# Researcher of the Month
## Solution
*By Andy Crane*

For brevity the employees will be referred to by the first letter of their last name. Working through the clues in order, we can deduce how many times each person was researcher of the month:

- From the first clue, we learn the company has been open 45 months (fortunately, 2D makes it clear that Hexy gave the first clue), and since there are 9 employees, each one has won it between 1 and 9 times, with every number appearing exactly once.
- From the first and second clues, we also get that E, O, and R each have 6 or fewer, since they've been there for at most 12 awards and cannot win two in a row.
- From third clue, M + G = 11 or M + G = 16 à M > 1 and G > 1.
- From the fourth clue, E + F = 3 or E + F = 4 à E ≤ 3, F ≤ 3.
- From the sixth clue, S = 5 or S = 6.
- From the fifth clue, F + O = S à F ≤ 5, O ≤ 5. Since we already know F is at most 3, then O ≥ 3.
- From the seventh clue, G ≥ 4, S ≤ 7, A ≤ 7, and 3 ≤ D ≤ 8.
- From the eighth clue, S + M + G = 13 or S + M + G = 18 or S + M + G = 21. Combined with clue 3, S = 2 or S = 5 or S = 7, but the only remaining possibility is 5. So Lexy said this phrase implying **S = 5**. M + G = 16. Nobody else could have 5 pins, so eliminate that possibility from everyone else.
- From the ninth clue, E + O + D = 12 or E + O + D = 21 (Hexy could not have said this statement; no three employees could have a combined 33 pins). We already know E + O is at most 7, so Dexy must have said this phrase à E + O + D = 12, D ≥ 5.
- From the tenth clue, R = 3 or R = 4. Now O and R equal 3 and 4, but we don't know which, but no other variables can equal 3 or 4 à O + R = 7, 4 < A < 7, and from what we already know, **A = 6**.
- From clue 3, M + G = 16, but both cannot be 8. So M and G equal 7 and 9, and no other variables can equal those numbers à **D = 8**.
- Now from clue 9, we know E + O = 4 à **E = 1**, **O = 3**.
- Eliminating duplicate possibilities, **F = 2**, and **R = 4**.
- Finally, back to clue 9, since we know D < G, we get **G = 9** and **M = 7**.

Arrange the nine employees by the number of pins.

1 ECKELFRED
2 FLAGSTONE
3 OSTRAHEIM
4 RIGOMUNDA
5 STINNADRY
6 APPLEJACK
7 MAXIMROTH
8 DUMBRECHT
9 GOLZEBEIN

Index into their name by reading down the diagonal to get the answer, **ELTON JOHN**: