

News and Views: 2023–4 Season, Week 1 – 7 November 2023

Results

The first week of another season, and once again the **Nags Head 'B'**'s questions produced a raft of high scores. Last season the highest score on the opening week was 199 by the **Waters Green Nags**; we reckoned this was the highest ever score in the B League. The highest score in the A League that week was 191 by the **Harrington Academicals** (closely followed by the **Poachers'** 190), but both of these were some way short of the A League record of 210, set by the **Ox–fford 'C'** on the opening day of the 2013–14 season (when the **Dolphin** scored 203).

This year the newly-renamed **Queens of the Castle** surpassed their own record with a score of 222. There were also four scores in the 180s, by the **Nags Head**, **Waters Green Weavers**, **Dolphin** and **Harrington Academicals**. The highest score in the B League was 182 by the **Waters Green Nags**, followed by the **Park Taverners** with 176.

Two of the three matches in the A League were very close - decided by two and three points. All three in the B League were won by comparatively comfortable margins. Five of the six matches were won by the teams that went second in the Specialist; the only team to win going the other way was the **Waters Green Nags**.

Tables

Not much to report on here, this being the first week of the season. The teams that scored most points on the night naturally start as League leaders, and this means the **Queens of the Castle** and the **Waters Green Nags**.

Individual

Big shout out to **Alice Walker**, who scored a "full house" – 60 out of a possible 60. Alice is only the third person ever to achieve this, after **Alan Hodgson** in the 2006–7 season and **Haydn Thompson** in 2009–10.

Alice has previously scored 57 on two occasions – most recently on the opening day of last season. Alan Hodgson has scored 57 at least three times, but Haydn Thompson had never scored 57 – until this week. (The question he got wrong was the one about Primark.)

Alan Hodgson was one of four people who scored 51 this week, along with **Peter McBride**, **Heather Wallace** and **Tony Moores**. This is almost a commonplace score for Peter, who has scored 57 at least twice (the first time being as long ago as 1989–90) and also has at least one 54 under his belt; but 51 is an all-time personal best for both Heather (whose previous best was 42 in 2017–18) and Tony (45 in 2013–14).

Another notable all-time personal best was **Tim Massey's** 48. Tim's previous highest score was 45, which he has achieved at least twice.



Macclesfield Quiz League

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Full Results: A League

Harrington Academicals	Spec	GK	Total	Dolphin	Spec	GK	Total
Dave Partington	15	30	45	Peter McBride	21	30	51
Steve Dale	12	15	27	Derek Owen	15	15	30
Alan James	12	24	36	John Brown	6	24	30
Rob Parkin	15	33	48	Alan Hodgson	21	30	51
Conferred	9	9	18	Conferred	7	8	15
Passed over	3	6	9	Passed over	5	4	9
Totals	66	117	183	Totals	75	111	186

Poachers	Spec	GK	Total	Queens of the Castle	Spec	GK	Total
Ed Baron	15	24	39	Alice Walker	24	36	60
Bob Gratton	15	24	39	Haydn Thompson	24	33	57
John Hargreaves	6	15	21	Caroline Massey	15	27	42
Ashton Davies	15	30	45	Tim Massey	15	33	48
Conferred	10	13	23	Conferred	4	3	7
Passed over	2	2	4	Passed over	5	3	8
Totals	63	108	175	Totals	87	135	222

Waters Green Weavers	Spec	GK	Total	Nags Head	Spec	GK	Total
Graham Bailey	12	30	42	Neil Johnson	15	21	36
Ian Grieve	15	33	48	Neil Drummond	15	33	48
Adum Carr	12	18	30	Ian Tams	15	18	33
Alan Gilday	18	27	45	Phil Davies	21	24	45
Conferred	6	9	15	Conferred	7	12	19
Passed over	3	3	6	Passed over	4	3	7
Totals	66	120	186	Totals	77	111	188

Full Results: B League

Waters Green Nags	Spec	GK	Total	Park Timers	Spec	GK	Total
Bob Langstaff	12	24	36	John Poyser	12	21	33
Sunil Peck	9	12	21	Andrew Fenton	15	21	36
Ian Musgrave	15	33	48	Karyn Johnston	3	9	12
Paul Prior	15	27	42	Tim Brewin	15	18	33
Conferred	9	9	18	Conferred	13	11	24
Passed over	4	13	17	Passed over	3	6	9
Totals	64	118	182	Totals	61	86	147

Sutton Mutton	Spec	GK	Total	Park Taverners	Spec	GK	Total
Wynne Keith-Davies	15	21	36	Shauna Barstow	18	24	42
Mick Graves	18	21	39	Heather Wallace	21	30	51
Chris Hewitt	0	9	9	Graham Wallace	18	15	33
Phil Graves	6	21	27	Pete Dykstra	6	12	18
Conferred	12	15	27	Conferred	8	12	20
Passed over	2	7	9	Passed over	6	6	12
Totals	53	94	147	Totals	77	99	176

Sutton Club	Spec	GK	Total	Chester Road Tavern	Spec	GK	Total
Simon Rumsey	15	24	39	Chris Moores	6	6	12
Chris Butler	3	18	21	Tony Moores	21	30	51
Wendy Brown	3	30	33	Mitch Moores	12	21	33
John Green	12	21	21	Tom Radley	15	15	30
Conferred	11	8	19	Conferred	11	17	28
Passed over	1	7	8	Passed over	8	5	13
Totals	45	108	153	Totals	73	94	167



Macclesfield Quiz League

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A League Summary

Results

Nags Head	188	186	Waters Green Weavers
Neil Drummond	48	48	Ian Grieve
Dolphin	186	183	Harrington Academicals
Peter McBride Alan Hodgson	51 51	48	Rob Parkin
Poachers	171	222	Queens of the Castle
Ashton Davies	45	60	Alice Walker

Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
Queens of the Castle	1	1	0	0	222	2
Nags Head	1	1	0	0	188	2
Dolphin	1	1	0	0	186	2
Waters Green Weavers	1	0	0	1	186	0
Harrington Academicals	1	0	0	1	183	0
Poachers	1	0	0	1	171	0
Dolphin Hammers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nags Head 'B'	0	0	0	0	0	0

Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 1
Alice Walker	Queens of the Castle	60	60	60	60	60
Haydn Thompson	Queens of the Castle	57	57	57	57	57
Alan Hodgson	Dolphin	51	51	51	51	51
Pater McBride	Dolphin	51	51	51	51	51
Ian Grieve	Waters Green Weavers	48	48	48	48	48
Neil Drummond	Nags Head	48	48	48	48	48
Rob Parkin	Harrington Academicals	48	48	48	48	48
Tim Massey	Queens of the Castle	48	48	48	48	48
Alan Gilday	Waters Green Weavers	45	45	45	45	45
Ashton Davies	Poachers	45	45	45	45	45
Dave Partington	Harrington Academicals	45	45	45	45	45
Phil Davies	Nags Head	45	45	45	45	45



Macclesfield Quiz League

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B League Summary

Results

Park Taverners	178	147	Sutton Mutton
Heather Wallace	51	39	Mick Graves
Sutton Club	153	167	Chester Road Tavern
Simon Rumsey	39	51	Tony Moores
Waters Green Nags	182	147	Park Timers
Ian Musgrave	48	36	Andrew Fenton

Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
Waters Green Nags	1	1	0	0	182	2
Park Taverners	1	1	0	0	176	2
Chester Road Tavern	1	1	0	0	167	2
Sutton Club	1	0	0	1	153	0
Park Timers	1	0	0	1	147	0
Sutton Mutton	1	0	0	1	147	0
Bate Hallers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pack Horse Bowling Club	0	0	0	0	0	0

Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 1
Heather Wallace	Park Taverners	1	51	51	51	51
Tony Moores	Chester Road Tavern	1	51	51	51	51
Ian Musgrave	Waters Green Nags	1	48	48	48	48
Paul Prior	Waters Green Nags	1	42	42	42	42
Sauna Barstow	Park Taverners	1	42	42	42	42
Mick Graves	Sutton Mutton	1	39	39	39	39
Simon Rumsey	Sutton Club	1	39	39	39	39
Andrew Fenton	Park Timers	1	36	36	36	36
Bob Langstaff	Waters Green Nags	1	36	36	36	36
Wynne Keith-Davies	Sutton Mutton	1	36	36	36	36

Cars & Van 4U Question Setters' Trophy

	Week		Setters	Difficulty	Balance	Ent'ment	Total	Last Yr
1	1	GK	Nags Head 'B'	10.00	9.57	7.16	26.64	21.64
2	1	Spec	Nags Head 'B'	9.05	0.00	7.25	16.30	19.80

As mentioned above, five of the six matches this week were won by the teams that went second in the Specialists. The spreadsheet did detect a significant bias towards those teams, and it was all in the first half. The teams that started second scored, on average, 131% of their average scores over the past year in the Specialist questions, while those that went first managed a comparatively modest 97%. Consequently the Balance score for the Specialist questions was as low as you can get. The General Knowledge on the other hand were almost perfectly balanced – 129% for the teams that had gone first in the Specialists, and 127% for those that went second.

This brings us to the observation that (as we've also seen already), the **Nags Head 'B'**'s questions produced the usual high scores, and this means top marks for (lack of) Difficulty. In the General Knowledge, scores were as high as they've been over the past year – if not ever; teams scored on average 128% of their average scores over that period, and one team got the highest score on record.

The Entertainment marks were good, albeit not quite as high as we're used to for the Nags 'B's questions. On Entertainment alone, both sets would have been comfortably in the Top Ten last season. On total marks, the General Knowledge would have been top by a comfortable margin but the Specialists would have been as low as 25th.

In summary: although this week's Specialist questions were let down by their apparent (lack of) Balance, the General Knowledge have thrown down a real marker for the rest of us to aim at.