Macclesfield Quiz League
Sponsored by AstraZeneca

News and Views: 2023–4 Season, Week 3 – 21 November 2023

Results

Three of the six games this week were decided by four points or fewer. In the **Park** derby, the **Taverners** won by four points; and in the **Dolphin** derby, the **Hammers** won by two. But the closest match of all was the one at the **Bate Hall**, where the home team beat the Pack Horse Bowling Club by just a single point – 109 to 108.

In the other two derbies, the **Nags Head 'B'** and the **Park Taverners** came out on top, while at the Harrington the **Poachers** won fairly comfortably.

Tables

In the A League, three teams have each won two games. The **Dolphin** are currently in the lead, but have played three games, while the **Queens of the Castle** and the **Nags Head 'B'** each gave a game in hand.

In the B League, the top four have all played two and won two; the **Waters Green Nags** are top on goal difference, and are followed by the **Chester Road Tavern**, **Park Taverners** and **Bate Hallers**.

Individual

Top scorer this week was **Alan Hodgson** with 54. Close behind on 51 was **Greg Spiller**; Greg was making his MQL debut playing for the Poachers, but is an experienced quizzer in other forums (fora?).

In the B League, **Anne Jeater**, **Reg Bloor** and **Wynne Keith–Davies** all scored 30.

Alan Hodgson is now top of the A League table, with his team–mate **Peter McBride** in second place and **Rob Parkin** third. The leader in the B League is **John Poyser**, but there are three players just one question behind him: **Tony Moores**, **Paul Prior** (each of whom has a game in hand) and **Wynne Keith–Davies**. In fact, the top twelve players in the B League individual table are separated by only 21 points (seven questions).

Questions

Most teams seem to have found the **Queens of the Castle**'s questions quite tough. Eight of the twelve teams scored between 91% and 97% of their averages since the start of last season, while one team managed to match their average exactly and three scored less than 90%.

The Entertainment scores were correspondingly low; the Balance was good in the Specialist questions (according to the spreadsheet) but slightly worse than average in the General Knowledge. The apparent bias was in favour of the teams that went second in the first half.

On the Forum, one contributor has described the questions as "hard but fair", while another commented that there were "few gimmies but ... not a lot left unanswered".

A League – Full Results

Note: in this section, the teams that went "first first" (first in the Specialist questions) are on the left.

Nags Head	Spec	GK	Total	Nags Head 'B'	Spec	GK	Total
Tony Browne	3	18	21	Mark Shaw	12	15	27
Neil Drummond	9	18	27	Giles Pocklington	6	15	21
Phil Davies	6	21	27	Laurence Plant	9	24	33
Ian Tams	9	12	21	Paul Morrissey	15	21	36
Conferred	12	11	23	Conferred	8	13	21
Passed over	6	6	12	Passed over	4	8	12
Totals	45	86	131	Totals	54	96	150

Harrington Academicals	Spec	GK	Total	Poachers	Spec	GK	Total
Dave Partington	6	21	27	Ed Baron	12	18	30
Rob Parkin	9	24	33	Bob Gratton	9	9	18
Steve Dale	9	12	21	Kevin Fieldstead	3	9	12
Alan James	18	15	33	Greg Spiller	24	27	51
Conferred	10	11	21	Conferred	12	23	35
Passed over	3	4	7	Passed over	6	6	12
Totals	55	87	142	Totals	66	92	158

Dolphin Hammers	Spec	GK	Total	Dolphin	Spec	GK	Total
Liz Horrocks	21	12	33	Peter McBride	9	27	36
Pete Sayers	6	15	21	Derek Owen	0	6	6
Dave Cooper	12	12	24	John Brown	6	12	18
David Barber	18	15	33	Alan Hodgson	21	33	54
Conferred	11	20	31	Conferred	10	19	29
Passed over	9	4	13	Passed over	2	8	10
Totals	77	78	155	Totals	48	105	153

B League – Full Results

Note: in this section, the teams that went "first first" (first in the Specialist questions) are on the left.

Bate Hallers	Spec	GK	Total	Pack Horse Bowling Club	Spec	GK	Total
Dave McGuinness	3	15	18	Reg Bloor	12	18	30
Bill Dawson	6	9	15	Mike Vickerstaff	0	3	3
Anne Jeater	15	15	30	Andrew Vickerstaff	12	9	21
Pat Jeater	3	3	6	Tim Bloor	9	15	24
Conferred	11	11	22	Conferred	6	11	17
Passed over	7	11	18	Passed over	2	11	13
Totals	45	64	109	Totals	41	67	108

Sutton Mutton	Spec	GK	Total	Sutton Club	Spec	GK	Total
John Stein	0	6	6	Simon Rumsey	18	9	27
Mike Proctor	9	15	24	John Green	6	12	18
Wynne Keith–Davies	9	21	30	Chris Butler	9	15	24
Mick Graves	9	3	12	Emma Griggs	12	15	27
Conferred	12	12	24	Conferred	6	13	19
Passed over	5	10	15	Passed over	8	9	17
Totals	44	67	111	Totals	59	73	132

Park Taverners	Spec	GK	Total	Park Timers	Spec	GK	Total
Shauna Barstow	12	9	21	John Poyser	9	18	27
Nick Crowdy	9	3	12	Tim Brewin	9	9	18
Graham Wallace	9	18	27	Karyn Johnston	3	9	12
Pete Dykstra	0	9	9	Andrew Fenton	6	15	21
Conferred	9	10	19	Conferred	7	11	18
Passed over	12	15	27	Passed over	4	11	15
Totals	51	64	115	Totals	38	73	111

A League – Summary

Results

Note: in this section, the home teams are on the left and the away teams are on the right.

Nags Head 'B'	**150**	131	Nags Head
Paul Morrissey	36	27	Neil Drummond
		27	Phil Davies
Harrington Academicals	142	**158**	**Poachers**
Rob Parkin	33	51	Greg Spiller
Alan James	33		
Dolphin Hammers	**155**	153	**Dolphin**
Liz Horrocks	33	54	Alan Hodgson
Dave Barber	33		

Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
Dolphin	3	2	0	1	503	4
Queens of the Castle	2	2	0	0	400	4
Nags Head 'B'	2	2	0	0	321	4
Poachers	2	1	0	1	329	2
Nags Head	2	1	0	1	319	2
Dolphin Hammers	2	1	0	1	303	2
Harrington Academicals	3	0	0	3	478	0
Waters Green Weavers	2	0	0	2	324	0

Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 3
Alan Hodgson	Dolphin	3	**147**	54	42	54
Peter McBride	Dolphin	3	**129**	51	36	36
Rob Parkin	Harrington Academicals	3	**120**	48	33	33
Alice Walker	Queens of the Castle	2	**111**	60	51	
Dave Partington	Harrington Academicals	3	**108**	45	27	27
Alan James	Harrington Academicals	3	**102**	36	33	33
Haydn Thompson	Queens of the Castle	2	**99**	57	42	
Ian Grieve	Waters Green Weavers	2	**81**	48	33	
Neil Drummond	Nags Head	2	**75**	48	27	27
John Brown	Dolphin	3	**75**	30	18	18

B League - Summary

Results

Note: in this section, the home teams are on the left and the away teams are on the right.

Bate Hallers	**109**	108	Pack Horse Bowling Club
Anne Jeater	30	30	Reg Bloor
Sutton Mutton	111	**132**	**Sutton Club**
Wynne Keith–Davies	30	27	Simon Rumsey
		27	Emma Griggs
Park Timers	111	**115**	**Park Taverners**
John Poyser	27	27	Graham Wallace

Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
Waters Green Nags	2	2	0	0	331	4
Chester Road Tavern	2	2	0	0	306	4
Park Taverners	2	2	0	0	291	4
Bate Hallers	2	2	0	0	230	4
Sutton Club	2	1	0	1	285	2
Sutton Mutton	3	0	0	3	370	0
Park Timers	3	0	0	3	360	0
Pack Horse Bowling Club	2	0	0	2	209	0

Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 3
John Poyser	Park Timers	3	84	33	24	27
Tony Moores	Chester Road Tavern	2	81	51	30	
Paul Prior	Waters Green Nags	2	81	42	39	
Wynne Keith–Davies	Sutton Mutton	3	81	36	15	30
Andrew Fenton	Park Timers	3	78	36	21	21
Ian Musgrave	Waters Green Nags	2	72	48	24	
Anne Jeater	Bate Hallers	2	69	39	30	30
Simon Rumsey	Sutton Club	2	66	39	27	27
Tim Brewin	Park Timers	3	66	33	15	18
Shauna Barstow	Park Taverners	2	63	42	21	21
Mick Graves	Sutton Mutton	3	63	39	12	12
Bob Langstaff	Waters Green Nags	2	63	36	27	

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Cars & Van 4U Question Setters' Trophy

	Week		Setters	Difficulty	Balance	Ent'ment	Total	Last Yr
1	1	GK	**Nags Head 'B'**	10.00	9.37	7.16	**26.53**	21.64
2	1	Spec	**Nags Head 'B'**	9.21	0.00	7.25	**16.46**	19.80
3	2	Spec	**Sutton Club**	5.38	8.52	6.50	**20.56**	21.98
4	**3**	**Spec**	**Queens of the Castle**	**3.41**	**9.21**	**5.50**	**18.12**	**16.72**
5	2	GK	**Sutton Club**	3.73	7.60	6.50	**17.91**	20.28
6	**3**	**GK**	**Queens of the Castle**	**3.12**	**4.68**	**5.75**	**13.73**	**13.47**

Most teams seem to have found the **Queens of the Castle**'s questions quite tough. Only the Dolphin Hammers managed to equal their average score; the percentages (as compared with the averages) for most teams were in the 90s, while three (all in the B League, and all going "first first") were below 90%.

According to the spreadsheet, the Specialists were harder than the General Knowledge – teams scoring 88% compared to 95%.

The spreadsheet suggests that the Balance was pretty good in the Specialists, where the teams going first averaged 90% and those going second averaged 87%. In the General Knowledge it was less good, but at least the apparent bias was the other way round: the teams going second (first first) scored 102% while those going first averaged only 89%. Overall, the teams going first in the Specialists scored 89% and those going second (first in the General Knowledge) scored 96%.

On an average team score of 136, this apparent overall bias may have made a difference of around 9 points. As we've seen, there were several matches this week where the winning margin was a lot less than this; but in each of those the winning teams went "first first", and thus had what appear to have been the harder questions.

The Entertainment marks were disappointing, but understandably so in the circumstances. The General Knowledge questions scored 5.75, which would have put them in 23rd place last season (out of 36), and the Specialists scored 5.50 (26th).

Overall, the Specialist questions would have been 19th last season and the General Knowledge 26th.