

# Results

## Sunday Evening Open Pairs

1	Beatrix Kuzselka & Nikolas Bausback	66.85%
2	Cass O'Donnell & Marek Malysa	65.86
3	Peter Stocken & Stefanie Rohan	61.58

## Sunday Open Teams – Blue Section

1	Geraint Harker, John Probst, Clare Dutton, Laura Perryman	+43 IMPs
2	Lara Ruso, Martin Garvey, Jon Cooke, Ben Handley-Pritchard	+32

## Sunday Open Teams – Yellow Section

1	Ben Green, Simon Cope, Ed Jones, Andrew Murphy	+65 IMPs
2	Catherine Draper, Ollie Burgess, Andrew Woodcock, Edward Levy	+40

## Monday Afternoon Open Pairs

1	Maureen Hiron & Irving Gordon	62.01%
2	Mahmood Nurmohamed & John Jones	61.30
3	Simon Creasey & Rob Wagner	60.83

## Midweek Knock-out Teams – Round 1

<b>Steve Raine</b>	Beat	Emily Middleton	By	1 IMP
<b>Julian Mitchell</b>	Beat	Geraint Harker	By	36 IMPs
<b>Tom Rainforth</b>	Beat	Andrew Urbanski	By	21 IMPs
<b>Marion Michielsen</b>	Beat	Dave Armstrong	By	35 IMPs
<b>Marie Horlock</b>	Beat	Malcolm Morris	By	7 IMPs
<b>Catherine Draper</b>	Beat	Nene Quimson	By	104 IMPs
<b>Sam Punch</b>	Beat	David Williams	By	128 IMPs
<b>Jon Williams</b>	Beat	Frances Hinden	By	24 IMPs
<b>Luke Porter</b>	Beat	Robin Zigmond	By	56 IMPs
<b>Robert Miller</b>	Beat	Trevor Thrower	By	28 IMPs
<b>Michael Byrne</b>	Beat	Laurence Gaunt	By	50 IMPs
<b>Bob Drijver</b>	Beat	Myles Ellison	By	126 IMPs

**Graeme Robertson** (2 Wins), **Gareth Bartley** (1 Win), Qualify, Joe Clacy (0 Wins) does not qualify

# The ACBL Summer Nationals

The 2008 ACBL Summer Nationals were held in Las Vegas, a popular venue which, as previously, attracted one of the largest ever attendances. One of the pluses for me was being able to wake up early to watch the British Open Golf Championship on TV before play commenced, courtesy of the eight-hour time difference. My partner was rather more interested in the blackjack tables. A general shortage of sleep in the partnership did little for our bridge, as you might imagine.

The Nationals are huge events and I would recommend that everyone go to one, just to see how different they are to anything we are used to, not only in the UK, but anywhere else in Europe. The table count in Vegas was over 20,000 – they add up the number of tables each session throughout the tournament. In Brighton we will have fewer than 3,000, I guess, in what is our biggest tournament of the year, which tells you just what the difference in scale is.

With so many tables in play, there is scope for a lot of interesting bridge and I have picked some of the best out of the Daily Bulletins, which are also much more substantial than what we have here.

Victor Hsu found a devastating lead on this first exhibit.

### Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 10 6 2 ♥ K J 10 5 3 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ 6	<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		♠ J 9 5 4 ♥ A 8 7 6 4 ♦ – ♣ K Q 7 4	♠ Q 8 3 ♥ 9 ♦ Q J 7 6 5 2 ♣ 5 3 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Hsu</i>		<i>Nellison</i>	
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

North's 3♣ was forcing as the North/South pair play Lebensohl opposite a reverse to get out with weak hands.

Hsu listened to the bidding and judged that a spade lead was required. Had he chosen a low spade, dummy's nine would have forced the queen and a second spade

towards the jack would have given twelve tricks easily enough, but Hsu selected the king of spades for his opening lead. Declarer could still have made the contract, of course, but it was hard not to place West with the ♠Q. He won the ace of spades and drew trumps, ruffing a couple of diamonds in the dummy along the way, then made the natural play of a spade to the jack.

When Steve Nellison won the ♠Q, he still had to be careful to defeat the contract. Either a spade or a diamond return would have left West subject to a positional squeeze in the majors. Nellison switched to a heart, however, and with the ace of hearts knocked out of the dummy there was no squeeze; down one.

### Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 7 3 ♥ A 9 5 4 2 ♦ A Q ♣ K 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		♠ K J 6 2 ♥ 3 ♦ K J 5 3 ♣ J 9 8 5	♠ A 8 5 ♥ K Q 10 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ 10 7 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
	<i>Cohler</i>		<i>Zia</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	2♥	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

Gary Cohler made a very light take-out double, safe in the knowledge that, as a passed hand, he could not be expected to hold too much more than his actual hand, and Zia took the opportunity to make an imaginative bid to attract the best lead. That worked out beautifully as Cohler duly led a low spade against 3♥. Note that a lead of either minor makes life very easy for declarer.

Declarer ducked the ♠Q but won the spade continuation and played a club to the king. He crossed to dummy with a heart to lead a second club up and Zia, of course, won the ace. He put Cohler in with a spade and duly collected his club ruff, then led a diamond through. Declarer had no choice but to finesse so was one down, giving Cohler/Zia an 80% board.

Matt Haag played the hand in 3NT from the West seat after the sequence: 1♥ – 2♣ (Drury) – 2NT – 3NT. He received the lead of the five of clubs to the ace and back came a second club to Haag's king. When he played the king then queen of hearts and North showed out, throwing a spade, he was virtually marked with 4-1-4-4

distribution. Haag continued with the ♥10, which held the trick as North threw a diamond. Now a club to hand and two more winning hearts really turned the screw on North. He was forced to keep the ♣J to guard against dummy's ten, and could not afford to come down to a singleton in either spades or diamonds – the king of spades would then fall under the ace and a spade towards the ten would produce an extra trick, while baring the ♦K would offer declarer three diamond tricks. So North came down to two king doubletons and the ♣J.

Haag played ace and another spade. North won the ♠K and cashed the ♣J but then had to lead into the ♦AQ to give the tenth trick and an outright top on the board.

Malcolm Harris played this next one nicely.

**Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.**

♠ J 10 ♥ 7 5 ♦ 8 4 ♣ Q J 9 6 5 4 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	♠ K 9 8 7 5 ♥ – ♦ Q 10 9 6 5 ♣ A 8 7
N					
W E					
S					
♠ Q 2 ♥ J 10 9 8 6 3 ♦ K 3 ♣ K 10 3		♠ A 6 4 3 ♥ A K Q 4 2 ♦ A J 7 2 ♣ –			

As the cards lie it is possible to make the overtrick in 6♥ in a variety of ways but Harris managed it without risking his contract after the lead of the queen of clubs. He ruffed high, crossed to a trump and ruffed another club high, then crossed to a trump again to ruff the last club.

Next declarer cashed the ace of spades before leading to the king of diamonds to cash the trumps. The last trump squeezed East between the king of spades and the diamonds and that was 13 tricks.

This line has the benefit that declarer drops a doubleton queen of diamonds offside and he never risks his contract in pursuit of the overtrick.

**Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.**

♠ J 8 6 5 3 ♥ 8 7 4 ♦ 9 2 ♣ J 10 7	<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	♠ – ♥ A K 5 2 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ A 9 8 6 4 2
N					
W E					
S					
♠ 9 4 2 ♥ Q J 10 9 6 3 ♦ A 4 ♣ K 5		♠ A K Q 10 7 ♥ – ♦ Q J 10 6 5 3 ♣ Q 3			

West	North	East	South
–	<i>Mizel</i>		<i>Senior</i>
Pass	1♥	1♣	1♦
Pass	3♣	2♣	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	3♠
		All Pass	

The five-zero trump split looks as though it should make life awkward in 4♠ but dummy's priceless ♠9 saw the contract home.

West led a club and East won the ace then returned the suit to dummy's king. I played a spade, expecting to be playing for an overtrick, but had to reassess the situation when East showed out. No matter, I won the ace of spades and played ace and another diamond to East's king. East tried a top heart and I ruffed, reducing me to one fewer trump than West.

However, with the side-suit established, that was no problem. I simply played diamond winners through West. At the table, he made the pointless play of ruffing low. I over-ruffed with the nine, cashed two top spades and reverted to diamonds, just losing to the ♠J; ten tricks.

West was powerless. Had he ruffed the third diamond high instead of low, he could then have forced me with another heart and would have been back to having one more trump than either declarer or dummy. But more winning diamonds would eventually force him to ruff low. Dummy's nine would over-ruff and the trumps would be drawn, after which the remaining diamonds could be cashed in peace.

How weak a hand can you have and still be squeezed? Barry Rigal reported on this hand from the Life Master Pairs.

**Board 2. Dealer East. NIS Vul.**

♠ A 6 ♥ A 7 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ A K 7 6 3 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	♠ K 8 3 ♥ J 5 3 2 ♦ A Q J 10 9 ♣ 8
N					
W E					
S					
		♠ Q J 10 5 ♥ K Q 8 4 ♦ K 2 ♣ Q J 4			
		♠ 9 7 4 2 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ 10 9 5			

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♣	Pass
2♣	2♦	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Steve Landen duly led his partner's suit and his partner put in the nine, losing to declarer's ♦K. Declarer ran six club tricks to come down to:

**Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.**

♠ K  
 ♥ J 5 3 2  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ —  
 ♠ A 6  
 ♥ A 7  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ —  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ K Q 8 4  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ —  
 ♠ 9 7  
 ♥ 10 9  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ —



♠ A J 7  
 ♥ K J 9  
 ♦ 9 8 4  
 ♣ Q J 10 3  
 ♠ 10 8 6  
 ♥ A Q 7 4  
 ♦ 10 7 6 5  
 ♣ 8 6  
 ♠ K Q 9 5 3 2  
 ♥ 8 3  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ K 9 5 4  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ 10 6 5 2  
 ♦ A K Q J 3  
 ♣ A 7 2



West	North	East	South
—	Rodwell	—	Meckstroth
Pass	2NT	Pass	1♦
Dble	Rdbl	All Pass	3♥

On the run of the clubs, North had been forced to throw all his diamonds and also bare the king of spades to keep the heart guard, trusting Landen to be able to guard both suits. Declarer had also had to discard diamonds and spades to keep the heart threat. When declarer now led out three rounds of hearts, Landen was squeezed between diamonds and spades and that was 12 tricks to East/West.

**Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.**

♠ K Q J 4  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ A J 7  
 ♣ J 9 5 4 2  
 ♠ A 3  
 ♥ J 10 3  
 ♦ K Q 8 4  
 ♣ A 8 7 3  
 ♠ 10 8 7 6 5  
 ♥ A 9 2  
 ♦ 6 5 3  
 ♣ Q 6  
 ♠ 9 2  
 ♥ K Q 8 7 6 4  
 ♦ 10 9 3  
 ♣ K 10

West	North	East	South
—	Hollman	Pass	Ferguson
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
All Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥

Put yourself in Bruce Ferguson's shoes and see if you could have guessed the play successfully in the face of a diabolical defence. West led the king of diamonds, won by dummy's ace, and Ferguson led a heart to his king then a low heart back to West's ten. East overtook his partner's trick with the ace of hearts and switched to the ♣6.

As Ferguson said, 'Anyone who is so desperate to lead a club through must surely be underleading the ace.' Accordingly, he rose with the king and lost to the ace. West returned a club to the queen and East returned a spade to the ace. West cashed the king of diamonds then led a club and East's nine forced the queen, promoting West's jack into the setting trick.

It is a dangerous game to come uninvited into the middle of a Meckstroth/Rodwell auction, as evidenced by this next deal.

Meckstroth's 3♥ call showed spade shortage and West thought he could afford to make a lead-directing double. With three strong hearts, Eric Rodwell was happy to redouble to offer Jeff Meckstroth an option and Meckstroth was happy to play for some real money.

West led the eight of clubs. Meckstroth put up dummy's queen and that held the trick. The ♣J held the next trick and Meckstroth next played a diamond to his hand followed by a heart to the jack and a second diamond. East could have ruffed but, hoping to find his partner with something in diamonds (necessary if the contract was to be defeated), discarded a spade.

In hand again, Meckstroth led a second heart, again ducked by West, so dummy's nine scored. Now came two winning diamonds, a club going from dummy, and ace and another spade for a ruff. The fifth diamond left West with no escape. If he threw his spade away,

## Trivia Quiz 4

### Flags

What colours are included in the flags of the following countries?

1. Afghanistan
2. Aruba
3. Bangladesh
4. Cambodia
5. Honduras
6. India
7. Jordan
8. Laos
9. Philippines
10. Venezuela

dummy's club would be thrown and the ace of clubs at trick 12 would make the ♠K en passant. Ruffing with the queen would see dummy over-ruff, a club to the ace would force West to ruff, and the ♠10 would make the last trick.

Finally, if West ruffed high, away would go dummy's spade. A spade lead would then be ruffed in hand and the ♠K would make the last trick, while a trump return would see the ♠K and ♣A take the last two tricks.

Meckstroth made 12 tricks for the unusual score of +1360, and a 14 IMP gain against a mundane 3NT+2 at the other table.

Barry Rigal reports again on this next deal, showing the importance of attention to detail.

**Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.**

♠ 9 6 ♥ K Q ♦ A Q J 10 2 ♣ A K Q 5	<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		♠ Q 10 3 ♥ A ♦ K 8 7 5 ♣ J 10 8 3 2	♠ J 4 ♥ J 10 9 6 5 3 2 ♦ 9 ♣ 7 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ A K 8 7 5 2 ♥ 8 7 4 ♦ 6 4 3 ♣ 9												

West	North	East	South
–	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Partner's slam try has taken you a level beyond your comfort zone, particularly when you see West lead the nine of diamonds, a likely singleton. You rise with dummy's ace and cash the top spades, feeling better when the suit proves to be three-two.

Three rounds of clubs allow you to throw both your small diamonds and now you lead the ♦Q, planning to take the ruffing finesse. East covers so you ruff and it would be entirely human to lead a heart now.

East wins the ace and returns a club, you ruff, cross to the heart to take a heart pitch on the established diamonds. And down you go as East ruffs the heart and there is no longer an entry to the diamonds, so you lose the last trick to West.

Of course, however unlucky the seven-one heart break may be, you did not have to take this small risk. After ruffing out the ♦K, give up a spade. Now you can be assured that one of the heart honours will provide the dummy entry you need to make your contract.

**Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.**

♠ 9 5 2 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ K 10 9 4 ♣ Q 9 7	<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		♠ K 10 7 4 3 ♥ 6 ♦ A 5 3 2 ♣ A 10 5	♠ 8 6 ♥ K 10 9 7 5 ♦ 7 6 ♣ J 6 4 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ A Q J ♥ A Q J 4 ♦ Q J 8 ♣ K 8 2												

West	North	East	South
	<i>Palmer</i>		<i>Deas</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Two Clubs was natural and game-forcing, 4NT asked for key cards and 5♣ showed zero or three, 6♠ confirming three but denying a side king.

West led the ♥8 against 6NT and East correctly withheld the king. Deas won the ♥Q and cashed three rounds of spades, ending in dummy. She led a diamond to the queen and king and back came the ♦9 to her jack. Deas led the ♦8 and could have made her contract by running it.

However, the position of the ten was not clear and Deas proved that she did not need to guess correctly. She won the ♦A and cashed the ♠10, both everyone discarding a heart. On the last spade, East had to come down to a doubleton club to keep two hearts. Declarer threw a club away then led a club to her king. Now she cashed the ace of hearts and West was squeezed in the minors – a non-simultaneous double squeeze; 12 tricks.

**Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.**

♠ A 10 4 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ A K 7 2	<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		♠ J ♥ J 9 ♦ K J 10 6 4 2 ♣ Q 9 6 4	♠ K 9 8 6 5 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ 9 ♣ 10 8 5 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ Q 7 3 ♥ A K Q 10 8 2 ♦ Q 5 3 ♣ J												

West	North	East	South
INT	Pass	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

Douglas Doub found an interesting deceptive play on this last deal. West started with the king of clubs and East played the three, reverse count. West switched to a heart to dummy's nine.

Doub saw that he would have no problem if diamonds were two-two but that, if West held ace to three, he could always defeat the contract. He came up with an imaginative solution, leading the king of diamonds off the dummy and dropping the queen under it. West was taken in. Convinced that his partner's  $\diamond 9$  was the top of three (reverse count), he tried to cash the ace of clubs. Doub ruffed, drew trumps and cashed the diamonds; contract made.

## Two Ruffing Finesses

It isn't often that declarer gets the opportunity to take ruffing finesses in different suits on the same hand, but it happened on this deal from the fourth session of the Swiss Pairs.

**Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.**

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> K 9 7 6 5 4  <math>\heartsuit</math> 6  <math>\diamond</math> J 10  <math>\clubsuit</math> A 8 3 2</p>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> 9 8 3  <math>\heartsuit</math> 8 3 2  <math>\diamond</math> 9 4 3  <math>\clubsuit</math> K J 9 4</p>	<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		<p><math>\spadesuit</math> A 2  <math>\heartsuit</math> A Q J 10 7  <math>\diamond</math> A 9 8 2  <math>\clubsuit</math> 7 6</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
<p><math>\spadesuit</math> J 10  <math>\heartsuit</math> K 9 5 4  <math>\diamond</math> K 7 6 5  <math>\clubsuit</math> Q 10 5</p>												
<p><b>West</b> Bausback</p>	<p><b>North</b> Jagger</p>	<p><b>East</b> Alberti</p>	<p><b>South</b> Pagan</p>									
<p>1<math>\spadesuit</math> 2<math>\spadesuit</math> 3<math>\spadesuit</math></p>	<p>Pass Pass Pass</p>	<p>2<math>\heartsuit</math> 3<math>\diamond</math> 4<math>\spadesuit</math></p>	<p>Pass Pass All Pass</p>									

Anja Alberti's 2 $\heartsuit$  response was game-forcing and, after bidding the spades three times, Nikolas Bausback

became declarer in the spade game. Chris Jagger led the four of clubs to Ian Pagan's queen and Bausback ducked. Pagan switched to the  $\diamond 5$  for the jack, queen and ace and declarer took the ace of hearts then led the queen, discarding the  $\diamond 10$  when it was not covered.

Having taken a ruffing finesse in hearts, Bausback next led the  $\diamond 9$  for a ruffing finesse in diamonds, Pagan covered, however, so he was forced to ruff. Now came the ace of clubs and a club ruff, the eight of diamonds for a discard of the last club, and the ace of spades. A heart ruff to hand allowed declarer to draw the remaining trumps and claim the rest for a useful +480.

Note that declarer had to switch his attention from hearts after the queen scored. Had he continued with another heart, South could have covered and, with North now out of the suit, it would never be possible to cash a heart winner without its being ruffed. And if South had covered the  $\heartsuit Q$ ? Then declarer would ruff, play ace and ruff a club, throw the  $\diamond 10$  on the  $\heartsuit J$  and take the ruffing diamond finesse. The ace of spades would be the entry to the established  $\diamond 8$  and once again the fourth club would go away – but with three rounds of both red suits already played, declarer would have no way back to hand without conceding an over-ruff, so only 11 tricks would be made.

## Trivia Quiz 4 Solutions

1. Black, red, green, white
2. Blue, yellow, red, white
3. Green, red
4. Blue, red, white
5. Blue, white
6. Orange, green, white, blue
7. Black, white, green, red
8. Red, white, blue
9. Red, blue, white, yellow
10. Red, blue, yellow, white

## Today's Schedule

10.30 am	Tournament Director Training Course
10.30 am	'The Really Easy' seminar
2.00 pm	Seniors Pairs, semi-final
2.00 pm	Afternoon Knock-out Teams, Round 2
2.00 pm	'The Really Easy' Session 2
2.00 pm	Open Pairs
7.30 pm	'The Really Easy' Session 3
8.00 pm	Seniors Pairs, Final and Consolation
8.00 pm	Tuesday Pairs Championship