

The Quiz League of London

Team Times

#32, 2009-02

Charity Quiz Night 2009

This issue of Team Times would have been available at Charity Quiz Night, but that event has been postponed due to the snow. The new date will be published as soon as it is known.



All London Cup 2009

The first round of the All London Cup takes place on the evening of Tuesday 10 March (3 March is set aside for any play-offs that may be required, and may possibly become the date of Charity Quiz Night). Guest teams are welcome. The competition is uses a handicap system designed to give all teams a roughly equal chance of winning. A good introduction to league quizzing, there are sure to be some close games on this enjoyable night out.

For any new teams wishing to take part, making contact via the web site is advised.

www.QLL.org.uk

Brain of London 2009

The qualifying competition, a 50 question written test (plus a tie-breaker) will take place on Tuesday 24 February, the last evening of league fixtures this season at the home venues. Like the cup, this competition is open to all. The preliminaries are scheduled for Tuesday 24 March, with finals night on Tuesday 21 April. Last year final saw Robert Willer (Atletico) become only the second person ever to regain the title, breaking Kevin Ashman's run of five consecutive victories.

Atletico

The Five Bells, 66/70 Streatham High Road SW16 1DA

Broken Hearts

Carpenters Arms, 12 Seymour Place, Marylebone W1H 7NA

Gray Monks

Calthorpe Arms, 252 Gray's Inn Road WC1X 8JR

London Scottish

Triple Crown, 15 Kew Foot Road, Richmond Surrey TW9 2SS

Mealy Bugs

The Pineapple, 51 Leverton Street, London NW5 2NX

Ovalytes

Royal Oak, 44 Tabard Street E1 4JU

Rosslyn Park

Rosslyn Park FC, Priory Lane, Upper Richmond Road SW15 5JH

Waterloo Sunset

Hand & Shears, 1 Middle Street, London EC1A 7JA

2009-2010 Season preparation

Prospective teams or players for the new season beginning in the autumn are invited to become involved with the league (plus the Cup and Brain of London this year). A Joining In form is available on the web site. For quiz setters, a question setting tender document will also be available from mid-February.

2008-2009 Season update

Three matches remain for most teams. Congratulations to Pericardium who are promoted in their first season.

Pos	Division 1	P	W	D	L	Avg	B	Pts
1	Nomads	13	11	1	1	53.92	10	56
2	Broken Hearts	13	10	0	3	51.38	12	52
3	Allsorts	13	10	0	3	52.69	8	48
4	Atletico	13	7	0	6	48.54	11	39
5	Old Itonians	13	7	1	5	46.15	4	34
6	Waterloo Sunset	14	5	0	9	43.86	6	26
7	Pineapple	14	3	0	11	41.36	7	19
8	Barb	14	3	0	11	40.57	4	16
9	Gray Monks	13	3	0	10	39.69	2	14

Pos	Division 2	P	W	D	L	Avg	B	Pts
1	Pericardium (P)	13	12	0	1	53.92	6	54
2	Belly	13	11	0	2	45.38	6	50
3	Rosslyn Park	13	8	0	5	41.31	4	36
4	Accrington Cylindricals	14	7	0	7	39.29	3	31
5	Ovalytes	13	7	1	5	39.00	1	31
6	Mealy Bugs	14	6	2	6	35.36	0	28
7	Telstars	13	5	1	7	40.54	3	25
8	Wharfedale	14	2	0	12	23.50	1	9
9	London Scottish	13	0	0	13	30.15	3	3

President's Cup 2008-2009

With three rounds to go, the most that Sussex and the Masterminders can do is match London's 14 points.

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	2s	Pts
1	London	7	7	0	0	89	14
2	Mastermind Club	7	4	0	3	78	8
3	Sussex	7	4	0	3	77	8
4	Cambridge	7	3	0	4	62	6
5	Oxford	7	3	0	4	61	6
6	Beds & Herts	7	0	0	7	44	0

Are You an Egghead?

Barry Simmons of Leeds defeated former Mastermind champion Shaun Wallace to become the sixth and newest Egghead in December 2008.



Brain of Britain

Former Mastermind champion Geoff Thomas emerged victorious from the Brain of Britain final against Paul Steeples (Nomads), Martin Worth of Leicestershire and newest Egghead Barry Simmons.



Battle of the Brains

A new series of Battle of the Brains begins on 9 February 2009 at 18:00 on BBC2, with Nicky Campbell replacing Paddy O'Connell as host. At least one QLLer (the editor of this!) should be appearing on 17 Feb and possibly beyond.



Contestant Calls

Many opportunities exist to appear on television and radio quiz and game shows:

Sell Me The Answer:

sky1.sky.com/want-to-be-on-tv-fancy-winning-25000

A Question of Genius: aquestionofgenius@bbc.co.uk

1 vs 100: 1v100-3@endemoluk.com

Mastermind: www.bbc.co.uk/mastermind

Weakest Link: weakestlink@bbc.co.uk

Eggheads: eggheads@12yard.com (teams of 6)

Brain of Britain: paul.bajoria@bbc.co.uk

University Challenge: universitychallenge@bbc.co.uk

For more calls and information: www.ukgameshows.com

Only Connect

Crossworders: Mark Grant (Broken Hearts), David Stainer (Pericardium) and Ian Bayley (Broken Hearts) convincingly (32-14) won the 16 team knockout contest Only Connect on BBC4 at the end of 2008. Through captain David Stainer, the team kindly provided some answers to questions about their experience.



Did you do much training for the type of questions you would face?

The production team (who incidentally conducted things superbly throughout the filming of the show) gave all teams applying a fair number of sample questions (albeit written on paper). When we were selected to appear on the programme, we received a DVD of a pilot episode of the show which enabled us to get a feel for how those rounds played in reality. And, like on most quiz shows, before each show was filmed, there was a practice run-through to get teams up to speed.

What type of round did you/your team like the most?

Mark and I enjoyed the last round (the missing vowels round) the most - it didn't particularly fit into the rest of the scheme of the show, but being on the buzzer it played to our strengths and experiences as quizzers. Ian was magnificent on the opening rounds, where his depth of knowledge often came into its own, and the matrices in round three were often a real team effort.

Do you prefer the lateral-thinking aspect if contrasted with a purely general knowledge-based quiz?

We all liked the combination of lateral thinking and knowledge required, which as the question acknowledges distinguishes Only Connect from other quiz shows. I think we'd all say that our favourite quiz show in the world is University Challenge, a straight knowledge show (albeit with buzzers), and whilst Only Connect is perhaps not in that exalted company, it certainly compares well with almost anything else on television. It's surprisingly rare (and very welcome) for a quiz show to operate on the assumption that both its contestants and audience are highly intelligent and well-informed people. Again, the creators and production team are to be commended.

What do regard as you/your team's best answer?

The one that came straight to Ian's and my mind was Mark's brilliant identification of the fourth item in the sequence:

Marlborough House	White Lodge, Richmond		?
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(before the third item had been shown), which was an amazing answer for someone not from the UK (the answer was BRUTON STREET, MAYFAIR - being the birthplaces of British monarchs up to Elizabeth II). And if I might be so immodest, I was pleased to identify the connection between BEGINS and FORTY with no other items shown (their letters are in alphabetical order - the fact that both form part of a well-worn cliché was one of many no doubt intentional red herrings on the show).

What do regard as the best question on the show?

The standard of question was extremely high, but one that sticks in the mind was to identify the last item in the sequence:

Blair wins third election	Omen remake released	Live Earth	?
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The answer was BEIJING OLYMPICS BEGIN (or, less happily, perhaps the start of the fighting in South Ossetia between Georgia and Russia) - the events in question happening on 5/5/05, 6/6/06, 7/7/07 and 8/8/08 respectively. All of the matrixes we faced were very cleverly put together, with plenty of red herrings and multiple connections, and we were very impressed that Victoria Coren herself had (seemingly uncreditedly) set the matrixes used in the semi-final!

Would you like to see any changes if the show was recommissioned?

Nothing major. We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I thought the show was very watchable when it came to transmission. One point that occurred to us was that some of the questions in the first round were (in our view) logically impossible to get (without guessing correctly) for five points - one that comes to mind went something like THORN, SEAT, SHOUT, ? . The link was anagrams of compass points with the answer being STEW or any other anagram of "west" - but to get this for five points would, I think, have been logically impossible. This offended us a bit as purists (an omniscient player with perfect logic should get full marks) but equally I can see the need to make getting a five-pointer a real rarity (I don't think we managed it during the series). We all very much hope the show gets recommissioned - in fact, I think there's an argument for it being shunted up to BBC2 rather than left on BBC4. Incidentally I'd very much recommend the show to any QLL teams who wish to have a bash - it was great fun and I'd expect that the other QLL-related teams involved would say the same.



Congratulations to Mark, David and Ian, and thank you very much for your time in answering the questions.

(Since this Q&A was completed a new series of Only Connect has been commissioned).

Quiz The quiz this issue is an Only Connect-style (and thus red herring-infested) connecting wall. Link four groups of four from the 16 words and explain each link for full credit.

Raphael	Cologne	Chester	Theodore
Lincoln	Remiel	Benjamin	Ulm
Strasbourg	Grover	Sara	Gabriel
Ariel	Michael	Rouen	William

Answers in the Quizzes section on www.QLL.org.uk

Quiz in the News



26 January Corpus Christi demolish Exeter
Corpus Christi, led by Gail Trimble secured a stunning quarter final victory. The final score was 350-15. 15 is the lowest Paxman-era total.

12 January David Vine

Former A Question of Sport host, David Vine, 73 died of a heart attack at his Oxfordshire home on Sunday 11 January.



Quiz times

Going for Gold, Weekdays, 12:45, five

Countdown, Weekdays, 15:25, Channel 4

Weakest Link, Weekdays, 17:15, BBC1

Eggheads, Weekdays, normally 18:00 (18:30 9 Feb to 6 Mar), BBC2

Battle of the Brains, Weekdays, 18:00 (9 Feb to 6 Mar), BBC2

University Challenge, Monday, 20:00, BBC2 (semi-final stage)

The Krypton Factor, Thursday, 19:30, ITV1

Mastermind, Friday, 19:30, BBC2

The News Quiz, Friday, 18:30, BBC Radio 4

A Question of Sport, Friday, 19:30, BBC1

The Book Quiz, Various, BBC4

Submissions

Items, ideas and quizzes for inclusion in future issues are welcome. Declaring interests, I am involved with UKGameshows.com (source for news and contestant calls). **Will Jones**

Team Times is the newsletter of the Quiz League of London (QLL). Founded in 1990, The Quiz League of London (QLL) is an independent, non-profit-making association, owned and run by its member teams.

Web site: www.QLL.org.uk