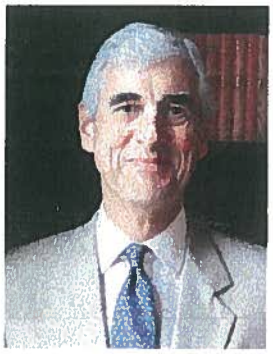
OLD TAUNTONIAN
ASSOCIATION



Michael Button
Co-Founder



David Watson
Co-Founder

A Short History of the Old Tauntonian 200 Club 1972 - 2009



David Brighton
Current Chairman



Dennis Webb
Current Secretary

It is hard to believe that almost 39 years have passed since I sat in David and Viv Watson's living room at Kidderminster picking numbers to be allocated to the 179 members we had managed to cajole into joining a new Old Tauntonian 200 Club. We used a chamber pot normally reserved for the use of the young Clive and James for this purpose! How could we have known then that the Club would still be going strong almost four decades later?

If my memory serves me correctly the original idea was that of Joe Hiller (President 1970). 200 Clubs were much in vogue around this time and were certainly used by political parties to raise funds at grass roots level. Because of other commitments Joe didn't want to get involved either with the task of finding up to 200 members willing to participate at a cost of 25p per week or to administer the Club and looked to the Secretary of the Association and the Social (Dinner) Secretary to take the lead.

Now, as Dennis Webb retires having been Secretary since 1988, is a good time to record the progress the Club has made since its formation back in 1972.

It was formed primarily to raise funds for the OTA and with the secondary purpose of funding pupils to attend some of our functions and to be ready from time to time to support some of the smaller projects at TS. To that end it has over the last 37 years raised over £48,000 in support of the OTA and some £8,000+ for TS, an impressive total of £56,480. During the same period subscriptions have been raised twice, each time being doubled (1981 to 50p and 2001 to £1). The concerns of the Secretary of the day as to whether numbers might drop as a result happily proved unfounded! Naturally the prize fund also doubled on each occasion. Inflation over these years was 940%. Had subscription rates increased pro rata we would now be looking at a weekly subscription of £2.35 a week. It would take a brave soul

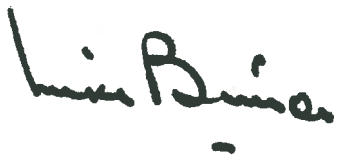
to recommend such an increase in the current financial climate!

Of course it is also a bit of fun, particularly for those who win cash prizes and the bottles drawn for those members who attend the various functions, some 1800 of which have been distributed to date.

The success and longevity of the Club is down to the hard work put in by successive Chairmen in ensuring an almost full house over the years and the Secretaries for administering the monthly draws and keeping the books and records for the original intention of the two founders was that the the Chairman would be responsible for filling the 200 places and the Secretary the draws and of course the finance. We wanted the Chair to be passed on each year to encourage a fresh approach towards filling the places and to give everyone who wished a chance to 'have a go'. This seems to have fallen by the wayside.

In putting this short history together I would like to pay tribute to those others mentioned herein that have kept the Club going for so long. It is fair to single out Dennis Webb and his wife Julie to whom our thanks must go for their diligence over the last 23 years.

Whether you are a current subscriber or thinking about joining, I hope you find this short history and the various statistics attached of some interest and amusement.



Michael Button (Co-Founder)

January 2011

Old Tauntonian 200 Club
The first 37 years

SUBSCRIPTION INCOME

	£ pa
1972 - 80	13
1981 - 2001	26
2002→	52

So far, £209,000 has been raised in this way

MAJOR PRIZES

	1st £	2nd £
1973 - 1980	500	250
1981 - 2001	1000	500
2002	2000	1000
2003→	1000	500

£150,000 has been distributed in prize money

- The major prizes are drawn at the Annual Reunion in Taunton and at the Association Annual Dinner.
- Draws are also held each month around the country for minor cash prizes - currently for £200, £150, £100, and £60.
- A further highlight of each such occasion is the final draw restricted to those members of the 200 Club who are present and usually consist of eagerly awaited bottles of Gin and Whisky.



Old Tauntonian 200 Club
The first 37 years

CHAIRMEN

1972 -73	Michael Button
1974 -77	*WDS 'Buffer' James*
1978	David Watson
1979 - 88	David Bell
1989 - 91	*Dickie Dauncey*
1992 - 93	Malcolm Mecklenburgh
1994 - 95	Colin Bell
1996 - 97	David Brighton
1998 - 99	*Tony Wood*
2000→	David Brighton

SECRETARIES

1972 - 73	David Watson
1974 - 78	David Bell
1979 - 87	Jonathan Stocker
1988→	Dennis Webb

AUDITORS / ACCOUNTS EXAMINERS

1982 - 88	*Dickie Dauncey*
1989 - 96	David Bell
1997→	John Pangbourne

Old Tauntonian 200 Club
The first 37 years

THEN and NOW

	1972	2010
Prime Minister	Edward Heath	David Cameron
Inflation	7%	4%
Inflation between the years	920%	
Headmaster	Norman Roberts	John Newton
President OTA	Jack Leaman	Jonathan Stocker
Secretary OTA	Mike Button	Colin Humphrey
200 Club Sub per week	25p	£1

Déjà vu

Jonathan Stocker (President 2010-11) has agreed to take on the rôle of Secretary once again after a short break of 24 years!



Old Tauntonian 200 Club
The first 37 years



Watson's potty

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

- The Club was started with 179 members paying just 25p a week
- Numbers were allocated by drawing them from the actual chamber pot shown above



Around 1,800 bottles have been given away to those attending OT functions

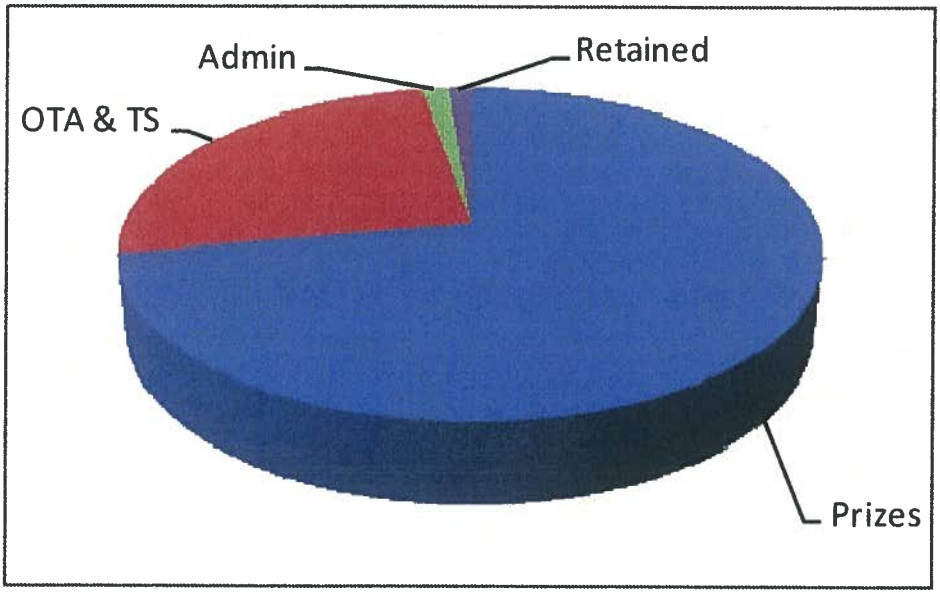


The Power behind the Secretary

Old Tauntonian Association 200 Club

Accounts Summary 1972 - 2009

	%	£
Maximum possible subscription income	100.00	213200
Less numbers not sold	-2.13	-4532
TOTAL SUBSCRIPTION INCOME	97.87	208668
Interest received (net)	1.64	3494
TOTAL INCOME	99.51	212162
Administration costs	-1.50	-3189
Prizes	-70.24	-149748
AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	27.77	59225
Old Tauntonian Association	-22.13	-47190
Old Tauntonian Sports Club	-0.21	-450
OTA Benevolent Fund	-0.23	-500
Taunton School and Weirfield	-1.84	-3910
Pupils & Dinners	-2.08	-4430
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED	-26.49	-56480
RETAINED	1.28	2745



AND NOW FOR THOSE WHO LIKE STATISTICS!

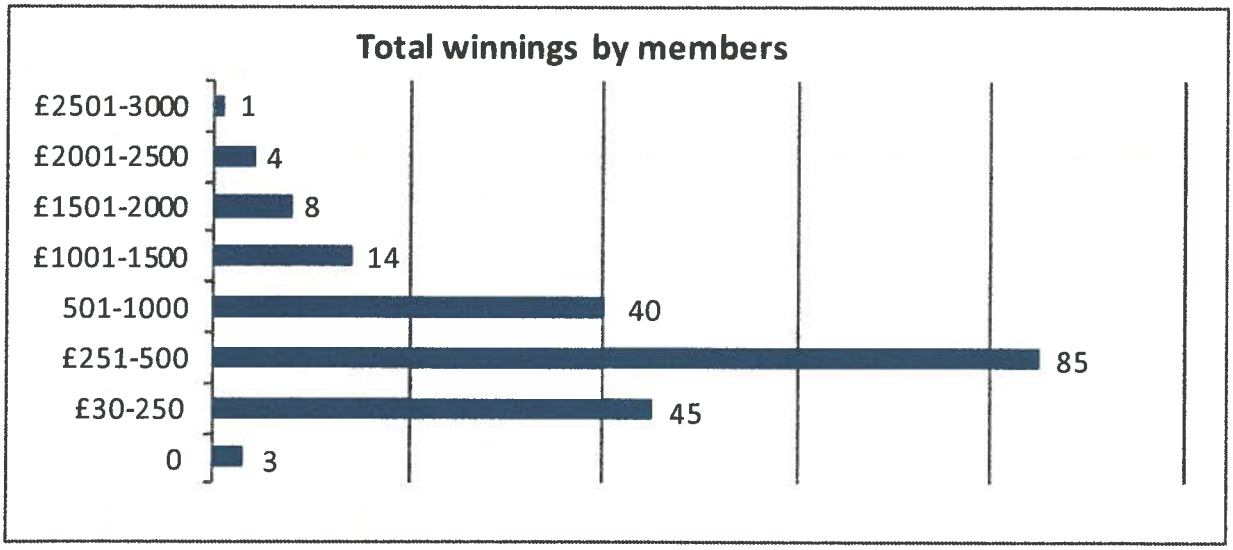
(Statistics are only available from 1985 onwards)

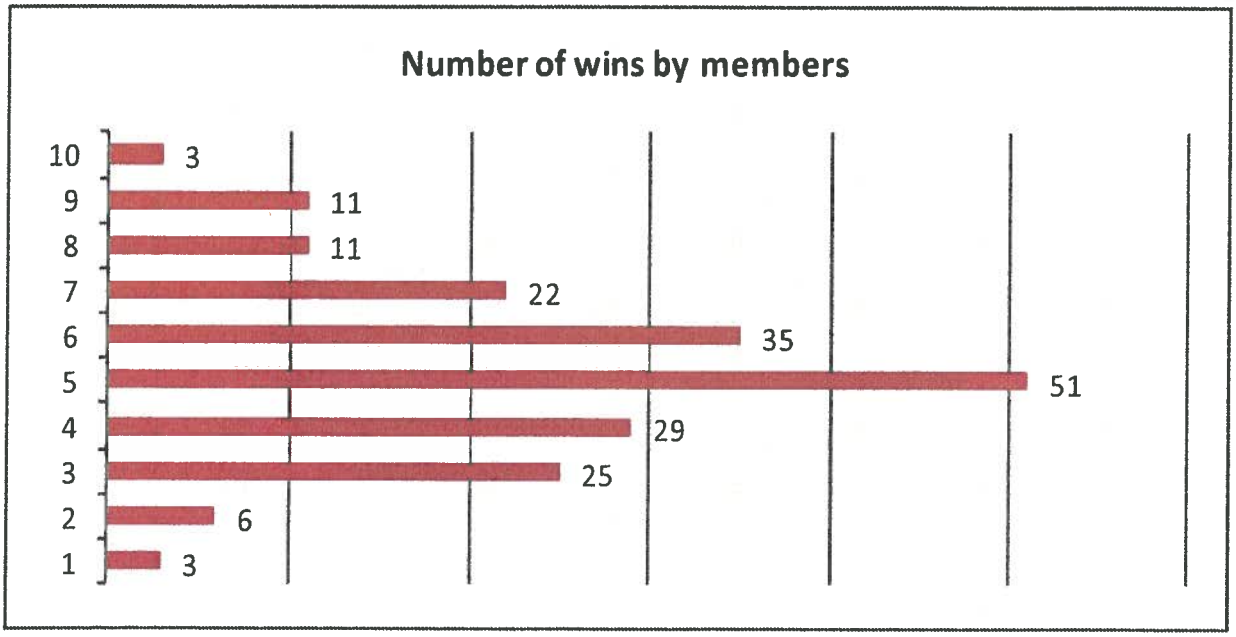
177 MEN	18 LADIES

- 3 numbers have never been drawn
- 1 number has been drawn 11 times
- 51 numbers have come up 4 times

Number of Wins:	0	1 to 5	6 to 10	11
Members:	3	146	50	1

- 85 members have won between £251 and £500. One member is well in hand!





LUCKIEST NUMBERS by Amount

75	188	117	143	46

by Number of Draws

62	6	97	143	8

UNLUCKIEST NUMBERS by Amount

44	45	83	192	21
£0	£0	£0	£30	£60

by Number of Draws

44	45	83	21	24

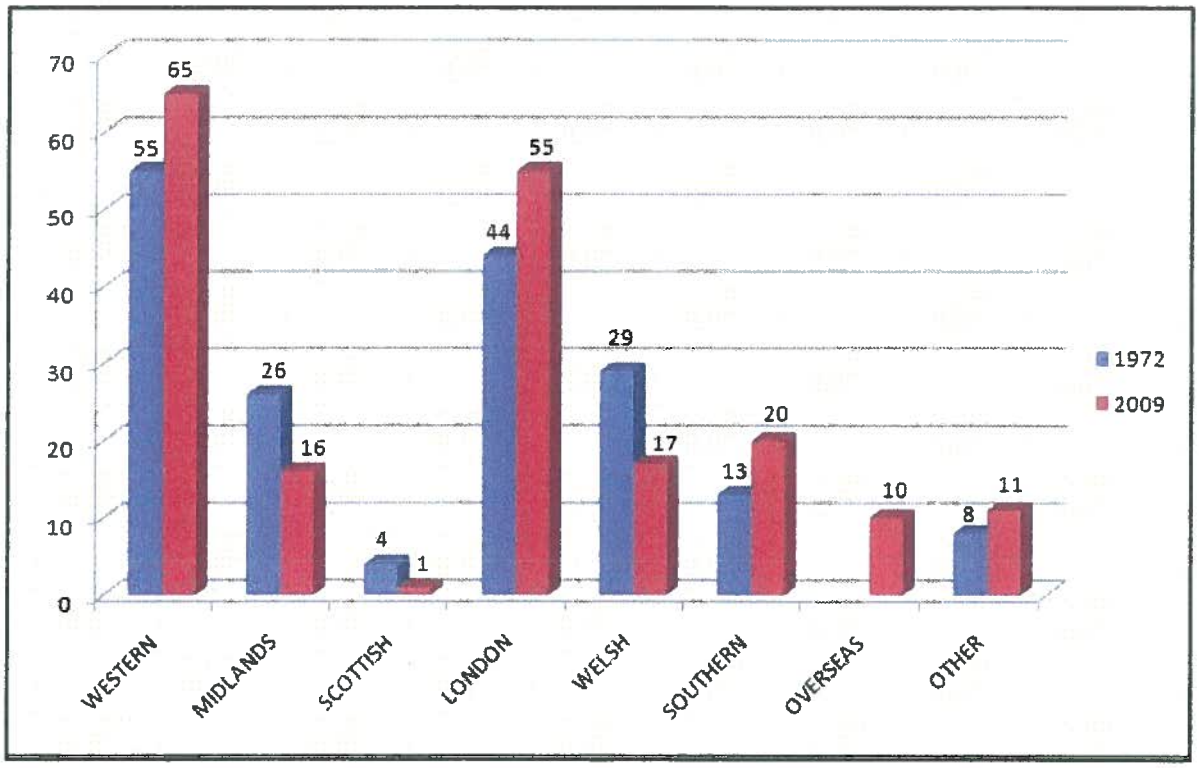
ONE IN TEN HAVE WON MORE THAN ONE MAJOR PRIZE

EVEN NUMBERS DO BETTER THAN ODD ONES ~ RATIO 5:4

TOP WINNERS IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS

Chris Levan	Douglas Keane	John Woods	John Oliver
John Osmond	*Geoff Stephens*	Roger Morgan	*John Allaway*
Suzie Mumme			

MEMBERS BY LOCATION



And finally...

Of the major prize-winners, 88% have one major prize to their credit

but...

12% have won twice.

WHATEVER THE ODDS ARE.....THEY CAN'T BE BAD!

Acknowledgement

My grateful thanks to David Bridges who has helped me with the layout and printing of this booklet.