

## News and Views: 2023–4 Season, Week 17 – 9 April 2024

### *Results and Tables*

Congratulations to the **Poachers**, who beat a weakened Nags Head 'B' team to increase the gap between first and second in the A League to an uncloseable six points, meaning the Poachers **retain the title** that they won for the first time last season.

Not only did 1st play 2nd in the A League this week, but 3rd played 4th, 5th played 6th and 7th played 8th. The **Queens of the Castle** were previously above the Dolphin only on goal difference, but they opened up a two-point advantage with a narrow victory (which could easily have been narrower still) this week. The other two matches went against previous form – **Waters Green Weavers** and **Harrington Academicals** taking the points. The Weavers' victory lifts them out of the bottom two, meaning that the **Nags Head** will have to beat Queens of the Castle next week to be sure of retaining their place in the A League. But other things being equal, the **Academicals** will be playing in the B League next year, as they remain in last place (despite their win) and have now played all of their games.

In the B League, **Waters Green Nags** were already assured of the title, and the **Park Taverners** strengthened their hold on second place with a victory over the Chester Road Tavern. Only the **Sutton Club** can deprive them of it now, and will do so if they beat the Park Timers and the Taverners lose to the Bate Hallers.

### *Individual*

Top scorers this week were **Bob Gratton** (pb), **Ashton Davies** and **Ian Grieve**, all with 48. **Alan Hodgson** and **Tony Browne** (pb) both scored 42, and the top scorer in the B League was **Mick Graves** with 39 (pb).

There were five personal bests this week: two in Seat 4, and one each in seats 3, 6 and 8. But twice as many people failed to better their lowest scores of the season.

**Alan Hodgson** increased his lead over **Alice Walker** at the top of the A League Individual table to 12 points. Mark Watson can catch Alan in theory, if everything goes his way, but the only person other than Alice with any real chance is **Ashton Davies**, who has still only played ten games. If my sums are correct, Ashton's twin objectives must be to score at least as many as Alice and nine more than Alan.

After Week 16 it looked most unlikely that anyone would catch **Paul Prior** and **Ian Musgrave** at the top of the B League table, and that is now a mathematical impossibility. Paul and Ian remain neck and neck – their team having not played this week – but (according to my sums) Ian needs to score more than 30, and six more than Paul, to take the title.

### *Questions*

The **Waters Green Nags** were one of the two teams that drew short straws this season and were asked to set two lots of questions. In Week 8, while the Specialist questions were well received, the General Knowledge proved to be quite difficult and were not popular.

This time there were no such issues. The Specialists are third (out of 34) in the Question Setters' Trophy table, and the General Knowledge are exactly in mid-table.

A couple of minor issues have been raised on the Forum: the descriptions of Dubai as a capital city, and of Exeter as a "city on the south coast". It turns out that Dubai is the capital of the Emirate with which it shares its name, and the most populous city in the UAE; but it is not (as the question implied) the national capital. And Exeter is arguably about ten miles from the coast, although if you count the Exe estuary as the sea (which I have suggested you maybe can) it's a lot closer.

## A League – Summary

### Results

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

<b>Queens of the Castle</b>	<b>165</b>	160	<b>Dolphin</b>
Alice Walker	36	42	Alan Hodgson
Tim Massey	36		
<b>Poachers</b>	<b>194</b>	131	<b>Nags Head 'B'</b>
Bob Gratton (pb)	48	33	Paul Morrissey
Ashton Davies	48		
<b>Dolphin Hammers</b>	150	<b>160</b>	<b>Waters Green Weavers</b>
Dave Cooper	36	48	Ian Grieve
Pete Sayers (pb)	30		
<b>Nags Head</b>	144	<b>153</b>	<b>Harrington Academicals</b>
Tony Browne (pb)	42	33	Dave Partington
		33	Alan James

### Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
<b>Poachers</b>	13	12	0	1	2293	24
<b>Nags Head 'B'</b>	13	10	0	3	2150	20
<b>Queens of the Castle</b>	13	8	0	5	2204	16
<b>Dolphin</b>	13	7	0	6	2061	14
<b>Dolphin Hammers</b>	13	7	0	6	1975	14
<b>Waters Green Weavers</b>	14	3	1	10	2107	7
<b>Nags Head</b>	13	3	0	10	1860	6
<b>Harrington Academicals</b>	14	2	1	11	2083	5

### Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Wk 17
<b>Alan Hodgson</b>	Dolphin	13	<b>519</b>	54	39	42
<b>Alice Walker</b>	Queens of the Castle	13	<b>507</b>	60	36	36
<b>Ian Grieve</b>	Waters Green Weavers	14	<b>498</b>	54	36	48
<b>Mark Watson</b>	Nags Head 'B'	11	<b>498</b>	54	36	
<b>Greg Spiller</b>	Poachers	12	<b>489</b>	51	33	27
<b>Haydn Thompson</b>	Queens of the Castle	13	<b>486</b>	57	33	33
<b>Ashton Davies</b>	Poachers	10	<b>471</b>	60	39	48
<b>Peter McBride</b>	Dolphin	13	<b>444</b>	51	36	36
<b>Dave Barber</b>	Dolphin Hammers	12	<b>441</b>	48	33	
<b>Dave Partington</b>	Harrington Academicals	14	<b>429</b>	48	33	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>Chester Road Tavern</b>	113	<b>144</b>	<b>Park Taverners</b>
Tom Radley (pb)	33	33	Heather Wallace
<b>Sutton Club</b>	<b>136</b>	116	<b>Bate Hallers</b>
Simon Rumsey	33	33	Malcolm Asquith
<b>Pack Horse Bowling Club</b>	120	<b>140</b>	<b>Sutton Mutton</b>
Tim Bloor	30	39	Mick Graves (pb)

### Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
<b>Waters Green Nags</b>	13	12	0	1	1983	24
<b>Park Taverners</b>	13	9	0	4	1806	18
<b>Sutton Club</b>	13	8	0	5	1778	16
<b>Bate Hallers</b>	13	7	1	5	1703	15
<b>Chester Road Tavern</b>	13	5	0	8	1826	10
<b>Sutton Mutton</b>	13	5	0	8	1618	10
<b>Park Timers</b>	131	4	0	9	1641	8
<b>Pack Horse Bowling Club</b>	13	1	1	11	1454	3

### Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Wk 17
<b>Paul Prior</b>	Waters Green Nags	13	<b>441</b>	57	27	
<b>Ian Musgrave</b>	Waters Green Nags	12	<b>441</b>	48	30	
<b>John Poyser</b>	Park Timers	13	<b>372</b>	42	27	
<b>Graham Wallace</b>	Park Taverners	12	<b>360</b>	39	24	27
<b>Wynne Keith–Davies</b>	Sutton Mutton	13	<b>357</b>	48	21	30
<b>Heather Wallace</b>	Park Taverners	12	<b>333</b>	51	12	33
<b>Anne Jeater</b>	Bate Hallers	13	<b>333</b>	39	21	18
<b>Shauna Barstow</b>	Park Taverners	11	<b>327</b>	42	12	
<b>Wendy Brown</b>	Sutton Club	11	<b>321</b>	42	15	21
<b>Andrew Fenton</b>	Park Timers	13	<b>303</b>	39	21	
<b>Simon Rumsey</b>	Sutton Club	12	<b>303</b>	39	18	33

## A League – Full Results

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

### *Queens of the Castle vs. Dolphin*

Dolphin	Spec	GK	Total	Queens of the Castle	Spec	GK	Total
Rossi Albanese	12	15	27	Alice Walker	18	18	36
Alan Hodgson	18	24	42	Haydn Thompson	12	21	33
John Brown	9	12	21	Stuart Orford	12	12	24
Peter McBride	15	21	36	Tim Massey	15	21	36
Conferred	8	14	22	Conferred	8	15	23
Passed over	3	9	13	Passed over	4	9	13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>165</b>

### *Poachers vs. Nags Head 'B'*

Poachers	Spec	GK	Total	Nags Head 'B'	Spec	GK	Total
Ed Baron	18	21	39	Mark Shaw	9	9	18
Bob Gratton (pb)	24	24	48	Steve Carter	15	15	30
Ashton Davies	18	30	48	Laurence Plant	12	12	24
Greg Spiller	18	9	27	Paul Morrissey	15	18	33
Conferred	3	13	16	Conferred	10	13	23
Passed over	3	13	16	Passed over	1	2	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>131</b>

### *Dolphin Hammers vs. Waters Green Weavers*

Waters Green Weavers	Spec	GK	Total	Dolphin Hammers	Spec	GK	Total
Maddy Griffiths	12	12	24	Liz Horrocks	12	15	27
Ian Grieve	21	27	48	Pete Sayers (pb)	15	15	30
Alan Gilday	6	18	24	Keith Duffield	6	12	18
Keith Bebbington	12	3	15	Dave Cooper	18	18	36
Conferred	11	21	32	Conferred	11	18	29
Passed over	3	14	17	Passed over	3	7	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>150</b>

*Nags Head vs. Harrington Academicals: please turn to Page 7*

## B League – Full Results

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

### *Chester Road Tavern vs. Park Taverners*

Park Taverners	Spec	GK	Total	Chester Road Tavern	Spec	GK	Total
Nick Crowdy	9	12	21	Tony Moores	6	9	15
Heather Wallace	12	21	33	Chris Moores	6	9	15
Pete Dykstra	12	12	24	Tom Radley (pb)	9	24	33
Graham Wallace	15	12	27	Karl Burgess	9	6	15
Conferred	9	11	20	Conferred	11	12	23
Passed over	6	13	19	Passed over	2	10	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>113</b>

### *Sutton Club vs. Bate Hallers*

Bate Hallers	Spec	GK	Total	Sutton Club	Spec	GK	Total
Dave McGuinness	6	12	18	Wendy Brown	15	6	21
Malcolm Asquith	15	18	33	Simon Rumsey	15	18	33
Anne Jeater	6	12	18	John Green	6	12	18
Pat Jeater	9	0	9	Emma Griggs	15	9	24
Conferred	8	16	24	Conferred	10	12	22
Passed over	1	13	14	Passed over	9	9	18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>136</b>

### *Pack Horse Bowling Club vs. Sutton Mutton*

Pack Horse Bowling Club	Spec	GK	Total	Sutton Mutton	Spec	GK	Total
Reg Bloor	9	6	15	Mike Proctor	18	6	24
Mary Bloor	9	15	24	Mick Graves (pb)	15	24	39
Tim Bloor	12	18	30	Wynne Keith-Davies	9	21	30
Andrew Vickerstaff	21	6	27	(No 4th player)			
Conferred	9	9	18	Conferred	13	14	27
Passed over	3	3	6	Passed over	5	15	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>140</b>



# Macclesfield Quiz League

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## Cars & Van 4U Question Setters' Trophy

	Wk		Setters	Difficulty	Balance	Ent'mnt	Total	Last Yr
1	6	Spec	Park Taverners	10.00	9.47	6.83	<b>26.30</b>	26.00
2	1	GK	Nags Head 'B'	10.00	8.19	7.16	<b>25.35</b>	21.64
3	5	GK	Harrington Academicals	8.22	9.86	5.83	<b>23.91</b>	12.37
4	12	GK	Chester Road Tavern	7.34	9.72	6.83	<b>23.88</b>	12.39
5	9	Spec	Waters Green Weavers	6.63	9.95	6.93	<b>23.51</b>	24.51
6	12	Spec	Chester Road Tavern	7.41	8.00	6.75	<b>22.15</b>	19.64
7	13	Spec	Park Timers	7.09	8.22	6.33	<b>21.64</b>	25.21
<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Spec</b>	<b>Waters Green Nags</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>7.23</b>	<b>6.98</b>	<b>21.35</b>	<b>10.58</b>
9	7	Spec	Nags Head	5.58	8.49	6.75	<b>20.82</b>	10.58
10	7	GK	Nags Head	6.00	8.43	6.25	<b>20.68</b>	15.55
11	8	Spec	Waters Green Nags	4.70	8.95	6.16	<b>19.81</b>	15.55
12	2	Spec	Sutton Club	4.82	8.21	6.66	<b>19.69</b>	21.98
13	4	Spec	Dolphin Hammers	4.00	9.36	6.17	<b>19.53</b>	11.27
14	6	GK	Park Taverners	4.52	8.65	5.67	<b>18.84</b>	19.10
15	11	GK	Poachers	5.27	6.53	6.41	<b>18.20</b>	18.62
16	9	GK	Waters Green Weavers	5.97	5.57	6.46	<b>18.00</b>	18.08
<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>GK</b>	<b>Waters Green Nags</b>	<b>3.88</b>	<b>8.21</b>	<b>5.84</b>	<b>17.94</b>	<b>8.08</b>
18	14	GK	Sutton Mutton	4.37	8.86	3.75	<b>16.98</b>	13.50
19	1	Spec	Nags Head 'B'	9.41	0.10	7.25	<b>16.77</b>	19.80
20	2	GK	Sutton Club	4.22	5.93	6.58	<b>16.73</b>	20.28
21	11	Spec	Poachers	5.71	3.94	6.41	<b>16.07</b>	21.07
22	3	Spec	Queens of the Castle	2.55	7.52	5.50	<b>15.57</b>	16.72
23	5	Spec	Harrington Academicals	4.96	3.93	5.67	<b>14.56</b>	23.24
24	3	GK	Queens of the Castle	3.54	5.12	5.75	<b>14.40</b>	13.47
25	13	GK	Park Timers	6.35	1.78	6.16	<b>14.29</b>	25.93
26	15	Spec	Dolphin	4.46	4.21	5.42	<b>14.10</b>	19.51
27	10	GK	Bate Hallers	1.58	7.84	3.50	<b>12.93</b>	8.82
28	15	GK	Dolphin	3.12	4.09	5.33	<b>12.54</b>	18.76
29	14	Spec	Sutton Mutton	7.12	0.52	3.67	<b>11.31</b>	21.09
30	4	GK	Dolphin Hammers	3.34	2.59	5.16	<b>11.09</b>	20.60
31	8	GK	Waters Green Nags	0.00	7.55	2.93	<b>10.48</b>	8.08
32	16	GK	Pack Horse Bowling Club	5.02	0.00	5.41	<b>10.43</b>	18.91
33	10	Spec	Bate Hallers	0.00	5.30	3.75	<b>9.05</b>	8.11
34	16	Spec	Pack Horse Bowling Club	1.75	0.00	4.25	<b>6.00</b>	22.08

**Waters Green Nags** were one of the two teams that drew short straws this season and were asked to set two lots of questions. The previous time, as the above table shows, the Specialists scored well and are currently in eighth place (out of 34). But most teams struggled with the General Knowledge, which (as the setters later acknowledged) had been made deliberately on the difficult side; and this resulted in poor marks for both Difficulty and Entertainment.

This week saw a noticeable improvement. According to the spreadsheet, the Specialist questions were easier than average, and well balanced, and a decent Entertainment mark puts them in third place on that measure. Overall they're three places higher than the previous set, in eighth. And this time the General Knowledge questions did much better; while still apparently slightly on the hard side, they scored well for Balance and are 19th out of 34 on Entertainment (just outside the top half of the table). Overall they just made it into the top half, ranked 17 out of 34.

The spreadsheet detected a slight bias in both sets towards the teams that started first. Those teams scored (on average) 111% of their average marks in the Specialists, 97% in the General Knowledge, and 103% overall; for the teams that started second the figures were (respectively) 101%, 94%, and 97%.

We should point out that of the teams that went second, one had only three players and at least one other was missing their star player. The former managed to win despite their handicap, scoring 99% of their average mark, but the latter scored only 79% and lost – albeit to the A League leaders, whose victory makes them Champions Elect.

For the full spreadsheet, please click [here](#).

***Full Result: Nags Head vs. Harrington Academicals (carried over from Page 4)***

Harrington Academicals	Spec	GK	Total	Nags Head	Spec	GK	Total
<b>Dave Partington</b>	15	18	33	<b>Neil Drummond</b>	9	12	21
<b>Alan James</b>	15	18	33	<b>Neil Johnson</b>	3	15	18
<b>Rob Parkin</b>	9	15	24	<b>Phil Davies</b>	15	21	36
<b>Steve Dale</b>	18	9	27	<b>Tony Browne (pb)</b>	15	27	42
<b>Conferred</b>	5	11	16	<b>Conferred</b>	8	7	15
<b>Passed over</b>	7	13	20	<b>Passed over</b>	6	6	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>144</b>