

SABF

MIXED TRIALS 2023

20th - 25th March 2023

As we move into the semi-finals we have the Fick team pitched against the Van Vught team and in the other match Alexander versus Holdsworth. With no further ado let's see how they fared

James Grant (SABF PRESIDENT)

SEMI - FINAL SCHEDULE

Session 1 - 10:00

Session 2 - 11:45

Session 3 - 14:30

Session 4 - 16:15

Team Information

Lex Van Vught

Craig Gower

Joy Rothenberg

Rita Gawron

Janine Masojada

Tim Cope

Hennie Fick

Carol Stanton

Zela Stern

Jude Apteker

Machelle Shapiro

Brent Shapiro

Ian Holdsworth

Susan Botha

Mark Kenyon

Merle Bracher

Selwyn Gersowsky

Gail Gersowsky

Michele Alexander

Glen Holman

Merle Modlin

Peter Ward



Day 3 Results

SEMI-FINAL

	IMPs	vs	IMPs	
van Vught	109,5		102	Fick
Holdsworth	59,1		96	Alexander

Session 1

Board 7

With several flat boards in the first set of hands it was the following hand that produced the first major swings in both rooms

Bidding

Dealer South

All vul

North	W	N	E	S
♠ AKQ852				pass
♥ AK87	1D	dbl	pass	1H
♦ K72	pass	?		
♣ -				

You were dealt this monster and no doubt intended to bid spades on your next turn but to your surprise partner has responded 1H, so what do you bid now? Your partner was forced to bid and theoretically could hold a yarborough but the fact that both East and West have passed is encouraging. Game looks certain but slam needs as little as five hearts to the queen in partner's hand. If we believe that a game is the limit, would 4♠ prove a safer contract with a diamond lead almost guaranteed?

But back to the original question, what do you bid now? Clearly you are going to game but it would be a sin not to explore the possibility of a slam so bid 2♦. Partner has promised no points for his bid so he knows that with extra values a jump is in order. If he simply rebids his hearts you can quietly sign off in 4. By the way, this is an example of the Pass the Buck bid. If you stop in game and miss a slam that's his fault, equally if you bid the slam and go down that's also his fault. By all accounts a useful convention to have in your armoury.

Only one pair arrived in the correct contract of 4♥, in the other room North stuck to his original plan of bidding 2♠ and to his chagrin his partner passed. The same fate befell North in the other match but luckily in the other room his opponents arrived in an ambitious 6♥ which on a club lead had no chance of making

Here is the full hand

Board 7
D




N North: Hcbfick


West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Dbl	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			



W West: Sweetpea50



E East: tec1234



S South: carol2007

4♥ South

NS 0 EW 0

Session 2

Board 10

We are now half way through today's matches and Fick is leading Van Vught by 2imps whilst Alexander is leading Holdsworth by 39imps

Once again one board produced the biggest swings in this session

Bidding

Dealer East

All vul

East	W	N	E	S
♠ AQJ10974			1S	pass
♥ 84	2D	pass	?	
♦ 7				
♣ A42				

One of things that makes this tournament fun is that many of the partnerships are newly formed and so bidding agreements have been kept to the minimum. Here is a hand where a more extensive discussion would have proved fruitful. Many established partnerships will bid 3♠ here which tells partner that even with a void in spades we will play in this suit. It describes a long spade suit with no more than one loser opposite a void. If you don't have this agreement it proves very difficult to arrive in the only makeable slam of 6♠. Only one pair reached this contract

Here is the full hand

Board 10

D

N North: shapsy7

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

E East: tec1234

W West: Sweetpea50

6NT West

S South: mach1955

6NT West

NS 0 EW 0

Session 3

Board 11

With only one session left the Alexander team have increased their lead to 46 imps virtually assuring themselves a place in the finals whilst in the other match Van Vught has kept a clean sheet and amassed 38 imps so are now leading the Fick team by 36imps. Is it all over bar the shouting?

Bidding

Dealer South

All vul

East	W	N	E	S
♠ QJ105	1S	dbl	?	
♥ -				
♦ QJ9742				
♣ 832				

So what do you bid? Anything could be right (or wrong) but Selwyn had no hesitation in bidding 4♠ which hit the jackpot when this was passed around to North who doubled for penalties – well can you blame him (see hand below)? Glen, endplayed at trick one, cashed his top spades then switched to a low heart hoping his partner held the king. This allowed Gail to make her contract with an overtrick. In the other room where North chose to bid 4♥ over the spade opening Peter also found the excellent bid of 4♠ but this effort was thwarted when Susan found the brave bid of 5♥, doubled and 2 off proving an excellent sacrifice against the spade game

Here is the full hand

Board 11

D

N North: glensa

West	North	East	South
			Pass
2♠	Dbl	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

W West: gailgers

E East: gersy

S South: lady macb

4♠ x West **NS 0 EW 0**

Session 4

Board 5

The Holdsworth team won the 4th session but that only made a slight dent in the Alexander's lead. In the other room the Fick team battled bravely to claw back 26 imps but this was not enough to overtake the Van Vught team who will now play Alexander in the final

Thanks to strong pre-emptive bidding by NS all EWs missed the opportunity to score big on this hand

D
Board 5

N North: craigy52

W West: sternz

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♣	4♠
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

E East: judeap

S South: kimedn

5♠ North NS 0 EW 0

As you can see both 6♥ and 7♣ are cold and if anyone has any thoughts about how to get there over the 4♠ bid please let me know

More Information

For a full set of results uploaded daily go to:

<https://www.sabf.co.za/sabf-trials-2023>

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