

Commentary

As ever, great determination was shown by the attendees in their quest for the Bronze Casket and its treasure (chocolates and sweets) and 11 of the 12 tables scored 100%. There was debate as to whether COW/SOW was also a “dubious” pair – this was accepted as an alternative to GOAT/GNAT. Many pointed out that the setter had overlooked a seventh pair of ASS/ASK – the latter being a newt.

There were groans concerning questions 3 (BEARD + DOFF = BEAR) and 7 (GO + Cockney HAT = GOAT) and few remembered the Crocodile Dundee character Donk in question 22.

All then rested on the tie breaker with 17 unappetising letters needing to be rearranged into a sentence. The setter had many weeks to think about this and his best efforts were: -

- MOTD crew dump check
- MET dump crowd check
- Chump met deck crowd

There was much ingenuity and innuendo shown by all 12 tables: the destiny of the casket came down to choosing between: -

Dutch crew mocked PM (Table 2: Ann Taggart, Barry Roe, Dick Stamp, Steve Mulligan, Glenda & Ed Hall, Chris Brougham, Will Walker, Piers Ruff)

PM mocked Dutch crew (Table 9: Brian & Cathy Medhurst, Mike Draper, Roddy Forman, Brenda Widger, Andy & Alf Mullins, Richard England, Keith Burton)

Dutch PM mocked crew (Table 7 – John Green, Sean O’Boyle, Darren Roberts, Don & Jan Thompson, David Giles, Richard Foden, Andrew Gillespie-Smith, Charles & Shirley Curran, Tom Johnson)

Fortunately Tea Leaves was faced an impossible choice by table seven adding this postscript: -

“We believe that we are entitled to use the asterisks. So!
CR***W**D COMP *UCKED THEM”

In awarding the bronze casket to table seven, Tea Leaves commented that he thought the first word was “crossword” but he had absolutely no idea what the third one was!!