

News and Views: 2019–20 Season – Week 15 – 25 February 2020

By **Haydn Thompson**, with input from **Mark Watson**.

Results

The stand-out result this week was the **Rushton Diamonds'** victory over the Dolphin. The Diamonds were one of only two teams that won by going "second first" – the other being the **Sutton Club**. In fairness we should point out that the Dolphin were a player short, but on the other hand the Dolphin did have what seemed to be the easier questions (see Pages 5 and 6).

Also worthy of mention is the **Harrington Academicals'** 48-point victory over the **Waters Green Rams**. This was only the Rams' second defeat of the season, and it allowed the Nags Head to replace them at the top of the B League table (albeit only on goal difference, and the Rams have a game in hand).

Tables

With just three weeks to go, some issues are beginning to be settled.

The **Nags Head 'B'** need just one point from their two remaining games to secure their second successive A League title – albeit the first under their new name!

The **Royal Oak** cannot now escape relegation from the A League, and the **British Flag** must win their three remaining games and hope that the **Rushton Diamonds** lose both of their last two. The Flag may not wish to be reminded that they still have to play both of the top two; but on the other hand, the Diamonds still have to play second and third.

The issues that matter in the A League could all be decided in a single game next week, when the Nags Head 'B' play the British Flag.

Waters Green Rams are favourites for promotion from the B League, despite their defeat this week, as they're level on points with the **Nags Head** and have a game in hand. At least one of these two will go up, but the **Dolphin Dragons** are not out of it yet.

The **Chester Road Tavern** will return to the C League next season, but any one of four teams could still join them.

In the C League, the top four all have three games left to play and any two of them could go up; but the **Park Taverners** and **Sutton Club** have it in their hands (as they say in football).

Individual

It wasn't a great week for scores, either team-wise or individually. The top individual scorer was **Alan Hodgson** with 45, and there were 42s for **Mark Watson** and **Graham Bailey**. Top scorer in the B League was **Rob Parkin** with 39; in the C League the best score was a 36 for **Barbara Taylor**. Rob's fellow-Academical **Dave Partington**, with 33, was the only other person outside the A League to score over 30.

A similar tale is told by the fact that there were only five personal bests (three of them in the C League) and 25 people (fairly evenly spread across the three Leagues) failed to improve on their lowest scores of the season.

I wrote last time that **Ashton Davies'** lowest score of the season might be enough to put him top of the table this week, and that's exactly what happened. The signs are all in Ashton's favour, but the person most likely to catch him may be **Alice Walker**. Ashton may be looking for revenge for the outcome of their *Brain of Britain* duel – not least next week when the Queens host the CHB!

(continued on Page 6)



Macclesfield Quiz League

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A League

Results

Nags Head 'B'	153	135	Church House Bollington
Mark Watson	42	39	Ashton Davies
Dolphin	125	132	Rushton Diamonds
Alan Hodgson	45	39	Brian Bogie
Royal Oak	145	160	Weaver
Alan James	39	42	Graham Bailey (pb)

Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
Nags Head 'B'	12	11	0	1	2025	22
Queens	11	8	0	3	1852	16
Church House Bollington	11	7	0	4	1729	14
Dolphin	12	6	0	6	1874	12
Weaver	11	6	0	5	1741	12
Rushton Diamonds	12	5	0	7	1740	10
British Flag	11	2	0	9	1476	4
Royal Oak	12	1	0	11	1784	2

Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Wk 14
Ashton Davies	Church House Bollington	11	513	54	39	39
Mark Watson	Nags Head 'B'	12	504	51	42	42
Alice Walker	Queens	11	501	54	33	
Alan Hodgson	Dolphin	12	495	57	39	45
Haydn Thompson	Queens	11	459	51	24	
Peter McBride	Dolphin	12	420	45	27	27
Brian Bogie	Rushton Diamonds	12	411	42	30	39
Graham Bailey	Weaver	11	390	42	27	42
Alan James	Royal Oak	12	372	42	24	39
Ian Grieve	Weaver	11	354	42	18	39
Alan Gilday	Weaver	11	354	39	24	27



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B League

Results

Robin Hood	112	129	Dolphin Dragons
Jim Kennelly	21	27	Dave Turner
Jenny Edwards	21		
Chester Road Tavern	89	141	Nags Head
Chris Moores	18	30	Andrew Wright
Jim Moores	18	30	Paul Prior
Harrington Academicals	150	102	Waters Green Rams
Rob Parkin (pb)	39	27	Adum Carr

Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
Nags Head	13	10	0	3	1896	20
Waters Green Rams	12	10	0	2	1769	20
Dolphin Dragons	11	8	0	3	1629	16
Harrington Academicals	13	6	0	7	1816	10
Plough Horntails	11	5	0	6	1487	10
Robin Hood	12	4	0	8	1567	8
Waters Green Lemmings	11	4	0	7	1359	8
Chester Road Tavern	11	0	0	11	1084	0

Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Wk 14
Dave Partington	Harrington Academicals	13	444	48	33	33
Keith Pointon	Waters Green Rams	12	390	45	27	24
Liz Horrocks	Dolphin Dragons	11	363	48	12	12
Jim Kennelly	Robin Hood	11	354	48	21	21
Malcolm Asquith	Plough Horntails	11	351	45	21	
Paul Prior	Nags Head	11	345	45	18	30
Jon Thompson	Waters Green Lemmings	10	330	45	24	
Rob Parkin	Harrington Academicals	10	318	39	24	39
Andy Johnson	Nags Head	11	312	39	18	18
Alasdair Reid	Nags Head	10	309	42	21	



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C League

Results

Broken Cross Club	108	94	Sutton Mutton
Anne Goddard	21	24	Wynne Keith-Davies
Peter Bullivent	21		
Pack Horse Bowling Club	130	94	Brewers Arms
Andrew Vickerstaff (pb)	30	24	Kenny Davenport-Slater
Tim Bloor	30		
Sutton Club	122	87	Harrington 'B'
Simon Rumsey (pb)	27	15	John Green
		15	Tom Aindow
Park Timers	158	93	King's Gambit
Barbara Taylor	36	15	Susan Taylor
Andrew Fenton (pb)	30	15	Michael Taylor
Glyn Bradley	30		

Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
Park Taverners	13	10	0	3	1665	20
Sutton Club	13	9	0	4	1641	18
Park Timers	13	8	0	5	1592	16
Sutton Mutton	13	8	0	5	1576	16
Broken Cross Club	14	6	1	7	1473	13
Pack Horse Bowling Club	13	6	0	7	1522	12
Brewers Arms	14	6	0	8	1521	12
Harrington 'B'	13	5	1	7	1509	11
King's Gambit	14	1	0	13	1172	2

Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 14
John Poyser	Park Timers	13	345	39	21	24
Andy Ridgway	Brewers Arms	14	336	36	18	15
Wendy Brown	Sutton Club	11	330	45	18	24
John Green	Harrington 'B'	13	330	39	15	15
Wynne Keith-Davies	Sutton Mutton	10	309	45	24	24
Shauna Barstow	Park Taverners	12	306	36	15	
Graham Wallace	Park Taverners	11	297	33	18	
Geoff Parkin	Harrington 'B'	12	282	33	9	12
Jackie Hulme	Broken Cross Club	12	279	33	6	15
Mike Proctor	Sutton Mutton	11	267	33	12	



Macclesfield Quiz League

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Cars & Van 4U Question Setters' Trophy

	Week		Setters	Difficulty	Balance	Ent'ment	Total	Last Yr
1	12	Spec	Chester Road Tavern	10.00	9.79	7.03	26.82	-15.29
2	4	GK	Waters Green Rams	7.16	9.73	6.20	23.09	18.84
3	7	Spec	Royal Oak	9.45	7.87	5.15	22.47	8.43
4	1	Spec	Rushton Diamonds	8.23	6.63	6.67	21.53	
5	4	Spec	Park Timers	9.99	4.96	6.47	21.42	18.44
6	6	Spec	Queens	5.71	8.98	6.03	20.72	15.92
7	14	Spec	Dolphin	7.86	6.28	6.39	20.52	7.84
8	9	GK	Broken Cross Club	6.20	9.00	4.43	19.64	18.23
9	2	GK	Dolphin Dragons	5.02	8.43	5.65	19.10	17.65
10	6	GK	Queens	6.01	6.52	5.86	18.40	21.09
11	3	Spec	British Flag	2.77	9.23	6.03	18.03	14.50
12	11	GK	Church House Bollington	4.67	7.25	6.09	18.02	11.71
13	13	Spec	Weaver	3.24	8.40	6.00	17.64	14.14
14	2	Spec	Sutton Mutton	6.18	6.05	4.11	16.34	8.61
15	1	GK	Rushton Diamonds	10.00	0.00	6.28	16.28	18.63
16	5	GK	Sutton Club	6.63	3.42	6.11	16.15	21.28
17	11	Spec	Church House Bollington	4.60	3.54	6.67	14.81	11.85
18	7	GK	Royal Oak	4.05	3.97	5.98	14.00	17.10
19	14	GK	Dolphin	6.17	2.23	5.56	13.96	20.20
20	12	GK	Pack Horse Bowling Club	6.18	1.77	5.97	13.92	-21.93
21	8	Spec	Brewers Arms	0.00	9.42	3.86	13.28	-8.05
22	8	GK	Nags Head	1.59	7.38	4.08	13.05	-15.49
23	9	Spec	Robin Hood	1.61	6.67	4.37	12.66	-15.73
24	15	GK	Park Taverners	3.44	3.37	4.97	11.77	21.38
25	15	Spec	Waters Green Lemmings	0.80	5.76	4.29	10.84	12.78
26	5	Spec	Sutton Club	3.39	0.00	6.19	9.58	
27	10	GK	Harrington 'B'	0.00	4.16	5.28	9.44	13.84
28	3	GK	British Flag	3.63	0.69	5.04	9.36	
29	13	GK	Weaver	0.39	3.11	4.72	8.22	18.07
30	10	Spec	Plough Horntails	0.28	2.84	4.19	7.32	-19.31

Specialist Rounds – set by the Waters Green Lemmings

Entertainment marks:	A League	5.50	B League	3.50	C League	3.87	Overall	4.29	Last year	4.97
Average team score going "first first":		52	Average team score going "second first":		44	Season's average:		54		



Macclesfield Quiz League

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On average, teams going "first first" scored	92%	of their average for the season
On average, teams going "second first" scored	85%	of their average for the season
On average, the teams going "first first" did	8%	better than their opponents

General Knowledge Rounds – set by the Park Taverners

Entertainment marks:	A League	5.83	B League	4.33	C League	4.75	Overall	4.97	Last year	6.72
	Average team score going "first first":		83	Average team score going "second first":		68	Season's average:		79	
	On average, teams going "first first" scored					101%	of their average for the season			
	On average, teams going "second first" scored					91%	of their average for the season			
	On average, the teams going "first first" did					11%	better than their opponents			

Overall

Average team score going "first first":	134	Average team score going "second first":	112	Season's average:	133
On average, teams going "first first" scored	97%	of their average for the season			
On average, teams going "second first" scored	88%	of their average for the season			
On average, the teams going "first first" did	10%	better than their opponents			

Most teams found this week's questions quite tough – especially those going "second first".

On the Specialist questions, only four of the twenty teams got more than their average scores for the season. Four of those teams were in the C League. On the General Knowledge, seven teams managed to do this.

Overall, five teams did better than their average scores. Four of these teams went "first first", and three of them were in the C League.

The above figures would seem to suggest that there was a distinct bias in favour of the teams that went "first first", who did on average 10% better than their opponents. None of them however won by a margin of less than 10%; there was just one game where the difference was *just over* this figure, but this is so marginal that on statistical grounds alone, it's difficult to blame the questions for the result.

The Entertainment scores were not great – both sets being in the bottom third of the table. Overall, the Park Taverners' General Knowledge questions did better on Difficulty but the Specialists, set by the Waters Green Lemmings, did better on Balance. The upshot is that there's very little to separate the two sets in the overall table, where they're in 24th and 25th place respectively.

Individual Scores (Continued from Page 1)

The situation in the A League is reflected (table-wise, at least) in the C League, where **John Poyser** is currently in pole position. **Wendy Brown** – currently in third place – looks most likely to overhaul him; she hasn't yet played her 'quota' of twelve games. But there are at least three other people who might snatch it at the death.

In the B League, **Dave Partington** is going to be very difficult to catch.