,... even if they had had weeks to prepare it... all seemed to enjoy the range of topics and question styles ...a beautifully crafted tribute to Dave Barras combining non-league football and the North East... Opsimaths started 4 points down against Bards ...but ended up 4 points in front ... Steve had to cry off at the very last minute leaving his colleagues three-handed...but it's not all doom and gloom for the Bards...as highest scoring losers they earn a place in the Plate semi finals... The Men They Couldn't Hang have worked hard all season to earn their 11 point starting bonus and this helped them to romp through to the semis with a 6 point victory over Compulsory Mantis Shrimp...'

Thoughts from others: Ivor: '...12 unanswered, 3 'steals' by each team...Evelyn (of Albert) Most Valued Player with 5 twos.... the 'wrong seat' syndrome always amuses ...and there was almost an inevitability that the maths question did not fall to Evelyn and that Anne got the physics question... the magic of the handicap meant we beat Albert by a whisker...tonight the 'History Men' should really have been called the 'History Women' because 75% of our team were 'of the fair gender' ...I was like the rooster in the

henhouse...' Others: '...the Hangers will be present for the new season in the autumn...we'll try our best to keep our question-setting standards up to the level achieved on the Barras Barometer...'

ROUND 1 - 'A Small Tribute to a Great Man'

All the answers include the name or part of the name of a non-league football team based in the North-East of England: Blyth Spartans; Bishop Auckland; Norton and Stockton Ancients; Stockton Town; Gateshead; Crook Town; North Shields (or South Shields); Washington; and Billingham Town

ROUND 2 - Paired

ROUND 3 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains a diacritical mark

ROUND 4 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of a battle or a siege during the Napoleonic Wars

ROUND 5 - Linked pairs

Each question consists of two answers joined together

ROUND 6 - 'A Short European Tour' – Paired

ROUND 7 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains the name of an English county - past or present

ROUND 8 - 'And finally.....'

Each answer contains the name of someone who has sadly departed in 2017.....: John Hurt, Chuck Berry, Bill Paxton, Graham Taylor, Derek Walcott, Darcus Howe, David Storey, Martin McGuinness, Ronnie Moran and Colin Dexter

3.5.17 Val Draper Cup & Plate S/F (Handicaps apply) set by Mantis Shrimp.

Bards 37 (lost to **Dunkin' Dönitz** 38). **The History Men (47 beat** Opsimaths 37). *Victories also for **Ethel Rodin** (46 v TMTCH 38), and **Prodigals** (45 v Electric Pigs 35).*

Average Aggregate Score: 79.5 (much higher than Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.6).

Thoughts of Mike B: '...an excellent and varied offering...I particularly enjoyed the 'Val' round, in memory of the late, great WithQuizzer, Val Draper... the 'Run On' round ... full of amusement...a raucous good-hearted affair between two teams who relish each other's company...' '... to the disappointment of all neutrals, The Men They Couldn't Hang lost to Ethel Rodin....' '

Thoughts of others: Ivor: '...with the Ruby Anniversary of the Quiz league coming up, it is pleasing that quizzing seems....unlikely to follow bear-baiting ...into extinction ...our league youngsters have proved they can set a quiz that is spot on the right level of difficulty as well as the right level of interest and entertainment....' Others: '...the Bards competed gamely on an excellent paper but we managed to overcome the 6 point handicap by the end of Round Two and just about hung on to the lead....the Bards weren't helped by a late arrival...followed quickly by a two round absence....Tintern Abbey Road sent Tony into a reverie about the ...lifelong bliss to be had if you view the sunset through a particular window in said abbey with the object of your affections by your side...'

ROUND 1 - Hidden theme

Each answer contains a regnal name of a monarch of England or Great Britain

ROUND 2 - 'Short and Sweet'

In each case, the answer is a three-letter word

ROUND 3 - 'What links? (part 1)'

What connects everything in the list

ROUND 4 - Paired

ROUND 5 - 'A Valediction to our sponsor'

All answers contain the letter-combination 'v-a-l' in that precise order

ROUND 6 - 'A Short Statement'

Each of the answers contains at least part of a nickname of a US state

ROUND 7 - 'What links? (part 2)'

Find the name which connects three seemingly disparate clues.

ROUND 8 - A Charas 'Run On' Round

The last word of the first answer is the same as the first word of the second answer

10.5.17 Val Draper Cup & Plate Finals (Handicaps apply) set by 'K.O. United' as below.

Val Draper: The History Men (35 beat Ethel Rodin 34).

Plate: Prodigals (31 beat Dunkin' Dönitz 26).

Average Aggregate Score: 66.5 (much lower than Season's Ave. Agg. to-date: 72.3).



The History Men lift the Val Draper Cup - The Prodigals add the Plate to their A-Trophy victory

Thoughts of Mike B: '...a lengthy low-scoring paper which kept all concerned at it until just about 11pm...a pity we should end the season with such a drawn out affair... if the questions are too hard then inevitably there is much head-scratching and repetition....perhaps it is time to reconsider the format we use for these Cup final papers... Some excellent material... the Electric Pigs 'Fraternal round' was much enjoyed...after gradually clawing back their handicap disadvantage, ...the scores were level going into the very last question...colleagues persuaded away from what proved to be the right answer...when the question was passed across to the History Men they got the steal and nicked the Cup.... the History Men voted the 'Brothers round' as best on the night with the 'Containers round' a close second; the Parks round scoring 'nul points' (probably because we also scored nul points on that round)....'

Thoughts of others: Ivor: '...quiz paper was hard - but as Jeremy Paxman would say, this is what we should expect as the tournament progresses...13 unanswered (8 to us) with 9 twos each and 5 'steals' each....we are delighted to have won the Val Draper Cup...five years since our only other victory in this tournament...the handicap system worked very well though our four point start was gone by the end of Round 3 and the remaining 5 rounds saw the lead change four times...scores were level with Ethel receiving the last question....the unexpected 'steal' saw us home by the narrowest of margins....Anne's niece Vanessa had her second game with us - and did not disappoint...Highlights of our side's efforts included: David ... successfully recalling that in Norse mythology there was "a big ****ing snake somewhere"...Vanessa knowing all about box jellyfish, and the Manchester band Los Trios Paranoias (because her partner plays the bass in the very same band)...Anne having read the works of a certain Peruvian Nobel laureate's works, and 'our man on the bench', Mike, having actually spoken to the very same Peruvian laureate...'

Mike B's thoughts on the other match: '...a similarly tight match...though not quite depending on the very last question...the handicap advantage enjoyed by the Prodigals remained intact throughout due to an all-round solid performance from the winning team...'

ROUND 1 (TMTCH)- 'A Folksy Round'

Each answer contains a folk song title (or part) with a Roud Folk Song Index Number

ROUND 2 (ALBERT) - Hidden theme

Each answer contains a container

ROUND 3 (BARDS) - Hidden theme

Each answer contains at least part of the name of a UK National Park....: Lake District; Norfolk Broads; North York Moors; South Downs; Yorkshire Dales; Pembrokeshire Coast; Peak District; Loch Lomond and the Trossachs; Northumberland

ROUND 4 (CHARABANCS) - 'Tats Entertainment' – Hidden theme

Each answer relates to scenes depicted on the body of Lydia the Tattooed Lady.... in the 1939 Groucho Marx film At the Circus (music and excellent lyrics by Yip Harburg and Harold Arlen)



ROUND 5 (MANTIS SHRIMP) - 'All About Albert'

ROUND 6 (ELECTRIC PIGS) - Hidden theme - fraternal

Each answer contains a word that can precede 'brothers'.... Coen, Parker, Blues, Chemical, Blood, Lehman, Righteous, Mario, Jonas

Composite ROUND 7 – Paired

ROUND 8 (OPSIMATHS) - '...and in the End....'

Each answer contains a word that may be preceded or succeeded by the word 'final' to make a familiar two word phrase

Extra time Round (OPSIMATHS) - Paired

5. SUMMARY OF TYPES OF QUESTION IN ALL CUP MATCH PAPERS (WIST/VAL DRAPER/PLATE)

Stockport style.....

Four matches, so four **Verbal** Stockport style, and five **Written** Stockport style (including one 'extra time round'): one with each preceded by 'with' or 'stock'; one with hidden theme (performers of James Bond themes)

Other non Stockport style.....

Hidden themes 9 (WWII code names, diacritical marks, Napoleonic battles, English counties; Great Britain monarchs, containers, UK National Parks, Lydia the Tattooed Lady, 'brothers')

Announced themes 11 (three consecutive letters, precede or follow 'wheel', transport, numbers, letters of the alphabet, spies, non-league football in North East, 'departures' in 2017, three letter words, folk songs, 'Albert')

Paired 10 (two linked pairs; one on European places)

Photos 1 (names of Olympic medallists)

Bingo 7 (letters, choose your own, Bingo calls, one double; zodiac, years- answer includes state capital)

Sequences 4 (one to give third answer in groups of three; connection between items on list; connection between disparate clues)

Anagrams and other word games 1 (last word of first answer is first of second)

Answers containing particular words or letters 6 (words ending 'ad', words including 'val', word from title of best-selling albums; both words of answer with same first letter, answers include nickname of US states, words followed by or preceding 'final')

Pot luck/ Pot Pourri 1

6. OVERALL SUMMARY OF QUESTION SUBJECTS IN ALL MATCHES

Split into different subjects (a difficult task as so many questions include two or more subjects) as follows:

Literature (including where literature part of a question) 291

Theatre 53

Art/Architecture 56

History 120

Politics 154

Military/Royalty 23

Crime / Law 18

Transport / Motoring 77

Education 16

Cinema (including where cinema part of a question) 226

TV / Radio 153

Pop / Rock (including where pop/rock/other music part of a question) 212

Music 98

Sport / Games (including where sport/games part of a question) 232

Religion 40

Myths / Legend 13

Science/ Maths/ Medicine 129

Food / Drink 76

Animals / Birds / Nature 32

Finance 13

Manufacturing / Retail / Fashion 43,

Geography / Geology 195

Language & word puzzles 55

Other questions involving two or several different subjects 15

7. OVERVIEW OF THE SETTERS

More than 2,300 questions were asked, each team taking its turn in preparing papers with rounds of many types. The largest numbers were **Opsimaths (267 questions), Stockport (252), Shrimps (245) and Dunkers (223)**.

The Withquiz League is so versatile that all teams produce a very wide range of subjects, and almost every subject is covered by every team. Showing the top two in each case, the favourite subjects (i.e. the ones on which more questions were set) were as follows:

Pre-season quiz: TV 18%, Sport 13%

Stockport setters: Geography 15%, Literature 11%

Albert: Literature, Multi-topic, Language and word puzzles each 13%

Bards: Literature 14%, Politics 11%

Charas: Multi-topic 14%, Literature 12%

Dunkers: Literature 12%, Sport 10%

Ethel: Multi-topic 18%, Literature 15%

History Men: Sport 12%, Politics, TV each 11%

Opsimaths: Transport/Motoring 11%, Sport 10%

Men: Geography 13%

Pigs: Cinema 13%, Sport 11%

Prodigals: Sport 12%, Literature and Pop/Rock each 11%

Shrimps: Multi-topic 15%, Literature 11%

The following teams were those with the highest number of questions on the following subjects:

Literature: Shrimps/Dunkers/Stockport each 11%

History: Opsimaths 15%, Bards and Stockport each 12%

Politics: Bards 11%, Dunkers/Chars/History Men each 10%

Cinema: Stockport 14%, Dunkers 12%

TV/Radio: Opsimaths 15%, Shrimps 12%

Pop/Rock: Dunkers and Stockport each 12%

Other music: Albert 14%, Opsimaths 13%

Sport/Games: Opsimaths 13%, Stockport 12%, Dunkers 11%

Science/Maths: Shrimps 20%, Albert 12%

Geography: Stockport 19%, Shrimps/Men 11% each

Multi-topic questions: Shrimps 18%, Ethel 13%, Charas 12%.

Transport/Motoring: Opsimaths 39%

Food/Drink: Opsimaths: 24%

Language and Word Puzzles: Albert 39%

8. IN MEMORY OF THE QUIZ-SETTING OF DAVE BARRAS ('THE MASTER SETT VALLEY SETTER')



Dave Barras died completely unexpectedly last Saturday (11.3.2017) on a train home from Manchester to his beloved Derbyshire.

Thoughts expressed by Mike B (on quiz-night 15.3.17): 'He was founder member and 'life and soul' of The Men They Couldn't Hang (TMTCH) which joined the league at the start of the 2007/8 season; the brain and craftsman behind each paper set by TMTCH, his questions peppered with clues which gave an alternative way to discover the answer. (*Please see selection of questions at end of 'League Matches' section*). He will be sorely missed...and our thoughts are with his wife, Gilly. All round the league, the mood was sombre and reflective, summed up by the dedication at the top of the evening's paper: 'Dedicated to Dave Barras, genial giant and master quiz setter, with thanks for the many hours of enjoyment afforded by his quizzes and his company'.'

Thoughts from others: "... so hard to believe it's been only a week since he set one of his well-crafted quizzes, and so hard to believe we won't ever come up against him again.... our thoughts can only be with his wife Gilly, family and team-mates....you will not be forgotten so long as WithQuizzers continue to assemble ...to indulge in your, and our, favourite pastime...' '...Dave was one of the friendliest and most jovial people in the league...we have lost a genuinely warm, funny and witty person...' '...a larger than life character who will be greatly missed....' '...thank you for so many fantastically enjoyable evenings over the last ten seasons... a great, generous, funny and unforgettable spirit...' '...his setting ability raised quizzing by more than a few notches...he was amusing and companionable...'

And some thoughts a week later when many WithQuizzers were at Macclesfield Crematorium ...to pay respects to the irreplaceable Dave ...

Thoughts of Mike B: '...we discussed the various proposals to commemorate our good friend and his immense contribution to our league: To date these seem to be: introducing a 'Question of the Season' trophy and naming it the 'Dave Barras Cup' (most of us agree Dave is the best question setter WithQuiz has ever had); renaming the 'A-Trophy' in his honour; renaming the pre-season WIST Cup in his honour...perhaps we can mull this over and decide amongst ourselves at the End of Season evening...' '...this beautiful description... posted by Gerry: 'It was dark, dreich and dismal at Macclesfield crematorium, a sullen contrast to the rich and colourful patchwork that had been Dave's short life ... good quiz questions are ...more ephemeral than good poetry but they have this in common: they don't just happen, they both need a lot of work, a lot of teasing and wheedling... they need inspiration...Dave had that inspiration, an inspiration that made us realise that there is more to knowledge than knowing the answer; that knowing how to ask can yield a still more rewarding pleasure....quizzing, by its nature, will always be about the trivial and the banal, but so is life... so take a leaf out of Dave's jotter and make the most of both....Rest in Peace, Darlo lad...you are and will always be missed....'

On the following week (29.3.17), Dave's team, The Men, felt able to compete again, and were welcomed back:

Thoughts of Mike B: '*...Great to welcome The Men back to the field of play at The Turnpike....'*

Thoughts of others: '...welcome The Men ... back to the quiz fold following the tragic loss...I'm sure Dave was looking down with approval from that big quiz venue in the sky... he was such a vivid and unforgettable presence...'

Some Dave Barras questions selected by Mike B on 15.3.17:

From 26/01/11 Round 8 Question 6:

Which Gordonstoun-educated archaeologist has had the recently completed section of the Derby ring road that connects Burton Road to Normanton Road named in her honour?

Lara Croft (who was, so to speak, 'conceived' in Derby)

From 13/03/13 Round 6 Question 7:

Members of which subversive organisation, having stolen a Scorpion tank with which to invade the Houses of Parliament, ended up seeing the father of their leader's girlfriend accidentally spray his suburban garden with heavy machine gun fire wiping out his entire gnomery in the process?

The Tooting Popular Front

From 29/01/14 Round 4 Question 4:

In France they use the word 'ouistiti' which translates into English as 'marmoset'; in Bulgaria it is the word 'zele' which translates as 'cabbage'; in Korea it is 'Kimchi', a traditional vegetarian dish, whilst in India it is 'paneer'. What word do we use in English?

'Cheese' (as in what you say when you have your photograph taken)

From 02/04/14 Round 8 Question 8:

Which honorary Member of the British Empire's record breaking day of the 28th of September 1996 started on Wall St and ended with spectacular leap off Fujiyama Crest shortly after 17.35?

Frankie Dettori

From 17/12/14 Round 1 Question 7: (?)

According to TV comedy script writer Jimmy Perry's memoirs, published in 2002, what did his father say to him at the age of 16 when he said he wanted to become an actor or comedian?

"You stupid boy!"

From 11/11/15 Round 2 Question 5:

You happen to find yourself on the 12.05 Central Time train that leaves Winnipeg next Sunday. Assuming you don't get off and the train runs on time, where will you find yourself at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning in the same time zone when you arrive at the train's final station stop?

Churchill

From 01/04/15 Round 6 Question 2:

Which Merseyside poet wrote the lines "Out of work, divorced, usually pissed; he aimed low in life and missed"?

Roger McGough

Other Dave Barras questions of note:

What entry in Boswell's *Life of Johnson* for April the 7th 1775 prompted Ambrose Bierce to respond "with all due respect to that enlightened but inferior lexicographer, I beg to submit that it is the first"?

"Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel"

Who was on the receiving end of this withering put down in 2010 from a talking solanum tuberosum "You're not a toy.... You're just an accessory"?

Ken (by Mr Potato Head)

What structure was officially opened in 1928 and gave its name to a parliamentary constituency that was created in 1983 and abolished in 2010. Connecting two of the most deprived communities in England, it was one of Labour's safest seats?

Tyne Bridge

What was introduced to the British public in 1910, weighs less than 6 grammes and is missing from this list of the British Army's Standard Iron Ration of 1914: bully beef, cheese, biscuit, tea, sugar, salt and....

Oxo cube

What is the alias of the fictional villain Oswald Chesterfield Cobblepot, the owner of the Iceberg Lounge?

The Penguin

What satellite remains in geo-stationary orbit 22,400 miles above the Pacific Ocean and is equipped with electromagnetic cloaking baffles so that nobody outside a select workforce can know of its presence?

Thunderbird 5

What disease is named after the Greek for coal on account of one of the symptoms being blackened skin lesions?

Anthrax

What peculiarity includes Florence Nightingale, Winona Ryder and Casey Jones, the driver of the cannonball express, amongst its population but not Chelsea Clinton?

Being named after their place of birth (Clinton Junior was born in Little Rock and named after the song *Chelsea Morning*. Casey Jones adopted a corruption of his birthplace, Cayce Kentucky, as his professional name)

What common fate befell the villages of Ashopton in Derbyshire, Mardale Green in Westmorland, and Nether Hambleton in Rutland?

They were all sacrificed in the construction of reservoirs

What left from Palmer's Shipyard on Tyneside on the 13th of October 1936?

The Jarrow Crusade (accept Jarrow March/Marchers)

What name is shared by an opening move in Chess (pawn to f3 - considered by many to be the worst possible opening move), a suburb of London in the Borough of Richmond, and a character in the television series Dallas?

Barnes

Who was the last British monarch to succeed to the throne with the same ordinal number as his, or her, immediate predecessor?

William the Fourth (succeeding George IV in 1830)

Name the ship that was sunk off Eriskay in 1941 and was the inspiration for Compton Mackenzie's book and subsequent film Whisky Galore.

SS Politician (do not accept SS Prime Minister which was the fictional ship in the book)

Name the former Labour MP for Walsall North who was convicted for fraud in 1976 and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment.

John Stonehouse

Which broadcaster provided the non-singing voice for Tex Tucker in *Four Feather Falls* and is currently the Honorary Chairman of The International Quizzing Association?

Nicholas Parsons