Donkey

This game is a simplified version of Pig (see page 197) that is sure to delight fans of the original and newcomers alike.

Number of players

This game is for four to 13 players.

Cards

The rules of Donkey are similar to those of Pig (see page 197) and the cards are sorted in the same way prior to playing the game. Players cut for the deal, the drawer of the highest card being first dealer. The cards are sorted by rank as in Pig to match the number of players, then shuffled and four cards are dealt to each player. Prizes for the game are laid out for all but one of the players (so, if there are six players in the game, there will be only five prizes).

How to play

The dealer calls 'Swap' and the game starts with the players discarding a card to their left-hand neighbour and picking up the card which, by the same process, arrives at their right.

When all players are ready, the dealer calls 'Swap' again and the process is repeated. The game continues, with players discarding and receiving cards one by one, until they complete a four-of-a-kind hand. When this feat is achieved, the player puts down his cards and takes a prize. With this player out,

the game contiues until there are no prizes left. The winner of the game is the first player to complete a four-of-a-kind hand. However, there is no additional prize for coming first. Coming last, though, is something to be avoided, as there is no prize for the player who fails to complete a set.

Winning way

Donkey, like Pig, is for the most part a game of chance. Players should be encouraged to keep their options open for as long as possible and should try to remember the cards they have already passed on, but aside from that, it's all down to luck!

