

News and Views: 2022–3 Season, Week 7 – 17 January 2023

Results

The top-of-the-table clash in the A League was very close, with the **Poachers** edging out the **Nags Head 'B'** by just six points. Equally close was the **Waters Green Weavers'** victory over **Harrington Academicals**.

In the B League, leaders **Dolphin Hammers** beat the third-placed **Sutton Club** to make it six wins out of six. The other matches similarly went according to form, with victories for the **Waters Green Nags** (2nd), **Plough Horntails** (5th) and **Park Timers** (6th).

Four of the seven games were won by the teams that went "first first", and three by those that started second. This suggests a good overall balance in the questions, and this is borne out by the spreadsheet (see below).

Tables

The **Dolphin** moved up two places to third in the A League with a victory over the **Harrington Diamonds**, while the **Academicals** slipped back two places to sixth after losing to the **Weavers**.

Similarly in the B League, **Plough Horntails** moved up three places to third with a victory over the **Pack Horse Bowling Club** – going above the **Sutton Club** (who lost to second-placed **Waters Green Nags**) and the **Park Taverners** (who didn't play). This was the only change in the B League table.

Individual

It was a low-scoring week, with only five personal bests – three in the A League and two in the B League. One of those PBs was **Dave Partington's** 48, which was the week's equal highest score along with **Ashton Davies** and **Alan Hodgson**. Top scorer in the B League was **Paul Prior** with 33.

Only 24 of the 56 players this week managed to better their previous lowest scores of the season.

Questions

Team scores, like the individual ones, were low; no team managed to score more than their average over this season and last. Both sets of questions seemed to be biased in favour of the teams that went first in the respective halves, but this meant that they cancelled each other out, so the overall balance was very good. This is probably no consolation for the setters, who still get marked down for Balance (even though the score for the General Knowledge was pretty good).

All this was reflected in the Entertainment scores, where both sets are in the bottom half of the current table. Overall, the General Knowledge questions are in 9th place (out of 14) and the Specialists are 13th.

A few individual issues have been flagged up on the Forum, although in fairness, from the setter's point of view, it could be argued that most of them come into the "can't think of everything" category.



Macclesfield Quiz League

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A League

Results

Harrington Academicals	136	142	Waters Green Weavers
Dave Partington (pb)	48	39	Graham Bailey
Poachers	157	151	Nags Head 'B'
Ashton Davies	48	42	Mark Watson
		33	Steve Carter
		30	Paul Morrissey (pb)
Dolphin	151	121	Harrington Diamonds
Alan Hodgson	48	36	Art Higham
Peter McBride	33		
Derek Owen (pb)	21		

Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
Poachers	6	5	0	1	991	10
Nags Head 'B'	5	4	0	1	851	8
Dolphin	6	3	0	3	935	6
Queens	5	3	0	2	835	6
Waters Green Weavers	5	3	0	2	750	6
Harrington Academicals	5	2	1	2	792	5
Nags Head	5	0	1	4	726	1
Harrington Diamonds	5	0	0	5	695	0

Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 7
Alan Hodgson	Dolphin	6	282	54	42	48
Ashton Davies	Poachers	5	231	54	42	48
Peter McBride	Dolphin	6	228	48	27	33
Alice Walker	Queens	5	225	57	36	
Haydn Thompson	Queens	5	219	48	36	
Mark Watson	Nags Head 'B'	5	216	48	42	42
Dave Partington	Harrington Academicals	5	207	48	33	48
Ed Baron	Poachers	6	195	48	18	18
Rob Parkin	Harrington Academicals	5	177	45	15	15
Graham Bailey	Waters Green Weavers	5	177	42	30	39



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B League

Results

Sutton Club	109	136	Dolphin Hammers
Emma Griggs (pb)	24	30	Dave Barber
Chester Road Tavern	94	116	Park Timers
Jim Moores Mitch Moores	21 21	30	Tim Brewin (pb)
Pack Horse Bowling Club	77	96	Plough Horntails
Reg Bloor Tim Bloor	12 12	18	Malcolm Asquith
Waters Green Nags	129	108	Sutton Mutton
Paul Prior	33	27	Wynne Keith-Davies

Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
Dolphin Hammers	6	6	0	0	938	12
Waters Green Nags	6	5	0	1	884	10
Plough Horntails	7	4	0	3	934	8
Sutton Club	6	4	0	2	803	8
Park Taverners	6	3	0	3	846	6
Park Timers	6	3	0	3	677	6
Sutton Mutton	6	1	0	5	758	2
Chester Road Tavern	7	1	0	6	710	2
Pack Horse Bowling Club	6	1	0	5	625	2

Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 7
Paul Prior	Waters Green Nags	6	240	48	33	33
Ian Musgrave	Waters Green Nags	6	213	48	27	30
Wynne Keith-Davies	Sutton Mutton	6	198	42	27	27
Dave Barber	Dolphin Hammers	6	192	39	21	30
Sauna Barstow	Park Taverners	6	183	39	18	
Malcolm Asquith	Plough Horntails	7	183	33	18	18
Liz Horrocks	Dolphin Hammers	5	165	39	27	27
Graham Wallace	Park Taverners	5	159	45	18	
Anne Jeater	Plough Horntails	6	150	33	21	
Reg Bloor	Pack Horse Bowling Club	6	147	39	12	12

Cars & Van 4U Question Setters' Trophy

	Week		Setters	Difficulty	Balance	Ent'ment	Total	Last Yr
1	1	GK	Nags Head 'B'	10.00	9.73	7.85	27.58	21.64
2	2	Spec	Sutton Club	4.58	7.72	6.46	18.76	23.38
3	6	GK	Dolphin Hammers	4.56	8.52	5.67	18.75	(-)
4	1	Spec	Nags Head 'B'	10.00	0.23	8.16	18.39	19.80
5	5	Spec	Harrington Diamonds	4.09	8.55	5.39	18.03	23.04
6	2	GK	Sutton Club	4.02	8.28	5.68	17.97	(-)
7	5	GK	Harrington Diamonds	4.24	8.06	5.10	17.40	14.09
8	6	Spec	Dolphin Hammers	6.11	3.84	6.33	16.28	11.27
9	7	GK	Nags Head	2.08	7.40	4.72	14.20	13.01
10	3	Spec	Queens	4.79	1.61	6.39	12.79	13.29
11	3	GK	Queens	3.12	0.59	6.18	9.90	20.02
12	4	Spec	Waters Green Nags	3.30	0.00	4.91	8.21	18.17
13	7	Spec	Nags Head	0.00	2.51	5.18	7.69	15.87
14	4	GK	Waters Green Nags	2.24	0.00	4.54	6.78	23.49

Everyone seems to have found the **Nags Head's** questions quite difficult, and no team scored more than its average mark overall – although some did in the Specialist and others did in the General Knowledge. The most comfortable teams were the Dolphin, Poachers (both scoring 98% overall) and Waters Green Nags (96%), all of whom went "first first". On the other hand, two of the three least comfortable teams (Pack Horse Bowling Club and Sutton Club) also went "first first".

There were also issues (according to the spreadsheet) with the Balance. In each half, the teams that went first did better; in the Specialist set the figures were 89% and 77%, and in the General Knowledge it was 95% and 90%. The good news is that this meant that (not for the first time this season) the two apparent imbalances virtually cancelled each out. Overall, the teams that went "first first" scored 89% of their average marks, while their opponents scored 88%. This is so close that the balance cannot reasonably be said to have affected any results.

All of this was reflected in the Entertainment scores, where Week 7's Specialist questions are 10th and the General Knowledge are 13th, out of 14.

Overall, the General Knowledge set were saved by their Balance score and are in 9th place (out of 14) in the table. Although 90% to 95% doesn't look that close, it was a lot closer than some previous figures this season (95 divided by 90 is 1.06, while on two occasions so far this season one side has scored more than 1.2 times as much, on average, as the other. Consequently the Balance score for this week's GK questions was much closer to a maximum 10 than to zero.

There was no such saving grace for the Specialists, which are currently 13th out of 14.