



# Macclesfield Quiz League

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## News and Views: 2023–4 Season, Week 5 – 7 December

### *Results*

Five of the six games this week were won by the teams that went first in the Specialist questions. The closest of these five games was between the **Chester Road Tavern** and **Park Timers**, where the Timers recorded their first victory of the season by just seven points.

In the B League's top-of-the-table clash, **Waters Green Nags** beat the **Park Taverners** by a more comfortable 26 points. The other four games were all won by margins in the region of 50 or more.

### *Tables*

The **Nags Head 'B'** maintained their unbeaten record and went above the **Dolphin** (who didn't play) to the top of the A League table. **Queens of the Castle** also went above the Dolphin on goal difference, while the **Poachers'** win meant that they swapped places with their opponents, the **Nags Head**.

There are now four teams tied on six points at the top of the B League table. **Waters Green Nags** lead the pack on goal difference following their victory over previous leaders, the Park Taverners; but the **Bate Hallers** are now the only unbeaten team in the B League and have a game in hand over the top three. The **Sutton Club** moved up from fifth to third with a victory over the **Pack Horse Bowling Club**, who slipped to the bottom of the table (but also have a game in hand over the three teams immediately above them).

### *Individual*

Top scorer this week was **Paul Prior** with 57. Paul was in Seat 6 (third in the team that started second) and the only question he didn't get was number 69 in the General Knowledge – "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity" is a statement at the beginning of which Old Testament book? This was arguably the hardest question of all on the night, and for the record the answer was Ecclesiastes.

This would appear to be Paul's highest ever score, and by some margin; his previous best was 48, which he's achieved in three separate seasons – firstly as long ago as 1989–90, and equalling it in each of the last two seasons.

Paul's team-mate **Ian Musgrave** was one of four players who scored 48 this week; the others were **Ashton Davies**, **Haydn Thompson** and **Ian Grieve**. Haydn moved to the top of the A League table as a result – level with Alan Hodgson but with a better highest score – and Ian moved up four places to fourth.

There were three other scores above 40 in the A League (**Mark Watson** 45, **Dave Barber** and **Laurence Plant** 42 each) while three players in the B League (**Graham Wallace**, **Jim Moores** and **Andrew Fenton**) scored 39.

There were 20 personal bests this week – eight in the A League and twelve in the B League.

## A League – Full Results

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

Poachers	Spec	GK	Total	Nags Head	Spec	GK	Total
Ed Baron	12	24	36	Ian Tams	12	18	30
Bob Gratton	18	18	36	Neil Johnson	15	6	21
Greg Spiller	6	30	36	Neil Drummond	9	18	27
Ashton Davies	18	30	48	Tony Browne	6	21	27
Conferred	6	6	12	Conferred	9	10	19
Passed over	8	15	23	Passed over	3	3	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>130</b>

Dolphin Hammers	Spec	GK	Total	Queens of the Castle	Spec	GK	Total
David Barber	12	30	42	Alice Walker	18	21	39
Pete Sayers	12	9	21	Haydn Thompson	21	27	48
Keith Duffield	3	18	21	Stuart Orford	15	21	36
Dave Cooper	9	24	33	Tim Massey	12	27	39
Conferred	12	13	25	Conferred	8	6	14
Passed over	1	5	6	Passed over	5	6	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>187</b>

Waters Green Weavers	Spec	GK	Total	Nags Head 'B'	Spec	GK	Total
Alan Gilday	12	24	36	Steve Carter	12	27	39
Adum Carr	9	12	21	Mark Watson	24	21	45
Graham Bailey	6	12	18	Laurence Plant	18	24	42
Ian Grieve	18	30	48	Paul Morrissey	6	24	30
Conferred	7	7	14	Conferred	7	11	18
Passed over	4	4	8	Passed over	8	10	18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>192</b>

## B League – Full Results

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

Pack Horse Bowling Club	Spec	GK	Total	Sutton Club	Spec	GK	Total
Reg Bloor	3	24	27	Simon Rumsey	9	18	27
Andrew Vickerstaff	9	12	21	Wendy Brown	15	21	36
Tim Bloor	6	15	21	John Green	9	21	30
Mike Vickerstaff	3	9	12	Chris Butler	12	18	30
Conferred	10	10	20	Conferred	7	9	16
Passed over	3	5	8	Passed over	12	11	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>162</b>

Park Taverners	Spec	GK	Total	Waters Green Nags	Spec	GK	Total
Graham Wallace	15	24	39	Bob Langstaff	12	18	30
Heather Wallace	9	24	33	Sunil Peck	9	15	24
Pete Dykstra	6	18	24	Paul Prior	24	33	57
Shauna Barstow	9	27	36	Ian Musgrave	15	33	48
Conferred	9	4	13	Conferred	8	6	14
Passed over	3	2	5	Passed over	5	8	13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>186</b>

Chester Road Tavern	Spec	GK	Total	Park Timers	Spec	GK	Total
Bill Moores	12	15	27	John Poyser	12	24	36
Mitch Moores	12	9	21	Karyn Johnston	6	18	24
Tom Radley	6	21	27	Andrew Fenton	12	27	39
Jim Moores	9	30	39	Tim Brewin	3	24	27
Conferred	11	8	19	Conferred	8	6	14
Passed over	8	2	10	Passed over	4	6	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>150</b>

## A League – Summary

### Results

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

<b>Nags Head</b>	130	<b>191</b>	<b>Poachers</b>
Ian Tams	30	48	Ashton Davies
<b>Queens of the Castle</b>	<b>185</b>	148	<b>Dolphin Hammers</b>
Haydn Thompson	48	42	David Barber
<b>Waters Green Weavers</b>	145	<b>192</b>	<b>Nags Head 'B'</b>
Ian Grieve	48	42	Mark Watson

### Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
<b>Nags Head 'B'</b>	4	4	0	0	677	8
<b>Queens of the Castle</b>	4	3	0	1	737	6
<b>Dolphin</b>	4	3	0	1	667	6
<b>Poachers</b>	3	2	0	1	520	4
<b>Nags Head</b>	4	1	0	3	563	2
<b>Dolphin Hammers</b>	3	1	0	2	451	2
<b>Harrington Academicals</b>	4	0	1	3	643	1
<b>Waters Green Weavers</b>	4	0	1	3	614	1

### Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 5
<b>Haydn Thompson</b>	Queens of the Castle	4	<b>198</b>	57	42	48
<b>Alan Hodgson</b>	Dolphin	4	<b>198</b>	54	42	
<b>Alice Walker</b>	Queens of the Castle	4	<b>192</b>	60	39	39
<b>Ian Grieve</b>	Waters Green Weavers	4	<b>165</b>	48	33	48
<b>Peter McBride</b>	Dolphin	4	<b>162</b>	51	33	
<b>Rob Parkin</b>	Harrington Academicals	4	<b>156</b>	48	33	
<b>Dave Partington</b>	Harrington Academicals	4	<b>150</b>	45	27	
<b>Alan Gilday</b>	Waters Green Weavers	4	<b>141</b>	45	24	36
<b>Mark Watson</b>	Nags Head 'B'	3	<b>138</b>	54	39	45
<b>Alan James</b>	Harrington Academicals	4	<b>135</b>	36	33	

## B League – Summary

### Results

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

<b>Pack Horse Bowling Club</b>	109	<b>162</b>	<b>Sutton Club</b>
Reg Bloor	27	36	Wendy Brown
<b>Park Taverners</b>	160	<b>186</b>	<b>Waters Green Nags</b>
Graham Wallace	39	57	Paul Prior
<b>Chester Road Tavern</b>	143	<b>150</b>	<b>Park Timers</b>
Jim Moores	39	39	Andrew Fenton

### Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
<b>Waters Green Nags</b>	4	3	0	1	635	6
<b>Park Taverners</b>	4	3	0	1	596	6
<b>Sutton Club</b>	4	3	0	1	569	6
<b>Bate Hallers</b>	3	3	0	0	343	6
<b>Chester Road Tavern</b>	4	2	0	2	556	4
<b>Park Timers</b>	4	1	0	3	510	2
<b>Pack Horse Bowling Club</b>	4	0	0	4	415	0
<b>Sutton Mutton</b>	3	0	0	3	370	0

### Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 5
<b>Paul Prior</b>	Waters Green Nags	4	<b>168</b>	57	30	57
<b>Ian Musgrave</b>	Waters Green Nags	4	<b>153</b>	48	24	48
<b>Graham Wallace</b>	Park Taverners	4	<b>135</b>	39	27	39
<b>Shauna Barstow</b>	Park Taverners	4	<b>132</b>	42	21	36
<b>John Poyser</b>	Park Timers	4	<b>120</b>	36	24	36
<b>Andrew Fenton</b>	Park Timers	4	<b>117</b>	39	21	39
<b>Heather Wallace</b>	Park Taverners	4	<b>114</b>	51	30	33
<b>Simon Rumsey</b>	Sutton Club	4	<b>108</b>	39	15	27
<b>Tony Moores</b>	Chester Road Tavern	3	<b>102</b>	51	21	
<b>John Green</b>	Sutton Club	4	<b>96</b>	30	18	30

## Cars & Van 4U Question Setters' Trophy

	Week		Setters	Difficulty	Balance	Ent'ment	Total	Last Yr
1	1	GK	<b>Nags Head 'B'</b>	10.00	9.35	7.16	<b>26.51</b>	21.64
<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>GK</b>	<b>Harrington Academicals</b>	<b>8.23</b>	<b>8.65</b>	<b>5.83</b>	<b>22.70</b>	<b>12.37</b>
3	2	Spec	<b>Sutton Club</b>	5.44	8.54	6.66	<b>20.64</b>	21.98
4	4	Spec	<b>Dolphin Hammers</b>	4.47	8.31	6.17	<b>18.96</b>	11.27
5	3	Spec	<b>Queens of the Castle</b>	3.50	8.98	5.50	<b>17.98</b>	16.72
6	2	GK	<b>Sutton Club</b>	3.72	7.43	6.58	<b>17.73</b>	20.28
7	1	Spec	<b>Nags Head 'B'</b>	9.26	0.00	7.25	<b>16.51</b>	19.80
<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Spec</b>	<b>Harrington Academicals</b>	<b>5.87</b>	<b>4.76</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>16.30</b>	<b>23.24</b>
9	3	GK	<b>Queens of the Castle</b>	3.06	5.20	5.75	<b>14.02</b>	13.47
10	4	GK	<b>Dolphin Hammers</b>	2.82	4.53	5.16	<b>12.51</b>	20.60

Most teams seem to have found the **Harrington Academicals'** questions fairly easy, with only three failing to beat their average scores and some beating them by up to 30%. The teams that went "first second" tended to do better, and five of these six teams won (although there were no results that could indisputably be classed as "shocks").

A couple of people have commented that there seemed to be a lot of questions on British history (kings, queens and prime ministers) in the General Knowledge.

The Specialist questions garnered average marks all round, but are eighth out of ten in the table. Their total score of 16.30 would have put them 25th out of 36 last season. The General Knowledge did much better, with good scores for both Difficulty and Balance; but despite this they scored only slightly more than the GK for Entertainment. With a total of 22.70 they would have been 7th last season.

Five of the six games this week were won by the teams that went first in the Specialist questions. These teams scored on average 116% of their average scores since the start of last season, while those that went second scored 106%. The apparent bias was more pronounced in the Specialist set, where the scores were 108% and 91%.

On an average team score of 158, the apparent bias may have made a difference of around 15 or 16 points. There was one game where the winning margin was less than this, but in the other four matches (ignoring the one where the first team won) the smallest margin was 26.