

Commentary

Once again there was fierce competition for the Bronze Casket and its treasure (chocolates brought back from Switzerland by one of last year's winners, Shirley Curran) and 13 of the 14 tables scored 100%.

All answers only used the letters E, I, L, N, R, S & T: every answer also fitted in to at least one of these three categories – birds, rivers & Christian names.

The two clues which gave most difficulty were: -

- A picture of plus fours and PEP which yielded TIT (an alphabetical shift of four places)
- A picture of a foundering ship and a still. The ship gave LIST (L is T) which converted STILL into STILT

Entering the answers on the team sheet, yielded the phrase SETTERS' RELENTLESS INTEREST and a traditional word search gave rise to the theme word LISTENER. Teams were asked to explain (as best they could) the title "TOO EASY??" Most got the intended answer which was that LISTENER required the seven letters employed with E needed twice so that there were "TWO E's" which, with a little imagination, yielded "TOO EASY"

Finally, all then rested on the tie breaker where just the seven letters had to be used to make a sentence describing LISTENER. Four tables came very close with the following: -

It's stress-test in letters (Table 1: Jan Antonovics, Priscilla Bench-Capon, Don Bradley, Richard Browne, Jim Coulson, Mick Freeman, Bob Hitchcock, Richard Rogan, Adam & Barbara Sobey)

Sternest test I'll enter, isn't it? (Table 2: Peter Chamberlain, Terry Kirkby, Karen Mitsch, Phil & Sue Lloyd, Chris Poole, Evan Simpson, Robert Teuton, David Webb)

Interest lies in its stern test (Table 7: Jeff & Renee Aronson, Keith Burton, Pam & Richard Chamberlain, Peter Covey-Crump, Richard England, Sean O'Boyle, Colin & Elizabeth Palfrey)

I sent in ten entries (Table 14: Robin & Stephanie Baxter, Rod Beards, Chris Cormack, Mark Goodliffe, John Minter, Stephanie Perks, Roger Phillips, Katie Steckles)

The winning tie break **Einstein insists it's still sternest letter test** came from Table 10 - Mike Draper, Gloria Girton, Tony Martin, Alf & Andy Mullins, Neil Talbot, Robert & Sue Whale. In awarding the bronze casket to table ten, Tea Leaves felt that they had also improved on his explanation for "TOO EASY" with ELEMENTARY! – **Li**(thium), **S**(ulphur), **Te**(llurium), **N**(itrogen), **Er**(bium).