

ARMCHAIR TREASURE HUNT 1990-91

REPORT AND ANSWERS

One of the many things I learned during the course of the treasure hunt was that I had hit on a very effective way to build up a private stock of internal mail envelopes. There were 58 entries in all.

I received comments ranging from 'too easy' through 'just about right' to 'too hard'. I think this amply illustrates that you can't please everyone. There were also a number of gripes about how late people received copies of Noticeboard - in some cases not until after Christmas. All I can say is that I agree completely, but unfortunately it's out of my control.

Below are the answers to all the questions, along with details of the treasure's location and the clues to find it - 5 people (or teams) found the treasure, and several others found some though not all of the clues.

Marks have been awarded according to how many right answers there were to each question, ranging from 58 points for a question with only one right answer, to one point for a question answered correctly by all. Finding the treasure was worth approximately double points: 116 for the first finder, 115 for the second etc.

Some questions turn out to have more than one possible answer - in these cases, I have tried to be fair, and awarded marks for what I consider to be valid alternatives. Apologies if an alternative correct answer hampered your attempts to solve the acrostic, or if you think I've been unreasonably harsh in disallowing any of your answers.

The marks for the right answer are shown in brackets.

1. In the file 'The Apartment', what did Jack Lemmon use to drain spaghetti?
A tennis racket. (16)
2. Of what kind of verse is the line "Hope ever solaces miserable individuals." an illustration?
Rhopalic Verse - each word has one syllable more than its predecessor. (47)
3. Who invented the eye charts used by opticians?
Herrmann Snellen - a Dutchman who lived from 1834-1908. (32)
4. Who described 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' as "... the most insipid, ridiculous play that ever I saw in my life."?
Samuel Pepys - I found this in a book of vitriolic reviews called 'No Turn Unstoned', compiled by Diana Rigg. Pepys obviously knew a winner when he saw one. (34)

5. How many people are required for there to be a better than evens chance that two share the same birthday (assuming none was born on Feb 29)?

23 - there is a fairly simple formula to calculate this. Basically, you work out the probability of no repetition and subtract the answer from 1. The formula for **no** repetition is:

$$\frac{365 * 364 * 363 \dots * (365 - n + 1)}{365^n}$$

where n is the number of people. As soon as n gets large enough for this figure to drop below 0.5, you have your answer.

Several answers said 24, so, for the record:

n = 23 : 0.507297232

n = 24 : 0.538344247

(I wondered is n=24 is correct for leap years, but our calculations show 23 to be the correct answer in that case too.) (25)

6. Which English word fits the pattern **12343512**, where each number represents a particular letter?

The answer I had in mind was **Headache**, but there were far more possibilities than I realised: **readable, leapable, leavable, leasable, edified**, and for the devotees of the truly obscure, **ichthyic**. All these were accepted. (24)

7. What are Ailsa Craig, Rijnsburger, Sturon and Stuttgarter Giant?

Onions - wrong answers included tomatoes, potatoes, rocks, oil rigs, mountains, birds and islands. (26)

8. Which product was advertised with the slogan "Buy Some For Lulu"?

Smarties, in the early 1960s. There were a number of wrong answers, mainly other brands of sweets such as Spangles (remember them?). A couple of people suggested stockings, and even baked beans. One answer was a gag - I don't think it meant that Lulu. (26)

9. Which English town is known for its crooked spire?

Chesterfield (6)

10. What is the next number in this series? 14187, 20159, 22632, 25519?

27200 - a number of people were right in thinking this was the traditional Logi-question. However, instead of scouring your annual reports, you should have looked in your pocket diaries - the numbers are Logica telex numbers in ascending order. (58)

11. Which is the only US State flag to include the Union Flag?

Hawaii (17)

12. For which newspaper was Charles Dickens a parliamentary correspondent?

The Morning Chronicle - I got caught out on this one. I verified this in two sources, but didn't discover that he had also been a correspondent for **The Mirror of Parliament** and **The True Sun**. All three were accepted. (11)

13. What is the smallest majority held by a current MP?

56 - this majority is held by 2 MPs: Richard Livesey, SLD, Brecon & Radnor, and Alan Meale, Lab, Mansfield. (24)

14. Which English cricket captain was offered the throne of Albania?

C. B. Fry - the Albanians were on the lookout for a new ruler, and thought they could do a lot worse than a fine upstanding English gentleman. In the event, King Zog got it, though he never played cricket for England. (24)

15. What was underestimated by 27ft in 1856?

The height of Mount **Everest** - its height was published as being 29,002ft. (13)

16. Which English town has the motto "Pannus Mihi Panis"?

Kendal - the motto means 'Wool Is My Bread'. Apparently there is no Latin word for mint-cake, otherwise things might have been very different. (41)

17. Which British city is twinned with Rotterdam, Raleigh (USA), Reykjavik and Freetown (Sierra Leone)?

Kingston upon Hull - I know this because I spent half the summer working there, and the twinned cities are listed on the 'Welcome to Kingston upon Hull' signs which greet drivers. The answer **Hull** was also accepted. My sympathies to BJ, who couldn't find the answer to this one in spite of being on-site in Rotterdam at the moment. (34)

18. For which two numbers **abcd** is it the case that $(a + b + c + d)^3 = abcd$ (where $a > 0$)?

4913 and **5832** respectively 17 and 18 cubed. (12)

19. Over what issue did a king abdicate for a day?

Abortion - King Baudoin of Belgium, abdicated for a day in 1990 - as a Catholic, he did not feel able to sign an abortion bill, so he abdicated temporarily rather than cause a constitutional crisis. (13)

20. Which play by a famous English playwright premiered in Moscow just after the second world war, ostensibly because there were no theatres available in London?

An Inspector Calls, by J. B. Priestley (45)

21. What has been published annually every year since 1697?

Old Moore's Almanack - my favourite wrong answer was the UK National Debt Figures (10)

22. Which number, between 1 and 999 inclusive, do the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre no longer use on car registration number plates?

666 - I read this story on the front page of The Independent on 2 Feb 90. Apparently so many people had requested new numbers because their current number, 666, was cursed, that the DVLA no longer bother to issue it. (20)

23. Which poem commemorates the death of the captain of L'Orient and his son at Aboukir Bay?

Casabianca, by Felicia Hemans - The poem starts "The boy stood on the burning deck". You see - you did know it. I did accept the first line as the correct answer. (31)

24. What condition results from an extra chromosome in position 21?

Mongolism - the answer Down's Syndrome was also accepted. (6)

25. What could you find at Lowlands, Rummidge and Watermouth?

(Fictional) **universities** - Lowlands in 'A Very Peculiar Practice' by Andrew Davies, Rummidge in several books by David Lodge, and Watermouth in 'The History Man' by Malcolm Bradbury. (23)

26. What kind of artefact is named after Sir Benjamin Hall?

A **bell** - the bell in question is of course Big Ben - I did not allow the answer 'a clock', except in the case of two entries which made it perfectly clear they knew Big Ben referred to the bell, but thought I was trying some sort of double bluff. Now, would I do a thing like that? (27)

27. Which distillery produces the only single malt Irish Whiskey?

Bushmills (16)

28. How many groats are there in a noble?

20 - groat = 4d, noble = 6/8. Some of the younger entrants may wish to ask some of the older entrants what 4d and 6/8 mean. (10)

29. What is made of: wholemeal, vegetable fat (including hydrogenated vegetable oil), yeast extract, salt, cheese, wheat starch and pepper?

Twiglets - one answer here was "Could be any bloody cheese biscuit..." (20)

30. Three different songs with the same title (not just different recordings of the same song) got into the top ten in a 12-month period. What was the title?

The Power of Love, in 84-85. It was recorded by Jennifer Rush, Huey Lewis and the News, and Frankie Goes to Hollywood. (15)

31. What was the former name of York Place, WC2?

Of Alley - it was built on land owned by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham - one of five roads called **George Court**, **Villiers Street**, **Duke Street** (now part of John Adam Street), **Of Alley** and **Buckingham Street**. (33)

32. Which scientist gave his name to a box in which small animals are trained?

B. F. Skinner - he was a behavioural psychologist who used rewards to train pigeons to pirouette. So next time you're in Trafalgar Square, look closely... (27)

33. What is the theoretical maximum break possible in a game of snooker?

155 - this could theoretically happen if the Practical maximum break was immediately preceded by a free ball and the black, following a snooker after a foul shot.

Ros Barden also came up with an ingenious argument for the maximum being 162: if the player who made the break started when 155 points down, all the point conceded in fouls, scored 155 points to tie the game, and then potted the respotted black first shot, that would give a total of 162. I don't know if a respotted black is officially considered to be part of the previous break - does anybody else know? (23)

34. Which song was the first to be awarded a gold disc for sales of over a million?

Chattanooga-Choo-Choo by Glenn Miller 10 Feb 1942. This was not the first million seller, which was Vesti la Giubba, by Enrico Caruso, first recorded 12 Nov 1902. The first record to register more than \$1m of sales was Catch a Falling Star, by Perry Como. (25)

35. Who invented 'Monopoly'?

Charles Darrow - he was previously an unemployed heating engineer from Philadelphia. The street names are from Atlantic City, N.J., where he used to go for his holidays (22)

36. Which book begins "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."?

1984, by George Orwell. The wrong answer I liked best was 'The Thirteen Clocks'. (16)

37. Who was the first person to appear on television?

William Taynton - he was a hotel bellboy or office clerk, depending on which source you believe. He had to be bribed 216 by Logie Baird to stand in front of the strange contraption. When you think how much Wogan gets..... (28)

38. Who won an Oscar for best original screenplay, and declared himself "insulted" by the Award?

George Bernard Shaw - In 1938, for Pygmalion. Seasoned treasure hunters will doubtless recognise GBS as a familiar figure. There were several guesses for a host of people who have declined Oscars, but GBS is the only one to my knowledge to have done so in these terms. (53)

39. Who created the fictional detective and actor Charles Paris?

Simon Brett - Charles Paris appears in at least 10 books, none of which I have read. However, I do like the title "Cast in Order of Disappearance" (35)

40. What, in cricketing terms, is the Australian counterpart to Nelson?

87 - with hindsight, I should have phrased the question 'What number...'. Still, most people deduced that a number was required. The only explanation I could find for the number's significance is that it is 13 short of 100. (30)

41. What was the name of The Titanic's older sister?

The **Olympic** - the other sister ship was the Britannic. (24)

42. Who was famous for a number of journeys, including ones made blindfolded, on stilts, in a sack, and trundling a wheelbarrow?

Blondin - real name Jean-Francois Gravelet. All the journeys were on a tightrope over Niagara Falls. I did like one wrong answer in particular: Ian Botham. (17)

43. Other than Tchechoslovakia itself, which country's capital can be found in Tchechoslovakia?

Norway - Oslo is a hidden word. (8)

44. What is the connection between Obadiah Masterson and Rupert Murdoch?

Sky - Sky (real name Obadiah) Masterson is the central character in the musical 'Guys and Dolls' based on a Damon Runyan story called 'The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown'. He was a gambler who would often bet all he owned - the sky's the limit. Rupie's connection is obvious. (41)

45. What is the smallest number which gives a remainder of x-1 when divided by x, for all values of x from 2 to 10 inclusive?

2519 - actually $(9 * 8 * 7 * 5) - 1$. (16)

46. By what name are Thistlewood, Ings, Brunt, Davidson and Tidd collectively known?

The Cato Street Conspirators - they were executed in 1820 for plotting to assassinate the cabinet and the Duke of Wellington. There were two guesses of Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick & Tich, and one each for Status Quo and the Harlem Globetrotters. (31)

47. Which pair of household names were first put together by Pierce Egan the Elder?

(Corinthian) **Tom and Jerry** (Hawthorn Esq.) - in his book 'Life in London' in 1820. I liked Bubble and Squeak, and also saw guesses of Harper and Queens, Tate and Lyle, and Marks and Spencer. (33)

48. Leonardo, Michaelangelo, Raphael: who is missing?

Donatello - I felt sure there would be some Logibods who had managed to remain unaware of the Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles - I was wrong. (1)

49. What is the most widely recognised thing about Malcolm Gill?

His **signature** - he is the Chief Cashier who signs every banknote. His wrist must ache something rotten. A couple of people guessed his nose - perhaps confusing him with Cyrano de Bergerac? (38)

50. Given that the Gregorian calendar has a 4-year cycle, how many years are there in the Hebrew calendar cycle?

19 - years 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 19 are leap years. A few people guessed 28 - they probably have a good reason for this, but I don't know what it is. (21)

51. If Catesby is The Cat, and Lovell is The Dog, who is The Rat?

Ratcliffe - "The Cat, the Rat and Lovell the Dog, Rule All England under the Hog". The Hog was Richard III, on whose coat of arms was a boar. He was not amused: the couplet's author, William Collingwood, was executed. (26)

52. What was the main component of "rational dress" for women?

Bloomers - in the 1850s. They didn't catch on. **Knickerbockers** was also accepted. (24)

53. Which number is thought to have been derived from a word meaning 'one left over'?

11 - in Anglo-Saxon aendlefone, in Old English endleofon. (7)

54. With which era is Edith Holden associated?

Edwardian - she was the Edwardian Lady whose Country Diary appeared in book club offers everywhere (19)

55. The standard for the unit of mass is a 1kg cylinder made of platinum, and which other metal?
Iridium - it is apparently the only standard unit of mass left which is a physical artefact. (8)
56. Whose money was used to by Potter's Field after his death?
Judas Iscariot - now you know what became of his 30 pieces of silver. (14)
57. With what are points, doublets and blots associated?
Backgammon (12)
58. Who was the first American to be canonised?
Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton (1774 - 1821) - with hindsight, I should probably have said 'USA-born'. Bayley, her maiden name was also accepted. One entry said Billy Graham - was' this a guess or a vote? (34)
59. What was the real name of 'Master Robinson' on board the SS Montrose?
Ethel Le Neve - Crippen's mistress. They travelled as father and son, Mr. and Mstr. Robinson. Fat lot of good it did them. (31)
60. Which city has two mainland boroughs, called Nestre and Marghera?
Venice - yes, it should say Mestre - thanks to almost everybody who corrected me. (19)
61. Leonard Slye changed his name to Dick Weston in 1930. Under what name did he eventually become famous?
Roy Rogers - I hear that Trigger was originally called Dobbin. (41)
62. In which year was the Olympic marathon first run over its present distance?
1908 - from Windsor Castle to White City. An extra 385 yards was added to the 26 miles so it would finish in front of the Royal Box. Dorando Pietri was winning, and collapsed just before the end. He was helped over the line by an official, who inadvertently got him disqualified. (19)
63. Which NFL American Football team wear their logo on only one side of their helmets?
The Pittsburgh Steelers - I discovered this after some painstaking research watching NFL games in slow motion. (30)

64. Who come between the Drapers and the Goldsmiths?

The Fishmongers - The 12 "Great" London Companies, in order of 01 Civic Precedence are: Mercers, Grocers, Drapers, Fishmongers, Goldsmiths, (Merchant Taylors, Skinners at sixes and sevens), Haberdashers, Salters, Ironmongers, Vintners, Clothworkers. (15)

65. Which area in New York is an anagram of a group of islands?

Yonkers (Orkneys) - another question where there was an alternative I hadn't thought of: **Canarsie** (Canaries) was also accepted. (33)

66. According to Sellar and Yeatman, there are only two genuine dates. One is 55BC. What is the other one?

1066 - from the book '1066 and All That'. (11)

67. Who played golf on the moon?

Alan Shepard - on the Apollo 14 mission. It is probably the longest golf drive in history, though not in the world. Nasty bunkers, though. (29)

68. Where is the oldest existing university in the world?

Fez, in Morocco - Karueein University, founded in 859AD. (32)

69. What relation is Screwtape to Wormwood?

Uncle - they are a pair of devils in the book 'The Screwtape Letters' by C. S. Lewis. One entry, rather than answering the question, nibble-swapped it: Tapeworm and Woodscrew. (19)

70. Who was the first English Monarch to receive the title Fidei Defensor?

Henry VIII - it was conferred by Pope Leo X in 1521, as a reward for Henry's anti-Lutheran writings. His later chopping and changing of wives didn't go down so well with the Vatican, but they never rescinded the title. (8)

71. Which was the first seceding state to be readmitted to the Union after the American Civil War?

Tennessee - the question was going to be 'Which US state is bordered by the most other states?', until a last-minute check revealed that several states are bordered by eight others. However, the acrostic was fixed by then, so we needed another question with the same answer. (25)

72. Which happy notion is the name given to the portion of turkey containing the wishbone?

The Merrythought - an appropriate answer to end on.(22)

The Themes

The main theme, as I expect everybody realised, was the zodiac. Each picture denoted a sign of the zodiac, from Aries to Pisces. The appropriate zodiacal symbol is also hidden in each picture.

Supporting this theme are some of the letters and numbers on each page. The last two letters in the small box, followed by the four numbers around the picture, make a national grid reference, as follows:

Aries	SK3201	Sheepy Magna
Taurus	TQ4640	Cowden
Gemini	S09037	Twyning
Cancer	SX3599	Clawton
Leo	NB5363	Lionel
Virgo	SU8881	Maidenhead
Libra	NY0226	Winscales
Scorpio	TQ8109	Hastings
Sagittarius	TQ1588	Harrow
Capricorn	NZI637	Billy Row
Aquarius	SE8750	Warter
Pisces	SM9537	Fishguard

(A couple of entries thought Gemini was Twyning Green my atlas shows this as being S09036.)

The zodiac theme was easy to spot. There was, however, a second theme - Scrabble. This was a hidden word in the introductory text (... South Seas **crab. Blessed** are those ...), which finished with 'Enjoy the game!'. There were also the little numbers on the front page - 1 in the A of Armchair and 15 in the O of Jackson. The scrabble board is a 15*15 square, with squares numbered from A1 at the top left to O15 at the bottom right.

The Acrostic

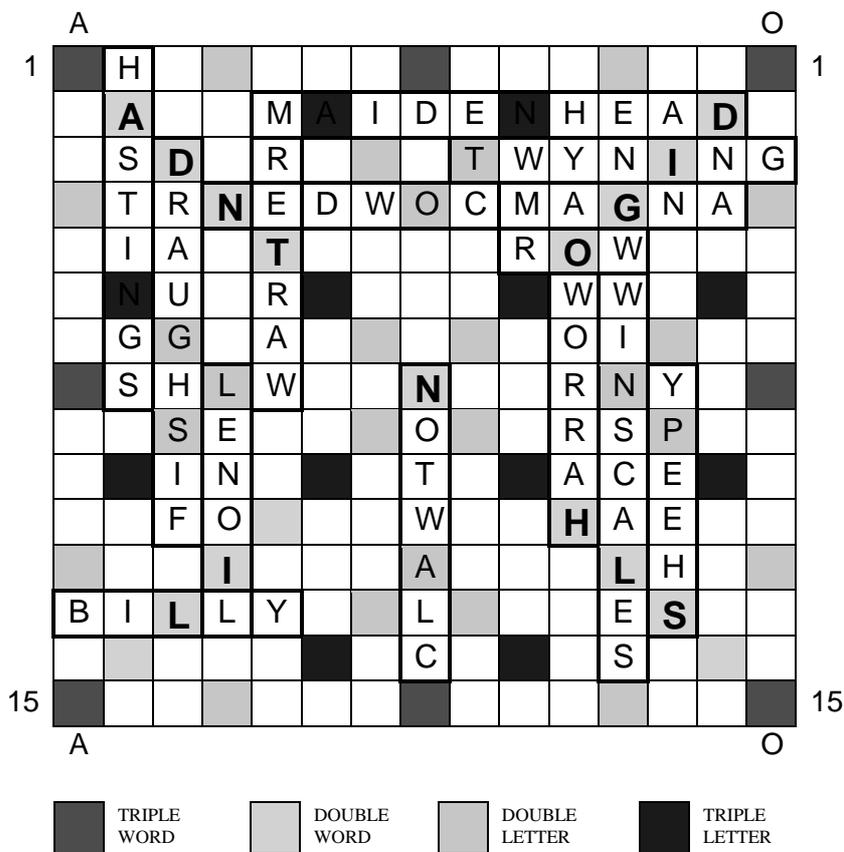
The rubric stated that the acrostic's difficulty had increased by 45 degrees. As several of you deduced, this meant it was diagonal. Once you worked that out, it was straightforward. In each set of six questions, you took the first letter of the **first** answer, the second letter of the second answer etc. Numerical answers represented spaces in the message, which said:

THEY COME IN MANY COLOURS LOOK TO THE PINK ONES TO DISCOVER THE SECRET

The Location

The treasure was buried at **Addington Hills**, near Croydon. It could be found thus:

- find the 12 place names from the grid references, as listed above;
- place them on the Scrabble board, using the starting square and orientation shown in the small boxes by the pictures, such as I4 <-- for Taurus. The fact that Aries (Sheepy Magna) and Capricorn (Billy Row) were two-word names and had two direction sets was an extra clue (providing you got Twyning and not Twyning Green);
- this results in a scrabble board looking like:



- now simply follow the advice in the ascrostic and look to the pink ones, i.e. the double word squares - reading them from top left to bottom right gives you Addington Hills.

Simple when you know, isn't it.

The Code

The code was in the stars. The comment about the odd spelling in Q43 (Tchechoslovakia) drew attention to the fact that there were no Z's at all in the treasure hunt: we were dealing with a 25-letter alphabet.

Each picture had one or more 5*5 grids, mapping on to the alphabet thus:

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	T	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

Overlaying the grid correctly gave the letters in each word, as a set of simple anagrams. Big stars indicated a letter appeared twice in a word. Taurus provided some clear clues, to the point of containing six explicitly drawn grids. Contrary to some people's beliefs, it had nothing to do with braille. The message reads:

**TAKE MAIN PATH AWAY FROM VIEWPOINT LEFT AT CAFE PAST GATE LEFT PATH
AFTER LEAP FROGS AT TRUNK SITUPS LEFT THEN RIGHT DOWN INTO WOODS
LOOK UNDER STUMP OF FALLEN TREE MARKED WITH L**

Gate, leap frogs and trunk situps, incidentally, refer to exercises on a trim-trail in Addington Hills. For those people who cracked the code but didn't spot the **L**, it is in the bottom left corner of Pisces - the small crab on the lobster pot. (Academic really, as I'm told the **L** which I painted on the stump washed off anyway.)

The Results

It has just occurred to me that I'm about to lose my newly-gained stock of internal envelopes. Ah well, easy come, easy go.

Congratulations to Ken Kirkman, who did the double of first to the treasure and highest score. Also to Mr Consistent himself, Phil Gray. However, to spread the prizes around, I have stuck to the rule that nobody may win more than one prize, so prizes went to second, third and fourth places. I have just listed one name for each entry below, though I know several were team efforts. Roll of honour is on the next page, under the following headings (which won't fit on the page as well):

Placing	Name	Treasure	Points	Prize
1	Ken Kirkman	1	1801	£50
2	Andrew Healey	3	1750	£50
3	Brian Mills	2	1710	£25
4	Ros Barden	4	1605	£15
5	Dick Sykes	5	1587	
6	Pablo		1578	
7	Paul Martin		1539	
8	Richard Meats		1535	
9	Deborah Boss		1516	
10	David Kee		1514	
11	Steve Hames		1396	
12	Janette Paterson		1376	
13	Ros Skelcher		1372	
14	Nick Hassell		1359	

15	Michael Milford	1300	
16	Lebonistas	1216	
17	Greg Roach	1203	
18	Wendy Petty	1192	
19	David Isaacson	1176	
20	Carl Haigney	1147	
21	Peter D G Smith	1128	
22	Steve Morris	1113	
23	Mark Amey	1095	
24	Andy Webber	1078	
25	Alan Sylvester	1015	
26	Chris Harries	953	
27	Peter Milne	930	
28	John Kendrick	923	
29	Christine Bannan	881	
30	N J Hannaford	880	
31	Paul Tribbick	788	
32	Peter Kirk	741	
33	Jane Breeze	703	
34	Nigel Bailey	698	
35	Rosemary Lewis	669	
36	Martin Milnes	623	
37	Paul Gunningham	564	
38	Ken Shilson	536	
39	Richard Fryer	519	
40	Martin Rich	510	
41	Sarah Elmer	509	
42	Linda Brett	500	
43	Brian Jackson	484	
44	Adrian Perkins	465	
45	Simon Weathers	456	
46	Ian Cockett	451	
47	Chris Jones	440	
48=	A E Ashton	374	
48=	Mike de Jong	374	
50	Barbara Gedling	373	
51	Ian Sillars	363	
52	A D Harley	320	
53	Steve Burnett	314	
54	Linda Barrington-Cook	294	
55	Ben Mellor	262	
56	Mike Weston	101	£10
57	Peter Huzan	99	
58	Phil Gray	53	

Thanks to all who entered, Rod

Memories of a Treasure Hunt

The Mills team got off to a flying start with the acrostic, and sussed the stings and arrows of the outrageous fourteen places by Christmas. Then we made our first mistake - we went on trying to do the puzzle instead of playing Scrabble. Finally cracked the whole thing at dusk on New Year's Day and set off in perfect conditions - dark, driving rain, gusty wind - with nothing to trouble us except one anagram - IPSSTU. Was there a STIPUS tree, or should we worry about falling into USPITS? We parked the car in a puddle and set off, unable to see anything like a viewpoint and expecting an ITPUSS to spring out of the bushes at any moment. Found the public toilets (PISS-IUT?) and then light dawned as we found the sign indicating that the whole area was laid out like the inside of the diseased mind of a quizmaster, an assault course tailor made for hapless hunters. Now hot on the trail, we paused only to do a few SITUPS before plunging into the woods. Finding a hole several feet deep by the Accidental Leg method, We decided that Rod couldn't have been mean enough to put It down there - that was our second big mistake. After twenty minutes we had found a lot of fallen trees, each with its L-shaped patch of fungus, and a lot more that sounded ominously close to falling. By now the team looked more like the cast of Henry V (Branagh version) than of Treasure Island, but Long John Silver would have been proud of our perseverance. I end with a Black Spot to Ken Kirkman - we'll get you next year!

Brian Mills included this with his entry