



The Winners of the Seniors Pairs:

Ross Harper
and
Paul Hackett

Results

The Mixed Pivot Teams Championships (Middlesex Cup)

1	Jim Deacon, Anne Catchpole, Ron Davis, Tom Rainforth	+98 IMPs
2	Denis Robson, Irving Gordon, Maureen Hiron, Nissan Rand	+80
3	Ursula and Ross Harper, Paul Hackett, Martin Hoffman	+78

Thursday Afternoon Open Pairs

1	Trevor Thrower & Ron Davis	69.39%
2=	Andrew Murphy & Duncan Happer	64.16
	Michael Byrne & Steve Raine	64.16

Wednesday Night Speedball

1	Beatrix Kuzselka & Michael Parly	64.58%
2	Daniel Baines & Howden Basden-Smith	61.46
3	Mylene Encontro & Mia Rosales	59.61

Midweek Knock-out Teams – Semi-finals

Ben Paske	Beat	Waseem Naqvi	by 18 IMPs
Eddie Lucioni	Beat	Julian Mitchell	by 33 IMPs

Seniors Swiss Teams

Final Rankings

Position					Total	GPs
1	Clive Owen	John Holland	Bill Hirst	Patrick Jourdain	120	575
2	Marco Alcalay	Andrew Kambites	Agnes Blewitt	Stan Collins	112	425
3	Ross Harper	Paul Hackett	Ursula Harper	Martin Hoffman	108	300
4	Jim Luck	Gary Jones	Bernard Goldenfield	Rhona Goldenfield	103	225
5	Tony Russ	Hazel Keith	Gina Dunn	Jimmy Ledger	103	250
6	Dave Franklin	Martin Pool	Mick Carrington	Mike Keeping	101	225
7	Christine Dyer	Roger Fellows	Rosemary Fellows	Chas Fellows	101	225
8	Marit Langston	Peter Langston	Andy Willard	Peter Brown	101	200
9	David Gritt	Marie Gritt	Scott Mitchell	Angela McCready	100	175
10	Stuart Staveley	Anne Staveley	I Andrew	D Cotton	99	200
11	Bill West	Angela West	Maureen Vede	George Vede	96	200
12	Margaret Wort	Steve Byrne	Prue Knight	Adrian Knight	95	175
13	Irving Gordon	Nissan Rand	Aidan Cleary	Ena Cleary	95	150
14	Roy Garthwaite	Heather Hobson	Ted Latham	Janet Latham	94	150
15	John Dakin	Richard Harris	David Dickson	Michael Hill	91	100
16	Pam Stewart	Jill Cook	Maureen Lewsey	Vi Smith	90	100
17	Sheila Evans	Monica Lucy	Bob Turnham	Michael Wiles	90	100
18	Peter Glanville	Mary Glanville	N Vernon	P Lee	89	100
19	Freda Warner	Gaynor Tinsdale	Beth Wennell	Barry Wennell	88	100
20	John White	Robert Shepherd	Roger New	Tony Cooper	87	125
21	Chris Jones	Hilda Hope	John Thrower	Ursula Henzell	87	100
22	Alan Reid	Madeline Lawson	John Jones	Mahmood Nurmohamed	86	125
23	Denis Robson	Val Robson	Maureen Hiron	Helen Schapiro	85	150
24	Alan Litchfield	Helen Kent	Joan Lewis	Bob Lewis	84	100
25	Tony Turnage	John Cruickshank	Derek Eneas	Paul Whitehurst	83	125
26	Peter Collins	Ian Watt	Dilys Jones	Ian Macgregor	82	100
27	Tilly Hennings	Pam Avril	Antony Whiteway	Fran Thornton	80	100
28	Jenny Gray	Sandra Millikin	Sam Speed	Tanya Jerrard	80	75
29	Jim Bochsler	Byron Crittenden	Michael Lunn	Ian Fogg	80	125
30	Colin Wilson	Diana Avis	Gerald Soper	Jean Paxton	79	100
31	Colin Tuton	Brenda Smith	Peter Dunn	Glenys Baron	79	100
32	David Stimson	Roger Edmonds	Jane Jensen	David Jensen	78	100
33	Valerie Benson	Barbara Pinto	Ann Goss	Jeanne Boydell	77	75
34	Lindsay Springate	Wendy Lancaster	Paul Hainsworth	Janet Adams	77	100
35	Bud Abbott	Margaret Abbott	Margaret Howe	Celia Talbot	75	100
36	Mike Seaver	Lawrence Haynes	Val Austwick	Peter Austwick	72	100
37	Barry Tobutt	Alison Gauld	Beryl Pitham	Heather Barker	71	75
38	Sue Jackson	Sandra Simpson	Jane Beresiner	Christine Chevalier	71	75
39	Ann Husk	Sue Gregory	Jan Whitehouse	Sula Turpin	69	75
40	Ray Crawford	Peggy Moss	David Wing	Lawrence Gaunt	69	75
41	Cecil Leighton	Ranan Rimon	Vida Bingham	Nigel Osmer	68	75
42	Pauline Cohen	Elizabeth Barnard	Nadia Abisch	Rosalind Morgan	66	100
43	R Collins	J Heckscher	A Vaughan	A Kennedy	66	75
44	Terence Treeby	Joy Pellow	Ronald Sitch	Susan Holman	65	75
45	Norma Macmillan	Bill Macmillan	B Johnson	J Ward	63	50
46	Christina Backholer	Viv Fielding	Andy Kittridge	Peter Feilding	59	75
47	Howard Basden-Smith	Celia Parsons	Barbara Fearnley	David Stansfield	56	50
48	Anne Hare	Anne Hughes	Margaret Aitchison	Sheila Simm	55	75
49	Jack Woodard	Chris Reimoser	Valerie Chandler	Julia Simpson	51	75
50	Paul West	Patricia West	Jon Harrison	Shirley Mills	50	50
51	Brenda Cross	David Cross	Sally Thompson	Ralph Thompson	50	75
52	Camilla Blackburn	Jill Allard	Jean Bell	Irene Thomas	43	50
53	Bill Prior	Bernie Prior	Jack Downes	Lionel Thacker	37	0

The Seniors Pairs

Ross Harper and Paul Hackett won the Seniors Pairs, not actually having the highest score in the final, but hanging on courtesy of their carry-forward from the semi-final. A good effort from a pair who won the Seniors Teams the previous year.

Unusually, rather than feature his partnership's good boards, Paul preferred to describe the good bridge played by his opponents. In the final.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ A Q 10 7 ♦ K Q 6 5 3 ♣ K 4 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K Q 10 ♥ K 2 ♦ A 8 7 2 ♣ A 7 6	♠ J 7 5 2 ♥ J 9 8 6 4 ♦ J ♣ Q 10 5
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ 8 6 4 3 ♥ 5 3 ♦ 10 9 4 ♣ J 9 8 2												

West	North <i>Hackett</i>	East	South <i>Harper</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♦	All Pass

George and Maureen Vede bid confidently to the grand slam on this deal. Four Clubs was a cuebid and, when West was willing to co-operate with a return cuebid, East took control, asking first for key cards then, on finding that all those were present, for specific kings. Six Clubs showed the king of clubs and East jumped to the grand slam. It is true that 7NT also makes, but it is not easy to count the 13 tricks with confidence for that contract.

Seven Diamonds scored +2140 and was a dead average, 12 MPs to each side.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A 8 7 6 ♥ K 10 9 8 7 3 ♦ A ♣ Q 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 9 5 ♥ A Q J ♦ K J 4 ♣ 10 6 4 2	♠ J 4 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 10 8 3 2 ♣ K J 9 5
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ K Q ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ Q 9 7 6 5 ♣ A 8 7											

West	North <i>Hackett</i>	East	South <i>Harper</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
Dble	3♦	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

The modern expert approach to the West hand would be to start with a 1♥ overcall, but many players would duplicate the double chosen at the table. Hackett made a pre-emptive raise and East a responsive double. Now West bid the long hearts and East converted to 3NT, it not being clear from the auction that West had more than four hearts. Hackett made a greedy double of 3NT and E/W stuck it out. And well done to Olivia Dawson and David Elvin for doing so, as 3NT proved to be quite cold. There were nine tricks and no more, but +750 was a complete top for E/W. Giving the eventual winners their only zero of the session.

Today In History

On August 17th 1896, Britain's first fatal car accident involving a pedestrian occurred. Mrs Bridget Driscoll of Croydon in South London was hit by a car travelling at 4 mph – the lady apparently freezing in panic at sight of the oncoming vehicle.

Today's Schedule

10.45 am	Exhibition match: de Botton (England) v Hauge (Norway)
12 noon	Afternoon Knock-out Teams, Final
1.00 pm	Appeals Seminar
1.00 pm	Open Pairs
8.00 pm	Swiss Teams, Session 1 (3 matches)
Midnight	Night Owls Speedball (Pairs Tournament)

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A Q 8 6 4 ♥ 6 5 3 2 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ 9	♠ 10 9 7 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ J 9 7 5 ♣ Q J 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ J 5 2 ♥ K J 8 7 4 ♦ 3 2 ♣ A 5 3
	N											
W	E											
	S											
♠ K 3 ♥ A ♦ A Q 8 4 ♣ K 10 8 7 6 4												

West	North	East	South
Holland	Hackett	Owen	Harper
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣
3♠	All Pass		

Clive Owen and John Holland would rank as one of the strongest pairs in the Seniors event, I would think, having had a number of successes together in Open competition in recent years.

Here, Owen opened a shaded 1♥ in third seat and, when Harper overcalled, Holland made a fit jump, 3♠ showing five decent spades plus four-card heart support and a raise to 4♥.

Having such a light opening, Owen judged to pass and let his partner get on with it.

The light opening had done its job and won the board. Though Deep Finesse assures us that 4♠ and even 5♥ are makable, getting to 3♠ and playing it safely for nine tricks and +140 was worth 75% of the matchpoints to E/W. Clearly, many Easts had

not opened and once N/S declare the hand they automatically score well.

Incidentally, with that spade holding, if declarer leads a low spade to the queen, North should drop the nine. If he follows with the seven, declarer has no losing option on the second round, being obliged to lay down the ace and drop the doubleton king. When the nine or ten drops offside, however, he has the option of crossing to dummy to lead the jack on the second round, hoping to pin ten-nine doubleton.

It doesn't actually matter on this deal, as on most normal lines of play declarer has to ruff a diamond in dummy so cannot pick up the trumps without loss, but the combination is worth remembering for the future.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ Q J ♥ 9 8 ♦ A Q 10 9 8 ♣ A K 7 3	♠ A 6 5 4 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ K 6 4 ♣ Q 8 5	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ 3 ♥ K J 10 6 4 3 2 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 10 9 4
	N											
W	E											
	S											
			♠ K 10 9 8 7 2 ♥ Q ♦ J 7 2 ♣ J 6 2									

West	North	East	South
	Hackett		Harper
—	—	—	2♠
3♦	3♠	4♥	All Pass

Alan Reid and Madeline Lawson were not to be put off playing their heart game by the N/S spade bids and East duly bid 4♥ over 3♠ and was left to play there.

With 3♠ fated to succeed, this was the winning decision in the auction whatever happened in the play, but there was a big bonus still to be won.

And, sure enough, declarer duly got the trumps right, leading to the king and dropping the bare queen. With East's third club going away on the diamonds, that meant just three losers and a very useful +420 to E/W, leaving Hackett and Harper with just 2 MPs on the deal.

Despite these instances of good decisions from their opponents, Hackett and Harper held on to win by just under half a top. Well done to them.

We have a couple of other contributions from the Seniors Pairs. The first from Chris Barrable, who was directing the event.

Trivia Quiz 7

Capital Cities

What is the capital of each of these countries?

1. Estonia
2. Liechtenstein
3. Ghana
4. Namibia
5. North Korea
6. Uzbekistan
7. Haiti
8. Bahamas
9. Fiji
10. Suriname

Session 2. Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ J 9 6 5 ♥ K Q 8 7 6 ♦ A 10 4 ♣ 8	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q 7 4 ♥ 10 4 ♦ 9 7 3 ♣ Q J 10 3 2	♠ A K 3 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ K Q J 8 6 5 2 ♣ —
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
3♣	Dble	4♣	4♠
5♣	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Three Clubs was intermediate and the double was negative, after which N/S competed up to 5♠ and South guessed to add a sixth.

Chris was surprised that only half the field bid this one to slam (either 6♦ or 6♠) and of those who bid it only two were successful. As you can see, it takes careful play even after the ace of hearts lead, which gives a safe entry to dummy.

So, how many found the play of leading the jack of spades from the North hand and running it if not covered?

On the lead of the ace of clubs you also prevail by ruffing and leading a heart to force a dummy entry for the same spade play. I think in the first case the odds are slightly higher that the ♠Q is with east and he is the one with three cards in the suit.

Well, I think Chris is guilty of seeing where the cards lie and therefore knowing what line of play will be successful, then convincing himself that this is the correct line to follow.

Simply laying down the top spades succeeds whenever the queen is doubleton in either hand. That is twice as likely as that the ten will be doubleton in a specific hand.

Those odds change a little if we know which hand has the greater length in spades, but they never become in favour of the pinning play of the jack. Still, an interesting deal which is worth a look.

Our next exhibit comes from Maureen Hiron, and features a deal we have already seen, although in a different final contract..

The power of the double fit, and the sandwich game is reached.

Session 3. Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 10 9 7 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ J 9 7 5 ♣ Q J 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J 5 2 ♥ K J 8 7 4 ♦ 3 2 ♣ A 5 3	♠ K 3 ♥ A ♦ A Q 8 4 ♣ K 10 8 7 6 4
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Gordon</i>		<i>Rand</i>	
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

It's not often that game is reached after both members of a partnership have passed initially and there is no very long suit.

Here, East and West showed excellent judgment in the bidding. After three passes, South opened 1♣ and West, Irving Gordon, overcalled 1♠.

Over North's simple club raise, Nissan Rand contented himself with 2♠ and Gordon quite rightly passed South's competitive 3♣ call.

Gordon had nothing further to say so left any further action to his partner. Rand now made the cost-nothing descriptive bid of 3♥ rather than just bid spades again, and now Gordon judged perfectly by bidding the heart game. He recognised the power of the double fit, albeit based on minimal values, and with the majority of the missing honours known to be with South.

Rand won the club lead, ruffed a club and played a heart to the nine, jack and ace. He ruffed the club return, played another heart to the king, then a diamond.

South rose with the ace and forced declarer to ruff a club in hand. A spade to the queen was followed by the ace of spades, dropping the king, and it only remained to concede one trump trick and score up +420.

At another table, after the same start to the auction, West bid 3♠ over 3♣. Quite why escapes me. Why tell the same story twice? Now the best trump suit was excluded and when South fought on with 4♣ no one quite knew what to do.

Plus 50 for E/W was scant compensation for their missed game.

Trivia Quiz 7

Solutions

1. Tallinn
2. Vaduz
3. Accra
4. Windhoek
5. Pyongyang
6. Tashkent
7. Port-au-Prince
8. Nassau
9. Suva
10. Paramaribo

de Botton v Hauge

The English de Botton team of Jason and Justin Hackett, Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski, started their exhibition match with Hauge of Norway (Rune Hauge, Tor Helness, Erik Saelensminde, Jan-Petter Svendsen) well, taking the first 14-deal segment of six by 41-9 IMPs. Hauge pulled a few back in the second set to trail by 39-65.

Set three saw this well-bid and played flat board:

Board 3. Declarer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ Q 7 5 4 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ 9 8 ♣ A 7 5 4</p>	<p>♠ K 8 ♥ A J 7 2 ♦ Q J 6 5 4 2 ♣ 9</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	<p>♠ 10 9 3 2 ♥ 8 ♦ K 10 7 3 ♣ K Q 10 3</p>
N									
W	E								
	S								
	<p>♠ A J 6 ♥ K Q 10 5 3 ♦ A ♣ J 8 6 2</p>								

West	North	East	South
Hauge	Sandqvist	Helness	Malinowski
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Justin	Sael'sminde	Jason	Svendsen
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Dble	6♥
All Pass			

Nick Sandqvist started with a game-forcing 2NT raise, over which Artur Malinowski showed his second suit and Sandqvist his shortage. Malinowski took control and bid the small slam.

Rune Hauge led a spade. Malinowski ran this to his jack, unblocked the ♠K and crossed to the ace of diamonds to cash the ♠A for a club discard from dummy. He continued by ruffing a club, ruffing a diamond low, then taking a high cross-ruff to ensure his contract; +980. Note that, after the opening lead, there was no need to attempt to establish the diamonds, just count up to twelve winners.

In the other room, Erik Saelensminde made an immediate splinter response and Jan-Petter Svendsen first cuebid then used Keycard before settling in the small slam.

Jason Hackett's lead-directing double of 5♣ got Justin off to the best start of ace and another club, forcing dummy to ruff. Svendsen unblocked the diamond, drew three rounds of trumps ending in dummy and ruffed a diamond. He ruffed a club then led the ♦Q and the key moment in the hand had arrived. Svendsen got it right, playing for the hand that had shown up with a singleton heart to have length elsewhere, and ran the diamond, ruffed out the king and had twelve tricks for the same +980 and a flat board – but he had had to work much harder for his contract.

After 56 boards, Hauge had moved into the lead after a strong fourth set. With 28 boards to play today, Hauge (Norway) leads de Botton (England) by 11 IMPs, 105.94.

Exhibition Match

The Exhibition Match will continue today, Friday 17th, with both onsite vugraph and also BBO coverage.
The two teams are:

De Botton (England): Justin and Jason Hackett, Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, npc Janet De Botton
Hauge (Norway): Rune Hauge, Tor Helness, Erik Saelensminde, Jan-Petter Svendsen

There are two 14-board segmenst remaining, to be played at:

10.45 – 12.45

12.55 – 14.55