



## Barrows & Wights

by Z. S. Edwardson

A bare-bones RPG in the classic 1970s style

Version 05  
Burrows & Wights  
Basic Adventures  
By Z.S. Edwardson

In your hands (or on your screen) is a game of imagination. Role playing grew from the wargaming hobby in the 1970s and soon exploded as a major form of entertainment. Burrows & Wights goal is to give you a feel of those early 1970 classic role playing system(s) while at the same time stripping away some of the more obscure rules. The goal being that it is much more simple to add a rule then to remove it. This is not a direct clone of any one of the systems, instead it takes the concepts and builds a simple structure to build your own flavor of a game.

What is a Role playing game? Role Playing game provide a structure for group imagination. You can play the heroic defeating dragons and feared undead like wights. You can play the moody drifter who comes into town to set things right, or you can play an anti-hero or even a simple tomb robber who wants nothing more then gain untold wealth. The limit is your imagination.

In Burrows and Wights there is a few key things to remember. One person will be the Referee, who will provide the adventure background and help adjudicate when combat or other events happen. Then you have the players, who will control player characters (PCs) who will go though the adventure and solve the issues presented, and hopefully return with wealth beyond measure. While interacting with Non-player characters (NPCs) Referee. Over time, as treasure is collected and monsters are defeated, the PCs will gain additional power to be able to solve more difficult challenges.

A number of dice is used in Burrows & Wights. Most will know of the normal six sided die (d6). In addition, 4 sided (d4), eight sided (d8), 10 sided (d10), 12 sided (d12), and 20 sided (d20) dice are used. Sometimes there will be abbreviations such as 3d6, This is asking that you roll 3 six sided dice.

There are also some key concepts that players and referees must understand. The first rule is that this is to have fun. The 2<sup>nd</sup> rule is that it is expected that the Referee of your game will have additional rules (called house rules) based on the game needs. This is a key part of the charm of the game that Role Playing Games are just as much art as a science.

However, as a player remember a few rules and you will have fun.

1. The Referee is always right.
2. Each character has a role.
3. Bringing friends (henchmen), is almost always a good option.
4. A good game session will include humor, action, tension, and adventure in equal parts.
5. Sometimes your character will die. This is a risk of adventure. The good news is that due to the simplicity of the rules, you can have a new character in five to ten minutes rejoining the action. There is also no shame in a PC buying a tavern and retiring.

Lastly, this is intended as a reference document that gives data and some ideas to those who already know the role playing game and it systems. Perhaps later I will make a beginner box for new players that gives more detail on things that these rules assume you understand.

**Character sheet:** This should be able to fit on a single sheet, or even a index card if using both sides. All the items are of the traditional sort except for H0 – which stands for Hit Zero, or your ability to hit something with an Armor Class (AC) of Zero.

Str:  
Dex:  
Int:  
Wis:  
Con:  
Chr:  
Class:  
HP:  
H0:  
XP:  
XP bonus:  
Gold:  
Equipment:  
Saving Throw:  
Weapon:  
Armor class:  
Spells:

### Character generation

Steps:

1. Roll 3d6 in order to generate attribute scores.
2. Pick a class and give yourself your XP bonus and saving throw score.
3. Roll for Hit Points (roll for HP, give max HP for 1<sup>st</sup> level, and roll twice, taking the higher score are all valid ways)
4. Roll 3d6 and times it by 10, that will be the starting gold.
5. Purchase equipment
6. Calculate your AC
7. As the referee for your spells if you are a Magic User.

Congrats, name your Character and write a single sentence that describes him or her. You are now ready to play!



**Attribute bonus:** if the score is above a 15, it gives a +1 to related rolls. If it is under 7 then it causes a -1 penalty.

Strength – determines how strong you are. STR gives bonuses to opening doors, and melee hits and damage.

Dexterity – determine how coordinated you are. Gives bonuses to missile weapons

Intelligence - determines how book smart you are, bonus to what wizard spell levels you can use, and what AC you have.

Wisdom – determines your common sense – gives bonuses to Saving throws and max clerical spell level.

Constitution – how healthy you are, gives you a bonus for each Hit die you earn.

Charisma – How good looking and personable you are – modifies reaction rolls and how many hirelings you can have.

**Saving throw:** Each character will have a base saving throw. For each level the PC gains, the saving throw will be lowered by 1 till it hits 4. Saving throws are modified also by what is being saved.

Poison/Death ray -2 (thus if the saving throw is 14, it only requires a 12).

Magic Wands – 1

Petrify/paralysis 0

Breath weapons +1

rod/staff/spell +2

Saving throws are rolled by a d20, higher is better.

### **Classes:**

**Fighter** – can use any type of armor or weapon. Has 1d8 hit points per die. If STR is higher than 15, the fighter gains 10% XP bonus. Fighters special skill is that they get 10% bonus XP. (In addition to any STR bonus).

XP	Level	Hit Dice	Saving Throw	H0
0	1	1d8	14	19
2000	2	2d8	13	18
4000	3	3d8	12	17
8000	4	4d8	11	16
16000	5	5d8	10	16

**Cleric** – Can use any type of armor, but only blunt weapons. Has 1d6 hit points per die. Base saving throw is 15. Uses clerical spells. If Wisdom is higher than 15, the cleric gains 10% XP bonus.

XP	Level	Hit dice	Saving throw	Spells	H0
0	1	1d6	15		19
2000	2	2d6	14	1x1	19
4000	3	3d6	13	2x1	18
8000	4	4d6	12	2x1 1x2	18
16000	5	5d6	11	2x1 2x2	17

Clerics can also *turn undead*. (See combat)

**Magic User** – User of arcane magic. Get 1d4 hit dice. Cannot wear armor, can only use daggers and staves as weapons. If intelligence is over 15 gets a 10% XP bonus.

XP	Level	Hit dice	Saving throw	Spells	H0
0	1	1d4	15	1x1	19
2000	2	2d4	14	2x1	19
4000	3	3d4	13	2x1 1x2	19
8000	4	4d4	12	3x1 2x2	18
16000	5	5d4	11	3x1 2x2 1x3	18

**Thief** – Can wear leather armor and no sword bigger than a short sword. Cannot wear a shield. Use a 1d6 as a hit die. If Dex is greater than 15 they get a 10% XP bonus.

XP	Level	Hit Dice	Saving Throw	H0
0	1	1d6	16	19
2000	2	2d6	15	19
4000	3	3d6	14	19
8000	4	4d6	13	18
16000	5	5d6	12	18

**Thief skills** – thieves have special skills. Climbing Walls, Pick-pocketing (which also disarms traps), hiding in shadows, open locks, and moving silently. This is determined by rolling a d20, higher the better.

Level	Climbing	Pickpocket	Hiding	Open locks	Silent
1	4	16	18	17	15
2	3	15	17	16	14
3	2	14	16	15	13
4	1	13	15	14	12
5	1	12	14	13	11

### **Class: Ranger**

The rangers men and woman are more at home in the wilderness then in cities or underground. They can use any weapon and leather or chain armor. A ranger cannot have any hirelings or retainers at these levels. They can track trails that are 5+level days old, (roll required if older, obscured, or not in the wilderness.) They can also hide like halflings (1-3 on d6). Rangers can find herbs to cure and aid the sick three times a day. (found on a roll of 1-5 on a d6, modified by vegetation). Rangers must have Wisdom and Strength of 14+.

XP	Level	Hit Dice	Saving Throw	H0	Special note*
0	1	2d6	14	19	
2000	2	3d6	13	18	
4000	3	4d6	12	17	CLW (Herb)
8000	4	5d6	11	16	
16000	5	6d6	10	16	

\* CLW (Cure light wounds)

**Dwarf** – Dwarves have infra-vision and can detect secret doors more easily. Dwarves minimum requirement is a Constitution of 9. They can also detect changes in elevation and slight turns inside underground passages. They cannot ride horses by themselves (can ride behind a rider) and must have custom armor made (10% markup). Dwarves get no XP bonuses. Max level is 12.

XP	Level	Hit Dice	Saving Throw	H0
0	1	1d8	15	19
2000	2	2d8	14	18
4000	3	3d8	13	18
8000	4	4d8	12	17
16000	5	5d8	11	17

**Elves** – while fay and magic using, they are much tougher than human magic users. They can use any weapon or armor. They have infra-vision and are immune to Ghoul paralysis. They also have the ability to cast some spells as a Magic-user. However Elves progress at a slower rate than most. If an elf has charisma higher than 15 they get a 10% XP bonus. Max level is 10.

XP	Level	Hit dice	Saving throw	Spells	H0
0	1	1d6	15		19
4000	2	2d6	14	1x1	19
8000	3	3d6	13	2x1	18
16000	4	4d6	12	2x1 1x2	18
32000	5	5d6	11	3x1 2x2	17

**Halflings** – small creatures of surprising abilities, they can use any armor (but must be made for halflings or human children, cost 10% extra to make) and any small weapon. They cannot use longswords, longbows, crossbows, or any two handed weapon. If outdoors they have the ability to hide on a 1-3 on a d6. In addition, they gain thief skills at 2 level below their current level (so a 4<sup>th</sup> level halfling can use the 2<sup>nd</sup> level thief skills. All missile rolls are +1. If their constitution is above 15, they get a 10% bonus in XP. Max level is 8.

XP	Level	Hit Dice	Saving Throw	H0
0	1	1d6	16	19
2000	2	2d6	15	18
4000	3	3d6	14	18
8000	4	4d6	13	17
16000	5	5d6	12	17

### **Equipment:**

Generally everything is sold in gold pieces, while treasure takes many forms, most merchants charge in gold pieces. Coins can be converted at a money changer after a 10% cut. Players start with 3d6x10 Gold.

## GENERAL ITEMS

Item	Cost (GP)
Backpack (300 coin capacity)	5
Bedroll	2
Case (scroll/map)	4
Crowbar	5
Flint and Steel	5
Garlic	10
Grappling Hook	5
Hammer	2
Holy Symbol (wood)	1
Holy Symbol (Silver)	25
Holy Water	25
Lantern	10
Lantern (Hooded)	30
Lantern Oil	1
Mirror (small steel)	5
Pole 10'	1
Rations regular (Day)	1
Rations, Iron (Day)	5
Rope (Hemp) 50 foot	1
Rope (Silk) 50 foot	10
Sack (300 coin capacity)	1
Sack (600 coin capacity)	2
Shovel	1
Spellbook (Blank 100 pages)	200
Spikes (iron)	5
Torches (6)	1
Waterskin	1
Wolfsbane	10



## TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

Saddle bag	10
Rowboat	100
Cart	80
Galley (Large)	30,000
Galley (Small)	10,000
Horse, draft	30
Horse, riding	50
Horse, warhorse	500
Mule	20
Raft	40
Ship (sailing)	20,000
Riverboat	5000
Wagon	160
Rickshaw	300
Saddle	25

## WEAPONS, MELEE

Weapon	Damage	Cost
Battle Ax*	1d8	7
Hand Ax**	1d6	5
Short Sword	1d6-1	3
Dagger	1d4	3
Long Sword	1d6	10
Bastard Sword	1d6/2d4 (if two handed)	15
Spear**	1d6	5
Club	1d6-1	-
Morning Star	1d6	5
Mace	1d6	4
Warhammer	1d6	8
Two handed sword*	1d8	25
Staff*	1d6	4
Flail	1d6	4
Polearm*	1d8	15

\*Two handed weapon

\*\* can be used as a melee or Ranged weapon

### WEAPONS, RANGED

Weapon	Damage	Range	Cost
Arrows (20)	-	-	5
Bolts (20)	-	-	5
Hand Ax	1d6	10	5
Longbow	1d6	70	40
Shortbow	1d6-1	40	25
Crossbow (heavy)	1d6+1	80	25
Crossbow (light)	1d6-1	60	15
Spear	1d6	20	5
Javlin	1d4	30	1
Sling	1d6	30	2
Silver arrow/bolt	-		5
Stones (20)	-		1
Pouch (stones)	-		1
Quiver/Case	-		20

Note: Bows shoot twice in around. Light crossbow shoots 1 time a round. Heavy crossbow shoots every other round.

### ARMOR

Armor	AC adjustment	Cost
Leather Armor	-2	15
Chain Mail	-4	30
Plate Mail	-6	60
Sheild	-1	10

### **Calculating AC:**

$$9 - (\text{Adjustment do to armor}) - (\text{Intelligence adjustment}) = \text{AC}$$

Lower is better.

### **Encumbrance and movement:**

Base Speed is 160/120/90/60/30 feet per turn.

Dwarves and Halfings move down one slot.

Leather armor drops you one slot

Chain Mail drops you 2 slots.

Plate mail drops you 3 slots.

Speed doubles if you are in an area that does not need mapping. Speed triples if you are running.

Having more than 600 coin worth of treasure will drop you a slot.

Maximum treasure weight is 1800, if the back and both arms are used.

### **Quick rules:**

- Fall damage is 1d6 per 10 foot of falling.

- Most characters have a 1 in six (1 on a d6) chance of finding secret doors. Thieves and Dwarves find them in a 2 in six (1-2 on a d6) chance.

- If a starting Magic User cannot afford a 100 page black spell-book, just offer one with less pages for less.

- XP is given under the following guidelines: 1 XP for each gold piece of treasure value. 20XP for every HD of monster defeated. The Referee has the final say for any other additional bonuses or penalties in XP.

- 10 copper pieces = 1 Silver Piece, 10 Silver Piece = 1 Gold Piece. 5 Gold Piece = 1 platinum Piece  
<1 hit dice Monsters save on 20, and reduce by one by every hit dice.

### **Combat**

Combat has three stages – rolling for surprise, rolling for initiative, and then carrying out combat.

Surprise: If the referee deems that surprise check is needed, roll a 1d6. On a 1 you are surprised. Referee is allowed to alter that roll if the other side is quiet or set an ambush.

Initiative: all players roll a 1d10. This is the order of combat from lowest to highest. Anyone using a two handed weapon (both melee or ranged) goes at the end of the combat round. If tied, they are simultaneous. All henchmen go on a single roll, and all monsters do, unless the referee deems one a “hero” monster who gets an independent roll. Once combat initiative is set, it is not altered.

### To hit and Damage.

#### To hit.

To hit is calculated by each Hit Zero (H0) - (armor class of target) + adjustments

For example – if a fighter has a H0 of 15, and the target AC is 5, then the fighter will hit on a 10 or better.

Monsters H0 is based on HD.

< 1 hit dice monsters have a H0 of 20.

1 hit dice monsters have a H0 of 19

and for every HD after the H0 is reduced by one.

A 1 on a d20 is always a miss. A 20 is always a hit. Men at arms have a H0 of 20.

### Damage:

Roll for damage based on the weapon. The Referee will tell you of any adjustments needed. A natural 20 always does max damage.

### **Turning Undead:**

Clerics can use a holy symbol to attempt to turn the undead that are visible and within 100 feet. The player rolls 2d6 and references this chart.

Level of Cleric	<1 HD	1 HD	2 HD	3 HD	4 HD	5 HD	6 HD	7 HD	8-9 HD	10-15 HD	15+ HD	Demons and Specials
1	5	7	9	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	T	5	7	9	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	T	T	5	7	9	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	T	T	T	5	7	9	11	-	-	-	-	-
5	D	T	T	T	5	7	9	11	-	-	-	-

Number – roll higher to turn creatures

T – 2d6 HD of creatures are turned

D – 2d6 HD of creatures crumble to dust

If a turn undead is successful, the referee will roll 2d6 to determine how many hit dice of undead are turned. At least one undead will be turned, even if it exceeds the HD rolled to turn. Once a turn attempt on a creature has been made, the cleric cannot attempt to turn that creature again in that session.

**Hirelings** – Hirelings are highly recommended. Characters with a Charisma of 15+ can have 3 hirelings. Character with Charisma under 7 can have 1 hireling. All other characters can have 2 hirelings.

Most hirelings will start as level zero men at arms. They will ask for 1/2 of a share of the treasure. They are normally armed with a weapon, leather or chain armor, and sometimes a shield. After earning 500 xp, or defeating a monster or doing a great deed the referee may raise the hireling to a 1<sup>st</sup> level character. Eventually once they reach 1<sup>st</sup> level they will ask for a full share.

You can hire hirelings to also carry stuff and not fight, they will ask for ¼ of a share.

**Spells:** Most clerics can only do 5<sup>th</sup> level spells, clerics with a WIS of 15+ can do 6<sup>th</sup> level spells once they gain the needed level. Clerics with a WIS of below 7 can only do 4<sup>th</sup> level spells.

Most Magic users can only do 6<sup>th</sup> level spells. Magic Users with a INT of 15+ can do 7<sup>th</sup> level spells once they gain needed levels. Magic Users with a INT of under 7 can only do 5<sup>th</sup> level spells..

### Gaining spells

Clerical spells come from the gods, and thus they need just pray for them at rest and they will gain the spells as per allowed by their level.

Magic Users and Elves rest and memorize spells from spell books.

### Obtaining Spells (Magic Users and Elves)

Magic Users and elves can copy a spell found on a scroll or spell book into their own spell books, which will use up the spell in that spell book or scroll. Spells unable to be cast can be inscribed into a spell book. Memorizing a spell from a spell book does not use up the spell. It takes 1 blank page per spell level to inscribe a spell into a spell book. Magic users and Elves can inscribe a spell into a spellbook but will need to rememorize the spell.

Magic scrolls can be read by Magic Users and Elves

Clerical scrolls can be read by Clerics

Both types of scrolls can be read by thieves of level 10 or greater.

**Spell Lists:** The referee can add any spell that he or she so desires into the game. The following is a basic spell list.

## **Clerical Spells**

### 1<sup>st</sup> level spells

1. Cure Light Wounds\*
2. Detect Evil
3. Detect Magic
4. Light\*
5. Protection from Evil
6. Purify Food and Water
7. Remove Fear\*
8. Resist Cold

### 2<sup>nd</sup> level spells

1. Bless\*
2. Find Traps
3. Know Alignment
4. Hold Person
5. Resist Fire
6. Silence 15' radius
7. Snake Charm
8. Speak with Animal

## **Magic User and Elf Spells:**

### 1<sup>st</sup> level spells

1. Charm Person
2. Detect Magic
3. Floating Disc
4. Hold Portal
5. Light\*
6. Magic Missile
7. Protection from Evil
8. Read Languages
9. Read Magic
10. Shield
11. Sleep
12. Ventriloquism

## 2<sup>nd</sup> level spells

1. Continual Light \* 2. Detect Evil 3. Detect Invisible 4. ESP 5. Invisibility 6. Knock  
7. Levitate 8. Locate Object 9. Mirror Image 10. Phantasmal Force 11. Web 12. Wizard Lock

## 3<sup>rd</sup> level spells

1. Clairvoyance 2. Dispel Magic 3. Fire Ball 4. Fly 5. Haste 6. Hold Person  
7. Infravision 8. Invisibility 10'radius 9. Lightning Bolt 10. Protection/Evil 10' radius 11.  
Protection/Normal Missiles 12. Water Breathing

Spells- monsters-and treasure details– can be selected from any number of free or paid versions of the classic RPG game.