

2004 Mind Sports Olympiad

The 8th Mind Sports Olympiad took place in Manchester for the second successive year at the central location of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST). The bridge program this year was run in partnership with the English Bridge Union - and what a difference that made. Green points were allocated for the three one day events on the Bank Holiday weekend and the number of tables playing in the Olympiad tripled to over 200.

The quality of the players participating was outstanding. In the Point a Board teams on the Friday night the £1000 first prize was won by the awesome combination of Paul, Jason and Justin Hackett playing with world No1 rated Norwegian Geir Helgemo. This juggernaut of a team did not have it all their own way only just holding off a challenge from a Manchester Bridge Club team captained by Dave Debbage (M. Newman, D. Audley, F. Brown). Further down the field were such notables as top Chinese player Fu Zhong, Russian Champion Dima Nickoloyenko, Spain's European Championship silver medallist Luis Lantaron, American Ladies player Connie Goldberg and a whole host of top British players.

With excellent prize money, some of which was generously sponsored by Brigitte Mavromichaelis, gold, silver and bronze medals, and green points, Bridge at the Mind Sports has everything going for it. UMIST is a city centre location and only a short walk from the main Piccadilly station and very close to a wonderful selection of restaurants. Timing of the Saturday and Sunday events was arranged so that bridge was completed by 7:30pm allowing players to go out and enjoy the culinary pleasures of Manchester and the Mardi Gras Festival which took place over the same weekend. Paul Hackett arranged for quite a number of out of town visitors to sample the excellent banquet at the world famous Yang Sing Chinese restaurant on the Saturday night!

With the continued support of the sponsors and backing of the EBU, Bridge at the Mind Sports Olympiad is set to grow. The playing room in the Barnes Wallis Building would comfortably take an 80 table event, if necessary, and the venue has the advantage of its own on-site hotel and multi-story car park. Many first time visitors are likely to return next year bringing their friends especially for the final green point bank holiday weekend which also includes the Friday night Point-a-Board Teams.

Medal Winners

Men's Pairs:

Gold - Justin Hackett and Mike Alexander
Silver - John Holland and Dave McDouall
Bronze - John Hasset and Bill Hirst

Ladies Pairs:

Gold - Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield
Silver - Jenny Morris and Joyce White
Bronze - Barbara Lewis and Eve Lighthill

Mixed Pairs:

Gold - John and Muriel Hasset
Silver - Dima and Lena Nikolayenko
Bronze - Michael Byrne and Kath Nelson

Multiple Teams:

Gold: Craig Fisher, Fu Zhong, Malcom Harris and Maria Budd
Silver: Michael Byrne, Alex Morris, Ben Green and Brian Senior
Bronze: Maurice and Anne Super, Carol Waters And Tapan Mitra

Point-a-Board Teams

Gold: Justin and Jason Hackett, Paul Hackett and Geir Helgemo
Silver: David Debbage, Michael Newman, David Audley, Frank Brown
Bronze: (Tied) Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, John Hasset, Bill Hirst, Lena and Dima Nikolayenko, Giles Foster and Nigel Ramsay

Championship Pairs:

Gold: Michael Byrne and Michael Newman
Silver: J Hartley and C Tayar
Bronze: Nadia Stelmashenko and Victor Millman

Open Pairs:

Gold: Ben Green and Brian Senior
Silver: Ian Handley and Sebastian Kristensen
Bronze: Arthur Malinowski and Marilyn Nathan

Seniors Pairs:

Gold: Alan Jones and Pauline Lang
Silver: Paul Hackett and Peter Sinclair
Bronze: John and Pauline Rudolf

Seniors Teams:

Gold: Patrick Jourdain, Jeff Morris, John Hasset and Bill Hirst
Silver: Alan and Kath Nelson, Raymond Semp and Alan Jones
Bronze: Stan Collins and Agnes Blewitt, Roy Garthwaite and Heather Hobson

Swiss Teams:

Gold: Justin and Jason Hackett, Paul Hackett and Geir Helgemo

Silver: Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, Alan Jones and Dave Barton

Bronze: Jeff Smith, Jackie Pye, David Burn and Tracy Capal

Swiss Pairs:

Gold: Ben Green and Brian Senior

Silver: Andrew Petrie and Gareth Roberts

Bronze: Connie Goldberg and David Levy

Source: <http://www.manchesterbridge.co.uk/mindsports.htm>