



## News and Views: 2021–2 Season – Week 1 – 23 November 2021

Macclesfield Quiz League is off again, after a hiatus of just over a season (and about twenty months on the calendar) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of the 25 teams that took part in the 2019–20 season, four have bid farewell (for now, at least) and two others have merged. This leaves us with 20 teams, so for 2021–2 we have two leagues of seven teams and one with six.

The four teams that have resigned are the **Royal Oak**, the **Robin Hood**, the **Harrington 'B'** and the **Brewers Arms**. And the **Weaver** have merged with the **Waters Green Rams** to form the **Waters Green Weavers**.

There are also three changes of venue and team name:

- **Church House Bollington** have moved round the corner to the **Poachers** (which is good news for me as it's much quicker to type)
- **Broken Cross Club** have returned, after just one actual season away, to their spiritual home at the **Cock Inn**
- **British Flag** have moved to the Queens Hotel, playing as the **Queen Bs**

In addition, the **King's Gambit** are expecting to move, but have yet to settle on a new home.

The ongoing pandemic was no doubt a factor in some if not all of the resignations, and we sincerely hope that some or all of the absent teams will feel able to return in future seasons as matters (hopefully) continue to improve in that regard.

### *Results*

There was only one really close game this week: in the A League, the **Poachers** beat **Waters Green Weavers** by 168 points to 166. Next closest was in the C League, where **Park Timers** scored 143 to the **Sutton Club's** 131.

The highest team scores were 186 to the **Queens**, 177 to the **Dolphin**, and 174 to the **Dolphin Dragons**. Two teams came very close to a tie for the highest score in the C League: **Sutton Mutton** with 144 and **Park Timers** with 143.

### *Individual*

Top scorer this week was **Alice Walker** with 54; **Alan Hodgson** was a close second with 51. **Liz Horrocks** was the top scorer in the B League with 48, and **Andrew Fenton** in the C League with 39.

There were a total of ten scores above 40: seven in the A League and three in the B League.

## A League

### Results

<b>Waters Green Weavers</b>	166	<b>168</b>	<b>Poachers</b>
Graham Bailey	42	42	Ashton Davies
Ian Grieve	42		
<b>Rushton Diamonds</b>	137	<b>186</b>	<b>Queens</b>
Chris Bogie	33	54	Alice Walker
<b>Queen Bs</b>	123	<b>177</b>	<b>Dolphin</b>
Neil Drummond	27	51	Alan Hodgson

### Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
<b>Queens</b>	1	1	0	0	186	2
<b>Dolphin</b>	1	1	0	0	177	2
<b>Poachers</b>	1	1	0	0	168	2
<b>Waters Green Weavers</b>	1	0	0	1	166	0
<b>Rushton Diamonds</b>	1	0	0	1	137	0
<b>Queen Bs</b>	1	0	0	1	123	0
<b>Nags Head 'B'</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 1
<b>Alice Walker</b>	Queens	1	<b>54</b>	54	54	54
<b>Alan Hodgson</b>	Dolphin	1	<b>51</b>	51	51	51
<b>Haydn Thompson</b>	Queens	1	<b>48</b>	48	48	48
<b>Peter McBride</b>	Dolphin	1	<b>48</b>	48	48	48
<b>Ashton Davies</b>	Poachers	1	<b>42</b>	42	42	42
<b>Graham Bailey</b>	Waters Green Weavers	1	<b>42</b>	42	42	42
<b>Ian Grieve</b>	Waters Green Weavers	1	<b>42</b>	42	42	42
<b>Alan Gilday</b>	Waters Green Weavers	1	<b>36</b>	36	36	36
<b>Ed Baron</b>	Poachers	1	<b>36</b>	36	36	36
<b>Caroline Massey</b>	Queens	1	<b>33</b>	33	33	33
<b>Chris Bogie</b>	Rushton Diamonds	1	<b>33</b>	33	33	33

## B League

### Results

<b>Nags Head</b>	<b>163</b>	159	<b>Harrington Academicals</b>
Paul Prior	42	39	Dave Partington
<b>Dolphin Dragons</b>	<b>174</b>	151	<b>Plough Horntails</b>
Liz Horrocks	48	42	Anne Jeater
<b>Chester Road Tavern</b>	105	<b>153</b>	<b>Park Taverners</b>
Mitch Moores	24	33	Shauna Barstow

### Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
<b>Dolphin Dragons</b>	1	1	0	0	174	2
<b>Nags Head</b>	1	1	0	0	163	2
<b>Park Taverners</b>	1	1	0	0	153	2
<b>Harrington Academicals</b>	1	0	0	1	159	0
<b>Plough Horntails</b>	1	0	0	1	151	0
<b>Chester Road Tavern</b>	1	0	0	1	105	0
<b>Waters Green Lemmings</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 1
<b>Liz Horrocks</b>	Dolphin Dragons	1	<b>48</b>	48	48	48
<b>Anne Jeater</b>	Plough Horntails	1	<b>42</b>	42	42	42
<b>Paul Prior</b>	Nags Head	1	<b>42</b>	42	42	42
<b>Alasdair Reid</b>	Nags Head	1	<b>39</b>	39	39	39
<b>Dave Partington</b>	Harrington Academicals	1	<b>39</b>	39	39	39
<b>Dave Barber</b>	Dolphin Dragons	1	<b>36</b>	36	36	36
<b>Rob Parkin</b>	Harrington Academicals	1	<b>36</b>	36	36	36
<b>Alan James</b>	Harrington Academicals	1	<b>33</b>	33	33	33
<b>Malcolm Asquith</b>	Plough Horntails	1	<b>33</b>	33	33	33
<b>Shauna Barstow</b>	Park Taverners	1	<b>33</b>	33	33	33

## C League

### Results

<b>Park Timers</b>	<b>143</b>	131	<b>Sutton Club</b>
Andrew Fenton	39	33	John Green
<b>Sutton Mutton</b>	<b>144</b>	103	<b>Cock Inn</b>
Mike Proctor	36	27	Jackie Hulme

### Table

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Points
<b>Sutton Mutton</b>	1	1	0	0	144	2
<b>Park Timers</b>	1	1	0	0	143	2
<b>Sutton Club</b>	1	0	0	1	131	0
<b>Cock Inn</b>	1	0	0	1	103	0
<b>King's Gambit</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Pack Horse Bowling Club</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Individual Top Ten

	Team	Played	Total	Highest	Lowest	Week 1
<b>Andrew Fenton</b>	Park Timers	1	<b>39</b>	39	39	39
<b>Mike Proctor</b>	Sutton Mutton	1	<b>36</b>	36	36	36
<b>Glyn Bradley</b>	Park Timers	1	<b>33</b>	33	33	33
<b>John Green</b>	Sutton Club	1	<b>33</b>	33	33	33
<b>Wynne Keith-Davies</b>	Sutton Mutton	1	<b>33</b>	33	33	33
<b>John Poyser</b>	Park Timers	1	<b>30</b>	30	30	30
<b>Jackie Hulme</b>	Cock Inn	1	<b>27</b>	27	27	27
<b>Mick Graves</b>	Sutton Mutton	1	<b>24</b>	24	24	24
<b>Peter Wilcox</b>	Cock Inn	1	<b>21</b>	21	21	21
<b>Simon Rumsey</b>	Sutton Club	1	<b>21</b>	21	21	21
<b>Wendy Brown</b>	Sutton Club	1	<b>21</b>	21	21	21

### Cars & Van 4U Ltd Question Setters' Trophy

All questions were set by the Nags Head 'B'. They were originally set for the final week in the 2019–20 season, which was cancelled due to the pandemic.

	Week		Setters	Difficulty	Balance	Ent'ment	Total	Last Yr
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>GK</b>	<b>Nags Head 'B'</b>	<b>8.08</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>7.67</b>	<b>21.46</b>	<b>25.60</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Spec</b>	<b>Nags Head 'B'</b>	<b>7.91</b>	<b>5.96</b>	<b>7.06</b>	<b>20.93</b>	<b>23.74</b>

Both sets scored well for Entertainment and Difficulty, but the marks for Balance were only average. However, the imbalances in the two sets cancelled each other out (according to the spreadsheet); the teams that went "first first" did better in the Specialist set, and the teams that went "second first" did better in the General Knowledge. This was good for the overall fairness of the evening's questions, but suggests that the Nags Head 'B' may not carry off the Cars & Vans 4U Ltd Trophy for a twelfth time.

#### Specialist Rounds

<b>Entertainment marks:</b>	A	<b>7.50</b>	B	<b>7.17</b>	C	<b>6.50</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>7.06</b>	Last year	<b>7.17</b>
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This is an excellent score; last season (2019–20) the highest Entertainment mark was 7.03, scored by the **Chester Road Tavern**.

The "Last year" score given above is actually for the Ox-fford's questions in the 2018–29 season – and the same goes for the General Knowledge score (below). As already mentioned, this week's questions were originally set for the 2019–20 season.

On average, teams going "first first" scored	<b>112%</b>	of their average for the season
On average, teams going "second first" scored	<b>104%</b>	of their average for the season
On average, the teams going "first first" did	<b>8%</b>	better than their opponents

This shows that the Specialist questions were significantly easier than average, particularly for the teams going "first first". But there was a fairly significant imbalance, resulting in an average mark for Balance.

#### General Knowledge Rounds

<b>Entertainment marks:</b>	A	<b>7.67</b>	B	<b>7.00</b>	C	<b>7.00</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>7.22</b>	Last year	<b>7.22</b>
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This is an even better score!

On average, teams going "first first" scored	<b>107%</b>	of their average for the season
On average, teams going "second first" scored	<b>115%</b>	of their average for the season
On average, the teams going " <b>second</b> first" did	<b>7%</b>	better than their opponents



Like the Specialist questions, the General Knowledge were significantly easier than average, but showed a marked imbalance. This time it was the teams going "second first" that had the easier run.

**Overall**

On average, teams going "first first" scored	<b>109%</b>	of their average for the season
On average, teams going "second first" scored	<b>110%</b>	of their average for the season
On average, the teams going " <b>second</b> first" did	<b>1%</b>	better than their opponents

Not surprisingly, as both the Specialist and General Knowledge questions were significantly easier than average, the same goes for the questions overall. As already mentioned, both sets seemed to show a marked bias, but the two cancelled each other out – giving an overall balance that was about as close to perfect as you can get.