

Huddersfield 123 event



In the second week in June was another unusual format at Huddersfield pétanque club. This one was called our 123 event and Roy as secretary borrowed the idea from events held in the south of England which are very popular. Each team provides three players and each team over the day plays eight games but each player only pays five. Some games are played simultaneously. It means that to start with the teams all play a triple then in round 2 there was a single and pairs. Round 3 and 4 were single and pairs and we finished with round 5 and another triple. Entry fee was £10 per team and all monies were returned as prizes to top 3 teams.



It confused a few players who took a while to get the hang of it. Some players were reluctant to play singles not having done so for many years but they followed the system and had a go. They were all issued with badges with the team name and their number and over time people grasped the concept and it went quite smoothly.

We gave each team their own score sheet and clip board so they can record all their games and add up their score to give them an idea of how they were doing. As well as that there was a master scoresheet which was a monster A2 grid which took the details from the individual teams' sheets and consolidated them in one place.





We also had a computer with a spreadsheet taking data from the master scoresheet so we could calculate automatically and we built in checksums to make sure each round balanced.

On the day it worked very well. It was a dull day and every now and again there would be a five minute shower when everyone rushed for their coats but after five minutes the sun came out and the coats came off.

As was usual at Huddersfield the players that stayed out the longest to play their final game got wet because there was a heavy shower right at the end but fortunately everyone fitted in the clubhouse and final scores were produced within five minutes with the help of the individual team score sheets, the master scoresheet and the computer back up.

3 teams went into the final Triples with 5 wins but only one of these won to take the top prize.

Winners were Three Peaks consisting of Kevin, Christine and Ted scoring six wins out of their 8 games with the big points difference of 29 followed by Greenheads B (Roy, Paul and Brendan) five wins and 14 and Rosanal with five wins and 9. The system worked really well although Heckmondwike had a bad day. All their 3 teams occupied eighth, ninth and tenth positions.



The feedback was rather good. Lots of people said good day out for £3-33, great different format, makes a change, etc. One comment we liked a lot was “well organised and polished”.

We’ve decided we’re going to do again and hope it becomes a regular feature in our programme.

At the end Dag suggested that we could award 3 points for a triples win, 2 for a pairs win and 1 for a singles win to reflect the time and effort of each type of game. The results from this suggestion are in the table below on the right. LSD jump into 4th place using this system and there are a few minor differences but it didn’t change the overall result.

	Official Result	Wins	Pts		Dag's system	Pts	Diff	Var
1st	Three Peaks	6	29		Three Peaks	12	29	0
2nd	Greenheads B	5	14		Greenheads B	9	14	0
3rd	Rosanal	5	9		Rosanal	9	9	0
4th	Interlopers	4	5		LSD	8	16	+3
5th	Last of t' summer wine	4	-12		Interlopers	8	5	-1
6th	Greenhead A	4	-19		Last of t' summer wine	8	-12	-1
7th	LSD	3	16		Greenhead A	8	-19	-1
8th	Hecky C	3	-1		Hecky B	6	-24	+1
9th	Hecky B	3	-24		Hecky C	4	-1	-1
10th	Hecky A	2	-17		Hecky A	3	-17	0

The documentation and spreadsheet are available from Huddersfield Pétanque club if you want to try this format. It's based on a 5 round snake and can be modified for bigger numbers. You need the same number of lanes as teams to cope with the simultaneous play.