

Results

Friday Night Speedball

1	Stephen Brown & Eddie The Vicar	62.18 %
2	Darren Evens & Matt Maag	61.29
3	Ed Jones & Tom Dessain	60.61

Sunday Open Pairs

1	Alexander & Tom Wilkinson	72.92 %
2	Margaret Wort & Stephen Byrne	64.39
3	David Dickson & Jackie Davies	59.28

Sunday Open Teams – Section A

1	Matt Haag, Matt Schueller, Gareth Bartley, John Probst	+50 IMPs
2	Ann & Jeff Wilkins, Bill Taylor, John Dakin	+48

Sunday Open Teams – Section B

1	Susan & Jimmy Deacon, Trevor Thrower, Robert Miller	+91 IMPs
2	Wendy Miller, Jane Morton, Richard Currie, John Amor	+50

Monday Open Pairs

1	Janine Griffiths-Baker & David S. Jones	67.20 %
2	Ross Harper & Martin Hoffman	63.59
3	Sandra Millikin & Ahmed Ayub	61.66

Afternoon Knock-out Teams – Round 1

G. Bartley	Beat	A. Wilkinson	+30 IMPs
T. Thrower	Beat	M. Horlock	+29
T. Copeland	Beat	M. Bell	+13
D. Evetts	Beat	M. Reeve	+105
D. Miller	Beat	T. Gregory-Smith	+73
Lars Bertili	Beat	B. Paske	+46
M. Hamon	Beat	P. Smith	+3
B. Green	Beat	E. Lucioni	+28

Preliminary Round

C. Draper	Beat	J. Chapman	+10
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Blockage

Sunday Open Teams

David Dickson reported this deal from Session Two of the Swiss Pairs, on which an apparent defensive error earned the perpetrators a huge result.

By Stuart Davies

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 10 8 3	♠ J 5	♠ AKQ 4
♥ 7	♥ Q 10 8 5 3	♥ J 6 2
♦ J 10 5 3	♦ 9 8 4 2	♦ AQ 7 6
♣ AKQ 9 4	♣ 6 2	♣ 10 8
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ 9 7 6 2	
	♥ AK 9 4	
	♦ K	
	♣ J 7 5 3	
West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♦
2♣	Pass	3NT
		South
		Pass
		All Pass

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 8 7 5	♠ AK 3	♠ 9
♥ 6 4 3	♥ 10 7 2	♥ AQ 9 8 5
♦ KQ 8 4 2	♦ AJ 10 9 7 6 3	♦ 5
♣ 9	♣ –	♣ AQ 10 7 5 2
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ QJ 6 4 2	
	♥ KJ	
	♦ –	
	♣ KJ 8 6 4 3	
West	North	East
Pass	Davies	2♣
Pass	1♦	2♥
Pass	2♦	All Pass
	4♠	
		South
		Copeland
		Pass
		2♠

A short auction led to a bad contract and South led the four of hearts to her partner's queen. Back came a low heart to South's nine, blocking the suit, and she cashed the top hearts.

As Dickson had pitched two spades from the dummy, South switched to a spade now, allowing him to show good technique by testing both the spades and the clubs before falling back on the diamond finesse for his contract – down three as South had two black tricks to cash when she won the bare king of diamonds.

Note that if the defence cashes its five heart tricks the fifth round squeezes South in three suits and declarer will normally be only one off – he will rise with the ace should North switch to a diamond.

Perhaps South blocked the heart intentionally, as she could envisage the possibility of three off?

I was playing with 17-year old Tom Copeland in the Open Teams on Sunday evening when this hand cropped up.

When 2♣ came back around to me I suspected that Tom was looking for a penalty but was not inclined to co-operate with my void club, so I made the pessimistic rebid of 2♦. When partner emerged with 2♠, however, I felt that I had enough to go to game, despite felling that there might be a lot of work to do – how right I was there!

West led the singleton club and Tom discarded a heart from dummy, allowing East to win the ace. East cashed the ♥A then reverted to clubs, the jack being ruffed and over-ruffed.

The ace of diamonds followed for a club discard, then Tom led a heart to the king and tried a low club in an effort to score a ruff with dummy's three. It was not to be, as West again ruffed in, forcing a second high over-ruff. A diamond ruff followed, East discarding a heart, then another small club was led.

Today's Schedule

10.00 a.m	Teacher Training Workshop
10.30 a.m	Tournament Director Training Course
11.00 a.m	Discuss it with an Expert
2.00 p.m	Seniors Pairs, Semi-final
2.00 p.m	Afternoon Knock-out Teams, Round 2
2.00 p.m	Open Pairs
8.00 p.m	Seniors Pairs, Final and Consolation
8.00 p.m	Tuesday Pairs Championship

West ruffed again, still not permitting the ♠3 to score in dummy, then exited with a heart.

Tom was now in a position to ruff the heart and draw trumps, having dealt with all his clubs except the king.

To summarise, declarer's six clubs were dealt with as follows: one winner (the king), one loser (to the ace), one discarded on the ace of diamonds, two ruffed in dummy, and one lost to West's ruff.

Although the defence might have done better, Tom did very well to keep his head and bring in an extremely difficult contract. As team-mates lost 100 in 4♥ at the other table, this board gave us a useful 11-IMP gain.

Trivia Quiz 4

Books

Who wrote these books?

1. Gone With The Wind
2. Lord Of The Rings
3. Of Mice And Men
4. I, Robot
5. Oliver Twist
6. A Farewell To Arms
7. The Name Of The Rose
8. Jane Eyre
9. 1984
10. The Maltese Falcon

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Discuss it with an Expert

(11.00 a.m in the Cambridge Room)

Today's Expert is the always-entertaining
Graham Jepson.

When Experts Meet

The battle of wits when two true experts meet at the table can be something to behold.

Lorenzo Lauria of Italy is currently the top-ranked player in the world, but he had to concede defeat to a brilliancy from top Turkish player, Melih Ozdil, on this deal from the recent ACBL Nationals in Chicago.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 4
 ♥ Q 8 6 4 2
 ♦ A 7 6 4
 ♣ K 9 4

♠ AKQ82
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 10 9 2
 ♣ J 10 7 3

♠ J 9 6
 ♥ 10 7 3
 ♦ QJ85
 ♣ A 8 2

♠ 10 7 5 3
 ♥ AKJ9
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ Q 6 5

N
 W E
 S

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozdl</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Lauria</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	Dble	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Ozdil led the ace of spades, on which Canada's George Mittelman played a suit-preference nine, asking for a diamond switch. Ozdil did as he had been asked, leading the ten of diamonds to declarer's king.

Lauria tried a club to dummy's king (on which Ozdil played the three), but Mittelman won the ace and continued with the ♣8. Lauria won the queen, Ozdil following with the jack, then crossed to dummy's ♦A, Ozdil playing the nine, and ruffed a diamond with the jack.

A spade ruff was next, followed by dummy's last diamond. When East followed, Laurie threw his club loser rather than risk an over-ruff, and Ozdil dropped the ♣10, making it look as though he was out of the suit.

Mittelman continued with the two of clubs and Lauria, believing Ozdil's club plays, ruffed high, Ozdil calmly following with the ♣7.

Declarer can still succeed in the ending, by ruffing a spade and finessing the nine of hearts, but even the number one ranked player in the world doesn't have second sight. Lauria cashed the king of hearts and led the ♡9 to dummy's queen, conceding one down when the ten did not fall.

The Play With The Experts Pairs

In 1982 Channel 4 held a tournament featuring eight well-known bridge players. The format was a 28-board Individual tournament, each player partnering every other for four boards with total aggregate point scoring.

The eight players were Rixi Markus, Jane Friday, Jeremy Flint, Martin Hoffman, Robert Sheehan, Irving Rose, Zia Mahmoud and Omar Sharif, with the winner being Robert Sheehan.

There were some interesting deals which are well worth a look, if only to satisfy those who may think that Deep Finesse has got it wrong once or twice.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Four Hearts will be the normal contract and declarer will succeed if he can eliminate the minor suits before taking his first spade finesse, as South will then be endplayed. To defeat the contract, North must play a spade through earlier, while South has a safe exit card, ensuring two spade winners for the defence.

If the contract is played by West and North leads a club honour, South should appreciate that he wants a switch, even if at this point he is not certain which switch will be most helpful, so should discourage, despite his holding the ♣J.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

It says something for the quality of the original event that both declarers found the line to make 3NT. I suspect that not everyone will have been so successful last night. However, as Deep Finesse claims, the contract cannot be defeated.

Declarer wins the heart lead and, to make the contract, needs three club tricks, two hearts and four spades. It may seem that he can be held to only two club winners if South ducks the first round of the suit, but there is a way to overcome this.

The line is to win the heart lead and cash the ace and king of spades, then lead a low club to the queen, which South must duck. Now declarer cashes the queen and jack of spades and discards the other top heart from the East hand, before playing a club to the ace and a club back towards the jack.

South wins the ♣K but the defence can only take three diamond winners before they are forced to present the lead to West, who wins the ♣J and ♥Q – nine tricks.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

One of the expert tables played in the eccentric spot of 3♦ by East, failing by a trick when North got her spade ruffs.

The other table saw 4♠ succeed, giving last night's competitors an opportunity to outplay the stars, as it is not that tough to defeat the spade game.

If the defenders cash two heart tricks at the start, 4♠ will succeed, but if they take only one heart winner then South switches to his diamond, he can put North in with the ♥Q to give him his ruff for the fourth defensive trick.

This does not look so hard. Where West is declarer, North will lead the two of hearts, indicating possession of an honour, and now South should be able to see what to do.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

The trick is to get into 5♥ on the North/South cards in the face of what looks to be a normal 4♠ opening by West. The experts are again eminently beatable, with one table playing the inferior contract of 5♦ doubled down two and the other reaching 5♥ but failing to make it.

Getting to 5♥ should not be a problem. A genuine two-suiter can overcall 4NT, over which South bids 5♣ as preference between the minors. North corrects to 5♦, showing the red suits, and South converts to 5♥, ending the auction. Somebody could guess to bid the failing slam, but the main thing in these auctions is to attempt to go plus rather than seek perfection.

The key to success in 5♥ is to set about the side-suit before playing on trumps. With N/S holding all the intermediate hearts, there is no danger of an over-ruff, other than with the king. As there is only one outside loser, declarer can afford to lose to that card. As soon as declarer gains the lead, play ace and ruff a diamond, a heart to the ace and ruff another diamond. Now play a second heart and that is eleven tricks.

Deep Finesse has me stumped on Board 11. I must have had a blind spot when I looked at this one, because I haven't yet seen how to make 4♠ on accurate defence. Anyone who has the answer, feel free to tell me the solution and I will pass it on in tomorrow's bulletin.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Deep Finesse assures us that 6♣ can be made against any defence. If declarer ruffs the diamond lead and bashes out the top clubs, he will go down. The only way to succeed from here would be to reach a position where a side-suit card is led through West's ♣Q10 at trick twelve to win the jack en passant, and that appears to be impossible on competent defence.

Ace and a low trump also looks to fail. West goes in with the queen and forces declarer to ruff another diamond. He can then play winners through West, eventually forcing him to ruff, but when dummy over-ruffs there is no way back to hand to draw the last trump and cash the rest of the major-suit winners – West must just void himself of hearts before ruffing a spade to leave declarer without the necessary communications.

The winning line – double dummy – is to ruff the diamond lead and lead a low club at trick two. West must win the queen and force declarer again, but now declarer leaves trumps alone, cashes two hearts and leads winning spades, throwing hearts from dummy so that there can be no eventual heart ruff for West. When West finally ruffs, dummy over-ruffs and there is still a trump in dummy to lead to declarer's ace-king.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Unless there has been N/S bidding to convince declarer that he cannot afford to lose the first round of hearts in case he suffers a ruff – at least one South showed spades and an unspecified minor yesterday evening to my knowledge, it is correct play to make the heart slam, just as Deep Finesse suggests.

Declarer should play the first heart low from the West hand. This is the correct way to pick up all four trumps with South, as declarer can later finesse twice against the ten and nine, but it also makes the hand on the actual lay-out, where it is North who holds the four trumps.

North must duck the heart so the queen scores. Declarer continues by cashing three clubs, two spades and two diamonds, and taking a spade ruff in

West and a diamond ruff in East. With West down to ♥AJ8, he ducks a heart to North, who is endplayed and forced to lead into the ace-jack at trick twelve.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 7 4 2	♠ J 10	♠ 8 5 3
♥ 10 9 8 3	♥ A J	♥ Q 6 5 4 2
♦ J 8 7 4	♦ K 8 6 5 2	♦ 10
♣ 8	♣ A J 6 4	♣ K 10 9 2
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ A K Q 6	
	♥ K 7	
	♦ A Q 3	
	♣ Q 7 5 3	

The winning play in 6NT has some similarity with the previous deal. Declarer wins the heart lead in the South hand and tests diamonds by cashing the ace and queen. When the four-one split comes to light, it is important to play the minors in the correct order in case clubs are also four-one.

If clubs are breaking badly, it will surely be East who has the length. Cross to the North hand with a spade and lead a low club to the queen. East has to duck, or declarer has three club tricks, giving twelve in all. Now declarer reverts to diamonds, establishing a fourth winner in that suit, and again has twelve tricks.

Declarer will fail if he takes a simple club finesse, or if he gives up a diamond before playing on clubs. It is a simple matter of timing.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q 10	♠ 7 5 4 2	♠ A J 9 8
♥ K J 10 8 7 5 3	♥ 9 2	♥ A Q 4
♦ K 7 5 2	♦ A 9 4	♦ 8 6 3
♣ –	♣ K 7 6 2	♣ J 10 9
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K 6 3	
	♥ 6	
	♦ Q J 10	
	♣ A Q 8 5 4 3	

Straightforward play will see 4♥ fail by a trick, and it takes a little thought to see what Deep Finesse has in mind as a line to make ten tricks on best defence. However, the program is correct, as always.

Say that North leads a spade. A lead that appears to be from weakness may help declarer to see the

need to play carefully, but the winning line does appear to be correct in theory as well as practice.

Here goes. Declarer rises with the ace of spades and leads the ♠J. If South does not cover, declarer throws his remaining spade and everything is plain sailing, so let's assume that South plays the ♠A. Declarer ruffs, being careful to keep the ♥3 to lead to dummy's ♥4 later in the play, and plays a heart to the ace.

A second club is run to North, throwing a spade, unless South covers with the queen. When he does cover, declarer ruffs and crosses to the ♥Q, drawing the last trump in the process. Now he leads the third club off the table and finally South cannot cover so away goes the spade.

North wins the ♣K and is endplayed. He can give a ruff and discard – declarer ruffs in hand and eventually gets to ruff the third diamond in dummy; can lead a diamond, which means that the king wins a trick; or can lead a spade, which takes the ruffing finesse for declarer, who can then lead the carefully preserved ♥3 to dummy's four to cash the two established spade tricks.

If you didn't find this line of play, don't feel too bad about it. The expert from the original tournament who played 4♥ went down, so you are in illustrious company.

In case it hasn't become obvious yet, these were not randomly dealt boards. There may well have been some random deals in amongst the set, but several are clearly carefully selected and I strongly suspect that some were manufactured to test the participants in the TV series.

The book of the series, Master Bridge by Nicola Gardener (now Nicola Smith), is long out of print and I would be surprised to find that anyone had new copies for sale. If you want to see a full commentary and all the details of the tournament, your best hope is to find a second-hand copy. There are worse places than Brighton to find second-hand books, otherwise, perhaps try on ebay?

Trivia Quiz 4

Solutions

1. Margaret Mitchell
2. J.R. Tolkien
3. John Steinbeck
4. Isaac Asimov
5. Charles Dickens
6. Ernest Hemingway
7. Umberto Eco
8. Charlotte Bronte
9. George Orwell
10. Dashiell Hammett