

Deadlines for H360

RR (David Watts) and Maximise (John Walker)	1700, Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
All my games	0900, Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April
Publication should be no later than	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> April
Missing items enquiries	Saturday 22 <sup>th</sup> April

Dates for H361 look as if they may be 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> May; 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

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**Almost uniquely, we'll start Hopscotch with something important. Not just mildly important, but perhaps life or death important. And not just life or death important, but possibly life or death important for you. You, yourself, in person.**

Three years ago I told you about my prostate cancer situation, which was monitored for a year or two until it was decided it was time to do something about it. From my late fifties I insisted on having my reading taken annually, but I was still pretty much in the dark and I was very grateful for those such as Mike Taylor who could give me personal insights, and since 100% of the readership of Hopscotch possesses a prostate it seems a good idea to make sure you keep track of what might be going on in yours.

I was very lucky – not only was it possible to catch things early, but I underwent my course of radiotherapy just weeks before Covid exploded and made things vastly more difficult for hospitals.

Mark Johns has recently sent me his own ongoing story and I'm printing it in full at the end of this section. While it's about deeply serious matters and is long Mark still manages to make it an entertaining read and we both would say it's vitally important that you find the time to read it.

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I put this paragraph in last issue, and by current standards it generated a whirlwind of reminiscences.

No-one remembers the spirit duplicator now, but it was a staffroom essential and it had the great advantage you could scribble out a master for a worksheet and have copies in front of the class within a couple of minutes, and it worked for both text and diagrams. Indeed, I used the process for gamemaps in early issues of Hopscotch. In fact I went still further and used its distant ancestor, the jelly duplicator, where the technology was nothing more than a fruit jelly from Tesco. The effectiveness depended on the need to find an ink that could make your master effectively; by far the best was an indelible pencil. No-one remembers those either; it was believed every indelible pencil in the land was bought up to use with jelly duplicators in Africa.

Within an hour of sending out H358 Mark Johns came back with his recollections – he included photographs as well, but you'll have to locate those for yourself.

*Your ezine 358 made me laugh this morning ~ spirit duplicators!*

*I remember using being the recipient of various 'handouts' in the 60s & 70s as a pupil / student ~ tinged slightly purple / blue and smelling of spirit fluid ~ probably created on what I remember as a Banda machine.*

*But imagine my surprise of using a Roneo duplicator in the hotel industry ~ mid 70s. This was one of my daily task of an Assistant Manager when I had to type up Chef's table d'hote lunchtime and evening menu for the restaurant.*

*It was typed onto a 'skin' which then had to be carefully rolled around the drum of the duplicating machine, and then a hand driven by a handle on the side.*

*Woe behold any typos! There is the story of the hotel offering Roast Lion one lunchtime, when it should of been Roast Loin of Pork!*

*And boy did we think we'd entered the technological age in the late 70s when we purchased an electrically driven Gestetner Duplicator!*

*Still in hotel business but now in THF's Training department ~ based at offices at the back of The Randolph Hotel, Oxford, in late 70s we kept the skins for future training courses in a specially designed cupboard for hanging them off wire coat hangers so they wouldn't get wrinkled!*

*Then we moved into a 'new world' ~ the arrival of the photo-copy.*

*Simple & Happy Days of the duplicators ~ now on offer on ebay as Antique Hardware for £37.94*

*Thank you for reawakening the memories*

An hour or two later a message from Mike Pollard popped up:

*In one of my first jobs, the office had a weird copier - not sure whether it was one of your spirit duplicators? You had to feed 2 sheets of paper into separate slots, but at the same time, and they used to come out wet. You left them to dry for a minute, then peeled off one sheet to reveal the (poor quality) copy. In HM Customs & Excise, we got to use quite a few traditional methods - wax and lead seals, plumb lines with French chalk, hydrometers, etc.*

Martyn Hathaway sent a note as well:

*I remember the duplicator - I published a small magazine at school using one so would have been about 1971 but by the time I started work [in 1974] I think the photocopier ["Xerox"] was widely used*

The Roneo used to be the standard method of printing zines. In the eighties I even had one myself to print out the 160 copies of 16-page issues of Hopscotch. Once I omitted to leave the cranking handle in the correct position and found the ink had dripped onto the carpet. Duplicating ink is the blackest stuff in the universe, but my amazing wife organised the clearing up [and to be honest did most of it herself] to such an extent that the carpet around the Roneo was so much cleaner than the rest that we had to hire a carpet cleaning machine to even things up.

Mike's two-sheet machine doesn't ring any bells with me, but by the late eighties many editors found it easier to use a friendly printer with something called offset-litho, which I assume evolved into photocopying. I know my own school didn't get a photocopier until well into the eighties – by the nineties I had a huge photocopier on lease, which I justified on the basis that at the time I produced a lot of packages for schools.

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Lord knows how many postage stamps I've used over the years – eight issues of Hopscotch a year, with nearly 170 envelopes at one time. Of course, these days it's down to a few dozen Christmas or birthday cards a year, some charity donations and a few letters to official organisations.

Even so, I still had fifty or sixty stamps I wasn't going to use in time before the deadline for replacement with the new 'bar-coded' versions. I put it off for weeks and weeks, but when I did get around to it I found it couldn't have been easier to exchange my old-style stamps for the new versions, but in fact it was all very easy and everything went without a hitch.

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Many of you will know that we're now approaching the end of the first United season that's been run by Mike Parnaby. I want to write my appreciation of what Mike's done elsewhere, but for the first time I've been able to experience the game as a manager rather than the GM, and I've enjoyed it immensely.

Perhaps not quite as much as I rather expected, though. I was confident – OK, complacent – that forty years of GMing would ensure I sailed through, and that my main problem would be that I might win so many matches in Division Two that I'd get promoted. As it's turned out, I've sat in mid-table throughout the season – nowhere near relegation form, but never in danger of finishing in the top three. Too many winnable games have been drawn, and others have been lost, along with the VPs every manager desperately needs. You may have said the same thing yourself on many occasions, and you may have also told yourself things will be better next season. We'll see.

But without a doubt the hero of the season has been Mike. I thought the game was almost certain to die, but Mike's hardly changed a thing and it's been brilliant. Thanks a million, Mike.

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*[[Alan: towards the end of January Mark Johns sent me this account of his recent situation. Do read it – it's about serious matters, but it's not a heavy read and is positive and optimistic. I won't say you should read it for enjoyment – enlightenment would be a better word.]]*

#### Part 1 ~ MJ Breaking News 04.11.22

Not being one to bother the medical profession ~ however due to my daughter-in-law and my neighbour continually nagging me, I found it necessary to book an appointment with my local GP back in late September. I had a dry cough for over six months & had lost quite a lot of weight.

Our Surgery runs a triage procedure, so I was expecting the clinical nurse to call me back. I was taken aback when it was one of the surgery doctors who called me on the Friday morning, & discussed things. The conversation ended with him saying he thought he needed to see me, & I was expecting an appointment a few days later, so was surprised when he suggested I come down to the surgery NOW!

Of course I did what he said, and 20 minutes later was sat in front of him. We recovered some of the points we'd discussed on the phone, as well as some new areas. He summed it up by saying that he wanted to do a selection of tests so that he could eliminate some concerns. These tests included (and I'm sorry ~ going to get medical & graphic!) blood pressure, listening to heart & lungs, wanted a urine sample, a FIT test (for bowel cancer). Take some blood for a PSA test. And as I was there ~ would I accept a Digital Rectum check ~ which he did and said the prostate was a little hard. So 40 minutes after arriving I left not knowing much more than I had when I had turned up. Oh ~ and he'd arranged an X Ray appointment with my local community hospital & they would be in touch as to when that appointment was due. And results would come back on the tests in a week to ten days.

So again I was surprised that the doctor called me the following Tuesday to inform me that my PSA was evaluated and with the possibility of prostate we would now enter what they call 'the two week waiting period'.

The Royal United Hospital (RUH) in Bath contacted me the next day to inform me they were taking over the x ray appointment & arranged that post quick. I also had a telephone consultation with an Oncology consultant scheduled.

The telephone consultation was very good & the Doctor was first class, she wanted to know how much I knew about how we had got to this point & my life style, health, family life etc & what had my GP explained so far.

She then explained the information that the PSA test reveals, (for those not in the know) a level of up to 6 no cause for alarm at present, between 10 – 20 cause for concern, above 100 real cause for concern. With my score of 2,000 ~ OMG!!

So add the X ray results (which she had when she spoke with me) showing shadows on the lungs, & my dramatic unplanned weight loss during July & August (over 21lbs), & my back aches, pain in/around my right hip, all indicate the likelihood of advanced prostate. Unfortunately not curable ~ but treatable & manageable. But just to confirm this diagnosis further tests were necessary. However she immediately arranged me to receive a hormone tablet treatment plus a hormone injection to control the cancer cells. These when taken for a couple of days really did the trick & I felt immeasurably better.

She also arranged for appointments to be initiated for the additional tests to be completed as an outpatient. So during October I have become a regular visitor to the RUH Bath, for tests & meetings. A prostate biopsy, a bone scan, & a CT scan. With the combined results confirming the anticipated diagnosis of advanced prostate cancer, having spread to bones & lungs.

Cells were subdued by the hormone tablets (taken only for 14 days) & hormone injection (which is now a 3 monthly experience ~ probably for ever). No negative side effects, in fact Caroline says the opposite, my appetite has returned, I appear to have more energy & get up & go.

So now I march onwards to the treatment ~ I need to make a decision over next couple of weeks. Initially it's between chemo treatment at the RUH (6 visits with a three week gap between visits) or a daily tablet (for the rest of my life). There are positives & negatives between each treatments ~ so I need to read up on the materials that the RUH have provided, and to come to a starting decision. Caroline is adamant that the decision is mine alone, and everyone will support whatever that is.

I have to say all the medical professionals I have come into contact have been first class, that includes my local GP surgery, the receptionists at all the RUH departments I've been to, all the medical technicians, nurses, specialist nurses, doctors & consultants, not forgetting my local pharmacist. Everyone one them has been/is very professional, supportive & caring. The RUH's role in this is to ensure my quality of life is as good as it can be. And with the advances in medical treatments & knowledge, the prognosis is very positive.

It is very worrying that most males will suffer from prostate cancer, but only 1 in 8 (currently) will suffer from it ~ but that still seems a high number to me. The only negative I have about it, is it came from nowhere for me personally. No symptoms at all, that I would have recognised, eg blood in wee, blood in semen. And opposite to say breast cancer, where ladies can feel lumps, it is very difficult to do the digital rectum test yourself (practically acrobatically impossible a mate of mine expressed!). And there's every likelihood that I may well have had it for a long time, the chances of it suddenly taking affect ~ rare (not impossible ~ but rare).

So men take notice ~ if you are over 50, and if you are closer to my age & not had a PSA~ go & see your GP & request a PSA blood test. The sooner it is identified, the better the chance to cure it.

Ladies nag the men in your lives to do the same. We know men don't like to bother about things like this (like me!) ~ but nag them ~ it is serious, & maybe curable.

So that was a lot to take on board ~ BUT I can assure you 'my glass is half full' ~ I am really positive about how I go forward, even though anxious about each new experience, but only because I have never done it before! For example, the biopsy was nowhere near as dreadful as I anticipated ~ yes it's an embarrassing physical position to be in, but the procedure itself was undertaken very professionally, and the nurses were very mindful of the distress it may cause.

I know I am in very capable professional hands, I am not embarrassed about being diagnosed with it, and it's not something I caused myself ~ it really is something that life just throws at you. I am already an unofficial ambassador for PSA blood testing & happy to talk & discuss my experiences. But mindful everyone & everyone's bodies are different ~ so as ok as I am, others may not be.

## Part 2 ~ MJ Update News as at 23.11.22

At the end of Part 1 MJ Breaking News, I left you after I had seen a Doctor at the Royal United Hospital(RUH), Bath with three treatment options to consider before I was to have another consultation with the same Dr Kate.

During the ensuing four weeks I have been contemplating the treatment options, the pluses, minuses, particularly linked to the side effects. And listing all the queries & questions for the consultation meeting. It has become my decision alone; family & friends all have an opinion ~ but Caroline still adamant ~ it's my decision. So even on the day of the consultation I have not concluded, I entered the consultation room thinking the answers I gained from the meeting would require more thinking time before I agreed to a plan of action.

I must admit that during this period between the two meetings I have been feeling a Fraud! I know that inside of me I am not in a good position, all the tests have confirmed the cancer cells have spread to my bones & lungs, as well as being well entrenched in the prostate. BUT I am feeling remarkably well, no displays of any of the side effects often experienced by patients at this stage. I am eating well & putting weight back on, sleeping well & appear to have a good amount of energy.

So we had the consultation meeting on Monday gone (21.11.22), and Dr Kate answered all my queries & questions, and during the discussion it emerged to me that the success of the initial intake of hormone treatment by tablet had put the cancer cells 'to sleep' pretty well, and that the side effects of the chemo could be possibly quite severe.

So, I made the decision to give the tablet treatment a go! And signed the consent form, although I still could change my mind if I want to. But the next step will be to see the Oncology Pharmacist & Specialist Nurse to discuss further the tablets, their effect, side effects and future delivery to me. This meeting will be conducted at the RUH in a couple of weeks, and I will depart with my first month's quota of Xtandi tablets. A month later a check-up with an Oncology Consultant, and if all is progressing satisfactorily, then future consultations will be dealt with over the telephone, with periodic face to face.

There will also be a regular monitoring of my blood with tests being conducted locally at my Surgery, so won't need to go to the RUH for those. Talking of blood, on Monday gone I had another blood test performed, for which Dr Kate would update me of the results in a day or two. Those results have now come in, and good news on my liver & kidneys all good positive results. But rather 'disappointingly' my personal record PSA score of the 'humongous' level of 2000 (OMG level) has fallen dramatically to 175 (still a high level and a worry ~ but not obviously the high 2000). So, Dr Kate was pleased that the hormone treatment undertaken in early October is doing its job.

And that's where I am at ~ so you now know how I am. Still with a very half full glass (unfortunately not of beer ~ kind of lost interest in one of my long-time hobbies!) feeling really much better than I have for a good while ~ long may that last. Have to see what the Xtandi tablets bring with them.

And men if you've not had a PSA blood test ~ GET ONE ORGANISED.

And ladies keep nagging the men you know in your family, social, or work environment to go & get themselves tested. It doesn't take long & hopefully it will return negative ~ but catching it early may mean the medical profession can cure the cancer before it takes hold.

### Part 3 ~ MJ Update New Year News as at 18.01.23

So, if you read my previous two updates ~ you'll know that in October I was diagnosed with Advance Prostate Cancer, having experienced three very professional procedures ~ Prostate Biopsy, Bone Scan & a CT scan at my local NHS hospital ~ RUH Bath.

And was left with a decision of what treatment I wanted to progress with. Either 6 visits of Chemotherapy or a course of daily tablets for a very long time (probably life).

I have felt very well since the initial course of Hormone tablets & hormone injection ~ so I took a leap into the unknown and decided on the tablet approach. I was given a prescription which was duly provided by the on-site pharmacy at the RUH the week before Christmas, and commenced taking the tablets on Wed 28th December, which on careful reading of the leaflet provided with the tablets ~ these are a 'chemo-tablet'.

Two weeks later I had the second of my regular three-monthly Hormone injection, and another PSA Blood test, both conducted at my local Doctors surgery. The blood test was in preparation for my RUH appointment with the Oncology Consultant to see how the first month of treatment was progressing, what side effects & reactions I am experiencing.

So entering my fourth week of Xtandi tablet treatment I arrived at the RUH for my appointment on Wed 18th Jan. I pride myself on accurate timekeeping (a minute early not a minute late) and reported at the reception desk at the usual department ~ only to be politely advised this was the Urology department! It would have helped matters if I had read the appointment letter carefully ~ anyway I had to leg it across the hospital and arrived a few minutes late at Oncology (don't like being late!)

The Consultant started the meeting with an opening "How are you feeling".

~ I responded positively "Very Good thank you".

~" Astounding" she replied "Astounding, I thought that when I read your notes yesterday in readiness for today. You started in late September with a PSA figure of over 2000 (that's up in the OMG sector), and a second test revealed a figure of 175 (still a worrying figure, but in comparison to the 2000, amazing) and your PSA results from last week's blood test ~ 37.5. Astounding response to the treatment in such a short time"

I enquired if she was in fact reading the notes for someone called Mark Johns ~ she smiled & said "oh yes".

In summary she is very pleased to my initial progress, no obvious side effects to the current treatment of tablets. So satisfied she provided me with two months' worth of my tablets. And unless something crops from me, is happy to conduct the next consultation not in one month, but in two months' time & not face2face but a telephone consultation.

So clearly nowhere near 'out of the woods' ~ but a massive boost to my 'half full glass' attitude, and an incredible turn round of PSA blood test scores ~ 2000 down to 175 down to 37.5. Perhaps my brother-in-law was right when he queried if they had put the decimal point in the right place on the first PSA score! (By the way he is contacting the Guinness World Records office to delete my previous personal best as it no longer qualifies for World Record status! ~ joke).

Naturally very pleased ~ no current side effects, and very positive about everything. So now to pick up the baton to continue the need to make more males aware of the benefits of PSA blood testing & focus attention somehow on the need to increase the availability of screening tests for males, and to encourage the invitation for screening to become an automatic process rather than a request from males.

So - That's where I'm at in January 2023 ~ hope its not bored you.

The purpose of this update is to not only let you know how I'm doing, but more importantly raise the awareness of this ailment. They are so many more men suffering more greatly than I, and tragically dying because of this 'silent cancer' that just creeps up. If we all can raise awareness ~ talk about it ~ spread the word ~ encourage men to go for the blood PSA test ~ men who currently don't know they are actually sufferers & could be cured, and men who like me may not be cured but who could live a better quality of life by treatment management ~ husband, partner, brother, uncle, grandfather, cousin, work colleague or friend.

Thanks for reading, Mark Johns

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[[Alan: since then Mark's doing something very positive, and has followed up with more information]]

If you have read my story to date & many thanks to Alan for supporting me, by allowing the publication of these epistles.

My half glass full approach leads me to the Prostate Cancer UK's next Challenge. This is a step challenge for anyone who wants to keep active and help beat prostate cancer. Joining thousands of people, across the nation, committing themselves to walk or wheel 11,000 steps a day throughout March.

Walking is something I endure, not so much a pleasure but something I undertake because Caroline (my wife) and the dogs do enjoy walking regularly.

So to carry out a minimum of 11,000 daily steps will be a challenge to me. What do 11,000 steps look to me ~ my current fitness levels converts that into a walk of around about 150 minutes, I wonder what that will look like on 31st March? Probably so good that I'll continue the walk as part of my daily ritual.??

Why 11,000 steps ~ well it represents more than 11,000 dads, brothers, granddads, partners and mates who die from prostate cancer every year.

I am going to commit myself to The Challenge ~ but with a couple of extra points to my 3Ms Walks ~

Mark Marches March:~

- 1) Have a bit of fun with it ~ try & encourage others to join me, to make it a social event, to perhaps visit pubs for lunch during or after the walk, (not every walk of course), or tie in an afternoon tea somewhere along the route, build in variety of walks & to maintain an interesting month complete a variety of walks that have a reflection the different times of my life.
- 2) To try & raise the awareness of Prostate Cancer throughout the whole experience, by hard copy, & social media.

To that end I wish to emulate a good friend of mine, the late John Fraser. He screened positive, he was treated but tragically died(of something different). However he decided to spend his time raising awareness of the disease and raising money for the Prostate Cancer Charity. And came up with a fun idea ~ as many women conduct sponsored walks with their bra's outside their clothes to draw awareness to Breast Cancer.

So John came up with his "Pants on the Outside" walks on the Isle of White, where he had retired to. I will do the same wearing Oddballs ~ Prostate Cancer briefs or boxers.

All of this, ~ enduring the daily grind of a minimum of 11,000 steps for a month whilst wearing my Pants on the Outside to raise funds for Prostate Cancer Charity ~ I would be greatly motivated if you could assist with any form of sponsorship via the link below.

<https://marchthemonth.prostatecanceruk.org/fundraising/mark-marches-march>

Thank you so very much for your time ~ now its back back to my walking training

Mark

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Orders You may send orders via letter or e-mail. It's easiest if your email has the subject line HOPSCOTCH. I try to acknowledge receipt of e-mailed orders, so if you don't get this promptly then it may be a good idea to send them again. The e-mail address is arparr"at"gmx.com but you may if you wish send a duplicate message to arparr"at"btinternet.com

Gamestarts and Waiting Lists: In all cases new players are welcome and I can send rules if you're not sure.

John Walker's new *Maximise* is underway [Adam Huby, Alan Parr, Paul Cockayne, Jeff Grady].

There are places available in two Hopscotch classics: *Golden Strider* [Jeff Grady and John Walker so far] and do please sign up for *Spell Merchants*. And *Plot Counterplot* is still in abeyance until [one or two] join Jed Stone.

Once again there's no news at all about Arthur Owen and family, which has knock-on effects upon the likelihood of starts in David Watts' *Railway Rivals* games. The last I heard Jed Stone and Martyn Hathaway had signed up for a game on the Nebraska map. Please contact both myself and David [ [dgwgames@aol.com](mailto:dgwgames@aol.com) ] if you'd like to join.

Circulation Those receiving this are (a) those who were managers in United, (b) everyone who's in any other game, (c) a few others who've specifically asked, (d) a few who're probably no longer much interested but haven't got around to telling me. Each of you gets four files (Word and LibreOffice versions) of eZinexxx (news, editorial, chat, and no doubt some United stuff) and eGamesxxx (everything else).

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Run For Gold

Juan Marcoposas is your pacemaker; he always plays his highest movement card.

<u>Race 17</u>	Juan Marcoposas	6/4*	5/4	4/2	3/6	STU*		<u>7/3</u>	[+6-2]	sq	<b>17</b>
	John Walker	8/5	7/4	4/5*	3/2	4/8	3/4	<u>2/8</u>	[+4]	sq	<b>15</b>
Lap 1	Jeff Grady	8/3	7/5	6/1*	3/3	TUC	7/8	<u>BUR</u>	[+6]	sq	<b>15</b>
	Jed Stone	8/2*	7/6	6/6	5/8	STA*	5/7	<u>BOX</u>	[+8]	sq	<b>15</b>
	Howard Bishop	8/4	7/1	6/8	3/8	6/7	1/7*	<u>8/6</u>	[+1]	sq	<b>10</b>
	Paul Cockayne	8/1	7/7	6/5	5/2	3/5	1/8*	<u>8/8</u>	[+1]	sq	<b>8</b>

Replacements 2/7 BUR 6/3 5/1 4/6 BOX STA 3/1 4/7 5/3 5/6 4/4 8/7 6/2 4/3 5/5 4/1 STU TUC 7/2 3/7 6/4 6/1 STU 4/5 1/8 8/2 STA 1/7

The race is won by the first player to complete four laps of 18 squares, i.e. pass space 72 (or if you prefer, reach square 73). Key: In your card holdings \* shows cards just played and hence no longer available to you, crossed-out cards may not be played, underlined shows replacements received. In the replacement section cards underlined and emboldened are those which are available in the coming turn (3/6 = movement 3, spike number 6).

Over-enthusiasm means things are already starting to look bleak for Juan; we're still in Lap 1 at the moment, but he'll take us into Lap 2 next time.

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Half Nelson

This is an eight-round game. Jed's in front by miles.

.Game 6	Jeff Grady	Jed Stone	Ian Winstanley
Round 1	plays 6 scores 0	plays 2 scores 2	plays 6 scores 0
Round 2	plays 3 scores 3	plays 6 scores 6	plays 2 scores 5
Round 3	plays 4 scores 4	plays 3 scores 12 !	plays 5 scores 5
Round 4 [x2]	plays 1 scores 0	plays 5 scores 10	plays 1 scores 0
Score now	7+0=7	20+10=30	10+0=10
Remaining	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6</b>

Cards you can play next time are in ***italic bold type***. Round 4 was a double-points round. In Round 5 you have a new set of numbers and a free choice of play.

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Tower Blocks

Please make your next move in the game in which you're *italicised*.

Reminder – you play one or more cards so that your total is at least as great as your opponent's. If you choose to play more than one card it's best to list them in the order you want to use them

We're playing N=13 games.

Match 5 Game A	Turn 1		Turn 2		Turn 3		Turn 4		Turn 5	
	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total
<i>Jeff Grady</i>	6	6								
Jed Stone	9	9								

Cards remaining: 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 10 11 12 13

Match 5 Game B	Turn 1		Turn 2		Turn 3		Turn 4		Turn 5	
	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total
<i>Jed Stone</i>	6	6								
Jeff Grady	13	13								

Cards remaining: 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12

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Match 6 Game A	Turn 1		Turn 2		Turn 3		Turn 4		Turn 5	
	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total
<i>Ian Winstanley</i>	13	13								
Alan Parr	11 12	23								

Cards remaining: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Match 6 Game B	Turn 1		Turn 2		Turn 3		Turn 4		Turn 5	
	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total	Card/s	Total
<i>Alan Parr</i>	1	1								
Ian Winstanley	2	2								

Cards remaining: 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

.....  
.The Golden Strider

.Race 28,turn 14	.72sq					.D	.M	.B	.P	.R	.S	.Ps N	.Ps L	.O T
Adam Huby	0/9	0/10	0/11	0/12	10/13*	0	10	0			<b>74</b>	1	2=	
PaulCockayne	9/9*	0/10	1/11	1/12	0/13	1	8	0			<b>73</b>	2=	1	
John Walker	10/9*	1/10	2/11	1/12	1/13	1	9	0			<b>73</b>	2=	2=	
Ian Winstanley	3/7*	9/9	2/11	2/12	2/13	0	3	0			<b>65</b>	4	4	
Jeff Grady	8/8*	8/10	2/11	2/12	2/13	0	8	0			<b>63</b>	5	5	
Jed Stone	8/8*	8/9	6/11	2/12	2/13	0	8	0			<b>62</b>	6	6	
Ian Owen	2/9*	2/10	2/11	2/12	0/13	0	2	0			<b>48</b>	7	7	
Arthur Owen	2/9*	1/10	0/11	0/12	0/13	0	2	0			<b>46</b>	8	8	

This has been a conventional race over a 72-square course; i.e. the winner is the first person to reach square 72.

The mode of report used is as follows: after your name are the cards you hold (including new replacements), with the card just played asterisked; 4/1 shows a 4 card given after the round 1 movement. The columns are:

- D the deduction made from your card due to overtaking costs incurred last turn,
- M amount used for movement, B amount used for banking, S square occupied,
- PsN new position, PsL position last turn,

There aren't many people who've beaten Adam over the years, but in many ways this was the tightest game I can remember, and for much of the game I had several suggestions that Paul or John looked the likely winner. But in the end Adam timed it perfectly, with Paul and John a single square behind. The others are some way back, but at least Ian will finish fourth next turn.

Of course there's a Waiting List open for another game.

.....



Caravan

Game 1, Round 4      Players are Paul Cockayne, Mick Haytack, Adam Huby, Dane Maslen, John Walker, Ian Winstanley, Jeff Grady, and [sort of] Alan Parr.

A P

	v	w	x	y	z
a	4	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	6	6
b	4		3	<b>1</b>	3
c	4	2		3	<b>2</b>
d		2			<b>3</b>
e	3	5	1	1	1

P C

	v	w	x	y	z
a	6	6	1	1	1
b	<b>6</b>	4	3	3	<b>5</b>
c	4	4	5		3
d	2	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
e		2			3

M H

	v	w	x	y	z
a	1		<b>6</b>	6	6
b	1	2			<b>3</b>
c		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
d	1	3	2	3	3
e		5	4	4	4

A H

	v	w	x	y	z
a	3	1	6	6	5
b	3	1	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	
c	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>		4	<b>2</b>
d	3		4	4	2
e		1	3		2

D M

	v	w	x	y	z
a	5	2	2	<b>2</b>	1
b	1	1	<b>3</b>		
c	<b>6</b>		4		<b>5</b>
d	6	6	4	<b>1</b>	3
e	3		4	3	3

J W

	v	w	x	y	z
a		6	3	<b>2</b>	1
b	<b>6</b>	4	4	4	
c		1	2	<b>5</b>	2
d	1	6	<b>1</b>	5	3
e		<b>3</b>		3	3

I W

	v	w	x	y	z
a	<b>5</b>	3	5	3	<b>3</b>
b	3	3		4	<b>1</b>
c			4	4	1
d	6	<b>6</b>	2	2	1
e	6	<b>2</b>			1

J G

	v	w	x	y	z
a		2	2	<b>2</b>	
b	3	<b>1</b>	3	1	6
c		4	4	4	6
d		3	1	3	<b>6</b>
e		5	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	1

For the final Round you have to position 1 4 5 5 6.

Cards played in Round 4 are in ***italic bold type***.

Only numbers that are orthogonally adjacent to the same number score; scores accruing from even numbers are positive, while scores from odd numbers are negative. The winner will be the player whose score is both greater than 30 and as close as possible to 30.

Comments on this first game are not only welcome, but desperately wanted. There's an attractive and decent game here, but it's vulnerable to you being able to a very large extent to design your final grid before the first numbers are even announced. How do I get round this? To some extent it's dealt with by leaving 11 of the 36 possible numbers in the bag – is this the right proportion?

It might be a better game if there was some kind of interaction between players, but how would this work?

Or should there be more restriction on placing numbers? At present my best suggestion is that the restriction on placing in Round 1 [each number must go in a different row and a different column] could be extended to apply in another round/s.

Comments and ideas welcomed, please and then we'll see about launching another game.

.....

.Middleman

.....Game 59, Round 0.75

Your holdings are: Paul Cockayne 1 2 3 4 4 5 5 5 6 6 7 8      Jeff Grady 1 2 3 4 5 5 5 5 6 7 8 9

Jed Stone 0 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

Rules: you choose any 12 cards numbered from 0-9 inclusive. Each round you must form a two-digit number (0 may not be used in the tens position). You must, if possible, play within 30 (i.e. less than 30) of the number you made in the preceding round - but if you cannot play within 30 you may make any number you wish from your cards.

Scoring: each round you must form a two-digit number (0 may not be used in the tens position). You must, if possible, play within 30 (i.e. less than 30) of the number you made in the preceding round - but if you cannot play within 30 you may make any number you wish from your cards. Whoever plays the middle number scores the sum of all three. [Duplicated numbers are ignored.]

Please let me have your Round 1 plays [Jeff's already sent his.]

.....

## Spell Merchants

### Game 40 (target 83), Session D report

Session A spells were: (single- or multi-ingredient spells in both Rounds)

Round 1: Spell (f) ingredients totalling less than 8  
Round 2: Spell (a) all ingredients different

Prizes: (cc) 18,9,2  
Prizes: (bb) 12,4,1

Session B spells were: (single- or multi-ingredient spell in both Rounds)

Round 3: Spell (e) ingredients totalling a multiple of 3  
Round 4: Spell (c) exactly two types of ingredient

Prizes: (hh) 15,10,3  
Prizes: (aa) 25,10,5

Session C spells were: (single- or multi-ingredient spell in both Rounds)

Round 5: Spell (h) all ingredients odd  
Round 6: Spell (k) no ingredient numbered 4, 5, or 6

Prizes: (dd) 8,6,4  
Prizes: (ii) 25,12,4

Session D spells were: (single- or multi-ingredient spell in both Rounds)

Round 7: Spell (i) all ingredients even  
Round 8: Spell (l) no ingredient numbered 1, 2, or 3

Prizes: (ee) 16,6,2  
Prizes: (kk) 16,8,5

Session E spells were: (multi-ingredient spell in both Rounds, and in Spell (d) no ingredient may occur more than once)

Round 9: Spell (d) ingredients numbered consecutively  
Round 10: Spell (j) equal numbers of odd and even ingredients

Prizes: (ll) 18,8,4  
Prizes: (gg) 12,5,2

Session F spells are: (multi-ingredient spell in both Rounds, and in Spell (d) no ingredient may occur more than once)

Round 11: Spell (g) ingredients totalling more than 10  
Round 12: Spell (b) only one type of ingredient

Prizes: (ff) 21,12,2  
Prizes: (jj) 20,10,4

Start	Name	Round 9		Round 10		Ingredients now	End
		Spell	Pts	Spell	Pts		
57	Adam Huby	34	18	restock 666	-8	11 33 4 6 11 3 6 11 3 6666	67
56	Jed Stone	12	8	restock 1445	-4	11 22 1 2 11 2 44 5	60
51	John Walker	restock 666	-2	16	12	11 5 11 5 666 1 5 66	61
48	Ian Winstanley	restock 1255	-4	restock 1345	-8	- 1 2 55 11 2 3 4 555	36

The top line of the Ingredients now column shows your holding at the start of the turn, the middle line after the first round of the session. The bottom line shows your final holding.

Things look to have worked out pretty well for Adam, but we do need to play out the session to see exactly how things turn out.

Obviously I'll be delighted to run another game, and the Waiting List is open.

.....

Maximise (inventor John Walker [hbdragons@btinternet.com](mailto:hbdragons@btinternet.com))

### Maximise Game 4AP, Round 6 and last

Ian discards optimally, and both he and John take full advantage of their jokers – and it's a tie!

Player	Cards Held	Score
Jeff	33232	6+8+8=22
John	55555	5+10+30=45
Ian	44444	7+8+30=45

Both John and Ian eventually had a pretty good idea of the rule, which really originated in a discussion Jeff and I had some years back about the two-player game of Entropy, where scores are dependent on symmetrically positioned counters rather than their intrinsic values. So in Jeff's holding the 33 scores 2 for the pattern of two adjacent counters, then 323 scores a further 3, and 232 scores 3 more, making 8 in total.

With John and Ian scores are much bigger. John's 55555 scores 5 for a set of 5, but the pattern also contains two blocks of 4 scoring 4 each. There are three sets of 3, [9], and 4 sets of 2 [8], making the a total of 30.

So much of the credit for the rule goes to Jeff; I found excuses to feature Entropy in eZINE issue after issue, and I thought the rule worked perfectly in a Maximise format. Burying hints about the rule in plain sight, along with sundry other obfuscations, was a technique I learned from Paul Cockayne's wonderful Seven Steps To Heaven many years ago. I suspect the joker was my own contribution, as was the invitation to Forby and his friends to play in a parallel game

Thanks, people; it was probably clear that I immensely enjoyed running the game. Many apologies to Jeff for keeping him in the dark, and great thanks to him for keeping on with the game in a period of great stress. Once again, thanks to John for such a simple but powerful format. And congratulations of course to John and Ian.

.....

Maximise Game 5JW, Round 1 [orders to John]

Player	Cards Held	Score	Position	Next Pass
Paul	13456	19	North	South
Jeff	12346	16	East	West
Adam	14566	19	South	North
Alan	12345	15	West	East

Discard 1222334556

John says: a nice distribution of numbers to start with, which should make at least one thing clear.

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The Nellie Bly Round the World Race [inventor and GM: Jed Stone]

Leg 14- Dhaka and beyond.

Just outside Dhaka there have been a series of storms. They weren't bad enough to stop the leaders rushing through the Dhaka check point. With a burst of speed the Crafty Converta over takes Model J Ford to grab the lead. Model J is quick to follow and the pair race on towards Hong Kong. A smaller storm outside Kabul causes minor delays to the mid field runners and prevents the leaders making much of a headway into the lead of the two onward rushing cars. The four rear most cars are just short of Kabul but the mid field is starting to stretch out.

The cards played last time were – two Army Surplus Specials, Two Turbo Terrifics. A Crimson Haybaler, a Converta Car and a Creepy Coupe.

Deadline for new orders is likely to be Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Details of individual cards will be sent out shortly.

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Stage 14 To Delhi – and beyond – start order (High first)						
Pos	Car	Name	Owner	Moves	Score	+Miles
1	10	Crafty Converta*	Arthur Owen	49 - 56	23	250
2	11	Model J Ford	John Walker	51 - 55	19	300
3	12	Bly-me-to-the-Moon	Paul Cockayne	41 - 48	9	150
4	6	Pride of London	Mike Pollard	44 - 48	24	50
5	8	Chelsea Chassis	Mike Pollard	44 - 47	25	250
6	2	Yellow Peril*	Geoff Kempg	41 - 45	9	200
7	7	Blys Spirit	Paul Cockayne	40 - 45	8	50
8	1	Model W Ford	John Walker	41 - 44	19	
9	4	Dirty Girty*	Ian Owen	41 - 43	8	150
10	5	Dusty Destroyer*	Arthur Owen	39 - 42	7	150
11	9	Green Creeper*	Geoff Kemp	38 - 42	7	100
12	14	Gritty Wheels*	Ian Owen	38 - 41	7	150
		*GM controlled				