

Characters

- Gordon Squires (M)** – **Captain of the Scrambled Eggs Pub Quiz Team. Age- fifty plus.**
- Sarah Chappel (F)** – **Team member- any age.**
- Mandy Sims (F)** – **Replacement team member –any age.**
- Freddie Bones (M)** – **Team member – any age.**
- Colin Edgar (M)** – **Team member – any age**
- Debs Edgar (F)** – **Wife of Colin – team member – any age.**
- Question Master (M/F)** – **any age; male or female.**

Scene 1 – The pub lounge bar

(The action takes place in the lounge bar of the “Who’d A’ Thought It” Public House. Early evening Sarah and Mandy are sitting at a large table. Gordon is peering out of the lounge window looking agitated.)

- Gordon:** Where are they? Don’t they know how important tonight is?
- Sarah:** I’m sure they’ll be here soon.
- Gordon:** **(Looks at watch)** But its 7.20! Are you sure you didn’t see them in the car park?
- Sarah:** Calm down Gordon. Have they ever let you down on quiz night?
- Gordon:** But we’re starting in ten minutes Sarah! We need them here now. **(He looks at Sarah)** Where’s your John?
- Sarah:** He’s got one of those committee meetings at the golf club. I’ve brought Mandy instead. She’s my next-door neighbour but one. Mandy helps out with the year 2 readers at my school.
- Gordon:** **(Distracted, looking out of the window again)** Where’s Freddie?
- Sarah:** He’s getting the drinks.
- Gordon:** So, it’s just Colin and Debs. Are you sure you didn’t see them outside?
- Sarah:** They’ll be here I tell you!
- Gordon:** But they must know how important tonight is!
- Sarah:** Gordon, will you sit down and stop stressing! This is Amanda – she prefers Mandy; aren’t you going to say hello? She’s come in place of John.
- Gordon:** **(Suddenly realising)** What, John not coming? But we need him for sport and music! **(Still looking out of the window)**
- Sarah:** Well then, we’ll have to do without him. Mandy, here, will be just as useful as John. **(Gordon is still looking out of the window)** Gordon!
- Gordon:** I do beg your pardon. Amanda, is it? Welcome to the Scrambled Eggheads.
(Gordon calms down and sits next to Sarah)
- Mandy:** The what?
- Sarah:** It’s the name of our quiz team. Gordon chose it.
- Gordon:** It’s good of you to help us out. New members are always welcome. We need to extend our range of expertise, don’t we Sarah? At the moment we’re a bit light on Greek Mythology, Haute Cuisine and World Politics. What can you offer, Amanda?
- Mandy:** I can do Soaps.
- Gordon:** Soaps?
- Mandy:** I never miss an episode. Go on, ask me anything. Go on.

Gordon: I'd rather not. I don't think there'll be a call for that particular subject. This is a proper quiz.

Mandy: **(Miffed)** So it's a proper quiz, is it? Well, what do you do then?

Gordon: My role is to husband the team's wide range of knowledge into a cohesive form using my judgment from years of experience and to act as the final arbiter.

Mandy: What did he say?

Sarah: He writes down the answers!

Mandy: Oh, very clever!

Gordon: **(Looking frantically at his wristwatch and goes back to the window)** Where are they? Are you sure you didn't see them? How can they let us down like this! If they're late they won't be able to take part! They're very strict on that!

Sarah: I'm sure we can manage; we've done it before.

Gordon: That's not the point! We need Debs on Science and Nature! She's the only one who knows anything about it! She's worth ten points to us on her own. I've put it in as our joker round. We can't change it now. You know what they're like!

Sarah: We'll just have to go with the four of us. Does it really matter?

Gordon: Matter! I can't believe you're saying that! You do realise that if we win tonight we are more or less certain to be on top of the Winter League with only one week to go. It's between us and the Quizzly Bears. But without Debs we stand no chance. Don't you want to win the league?

Sarah: Can't say I'm that worried.

Gordon: I just don't understand you sometimes, Sarah! Intelligent woman like you! Don't you feel in the least bit competitive? When I put this hand-picked team together five years ago it was our long-term ambition to win the Winter League. This is our big chance.

Sarah: Oh, come on Gordon, don't be so dramatic. You're overreacting!

Gordon: I most certainly am not! **(Looking frantically out of the window)** Look, it's nearly 7.30! How can they do this to us? Tonight of all nights!

Sarah: For heaven's sake stop it Gordon! You'll make yourself ill! Anyone would think it's a matter of life or death! It's only a quiz!

(He looks at his watch again and starts striding about in a panic)

Gordon: Only a quiz! I can't believe you mean that Sarah! All our hard work over the winter will be ruined without a full team. We must win tonight! **(Pause)** Look at the time! **(Pause)** It's no good! I'm going to look for them!

(Gordon marches towards the front door)

Mandy: **(Watching him go in amazement)** What's wrong with him? He seems to be having some sort of breakdown.

Sarah: Oh, don't worry about Gordon; he's always like this. I don't know how his wife puts up with him.

Mandy: So he's in charge, is he?

Sarah: Self-appointed. And he's got himself in a right froth tonight. Has this fixation about us winning the Winter Quiz League. I don't know why he gets so het up. The rest of us don't care that much. As far as I'm concerned it's an evening out.

Mandy: Why does he keep going about this Debs?

Sarah: She knows everything about Science and Nature and Gordon has played the joker.

Mandy: Joker?

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Sarah: You get double points but you have to nominate a round before the start.

Mandy: I see.

(Freddie enters carrying drinks)

Freddie: What's got into Gordon? He rushed past me looking like someone has driven off in his car.

(Freddie hands the drinks out and puts the tray on another table)

Sarah: Oh, you know what he's like. The idiot's only gone with the joker on Science and Nature. Much use that will be if Debs isn't here.

Freddie: What no Debs? **(He sits down)**

Sarah: Nor Colin. I'm sure they'll turn up; it's just Gordon panicking again. You know about John, don't you?

Freddie: I heard. It's good of you to stand in for him Mandy. Don't I know you from somewhere?

Mandy: I'm a hairdresser at the shop the far end of Fore Street. Next to Poundstretchers.

Freddie: That's it; that's where I've seen you. I've dropped the wife off there a couple of times. What's it called again?

Mandy: "Curl up and Dye".

Freddie: Great name!

Sarah: Mandy's into soaps and celebrities.

Freddie: Great! We need someone on those.

Sarah: Gordon doesn't seem to think so.

Freddie: Oh, don't worry about old Gordon; he's an old snob. Doesn't know half as much as he thinks he does. He just likes to feel he's in control. He drives me up the wall sometimes.

Mandy: So, he said each of you have got a special subject.

Sarah: Well, they rely on me for Geography and History, John's Sport and a bit of Music, Freddie does Sport and a bit of Food and Debs does, well you know about her, and Colin does..... What subject does Colin do?

Freddie: Yes, what does he do? He just seems to contradict everyone even if he hasn't got a clue himself. He really winds up Gordon (**laughs**); which is great!

Sarah: If Gordon doesn't appear soon there isn't going to be a quiz!

Freddie: At least he won't have time to do his captain's speech. You know the one about how, over the years, he'd carefully assembled a crack team of quizzers with the sole purpose of winning the Winter Pub Quiz League. He always reckons we've all been hand-picked.

Sarah: Hand-picked! We're the only ones who'll put up with him! I'm sure I'd have nothing to do with the likes of Gordon normally. Can you imagine us all meeting up with him socially once a week if it wasn't for this quiz?

Freddie: And I can't understand why winning this league is such a big deal – the man's obsessed!

Sarah: The way he talks you'd think it would mean a victory tour of the town on an open-topped bus.

Freddie: Followed by a civic reception.

Mandy: So, you really have got a chance of winning this league?

Sarah: That's what he told me. It's between us and Quizzly Bears. That lot over there.

Mandy: What have you all got silly names?

Sarah: It's a sort of tradition. What was that lot that won it last year?

Freddie: Boris's Love Child.

Sarah: They had eight in their team!

Mandy: Sounds about right.

(Gordon enters from the front door with Colin and Debs in tow)

Gordon: I found them standing at the back of the car park. I think they've had a row!

Sarah: Evening Colin. I'm glad you could make it.

Colin: Sorry we're late.

(They put their coats on the back of their chairs)

Sarah: How are you, Debs? **(She doesn't answer)**

Colin: She's not speaking.

Gordon: Marvellous, isn't it! That's all we want! Not speaking! She knows how important it is to win tonight!

Colin: It's alright Gordon, if she knows anything, which I doubt, she'll write it down. Can I get anyone drinks?

Gordon: No time for that now. You'll have to wait till the interval. This is Amanda; she's standing in for John.

Colin: Welcome Amanda.

Mandy: Mandy.

Colin: Right.

Gordon: **(Superciliously)** Amanda does soaps.

Mandy: **(Irritated)** Look, if you'd rather leave me out, I'll just sit and watch in the corner.

Freddie: You stay where you are, Mandy.

Gordon: **(Looking at his watch)** Anyway, it's 7.30. Look, I think he's about to start. Concentrate, everyone. We need 110% from everyone tonight.

(The voice of the Question Master is a voice-over)

Q.M: **(VO)** Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the penultimate round of the Speed Pub Quiz Winter League. If you'll just bear with me while I check the sound system.

Gordon: Why is it a speed quiz now? I don't understand why it has to be so short. I remember when we used to have ten rounds.

Sarah: Yes, and it went on all night! We sometimes didn't get home till 11.

Gordon: It's as if they don't think people can concentrate for more than an hour and a half.

Freddie: I'm afraid it's the modern way Gordon. It's the same with sport - short versions of everything to satisfy our limited attention spans.

Gordon: But really – a speed quiz!

Q.M. Right, it seems everything is working. I hope you've all made your food choices for the interval.

Colin; What about me?

Sarah: You'll have to have what's left over. It's your own fault for being late.

(Colin sulks)

Q.M: The winning team tonight will receive ten points and the runner up five points, as usual. I hope you've all got your answer sheets. As usual there will be five question rounds plus an interval picture round. All correct answers are worth two points and there will be double points for any team playing their joker for their chosen round. As usual, after each round we'll swap papers and go through the answers. Has everyone got their answer sheets ready? Right, let's begin. First round is History. Good, let's begin with an easy one. Question one. In what did Cleopatra supposedly bathe to remain beautiful?

Gordon: I think we all know that, don't we? Asses' milk. Yes?

(A murmur of agreement. Sarah watches Gordon writing down the answer)

Sarah: **(She points at Gordon's writing)** I think you've put the apostrophe in the wrong place.

Gordon: (Irritably) Where?
Sarah: Just there. There was more than one ass. (She points it out)
Gordon: (Irritably) Does it matter?
Sarah: Sorry Gordon, it's the teacher in me.
Freddie: I wonder how many asses they had to milk to fill her bath.
Mandy: I wouldn't have thought they liked being milked.

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(Pause)

Q.M: Question two. Which British general was killed at Khartoum in 1885?
Gordon: I'm sure you're going to tell us that, Sarah.
Sarah: That would be Gordon, Gordon.
Colin: I knew that; I saw the film! Gordon of Khartoum. Charlton Heston, wasn't it? Got a spear right through him!
Gordon: Yes, alright Colin! As long as one of us gets the answer! If you think you know write it down. And keep your voice down! I'm sure that lot over there heard you just then. (He indicates the Quizzly Bears. They all look)
Q.M: Question three. Who was the second person to walk on the Moon?
Freddie: That came up a couple of months ago. Do you remember? Colin said it was Buzz Lightyear!
(Colin looks daggers at Freddie)
Colin: You had to bring that up, didn't you!
Gordon: Alright, alright, team! Concentrate, please! Shall we assume it was Buzz Aldrin? (A murmur of approval)
Q.M: Question four. Which Italian soldier and patriot won Sicily and Naples for the new kingdom of Italy in the 19th century?
Colin: I know that one too; he was named after a biscuit.
Sarah: I think the biscuit was named after him!
Freddie: What, Custard Cream?
Gordon: Very clever, Freddie! I think we know Sarah was referring to Garibaldi. (He writes it down) Good, now concentrate! The last question is usually the hardest one. Let's see if we can get maximum points.
Q.M: Finally, the last question of round one. Who was the only one of Henry VIII's wives to receive a queen's funeral?
Gordon: Sarah?
Sarah: Well, let's see if we can eliminate one or two.

Freddie: Which is what Henry did!

Gordon: I wish you'd take this seriously Freddie.

Sarah: Now we know Catherine Parr survived him.

Mandy: And didn't he fall out with a couple of others?

Freddie: Fall out? He had their heads chopped off!

Sarah: Yes, well. So who does that leave – Jane Seymour, I suppose. Let's go with her.

Gordon: **(writes)** Jane Seymour.

Q.M: Right, unless anyone needs a question repeated, we'll swap papers and go through the answers.

Gordon: Amanda, would you swap our paper with the Quizzly Bears over there please? **(He points)**
(Mandy takes the answer sheet over to the Quizzly Bears)

Sarah: And will you stop having a dig at Mandy Gordon!

Gordon: I didn't know I had.

Sarah: Well, just stop it! She doesn't like it.
(Mandy comes back with theirs and gives it to Gordon. He passes it to Sarah)

Gordon: Sarah, would you check the answers as usual?

Sarah: **(Looking at the Quizzly Bears' answer sheet)** Now, look at that; they've got exactly the same as us!

Freddie: You're going to have to do something about that lot, Gordon! I bet they've been earwiggling again! You know what they're like! They always make a point of sitting near us.

Sarah: Don't start him on that again Freddie! He'll get paranoid again.

Gordon: I am not being paranoid! Last week I found out they got mostly the same answers as us, including some of our wrong ones.

Q.M: Now, everyone ready? The answers to the first round are as follows:- Number one, you should have asses milk. Number two – Gordon, or Gordon of Khartoum. Number three – Buzz Aldrin. Number four – Garibaldi and the last answer, of course, is Jane Seymour.

Gordon: That's good; maximum points on History. Trouble is that lot have got the same answers and maximum as well.

Freddie: Perhaps they've planted a listening device, you know, a bug, under the table! **(Colin and Mandy look under the table)**

Gordon: Don't be ridiculous!

Q.M: I hope you enjoyed that round, everyone. Right, straight on to the last round before the interval – Literature.

Gordon: Now, concentrate everyone. We need maximum points on this round. Sarah, we rely on you for this subject – you being a teacher.

Sarah: I teach six-year-olds, Gordon! If we get a question on Peppa Pig let me deal with it!

Q.M: Question one. What is the name of the young hero of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island?"

Colin: Wasn't that Billy Bones?

Freddie: No, it wasn't him.

Colin: What about Captain Flint?

Freddie: Don't be stupid. That was the parrot!

Colin: Well, you don't seem to know either!

Gordon: Will you two stop arguing! You're like a couple of children! **(Sarah hands him a piece of paper)** Thank you Sarah: I think we'll use your answer. And I suggest that you, Colin, write your suggestions on paper as well. That team at the other end of the bar can hear you.

Freddie: They won't learn anything!

Q.M: Question two. Who wrote "A Doll's House" and "The Wild Duck?"

Gordon: Write it down if you know. **(They write answers)** I don't think we'll take your answer seriously, Freddie! He's put Enid Blyton.

(Debs hands in a written answer)

Colin: **(Trying to see the paper)** What did Debs write?

Gordon: Never you mind! **(He studies the paper and shows it to Sarah)** Yes, I think I agree - Henrik Ibsen.

Q.M: And question three is "In the Greek story of the labours of Heracles, or Hercules as you might know him, what task did he have to do with the Cretan Bull?"

(Freddie and Sarah hand in answer).

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Sarah: What did Freddie put? **(Gordon shows them Freddie's answer. Sarah and Mandy laugh)**

Gordon: I think even Hercules would have been hard put to do that to the unfortunate beast, Freddie! I think we'll just put "capture it!"

Q.M: Question four; in the children's story "Charlotte's Web" what was the name of the pig?

Mandy: My Tracey used to love that story. It's Wilbur.

Sarah: Well done Mandy!

Q.M: And the last question before the interval. Who wrote the children's story "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang?"

Freddie: We should know this between us.

(Debs writes down an answer quickly and hands it to Gordon. Colin snatches the piece of paper and looks at it)

Colin: Don't be stupid. It can't be that!

Debs: Don't call me stupid!

Freddie: She speaks!

Colin: Well, really! How could he have written that! If you haven't got anything sensible to add...

Debs: What do you know? I've never seen you read a book.

Colin: Well I know it couldn't possibly be him. That's ridiculous!

Debs: Right, that's it! I'm off! I'm not stopping here to be insulted by that idiot!

Gordon: You can't do that!

Debbie: Oh yes, I can!

Gordon: But we need you for Science and Nature!

(Debs begins to put her coat on)

Debs: I didn't want to come tonight anyway!

Colin: Well, why did you then? You don't say a word and then you come out with that stupid answer.

Debs: You're the stupid one; you don't know anything! You just blurt out the first thing that comes in your ignorant head!

(She starts towards the front door in a huff)

Gordon: Deborah, please! Come back; we need you!

Debs: Well, you'll have to do without me tonight!

Gordon: I'm sure he didn't mean it! Deborah, please, come back!

(Debs exits through the front door. They all watch her go with amazement)

Gordon: Well, thank you very much Colin! We're down to five now! Why couldn't you wait till tomorrow if you wanted to have a row?

Colin: She's always like that if she can't get her own way!

Sarah: Anyhow, what did she write down?

Colin: **(He shows the paper to Sarah and Gordon)** Look, Ian Fleming! The James Bond writer. I ask you!

Sarah: But he *did* write "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!"

Colin: What! **(Pause)** He didn't, did he?

Sarah: Yes, Ian Fleming! I thought everyone knew that. Look, we've both written it down. **(Sarah and Freddie show their papers to Colin)**

Mandy: Even I knew that!

Colin: Oh dear! Are you sure he wrote it?

Sarah: Of course!

Gordon: Well, aren't you going to go after her?

Sarah: Apologise.

Colin: Do you think I ought to?

Gordon: Yes, I think you had! And get a move on! She'll be halfway home by now. We need her for Science and Nature. You know how good she is. It's the next round after the interval.

(Colin puts his coat on and exits hurriedly towards the front door)

Gordon: Oh dear, what are we going to do now? What if she doesn't come back? Sarah, couldn't you chase after her as well?

Sarah: Certainly not! Let them sort out their own marital squabbles!

Q.M: So, if everyone's finished, I'll ask you to hand all your answer sheets to me this time so we can work out the half time scores. As usual there will be a 20 minute interval during which there will be a picture round while you eat your food. There are twelve questions and a bonus of five points if you get them all right. This week the subject is "Minor Celebrities".

Freddie: Oh no, not Minor Celebrities! I thought you're always telling us this is a proper quiz, Gordon!

Gordon: This is most irregular! I shall certainly complain.

Sarah: Well, you'll just have to go with it for now! I expect we'll know quite a few between us. Mandy here will know one or two; she does soaps, remember, Gordon.

Freddie: Of course, you know what they say about minor celebrities, don't you?

Mandy: No.

Freddie: They reckon they're like rats; you're never more than ten feet away from one! **(They all look around inquisitively)**

Sarah: I'll get the question sheet. **(Sarah goes to get the question sheet)**

Freddie: Well, that's that, isn't it Gordon? Without Debs on Science and Nature we've got no chance. Particularly as you played our joker.

Gordon: Why did Colin have to upset her? **(Pause)** We've got no chance without Deborah. It's vital we win tonight!

Freddie: Well, seeing as you seem to think the rest of us are quite patently useless, we might as well all give up now and have a proper drink!

Gordon: To think all our hard work through the season has come to this! This is most unfortunate. Without Deborah we will certainly lose! **(Pause)** It's no good; I must do something! I can't just sit here! I shall go after them! They can't have got far. Tell Sarah she's captain until I return.

(Gordon exits towards the front door. Lights fade)

Scene 2 - The lounge bar

(Lights up. Twenty minutes later. Sarah, Freddie and Mandy are finishing off the remains of their food)

Sarah: Well, that wasn't bad – eleven out of twelve; that's another 22 points. We don't usually do so well on the picture quiz.

Freddie: Good thing Mandy was here; we'd have struggled without her.

Sarah: At least that'll cheer Gordon up.

Mandy: And stop him having a go at me.

Sarah: Don't worry he's had a go at all of us at one time or another.

Mandy: If you've finished I'll take the plates. **(She gathers up the plates except one and exits towards the bar)**

(Gordon enters from the front door followed separately by Colin and Debs)

Gordon: I found them just down the road. They appear to have resolved their differences.

Colin: Any food left?

Freddie: We rescued a stale looking pork pie **(Referring to the plate on the table)** and I think Gordon deserves that.

Gordon: You have it Colin; I no longer feel hungry.

(Colin grabs the plate with pork pie and starts eating)

Sarah: What about Debs?

Colin: She doesn't like pork pies.

Sarah: You come and sit with us, Debs. Freddie can keep Colin company. **(She motions for Freddie to go and sit with Colin)** You alright?

Debs: I think so. Colin has apologised for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. And the thing he didn't want me to do he's going to let me do now.

Colin: But only on Tuesdays.

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Debs: You said Fridays as well!

Sarah: Please! Don't you two start again!

Freddie: Stand them in the corner Gordon!

Gordon: Now Sarah, how did we get on with the picture quiz?

Sarah: Very well.

Gordon: Why did they have to choose minor celebrities; who knows anything about them?

Sarah: Well, Mandy obviously does! Thanks to her we got 22 out of 24. It's a good thing we had her in the team, isn't it Gordon?

Gordon: Yes, well. And the Quizzlies?

Sarah: I think they got 22 as well.

Freddie: The thing is, one of them came over to book a hair appointment with Mandy.

Gordon: Oh no! They've done that sort of thing before. You didn't let them see your answers.

Freddie: I think they might have done; you know what they're like!

Gordon: I complained last week about them doing that. It's just not right!

Freddie: I think you're going to have to do something about that lot Gordon. They're going to win by cheating!

(Gordon starts to look agitated. Mandy returns from the raffle table. She is holding her prize. It is a strange looking ornament)

Sarah: What's that?

Mandy: I won it in the raffle.

Sarah: Oh, I wonder if I've won anything

Mandy: There was only the chocolate Santa left and a set of flannels.

Sarah: I won't bother.

Q.M: So, adding on the points for the picture quiz it seems we have a tie for the half time lead between the Quizzly Bears and the Scrambled Eggheads. Good, I hope you've all claimed your raffle prizes. When you are ready we'll go on to round four; which as you know, is Science and Nature.

Colin: But I haven't had my drink yet!

Gordon: It's your own fault, running off like that! You'll have to go without!

Debs: He'll get grumpy if he doesn't get his pint!

Freddie: Here, have a sip of mine. **(He offers his pint to Colin who takes a sip)**

Gordon: Right team, now we're back to a full complement let's have everyone giving their full concentration for the second half. Hopefully we can get maximum points on Science and Nature, playing our joker.

Debs: No pressure then!

Gordon: I have every confidence in you Deborah!

(Lights fade - A few minutes pass – lights up)

Gordon: I think that went very well indeed. I wouldn't be surprised if we got maximum points there. You must be very proud of your wife, Colin, knowing so much about Science and Nature. **(Colin looks resentful)**

Sarah: Oh come on, Colin, give Debs some credit. Did you know where grasshoppers have their ears?

Colin: I don't really care where they have their ears!

(Colin gets up and walks off)

- Gordon:** Where are you going?
- Colin:** Do I have to ask permission now to go to the loo now?
- Debs:** He's always in there!
- Gordon:** Right, come on team. Concentrate! We need another maximum. The next round is on TV and films.
- Debs:** He had TV and Films a couple of weeks ago, didn't he? I remember because he made a joke. He wanted us to name three Bond villains and said he wouldn't take "No" for an answer!
- Sarah:** At least between us we might know something about TV and films.
- Mandy:** I saw a really good programme last night – "50 things to do before you die."
- Freddie:** I'd have thought the obvious one was "shout for help!"
- Q.M:** Now, on to round four. Here I must apologise. It was going to be TV and Films but, I'm afraid, they've sent the wrong questions. So instead the round will be on Fun General Knowledge. If you'll just bear with me while I check the questions are all there.
- Gordon:** Oh really, this is too much! Did he say "Fun General Knowledge?"
- Freddie:** Mustn't be fun, must it?
- (Colin returns. He is carrying a drink)**
- Sarah:** You've got a drink!
- Colin:** Well, I was passing the bar on the way back and I was gasping. It's all very well for you lot; you've been drinking all evening.
- Debs:** You could have got me one!
- Colin:** You'd have only said I got you the wrong thing. I know what you're like!
- Gordon:** Yes, thank you Colin. Now will you sit down and pay attention.
- Colin:** Anyhow, I think you want to watch those Quizzly bears. I overheard one of them saying he was going to come over and book a haircut with Mandy.
- Freddie:** Not another one! It wouldn't be so bad but four of them are bald! It's bare-faced cheating; that's what it is!
- Sarah:** Or bare headed!
- Gordon:** I've complained to the Question Master but it's obviously done no good. He doesn't believe me!
- Freddie:** That lot have sat near us again tonight! They're going to win the winter league by cheating! Don't you think Sarah?
- Sarah:** There's definitely something going on.
- Freddie:** I think you're going to have to sort it out Gordon.
- Gordon:** You're right! I must do something! We can't just let them get away with it! On tonight of all nights! They've really gone too far this time!!

We can't just sit here and do nothing. It's outrageous! They must be stopped!

(Gordon gets up and starts towards the Quizzly Bears)

Sarah: Why did you have to say that Freddie? He'll get us all thrown out. Stop him!

(Freddie gets up and follows Gordon, who starts to remonstrate with Quizzly Bears)

Gordon: This really is too much! Every week I've had to put up with your –

Q.M: Would the member of the Scrambled Eggheads please sit down or I shall have to disqualify his team and ask them to leave.

(Freddie escorts Gordon back to his seat)

Sarah: Just calm down Gordon!

Freddie: You'll get us disqualified.

Sarah: Wait a minute; I've just realised how they're doing it! It's obvious! Why didn't I think of it before!

Freddie: What do you mean?

Sarah: Look at Denis in their team; the one with hearing aids. He's probably good at lip reading. That's what it is.

Gordon: What! You mean all this time he's been getting our answers just by looking at us.

Freddie: So that's how they've been able get so many right answers.

Gordon: That's outrageous!

Sarah: But we can stop them getting any more from us; we just cover our mouths –like this if we have to say anything

(Sarah demonstrates how to cover your mouth. Colin copies her)

Sarah: Not you Colin you idiot! You've got your back to them! They can't see your lips through the back of your head!

Debs: I wouldn't be so sure! It's pretty empty in there!

Q.M: Right, now, if we can carry on without further interruption. Round four is, as I said, "Fun General Knowledge". Would everyone remain seated during the round. Everybody ready? Question one. In California you can't legally buy a mousetrap without buying one of these. What?

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Sarah: It's got to be a hunting licence when you think of it!

Freddie: So you're saying you need the same licence to buy a mousetrap as a high powered rifle?

Sarah: This is America we're talking about! Write it down Gordon.

Q.M: Question two: In a standard pack of playing cards which king doesn't have a moustache?

Gordon: Can't say I've noticed when I play bridge. What a ridiculous question! Does anyone know? **(They look nonplussed)**

Colin: I think it's the king of diamonds.

Gordon: Have you a basis for that assumption, Colin?

Colin: I just think it is.

Gordon: Well, unless anyone else has a definite idea **(Pause. He writes)** King of diamonds.

Q.M: Next question. In which sport would you assume the "Egg Position?"

Gordon: What a ridiculous question!

Colin: What about Sumo? They look like they're laying an egg!

Gordon: Don't be ridiculous Colin.

Sarah: No, he could be right; put it down Gordon.
(Gordon reluctantly writes the answer)

Q.M: Question four: Who entered his own look-alike contest and came third?

Freddie: **(loudly)** We've had this one before– **(more quietly, covering his mouth)** it was Charlie Chaplin.

Q.M: Yes, sorry, I realise we've had that one before so quickly on to the last question in this round: In the story of Snow White which of the seven dwarves wore glasses?

Gordon: Now, that is a silly question! Any ideas?

Freddie: I know a couple of them wore contact lenses.

Mandy: Go on! Did they?

Sarah: Mandy! Don't encourage him! Anyway, I think I know that one – **(Covering her mouth)** it was Doc.

Mandy: I think you're right. I can see it now.

Freddie: So could he.

Gordon: Yes, well. Let's put that, shall we?

Q.M: Now, would you swap your answer sheets

Gordon: Right, Colin, would you do the honours. **(He hands the question sheet to Colin)**

Freddie: Watch him; he'll go off to get another drink.

Debs: He'd better not! **(Colin takes the answer sheet to swap)**

Gordon: It's a pity it wasn't on TV and Films. We always do well on that.

Mandy: Oh, I thought you didn't like TV!

Sarah: No, it's just soaps he doesn't like.
(Colin returns with the answer sheet and hands them to Sarah)

Q.M: Now, the answers to Fun General Knowledge are as follows - Number one; you should have, believe it or not, a hunting licence. Question two; the answer is the king of hearts.

Gordon: **(Looking at Colin)** You said you were sure it was diamonds!

Colin: Well, you shouldn't have believed me; it's your own fault!

Q.M: Number three; Skiing.

Gordon: I thought your answer was ridiculous Colin! Sumo!

Debs: Well, at least he came up with an answer; that's more than you did!

Q.M: Number four; of course, it was Charlie Chaplin; and the last answer was Doc. Now, if you'll swap your papers back.

(Colin takes the answer sheet back. He returns to his seat)

Debs: **(To Gordon)** You leave Colin alone; he's doing his best!

Q.M: Good. Now, with the usual show of hands, has any team got over 60? **(The Scrambled Eggheads put their hands up)** **(Pauses)** Over 70 points? 71? 72? **(The Scrambled Eggheads keep their hands up)** More than 72? **(The Scrambled Eggheads put their hands down)**

Colin: They've put their hands down as well, Gordon!

Gordon: Oh no, the Quizzlies have got the same score as us!

Q.M: So, with one round to go, there is a tie between the Quizzly Bears and the Scrambled Eggheads on 72.

Sarah: It's alright Gordon; don't panic; we've got one round to go.

Gordon: But we should have been ahead by now; we've thrown away so many points!

Q.M: Right, now on to the final round which, as usual, is True or False, after which, as usual, you will mark your own papers in this round to arrive at a final total.

Gordon: If you don't know the answer, keep quiet Colin! We must get ten points here! If we don't that's it!

Sarah: Calm down Gordon!

Q.M: Question one; a woman has walked on the Moon – true or false?

Freddie: That's got to be false!

Sarah: I hope you're not going to say anything disparaging about that!

Freddie: Me? No, I wouldn't!

Q.M: Number two; you can sneeze while asleep.

Debs: Colin can do all sorts of things while asleep. He can.....

Sarah: **(Interrupting)** I'd rather not know that Debs!

Gordon: Please, everyone write your answers down.

(They pass their papers to Gordon who writes an answer)

Q.M: And quickly on to question three. In California, USA you cannot wear cowboy boots unless you own two cows.

Gordon: What a ridiculous question!

Freddie: Well, I think it's that. **(He hands Gordon his piece of paper, as do the others)**

Q.M: Number four; the main colour of toilet paper in France is pink.

Debs: Ask Colin; he spent enough time in them when we went there!

Gordon: Colin?

Colin: **(Sheepishly mouthing)** True.

Q.M: And the last question this evening; The Great Wall of China is longer in miles than the distance from London to Beijing.

Gordon: Another ridiculous question!

Sarah: Makes you think though. Freddie?

Freddie: There's my answer **(He passes his paper)**

Debs: Well, I think it's **(She passes her paper to Gordon)**

Sarah: **(Passing her paper to Gordon)** What do you think, Mandy?

Mandy: I wouldn't like to say.

Gordon: Colin?

Colin: **(Looking at Debs' written answer and writes his own and passes it)** I'm sticking with Debs. She knows about these things. **(Debs looks surprised and delighted)**

Sarah: **(Looking at the answer papers)** That's two for each. As captain you have the casting vote, Gordon.

Gordon: I'll put the opposite to Debs.

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Q.M: Would anyone like me to repeat any questions? **(Pause)** Right, there's no need to change papers. I'll give the answers to the last round. Number one, false, number two, false, number three, believe it or not is true. Question four; the most common colour of toilet paper in France is pink, so that's true as well and the last question, about the Great Wall of China being longer than the distance from London to Beijing is, in fact, true.

Gordon: Surely that can't be true!

Colin: You should have listened to me and Debs, Gordon!

Q.M: So, now if you just add those scores on we should have our final totals.

Sarah: So that makes a final total of 78 for us.

Q.M: Hands up any team with over 75 points **(The Quizzly Bears and The Scrambled Eggheads put their hands up)** 76, 77, 78, 80. **(The Scrambled Eggheads put their hands down)** **(Only the Quizzly Bears keep their hands up for 80)**

Colin: The Quizzlies have still got their hands up Gordon!

Gordon: Thank you Colin, I can see; I'm not blind!

Q,M: So, tonight's winners are the "Quizzly Bears" with 80 points. Well done to them!

Gordon: Oh no! We've been beaten by just two points!

Colin: **(Goading Gordon)** You should have listened to me and Debs about the Great Wall of China, Gordon!

Gordon: Oh shut up Colin, you idiot! If it hadn't been for you coming up with silly answers and upsetting your wife.

Debs: You leave him alone. That's none of your business!

Freddie: Colin did his best; he can't help being an idiot!

Gordon: And as for you Freddie; you only seem interested in telling jokes when we are all trying to concentrate. I don't know why you bother if you can't take it seriously!

Sarah: At least he makes the evening fun. If it was up to you it would be a miserable experience!

Gordon: And I expected more from an intelligent woman like you Sarah! And, do please, make sure John is here in future instead of Amanda; she doesn't seem to know anything unless it's on the television!

Mandy: If you watched more you wouldn't be so ignorant!

Sarah: What an ungrateful man you are! She certainly knew more than you. You should be thankful she made up the numbers tonight.

Colin: Yeah, if it weren't for her and Debs we'd have been nowhere!

Gordon: I surely don't need to remind you all this was our big chance to win the league. What with people not turning up, disappearing, not concentrating, treating it as a joke, it's no wonder we lost! And by two points! I feel let down, I really do!

Sarah: Why you miserable, ungrateful, man! We come here week after week and put up with your unforgiving, bullying attitude. What should be an enjoyable experience sometimes feels like an ordeal! Of course we want to win but you're just a bad loser! You insult Mandy who only came here to help us out, you continually belittle Colin who is only doing his best and can't help being an idiot; you put pressure on Debs to get 100% every week, you snipe at Freddie who provides the only light relief and you finally try my patience with your whining. On top of that you almost get us disqualified! Well, I suggest you find five other mugs to partake in your silly fantasies; it's only a quiz after all. Anyone would think it's a matter of life or death, the way you go on! I've just about had enough of it!

(Pause for four seconds)

Gordon: Same time next week then?

Freddie: I'll pick you up, if you like, Sarah.

Sarah: Yes, alright then.

Freddie: Will John be back ?

Sarah: He'll be keen not to miss out. Mandy, why don't you come as well?
We can see your value even if he can't. **(Pointing to Gordon)**

Mandy: If you're sure.

Debs: See you all next Tuesday. Come on Colin; let's go and get that curry
you wanted. I'm hungry.

**(They start to leave, chatting as they go. Colin and Debs leave arm
in arm, friends again. Gordon, the last to go, picks up the pieces of
paper, finishes his drink, and leaves too)**

THE END