The
Mathematical Gazette

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Editorial –
The Second Annual *Mathematical Gazette* Writing Awards

In the March issue I invited you to vote for your favourite articles and notes of 1996 and, as last year, received a rather muted response. I am not sure if this is because you think it is a bad idea, or because you do not read the back of the address carrier. Either that or you do not read my editorials! I would appreciate some feedback on this issue, to help me decide whether to make the awards through a panel, to continue the present system, or to give up the idea. Please write to let me know your opinion.

In the end I received replies from 36 readers who nominated 32 Articles and 39 Notes between them (remember that they had three votes each). There was a clear winner in the Notes category, but a very close race in the Articles section, with only 3 votes separating the first 7 places. The results are as follows:

1996 *Gazette* Article of the Year

1	**Colin Fletcher**	**Two prime centenaries**
2=	Peter Neumann	A hundred years of finite group theory
2=	Ron Shail	Some properties of Brocard points
4	Peter Shiu	Progress in Number Theory
5=	C. J. Bradley and J. T. Bradley	Countless Simson line configurations
5=	H. Martyn Cundy	Curves and conjugacy
5=	Tom Roper	The mathematics of bowls

1996 *Gazette* Note of the Year

1	**David Fowler**	**A simple approach to the factorial function**
2	Nick Lord	Pictorial integration of $\cos^2\theta$ and $\sec^2\theta$
3=	A. Robert Pargeter	An example of strong induction
3=	Bill Richardson	Is it or isn't it?
4	G. Leversha, P. Sammutt, P. Woodruff	The shot-putter problem

I would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to write in. Once again it has been helpful to find out which articles most appeal to readers.

STEVE ABBOTT