

# Top Table

# Justin Hackett



### When did you start playing bridge?

I started playing bridge at the age of 12. My mother taught me the basics and I joined the bridge club at Manchester Grammar School.

### How often do you play?

I usually play at least once a week and most weekends.

### Do you always play with the same partners / team-mates?

Most of the time I play with my brother, Jason – especially in the big tournaments – but I play with different partners in the leagues.

### What do you do for a living?

Teaching and playing bridge.

### What are your favourite bridge books?

Anything written by David Bird or Victor Mollo.

### What are your hobbies?

Going to Old Trafford to watch

**JUSTIN HACKETT's** contribution to bridge was recognised at the highest level in 1997 when he was invited to Buckingham Palace in recognition of his distinction in the field. He has won many of the national trophies at least once and on the international scene has collected gold or silver medals in Junior and Open World and European Championships. Together with his twin brother, Jason, Justin formed the youngest ever professional bridge partnership in Europe.

Manchester United and playing five-a-side football. In my teens I wanted to be a footballer, and have never lost my passion for the game.

### What do you like and what would you change in bridge?

I like tournaments where you don't need to bring a convention card. The change I would like to see is the tournament directors being empowered to award Yellow and Red cards for rudeness at the bridge table.

### What's the bridge success (so far) closest to your heart?

It has to be winning the World Junior Championships in Bali in 1995, but winning the European Juniors in 1994 in Arnhem and getting the silver medal for England in the open teams at the Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008 are also fond memories.

➔ must plan the play.

Declarer can count eight winners at the start: one spade, five hearts, one diamond and one club. He therefore requires two extra tricks, and has the potential to trump spades in the dummy or diamonds in hand. Does it matter which he chooses?

Many players fall into the trap of thinking that it is beneficial to trump in the long trump hand (in this case, declarer's own hand). Here, trumping two rounds of diamonds will leave declarer

with three trumps in each hand. This equates to three more winners in addition to the two tricks that have just been made by trumping, i.e. five trump tricks in total – the same as he started with.

However, trumping two spades in the *short* trump hand (dummy) will leave declarer with all five trumps in his own hand, i.e. he can make five more tricks in addition to the two tricks made by trumping in dummy. This gives a total of seven trump tricks (or two extra tricks). □

28–30 March 2014

## REALLY EASY SPRING BREAK



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Oxfordshire OX15 6QB

☎ 01295 730777

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Make reservations directly with the hotel –

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### Bridge fees: £40 per person

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The event starts with dinner on Friday evening at 6.15pm followed by the first session of bridge. A bridge lesson on Saturday morning followed by bridge in the afternoon and evening with dinner. Finally, on Sunday, a Swiss Pairs event with a break for a light lunch. The event finishes around 3.30pm.

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